

**IGTS**  
INDO-GERMAN Centre  
for SUSTAINABILITY



# THE CHENNAI DELUGE 2015

A PERSONAL PHOTO REPORT

BY

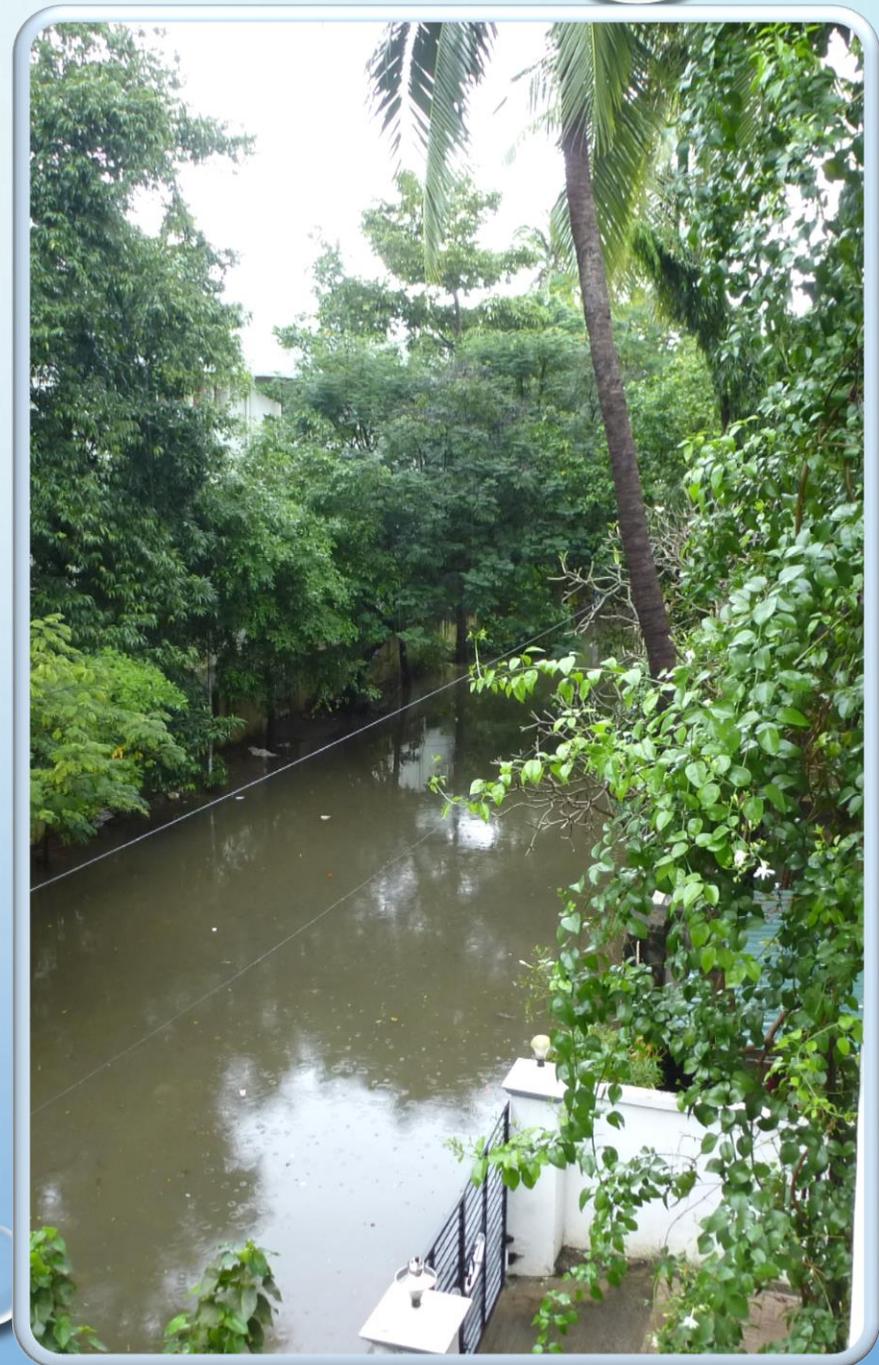
CHRISTOPH WOIWODE



**THE MENACE SERIOUSLY BEGINS ON TUESDAY DEC 1, 2015**

**THE SITUATION IN MANY