

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 21/10/16 in the

Hindustan Times ✓
Statesman
The Times of India (N.D.)
Indian Express
Tribune
Hindustan (Hindi)

Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)
Punjab Keshari (Hindi)
The Hindu
Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)
Deccan Chronicle
Deccan Herald

M.P. Chronicle
Aaj (Hindi)
Indian Nation
Nai Duniya (Hindi)
The Times of India (A)
Blitz

and documented at Bhagirath(English) & Publicity Section, CWC.

Karnataka is all wrong on two waterfronts

Jai Dehadrai

Tamil Nadu's statewide rail blockade on the Cauvery issue, which has now ended, has brought Karnataka's role in the dispute into intense focus yet again. Karnataka's initial refusal to abide by the Supreme Court's order to release Cauvery waters to Tamil Nadu may have been not only contemptible, many legal experts believe that it amounted to a breakdown of its internal constitutional machinery. What is distressing, however, is that the chief minister and his Cabinet sought to conceal their omissions behind a resolution of the assembly, wrongly assuming that the writ of the Supreme Court would not run there. Strangely, Karnataka's legal team attempted to renegotiate the court's orders instead of abiding by them, virtually bargaining with the Supreme Court.

Unfortunately, the state's controversial approach in respect of acquiring water does not end with Tamil Nadu. The Mahadayi river dispute, between Karnataka and Goa, is another disturbing example of Karnat-

taka's water policy. While the state is desperately looking to divert river water away from the Mahadayi river, called Mandovi in Goa, it has faced legal hurdles because the river sustains nearly all of Goa's drinking water and navigational needs. The Mandovi also feeds the fragile but ecologically rich Mahadayi Wildlife Sanctuary. For the time being, mercifully, Karnataka has been restrained by a specially constituted tribunal to not divert any water from the Mandovi to the Malaprabha river basin. Karnataka has claimed that it needs the excess water to meet its drinking water needs, although it is yet to substantiate this demand. In the midst of this dispute, which is currently being heard by a tribunal headed by an eminent former Supreme Court judge, Karnataka moved an interlocutory application, seeking an interim release of seven TMC (thousand million cubic feet) of water to tide over what it claims is a drought.

What was unexpected, however, was Karnataka's suppression of information in its application about its allocation of existing

water resources. It was only later — during the course of heated arguments between Goa's advocate general Atmaram Nadkarni and Karnataka counsel Fali Nariman — that it emerged that Karnataka had not disclosed that it was diverting enormous quantities of water to a Cola bottling plant in Dharwad and also to water-guzzling sugarcane plantations. If the requirement was genuine, the right approach for the state would have been to first commission an Environmental Impact Assessment.

What shocked many neutral observers was the state's insistence before the tribunal that it be allowed to lift water without first considering its environmental impact — which is a statutory requirement.

Karnataka ought to now listen to expert environmentalists and hydrologists, and scrap the proposed diversion. Being the upper riparian state, it also owes a duty to its lower riparian neighbour to not act unilaterally.

*Jai Dehadrai is an advocate in the Supreme Court
The views expressed are personal*

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Flood of buildings on banks of Ganga, Yamuna a problem, UPPCB tells NGT

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN

NEW DELHI: The Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board (UPPCB) told the National Green Tribunal (NGT) on Thursday that a "flood" of multi-storeyed buildings have been constructed on the floodplains of Ganga and Yamuna over the years without devising any mechanism for waste disposal.

The State pollution control board told NGT that floodplains have been encroached upon in Delhi, Noida and Greater Noida to build apartments and housing societies.

Over the years, there has been a flood of residential and commercial buildings

Despite construction along the floodplains, the sewerage capacity has not changed

along the floodplains of the Yamuna and the Ganga, but the sewerage capacity has not changed, the UPPCB said. Currently, they take environmental clearance (EC) and discharge solid waste and other garbage in the sewer lines in collusion with local bodies, the tribunal was informed.

Local authorities take money and grant them permission to discharge all the

waste into the sewer lines, the UPPCB said.

"There is no site for dumping of municipal solid waste. When you plan a new residential area like Greater Noida, there must be an independent site. Whenever any colony, multi-storey building, apartment is constructed, it should be made mandatory in their EC condition that they must have their own sewage treatment plants," UPPCB told the NGT.

The NGT is hearing final arguments by various authorities on the mechanism to clean the Ganga from Haridwar to Unnao.

The green panel had divided the work of cleaning

the river into five segments — Gomukh to Haridwar, Haridwar to Kanpur, Kanpur to border of Uttar Pradesh, border of Uttar Pradesh to the border of Jharkhand and border of Jharkhand to Bay of Bengal.

