

**“Chennai Corporation maps show non-existent drains”**

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# Chennai corporation maps show non-existent drains

## Absence Of SWDs Led To Inundation In Kolathur

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**Chennai:** A map on storm water drains (SWDs) recently released by Greater Chennai Corporation has left the residents of Teachers Colony in Kolathur shocked. Reason: Missing drains. The non-existent drains are marked for the area and the other neighbouring streets of Krishna Nagar. However, these locations have been under one-foot water for more than a week.

Civic body officials claim that the road connecting Teachers Colony and Vivekananda Main Road has a 100-metre-long storm water drain. But the reality is a lot different. When TOI visited the place, it was found that



**ONLY ON PAPER:** The drain ends on Vivekananda Road in Kolathur with no further connection; (right) the civic body map shows the 100-metre-long drain (A6 to A7), which residents say does not exist



Madhavaram zone, while Vivekananda Main Road comes under Ambartur zone. Also, other maps of neighbouring wards that should explain the further connectivity of the drain have not been uploaded at all.

H Chandrabose, a corporation contractor, told TOI that this is not the only instance. There are many such drains that have been drawn on the maps by the SWD department. “None of them exists. The problem is that the officials do not conduct any field visit before proposing a project,” he said.

The maps, at times, don't even display the drains which exist. The one in Sivananda Colony constructed a few years ago is not marked in the civic body's map. A resident from Thiru Vi Ka Nagar zone has written to the department stating that the drain connecting 6th and 8th street of Sai Nagar via second main road is non-existent but is on the map.

These maps were uploaded after residents questioned the faulty engineering of the new drains. The maps have also displayed the gradient of the manholes and the direction of the waterflow.

An official said that they had separate maps whenever they propose projects. “These maps were studied by a private consultant appointed by Tamil Nadu Urban Infrastructure and Financial Services Limited. However, there are many corrections to be made. We will also conduct inspections and update them,” he said.

News Item in The Times of India newspaper, Chennai Edition dated 03rd December 2021

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H Chandrabose, a corporation contractor, told TOI that this is not the only instance. There are many such drains that have been drawn on the maps by the SWD department. "None of them exists. The problem is that the officials do not conduct any field visit before proposing a project," he said. The maps, at times, don't even display the drains which exist. The one in Sivananda Colony constructed a few years ago is not marked on the civic body's map. A resident from Thiru Vi Ka Nagar zone has written to the department stating that the drain connecting 8th and 6th street of Sai Nagar via second main road is non-existent but is on the map. These maps were uploaded after residents questioned the faulty engineering of the new drains. The maps have also displayed the gradient of the manholes and the direction of the waterflow. An official said that they had separate maps whenever they propose projects. "These maps were studied by a private consultant appointed by Tamil Nadu Urban Infrastructure and Financial Services Limited. However, there are many corrections to be made. We will also conduct inspections and update them," he said.