RESIDENTIAL AREAS. HERE IN INDIRA NAGAR, ADYAR**

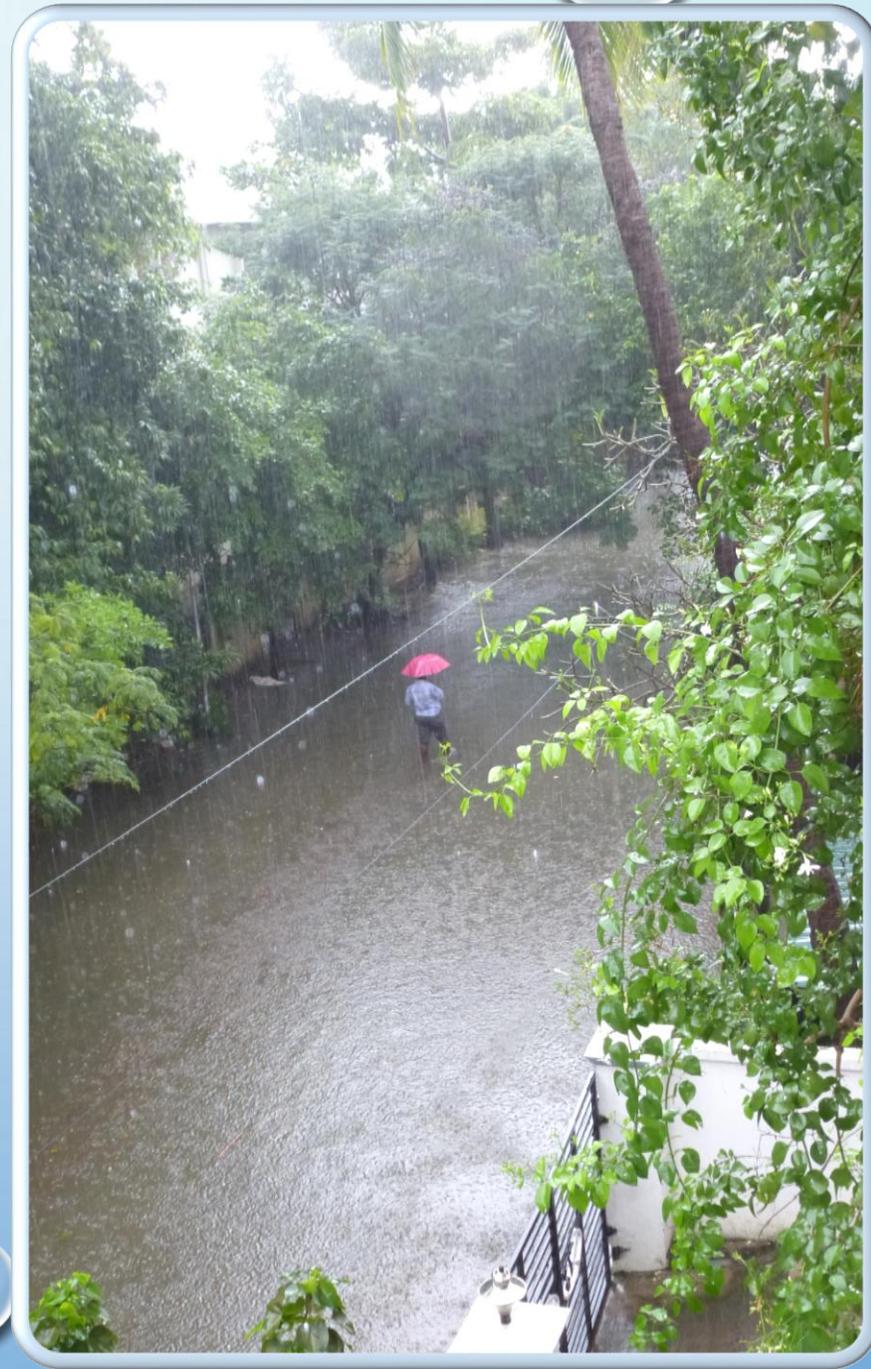
**(2 DEC 2015)**





RESIDENTIAL AREA IN ADYAR. BY TUESDAY EVENING THE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT WAS CLOSED DUE TO FLOODED AIRFIELD.