The result of the hearing remained inconclusive and will continue on Friday. While setting up a panel to collect information on the quantum and quality of waste being released into the river, the NGT had said "a project of national importance is being carried out and all authorities, including the Centre and the State government do not know how many drains are polluting the Ganga."

दिनांक 20.08.2007

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Corporation scrambles to get Chennai

Measures to desilt stormwater drains, construct missing links and new channels have been taken

CITY BUREAU

CHENNAI: Every monsoon, there are a few roads and localities that people tend to avoid in the city.

Santhome High Road, General Patters Road, Valuvar Kottam High Road, Sardar Patel Road, Vijaya Nagar junction, and parts of Poonamallee High Road, all figure on this list of badly inundated roads.

Ask an expert about the reason for flooding and they attribute it to the city's flat terrain that lets water to run off slowly. Experts will also say that the city's stormwater drains cannot handle heavy and incessant rain.

Last month, when it rained for over an hour, Santhome High Road, where there are better drains now, saw even big vehicles floundering in the flash floods. As a result, motorists had a harrowing experience.

300 vulnerable points

After facing major criticism last monsoon, the Greater Chennai Corporation began desilting the stormwater drain network and the canals running across the city to prevent flooding.

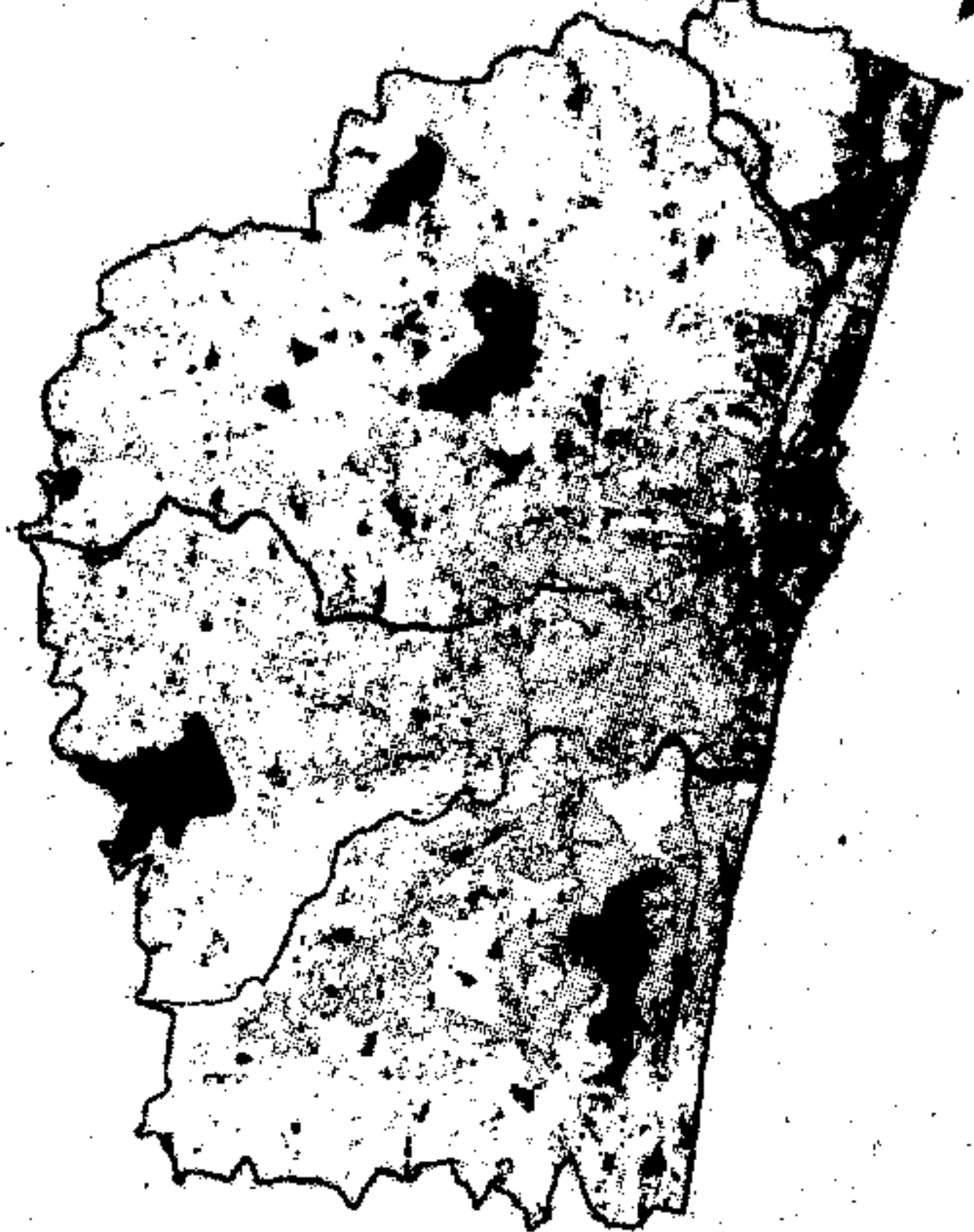
After last year's deluge, 300 locations were identified as vulnerable, a corporation official said. The vulnerable pockets in the southern suburbs include a portion of Grand Southern Trunk Road, where the flood fury led to the shifting of patients from a government hospital in Chromepet.

