

Heavy rains lash Bengaluru, portion of SWD wall collapses

Deputy Chief Minister C.N. Ashwath Narayan and civic chief visit the site

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

South and southeast Bengaluru bore the brunt of heavy rainfall on Tuesday night and early Wednesday morning resulting in inundation in several areas. Kengeri, Rajarajeshwarinagar, Lakkasandra, V.V. Puram and Gottigere received over 100 mm of rain.

A portion of a retaining wall built along a stormwater drain (SWD) in Gurudatta Layout near Hosakerehalli collapsed. "Fortunately, no casualties were reported, and other surrounding structures were not affected," said a BBMP official.

As a precautionary measure, eight families residing in two housing complexes near the site will be shifted to a service apartment until repair of the wall is completed.

Deputy Chief Minister C.N. Ashwath Narayan and BBMP Commissioner N. Manjunath Prasad visited the spot on Wednesday along with senior officials. According to Mr. Prasad, the wall was built over 20 years ago, during the time of the then City Municipal Council (CMC). "This part of the city received over 125 mm of rain on Tuesday. The BWSSB is working on underground drainage near the spot. These factors resulted in increased water flow that led to soil erosion. We have already begun rebuilding the retaining wall, which will take a month to be completed," he said.

He added that of the 800 km of SWD-network in the city, 400 km of retaining walls along the drains have already been either built or rebuilt. Work on the remaining portions is under way.

Encroachments

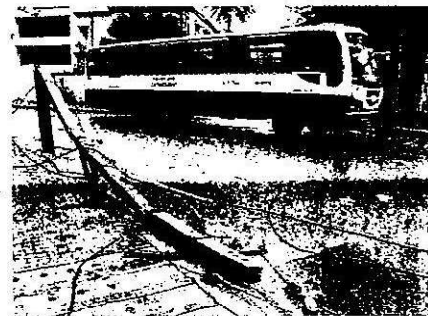
The area of the collapse is a revenue site. Deputy



A portion of a retaining wall of an SWD collapsed in Gurudatta Layout near Hosakerehalli on Tuesday night. ■ K. MURALI KUMAR



A home in Koramangala ST bed area.



An electric pole fell down at Shanthinagar.

■ SUDHAKARA JAIN

Chief Minister C.N. Ashwath Narayan said that over 1,100 buildings that had encroached on SWDs have already been cleared. "Clearance of over 700 more buildings is pending.

There is a stay on the clearance drive till November from a court due to the pandemic. We will clear the encroachments soon," he said.

He added that measures

to increase the carrying capacity of SWDs in the city would be taken up seriously. "We will ensure that more recharge pits are built and regular desilting of SWDs," he said.



A road in the Koramangala ST bed area.