(RIGHT 2 DEC 2015; LEFT 3 DEC 2015)



ON THURSDAY I DECIDE  
TO VENTURE OUT ON THE  
CYCLE FOR THE FIRST  
TIME AFTER TWO DAYS OF  
HEAVY RAIN,  
CONTINUOUS POWER  
CUT, NO PHONE AND  
INTERNET CONNECTIVITY.  
MY DESTINATION IS THE  
OFFICE ON THE IIT M  
CAMPUS.

NEAR TIDEL PARK, WHERE  
MANY IT COMPANIES  
HAVE THEIR OFFICES

(3 DEC 2015)



ON THE WAY TO  
THE IIT MADRAS  
RESEARCH PARK  
PASSING IT OFFICE  
BUILDINGS (HIDING  
BEHIND THE  
TREES), SOME OF  
THEM YET TO BE  
COMPLETED

(3 DEC 2015)





THE RESEARCH PARK GATE INSIDE IIT M (3 DEC 2015)

COMING FROM  
RESEARCH PARK GATE,  
I HAD TO WADE  
THROUGH THIS  
ALMOST ONE METER  
DEEP AND 150 METER  
LONG STRETCH OF  
LOW LYING ROAD TO  
CONTINUE TO MY  
OFFICE



FLOODED FOREST  
AREA ON IIT M  
CAMPUS  
(3 DEC 2015)



WATER  
DRAINAGE  
ON IIT M  
CAMPUS





THE ROAD CAVED IN DEEPLY  
AT MADHYA KAILASH, ONE  
OF THE MAJOR TRAFFIC  
JUNCTIONS IN ADYAR, NEAR  
IIT M MAIN GATE

(3 DEC 2015)