"With Metrowater delaying the laying of pipelines, water-logging after brief spells of rain cannot be avoided," says Sankaran V. of Tiruneermalai Main Road. The situation on Medavakkam Main Road at Ullagaram with no stormwa-

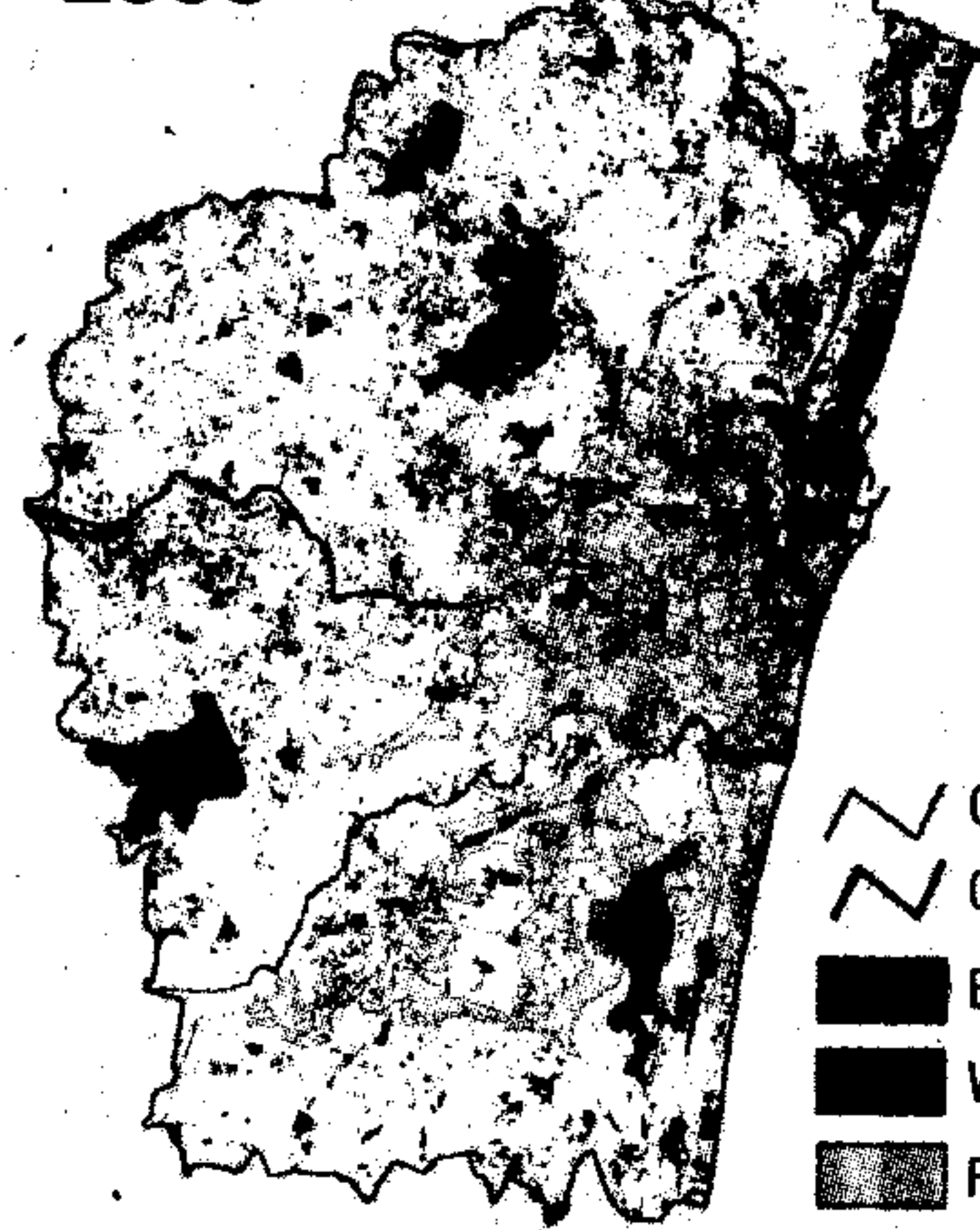
Alarming picture

A study shows the exponential increase in built-up space in the city over the past two decades, leading to shrinkage of waterbodies and disappearance of channels and surplus courses. The result of these activities has rendered the city extremely vulnerable to flooding.

