



APSC TDO 2024: Draft a report in the letter format on the preparedness of the District Administration, Kamrup (Metro) in dealing with waterlogging of the city roads during the last week of June 2024. (CDPO 2024)

District Administration, Kamrup (Metro)

Office of the Deputy Commissioner

Guwahati, Assam

Date: July 2, 2024

To

The Commissioner,

Assam State Disaster Management Authority,

Dispur, Assam

Subject: Report on Preparedness of District Administration, Kamrup (Metro) for Waterlogging Management During the Last Week of June 2024

Sir,

I hope this letter finds you well. In light of the recent heavy rainfall during the last week of June 2024, I hereby submit a report on the preparedness and response of the District Administration, Kamrup (Metro), to manage waterlogging issues across the city.

Overview of the Situation:

From June 24 to June 30, 2024, Guwahati experienced heavy rainfall, leading to severe waterlogging across multiple areas in the city. The low-lying regions, including Zoo Road, Anil Nagar, Nabin Nagar, Chandmari, and parts of RG Baruah Road, witnessed considerable inundation. Major arterial roads were submerged, hampering vehicular movement and disrupting daily life.



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Preparedness Measures Undertaken:

In anticipation of the monsoon season, the District Administration, in coordination with the Guwahati Municipal Corporation (GMC), had implemented the following preparedness measures to address potential waterlogging:

Pre-Monsoon Cleaning of Drains:

- A special task force was formed to clean and de-silt the primary and secondary drains across the city. The cleaning of major drains, such as the Bharalu and Bahini channels, was completed before June 15, 2024, to ensure unimpeded water flow during heavy rains.
- Ward-wise cleaning of neighborhood drains was undertaken to prevent blockages.

Installation of Additional Pumping Stations:

- Seven new water pumping stations were installed at critical points prone to heavy water accumulation, such as Anil Nagar, Nabin Nagar, and Rajgarh. These stations worked around the clock to pump out excess water into the Brahmaputra River during periods of intense rain.

Coordination with Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA):

- The District Administration worked in close coordination with ASDMA to ensure real-time monitoring of rainfall patterns. Early warnings were issued to residents of flood-prone areas through SMS alerts and public announcements, allowing citizens to prepare for the



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Deployment of Quick Response Teams (QRTs):

- 15 Quick Response Teams were deployed across the city, equipped with dewatering pumps, boats, and other necessary equipment to assist in clearing waterlogged areas. These teams were stationed in high-risk zones and worked with the local police to regulate traffic and manage emergency situations.

Public Awareness Campaigns:

- A series of public awareness campaigns were conducted to educate residents on emergency measures during waterlogging, precautions to take, and helpline numbers to contact in case of emergencies. Social media, local news channels, and community meetings were used for dissemination.

Provision of Relief Materials:

- Relief camps were prepared in schools and community halls in vulnerable areas. Stockpiles of basic necessities like food, water, and medical supplies were stored in advance to address any eventual displacement of residents due to flooding.

Response to Waterlogging During the Week of June



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24-30, 2024:

Despite the preparatory measures, the unprecedented intensity of rainfall caused significant waterlogging in various parts of the city. The District Administration, in response, implemented the following actions during the last week of June:

Immediate Activation of Control Room:

- A 24×7 control room was set up to monitor the situation and respond to distress calls. The control room coordinated with GMC and disaster management personnel to manage waterlogging and mitigate damage.

Traffic Diversion and Management:

- The traffic police, in collaboration with the District Administration, implemented traffic diversions in heavily waterlogged areas to prevent vehicular congestion. Alternate routes were suggested to commuters through regular updates on local FM radio channels and social media platforms.

Evacuation and Rescue Operations:

- In heavily affected areas like Anil Nagar and Nabin Nagar, the administration, in cooperation with ASDMA, carried out evacuation and rescue operations. Boats and inflatable rafts were used to transport stranded individuals to safer locations.



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Continuous Pumping Operations:

- The newly installed pumping stations and dewatering pumps were operated continuously to reduce water levels. Additional portable pumps were also deployed in certain areas to speed up the dewatering process.

Post-Rainfall Rehabilitation:

- Once the water levels receded, sanitation teams were dispatched to clean the debris and disinfect the waterlogged areas to prevent the outbreak of waterborne diseases. Health camps were set up to provide medical assistance to affected residents.

Challenges Faced:

Insufficient Drainage Capacity:

- The existing drainage infrastructure, despite upgrades, was unable to handle the volume of water from the heavy rainfall. The capacity of the Bharalu and Bahini rivers also remains a concern.

Unplanned Urbanization:

- Encroachments and rapid urbanization without adequate drainage planning have exacerbated the problem of waterlogging in the city.



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Public Non-Cooperation in Some Areas:

- Instances of residents dumping solid waste into drains led to blockages, causing local flooding. Efforts are being made to enhance community cooperation on this front.

Conclusion:

The District Administration, Kamrup (Metro), was able to mitigate some of the worst impacts of waterlogging through advance preparations and a rapid response during the crisis. However, given the scale of the challenge, further infrastructural upgrades and public cooperation are necessary to prevent such incidents in the future. Recommendations for long-term improvements, including enhanced drainage systems and urban planning reforms, will be submitted separately.

Your guidance and support for future efforts to manage waterlogging in Guwahati would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

[Name]

Deputy Commissioner,
Kamrup (Metro), Assam