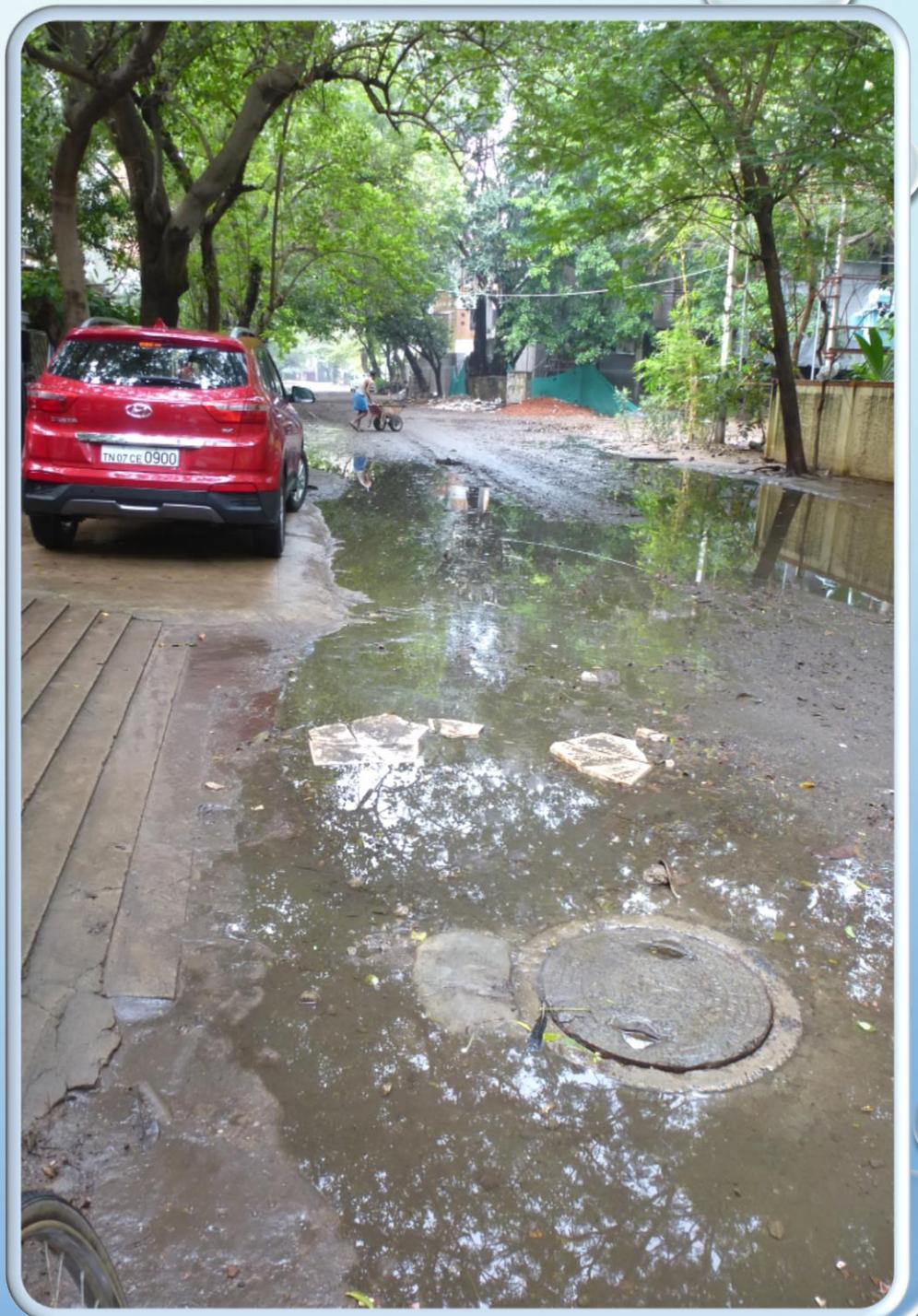
THE BUCKINGHAM  
CANAL NEAR MADHYA  
KAILASH JUNCTION,  
ADYAR

(3 DEC 2015)

WHEN THE RAIN STOPS, THE SLUDGE REMAINS.  
MANY SUCH MANHOLES WERE OPENED BY RESIDENTS OR  
THE LOCAL AUTHORITY IN THE HOPE TO HELP WATER  
DRAIN OFF. YET OFTEN THE RESULT WAS  
CONTAMINATION WITH SEWAGE WATER.

IN ADDITION, SUBMERGED UNDER WATER OPEN  
MANHOLES ARE NOT VISIBLE CAUSING GREAT RISK FOR  
PEDESTRIANS, CYCLISTS AND MOTORISTS.

(4 DEC 2015)





THE ADYAR RIVER, ONE OF THE MAJOR WATER ARTERIES IN CHENNAI, AT ADYAR BRIDGE (VIEW UPSTREAM)

IT WAS UP TO THE BRIM DUE TO WATER RELEASED FROM CHEMBARAMBAKKAM WATER RESERVOIR AND OTHER WATER BODIES ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF CHENNAI.

KOTTURPURAM BRIDGE FURTHER UPSTREAM WAS TEMPORARILY CLOSED.

(4 DEC 2015)



IN CENTRAL CHENNAI, NEAR T.T.K. ROAD.

SMELL CANNOT BE SEEN IN THE PICTURES. YET THE COLOUR OF SEWAGE IS CLEARLY VISIBLE (PIC LEFT).

NARROW ROADS ARE A CHALLENGE FOR TRAFFIC AND PEDESTRIANS ALIKE.



(4 DEC 2015)

WITH ONGOING  
POWER OUTAGES  
WATER HAS TO BE  
BROUGHT IN WITH  
TANKERS



THE DISASTER DOES NOT DISTINGUISH BETWEEN RICH AND POOR.

ALONG NUNGAMBAKKAM HIGH ROAD, ONE OF THE POSHEST AREAS IN CENTRAL CHENNAI.



IRONY?  
THE BOARDS SUGGEST  
NOT ONLY TO WEAR A  
HELMET, BUT ALSO TO  
SAVE RAINWATER!  
BUT HOW? ONE MIGHT  
WONDER.

(4 DEC 2015)



## NEITHER IN NOR OUT

THOSE STRANDED AT FIVE STAR HOTELS WERE PROBABLY THE LUCKY ONES. BUT TENS OF THOUSANDS WERE STUCK AT THE AIRPORT, RAILWAY STATIONS AND IN THEIR HOMES. SURROUNDED OR EVEN FLOODED BY WATER.