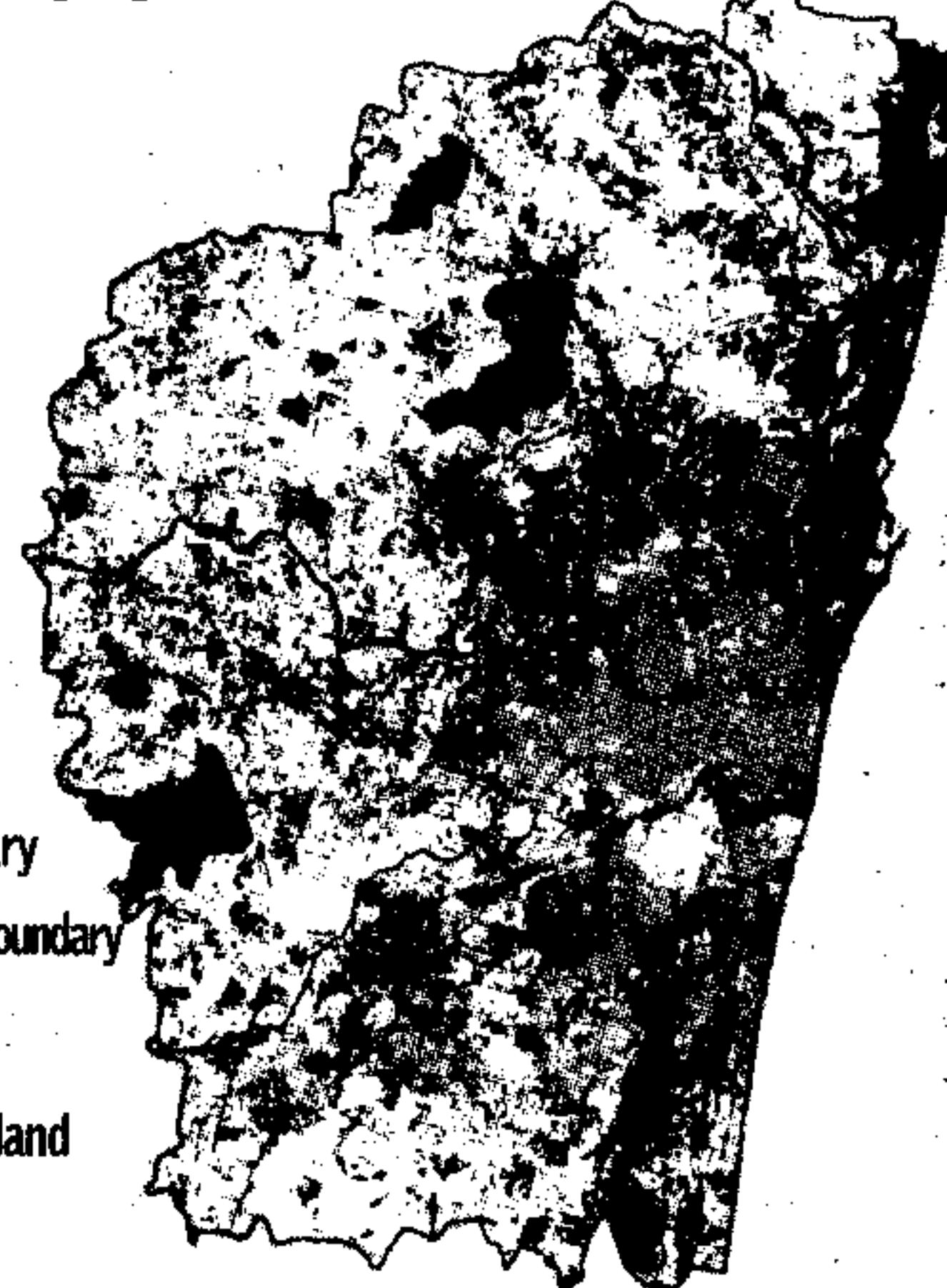
Waterbodies and built-up area in Chennai: 1991



2000



2010



Chennai boundary
 Greater Chennai boundary
 Built-up area
 Waterbody/wetland
 Flood-affected



After 1991, the Adyar river's flood plains began to vanish. More recently, development has forayed till the edge of the waterbodies and also on wetlands — JAYSHREE VENCATESAN, Care Earth Trust

Source: Prem V. Junior Research Fellow, Care Earth Trust

ter drain facility is similar.

