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# Even 10% of Kodagu-like rain for 30 minutes could spell doom for Bengaluru: Experts

Rohith BR | TNN | Aug 22, 2018, 07:45 IST

**A-** **A+**


incessant rains had resulted in 16 deaths in Bengaluru

In 2017,

BENGALURU: On August 17, Kodagu received 300mm rain in a single day, resulting in floods and landslides. If Bengaluru witnessed even 10% of the rains that Kodagu did, the damage could be massive, say IISc experts.

Even 30mm rainfall in 30 minutes would cause flooding in Bengaluru, especially in low-lying areas. Though Bengaluru is located at a higher altitude, its natural flood storage capacity has got lowered due to indiscriminate encroachments and concretisation of wetlands, they point out.

Scientists led by Dr TV Ramachandra, professor, centre for ecological sciences, IISc, who have been analysing flooding in Bengaluru, said destruction of wetlands and feeder channels interlinking lakes is the

main reason for constant flooding in Bengaluru even after short spells of rain.

An official with the IMD said civic infrastructure in Bengaluru is not capable of handling rain if it exceeds a notch above normal. "What Kodagu witnessed is extreme heavy rainfall. In Bengaluru, 80mm to 100mm of rainfall in a short span of time has resulted in flooding," he added.

In 2017, incessant rains had resulted in 16 deaths as stormwater drains and other drain infrastructure failed to hold the water. Many got washed away in drains while some died due to treefalls. The then chief minister Siddaramaiah, while reasoning the record rains for the damage, acknowledged the problem of drains but blamed previous governments for the sad state of affairs. In fact, 2017 was the wettest year in the history of Bengaluru as it broke the highest ever rainfall record of 1606.8mm by October 15 itself. Kurubarahalli in west Bengaluru, Koramangala ST Bed were among the worst-hit areas.

In July 2016, muddy waters had entered over 2,000 houses and damaged properties in southeast Bengaluru. Kodichikkanahalli, Avani Sringerinagar, Arakere, RR Layout, Srinivasa Layout and Krishna Layout coming under the Bommanahalli zone suffered the most.

## Heavy rains expected in Sept

A Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC) official said the city receives most of its rains during August and September. "This year, we haven't got much showers in August. September may see some spells of heavy rain," he added.

KSNDMC statistics show Bengaluru Urban district received only 47mm rainfall, which is 37% deficient for the first three weeks of the month.

Geeta Agnihotri, director, IMD Bengaluru, said Bengaluru gets heavy showers in September. "It will be light to moderate rain for the next week. We've to wait for more days for the predictions for September," she added.

## BBMP yet to clear encroached drains, silt-filled lakes



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The BBMP has been claiming that it has cleared 1,250 out of 1,950 encroachments identified. However, in the last two years, it only cleared encroachments at 200 additional points, citing shortage of surveyors. Of the 842km stormwater drain network, only 300km has permanent walls. Out of 141 of the 160 lakes under the BBMP, the silt has been removed properly from only 60 lakes.

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On June 3, KSNDMC had warned that low-lying areas in five of eight zones in the city are prone to flooding. Luckily, the city didn't receive much showers as expected. The rain that hit the city after a few days damaged road infrastructure and waterlogging was reported in low-lying areas.

A BBMP official, however, claimed they have cleared encroachments at critical points prone to flooding and people of Bengaluru need not fear this monsoon.

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# 5-year-old girl, alone on speeding bike, has a miraculous escape

TNN | Aug 22, 2018, 07.27 AM IST



BY A

BENGALURU: For those who witnessed it, this was a scene straight out of a movie. However, every bit of what unfolded on Tumakuru Road on Sunday was real. A five-yearold girl riding with her mother and an unidentified man on a motorcycle survived a freak accident in which both the adults were flung on to the road. The bike, with the child on it, moved for nearly 200 metres before crashing into the centre median lawn on Tumakuru Road.

While the video of the accident went viral on Monday, Nelamangala traffic police confirmed the incident took place near Arishinakunte village, Tumakuru-Bengaluru highway, at 3.33pm.

WHISKER: The incident was captured by the dashboard camera of a car.

Police said it happened when the biker was trying to overtake other vehicles and rammed a scooter in front of him. First, the scooterist fell

along with the vehicle. A few seconds later, both the biker and the woman riding pillion with him also fell. But the speeding

vehicle surged ahead, with the child astride on its fuel tank. Luckily, the bike missed hitting a truck ahead of it by a whisker. Instead, it hit the median, throwing the child on to the adjacent lawn.

Motorists rushed to help the child, who, miraculously, was not injured. An ambulance was called and traffic police alerted about the incident. The woman, who identified herself as a 30-year-old resident of Begur, near Kunigal, Tumakuru district, and the child were rushed to Nelamangala Government Hospital. She left the hospital after being treated for bruises on her forehead.

#### **Scooterist sustained head injuries**

Police said scooterist Parameshwara Guru, a resident of Mallasandra, near Dasanapura, north Bengaluru, sustained head injuries and is being treated at the Nelamangala hospital. His brother Jagadish MN filed a complaint on his behalf.

#### **Riding helmetless**

Nelamangala traffic police said they have registered a case (of rash and negligent riding and hit-and-run) against the biker, who went missing after the incident. Eyewitnesses told cops that the biker too had sustained head injuries, but fled the spot, leaving the woman and the child behind. "The video of the incident, which went viral, was captured by the dashboard camera of a car. It shows both the biker and the woman were not wearing helmets," said a police officer.

"The biker was headed towards Bengaluru from Nelamangala. He tried to overtake vehicles from the left, resulting in the accident. Luckily, no one sustained major injuries," said Darshan T, an eyewitness and resident of Arishinakunte village.

#### **Girl, 2, mowed down by goods auto**

A two-year-old girl playing outside her relative's home in Manjusree Layout near Ramamurthynagar, east Bengaluru, was mowed down by a goods autorickshaw on Monday evening.

KR Puram police said Dhanasai D, from Hosadoddi village near Bidadi, was attending a housewarming ceremony organised by the relative, along with her parents, astrologer Dhananjay and Manusha. The house owner was shifting furniture to the new home in a goods auto when the accident took place. The auto began moving down the inclined road and hit the girl who died instantly. KR Puram traffic police seized the vehicle and arrested driver Rajiv Gandhi.

#### **KSRTC bus kills senior citizen, daughter-in-law**

A 68-year-old man and his daughter-in-law were killed after a speeding KSRTC bus rammed their moped near Nelamangala on Monday afternoon.

Mariyappa and A Savita, 35, residents of KC Nagar in Kurubarahalli, Mahalakshmi Layout, were returning from Marohalli, Nelamangala, after attending a family function when the accident took place. Police seized the bus heading to Bengaluru from Tumakuru and arrested the driver.

"They were to attend another family get-together at Dobbespeth. The bus driver said Mariyappa suddenly swerved to the middle of the road and the bus rammed him," Nelamangala police said. Savita was married to Mariyappa's elder son Anand, they said.

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