(4 DEC 2015)

ON RESCUE MISSION  
(4 DEC 2015)

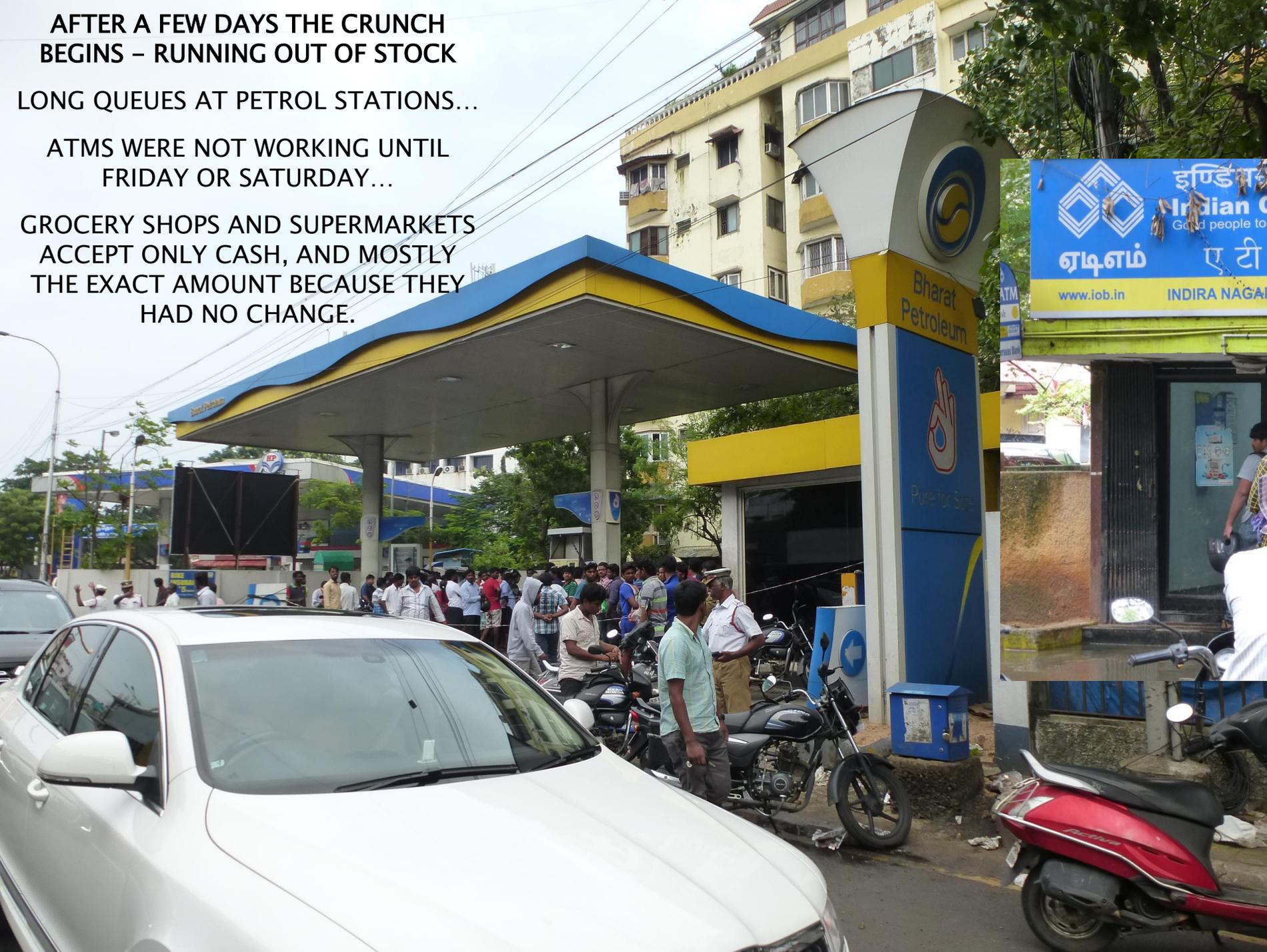


AFTER A FEW DAYS THE CRUNCH  
BEGINS – RUNNING OUT OF STOCK

LONG QUEUES AT PETROL STATIONS...