In addition to completing the cleaning of the stormwater drain network for more than 1,000 km, measures have been taken to identify missing links in 52 locations, which include R.K. Nagar, Habibullah Road in T. Nagar and Purasawalkam High Road. Almost 90 per cent of the work to link missing portions has been completed. Similarly, work on 36 large drains, which are being linked to canals and rivers, was under progress at locations such as TVS Canal at Villivakkam, Flowers Road at Kilpauk and Sardar Patel Road, near the Raj Bhavan, officials said.

With only the old areas such as Triplicane, George Town, Egmore, and Santhome situated on high ground, other parts of the city gets inundated every year during the monsoon.

"After 1991, major civic de-

velopment sprung up on the semi-natural wetlands which led to closing some waterbodies. As a result, the Adyar river's flood plains eventually vanished. More recently, development has forayed till the edge of the waterbodies and also on wetlands. Instead of being defined by ecological or hydrological factors, these waterbodies are looked upon

PREPARING FOR THE MONSOON

IS CHENNAI READY?

based on their revenue records," said Jayshree Vencatesan of Care Earth Trust.

Need for long-term plan

"What is needed is a long-term plan. We need an integrated urban plan that takes into consideration all aspects such as the geography, ecology, hydrology and met-

eorology," Ms. Vencatesan added. Municipal Administration Secretary K. Phanindra Reddy conducted a review meeting on Wednesday on monsoon preparedness. To face this monsoon, Rs. 18 crore had been spent on desilting of 1,229 km of stormwater drains.

As many as 33 new drains and 52 connecting links was taken up at Rs. 91 crore, an official release said. It added that 42 rescue teams, 103 boats and 156 relief camps have been kept on standby. Efforts were on to control mosquito breeding.

People can call the 24 hour control room at 044-25619206/9511, 25385005/4965/3694. They can also whatsapp at 9445477207/203/206/201/205.

(Reporting by K. Lakshmi, Deepa H. Ramakrishnan, R. Srikanth and T. Madhavan)

