

Yamuna level link to waterlogging? Officials say so

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Levels of water in the Yamuna are also linked with the extent of waterlogging in Delhi. When Yamuna levels rise above 205m, the waterlogging situation worsens in the city. Delhi's topography prevents gravity-based flow to the irrigation and flood department (I&FC)-managed bigger drains like Barapullah drain and supplementary drain, which carry the excess water to the river, said officials.

A senior public works department official said drains in smaller colonies were managed by civic bodies, while drains along wider roads by the PWD "The drains managed by municipal corporations carry the excess runoff from colonies to the PWD drains. The PWD drains carry this excess water to bigger drains like Barapullah and Najafgarh that are connected to the river," the official stated.

"Recently when the level in the Yamuna had been above 204-205m, the gravity-based flow of water was hampered. If the level rises, water level in the I&FC drains increases and water from PWD drains can be discharged only by pumping. Gates of irrigation and flood department-managed drains are closed when the river level goes so high," the official explained.

Besides Najafgarh and supplementary drains, 17 more drains, including Dilli Gate, Mori Gate, Shahdara and Jahangirpuri drains, carry waste water into the river.

The levels in the Yamuna had crossed the danger mark during the recent heavy rain due to release of more than 1.2 lakh cusecs water from Hathnikund Barrage in Haryana. The warning level is considered to be 204.5 m, while the danger level is 205.3m.

According to data presented in the assembly, ten agencies are managing more than 2,846 drains that are wider than 4ft and whose cumulative length runs into 3,694km. Delhi had witnessed 506mm rain only in July and severe waterlogging scenes were witnessed all across the city.