सम्बन्धी समाचार

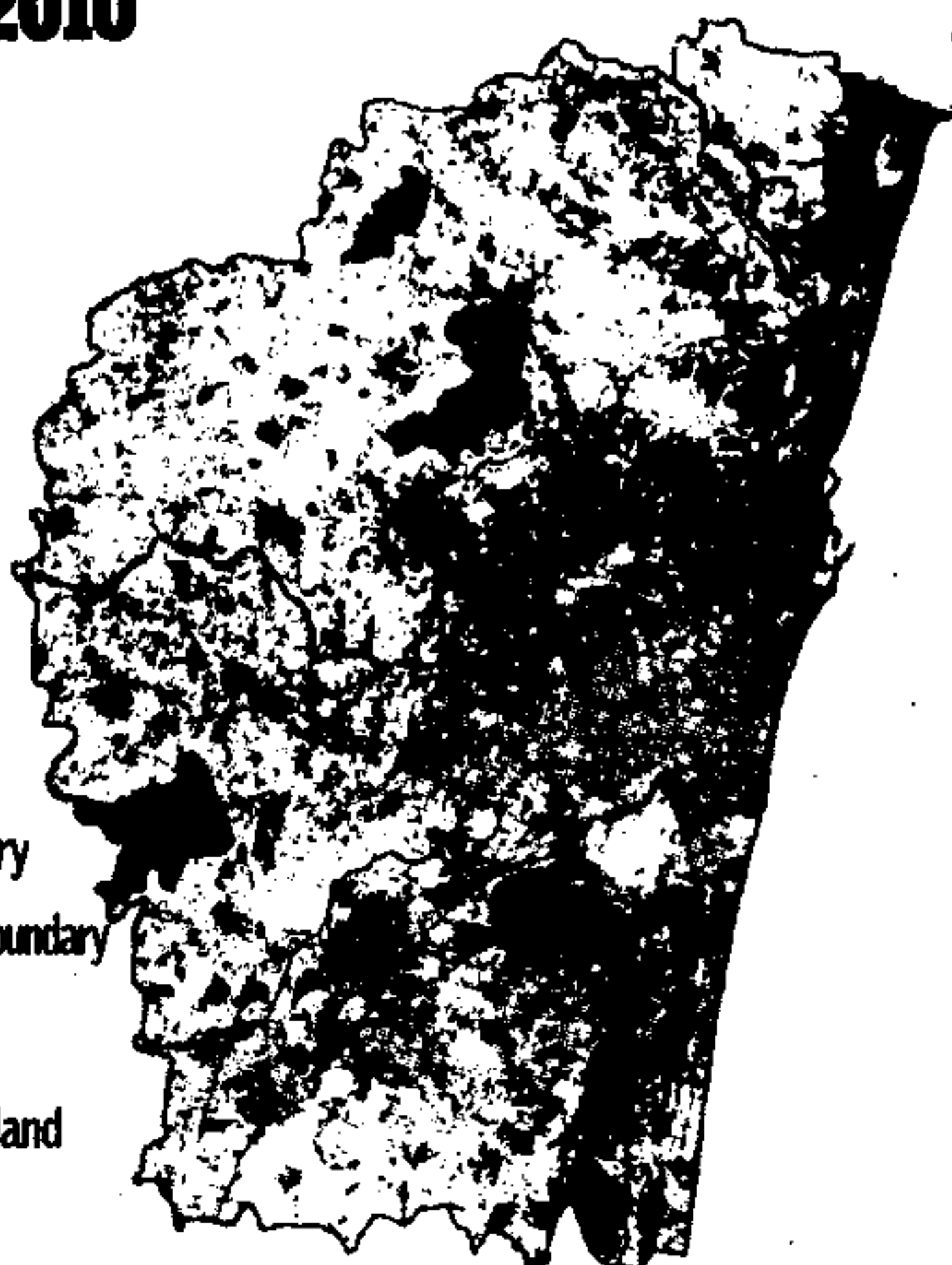
(Bengluru)
(Hyderabad)
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Get Chennai monsoon-ready

channels have been taken up; Rescue teams, boats and relief camps kept ready

space in the city over the past two
appearance of channels and surplus
the city extremely vulnerable to flooding.

2010



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VENCATESAN, Care Earth Trust

Source: Prem V., Junior Research Fellow, Care Earth Trust

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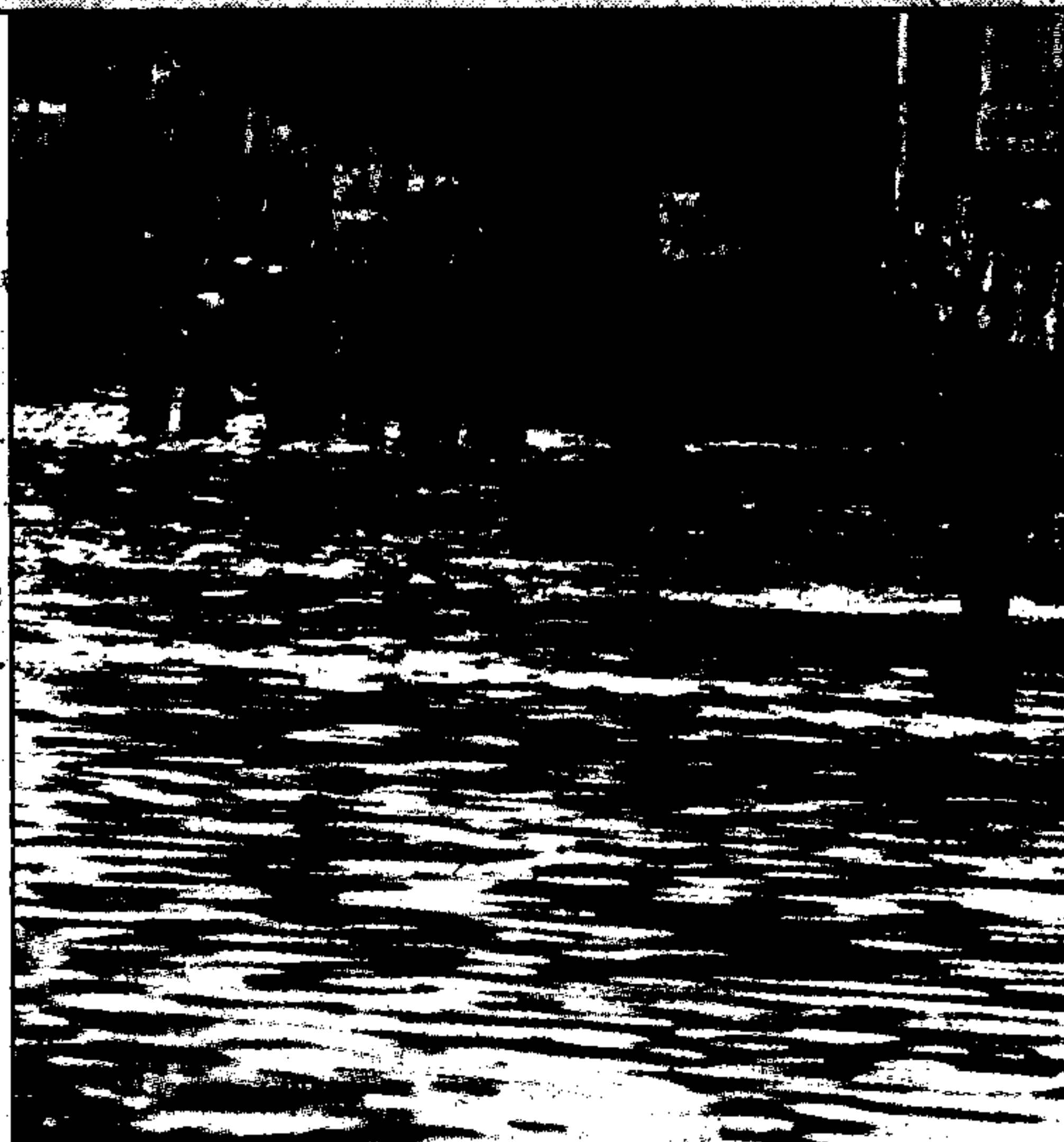
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IN THE CONCRETE JUNGLE

Lack of proper infrastructure makes the city, with its flat terrain, exposed to flooding

- 300 locations across the city have been identified as vulnerable to floods
- Missing links in stormwater drain network in 52 locations, including R.K. Nagar, Habibullah Road and Purasawalkam Road, are being connected to the existing drains
- Flooding recurs on Grand Southern Trunk Road stretch near Chromepet and Medavakkam Main Road at Ullagaram; as they

- lack proper storm-water drains
- Chitlapakkam residents associations coordination committee recently submitted a memorandum on areas prone to inundation to the Kancheepuram Collectorate
- Resettlement colonies such as those in Perumbakkam and Kannagi Nagar are more vulnerable as they are located on wetlands, says Jayashree Vencatesan, Care Earth Trust



ROUTINE AFFAIR: Every monsoon, GP Road, an arterial road in Royapettah, witnesses flooding due to the lack of proper drains.

— PHOTO: K.V.SRINIVASAN

को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

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SC reserves judgment on Cauvery appeals

Tamil Nadu joined counterparts Karnataka and Kerala to oppose the Centre's stand that the court was barred from entertaining the appeals as the tribunal's award was final and binding on the three neighbouring States, as per the parliamentary law of the Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956.

"No ordinary parliamentary law can stop the Supreme Court from exercising its constitutional power to hear appeals. Judicial review is part of the basic structure of the Constitution," senior advocate Shekhar Naphade argued.

The Bench may refer the appeals to a larger Bench of at least five judges of the Supreme Court.

The Bench further reiterated its order to Karnataka to release 2,000 cusecs of Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu till further orders.

On focus during the hearing were several provisions of the 1956 Act, most prominently Section 6 (2), which mandates the Centre to frame a scheme for implementation of the tribunal award. The scheme, once prepared, would be placed before both Houses of Parliament for approval.

Attorney-General Mukul Rohatgi, for the Centre, submitted that the provisions of the 1956 Act coupled with Article 262 (2) of the Constitution ex-

cluded the Supreme Court from hearing or deciding any appeals against the Cauvery Tribunal's decision.

Quoting past judgments, Mr. Rohatgi argued that once the Cauvery tribunal pronounced its verdict on the distribution, the various doors to the Supreme Court automatically closed.

He submitted that no writ petitions in the name of enforcement of fundamental rights under Article 32 could be filed nor could original suits invoking the Supreme Court's exclusive jurisdiction to try inter-State disputes be filed.

"If Article 131 and Article 32, which is the heart and soul of the Constitution, cannot be invoked to move the Supreme Court against the tribunal award, then there is an automatic bar on filing appeals under Article 136 of the Constitution," Mr. Rohatgi argued.

Mr. Naphade submitted that Section 6 (2) of the 1956 Act only provided for the procedure to be followed by the Centre post the tribunal award.

It is not that mere procedure in a statute can negate the Constitution-given powers of the Supreme Court to entertain appeals.

Pooh-poohing the claims of the Centre, Karnataka, represented by senior advocate Fali Nariman, had submitted that Parliament cannot restrict the Supreme Court.

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A drone to survey Chennai airport's flood vulnerability

SUNITHA SEKAR

CHENNAI: The Chennai airport will have a drone flying over its airfield for an hour every day for the next 10 days.

A survey using the drone will be carried out by the IIT-Madras to look into mitigation plans in case of another flooding.

In December 2015, the airport was among the worst-hit facilities in the city, and for nearly a week, hundreds of flight operations were suspended, leaving over 1,500 passengers stranded.

The water from the Adyar river that inundated the entire airstrip even damaged the boundary wall in several places.

The IIT after conducting the survey will submit a report in three months recommending on how to prevent flooding.

Airport Director Deepak



The Chennai airport was among the worst-hit facilities during the December floods last year. — FILE PHOTO

Shastri said, "The study will help us understand how to divert water entering the airport. This is to ensure that we don't face the same crisis as we had last year, in the future."

Awaiting approval

He noted the airport had received approvals from all the authorities, except the Ministry of Defence. "If we

get their approval, we will include their area too under this survey. If not, then the Defence area alone will be excluded," he said.

For 10 days, when the drone is used, flight operations will be suspended for an hour. "But if there is a case of an emergency, the drone operations will be suspended to allow landings," he added.

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Waterbodies desilted ahead of the rains

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI: Waterbodies on the western fringes of the city are getting attention ahead of the northeast monsoon, with many channels that run for over 25 km getting desilted as part of the flood control measures.

According to officials of the Water Resources Department, an eight-km course, carrying surplus water from the Red Hills reservoir to the Ennore creek, was being strengthened. It included vulnerable portions in Baba Nagar. Channels from Ambattur and Korattur lakes are also being improved, they said.

"We have desilted a wa-

terbody in Thangal, Kadirvedu, which link Korattur lake with a waterbody in Retteri. A 15-km stretch of the damaged bund of the Kosasthalaiyar river is also being strengthened and inlet points have been created in 10 places, such as Pudukuppam and Vanipakkam, for the smooth flow of rainwater into the river. About 60 per cent of the works have been completed so far," an official said.

As part of flood control measures, a meeting, headed by Revenue Minister R.B. Udhayakumar, was held at Tiruvallur District Collectorate, on Wednesday, to review the ongoing works. Earlier,

Tiruvallur District Collector E. Sundaravalli reviewed the work taken up by the department to desilt the waterbodies and its surplus courses.

The department is also improving the bunds of nine water tanks in places such as Siruvakkam, Sadayankuppam, Boodur and Melsingilimedu, which were breached during the December floods.

'Save Korattur Lake'

Meanwhile, Arappor Iyakkam, a citizen's group, charged that the Corporation had not taken measures to repair and desilt channels carrying surplus water along the Inner Ring Road to Retteri.

The organisation launched the 'Save Korattur lake' campaign seeking plugging of sewage outfalls into the waterbody. Encroachments on the fringes of the waterbodies and the surplus course are a major problem.

Members of the group demanded that measures be taken to prevent sewage release into the Korattur lake by providing regulators and improving all the channels bringing floodwater to Retteri. It is essential to provide stormwater drains in AVS Nagar, Korattur, to mitigate flooding. The culverts in Northern Avenue must be widened to enable the free flow of water in this surplus course, they said.

दिनांक 19.07.2000 को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

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The Times of India, 19/07/00 **Release 2,000 cusecs of water daily to TN: SC to K'taka**

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The Supreme Court asked Karnataka on Tuesday to keep releasing 2000 cusecs water to Tamil Nadu on daily basis till further order and directed governments of both states to take measu-

res to control public agitation on water dispute and maintain law and order.

A bench of Justices Dipak Misra, Amitava Roy and A M Khanwilkar said both states are suffering from shortage of water and the interim ar-

rangement of releasing 2000 cusecs of water should continue.

"At this stage, we are compelled to reiterate our earlier order in which we had expressed with certitude that the Executive of both states shall see to it that the peace and harmony is

maintained and citizens do not become law unto themselves," it said. "It will be the obligation of the Executive to see that when the matter is heard and the interim order has been passed and Karnataka is complying with the order," the court said.