ATMS WERE NOT WORKING UNTIL  
FRIDAY OR SATURDAY...

GROCERY SHOPS AND SUPERMARKETS  
ACCEPT ONLY CASH, AND MOSTLY  
THE EXACT AMOUNT BECAUSE THEY  
HAD NO CHANGE.





...AND HEAPS OF WASTE AND RUBBLE ARE MOUNTING ON THE STREETS IN THE CITY...BUT THERE'S ALWAYS SOMEONE WHO BENEFITS...



WHERE SHOULD ALL THE  
WATER GO?



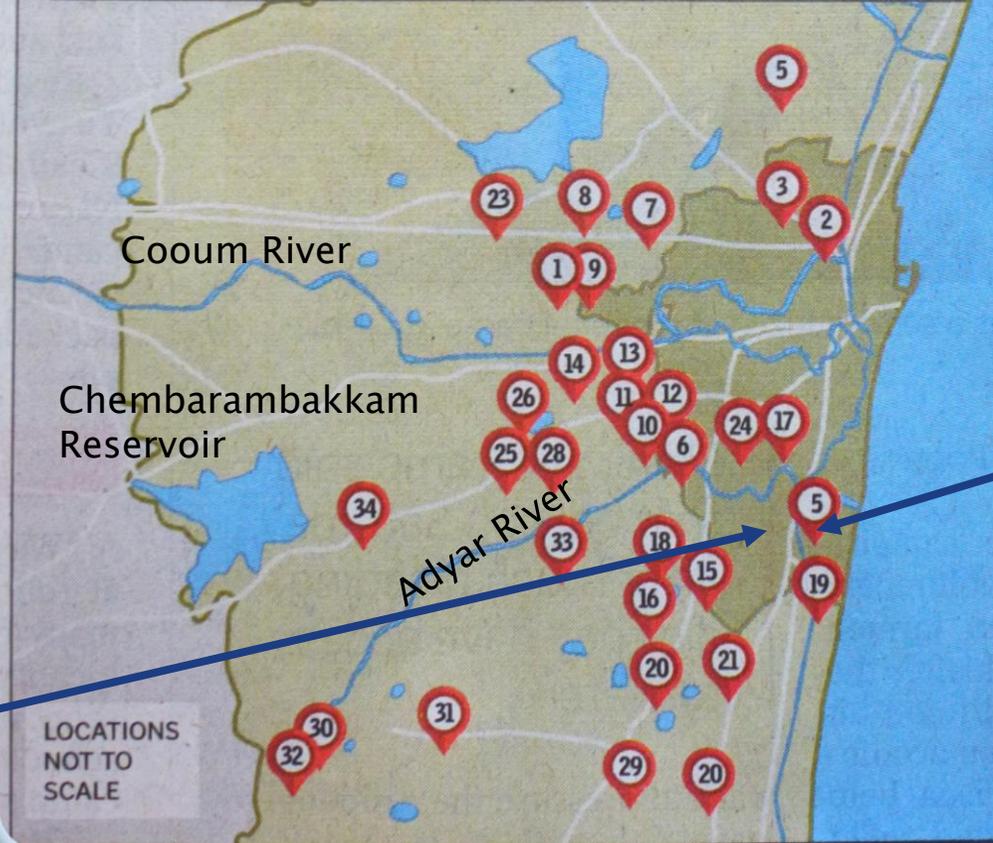
## AN INITIAL ANALYSIS

(THE HINDU, 6 DEC 2015)

### IN DEEP WATER

A list of areas which have reported heavy inundation to the Chennai Corporation as of 8 p.m. on Saturday

1. Dr. Radhakrishnan Nagar
2. Basin Bridge
3. Vysarpadi
4. Manali
5. Adyar
6. Saidapet
7. Villivakkam
8. Korattur
9. Mogappair
10. Jafferkhanpet
11. KK Nagar
12. Ashok Nagar
13. Saligramam
14. Valasaravakkam
15. Velachery
16. Madipakkam
17. R.A. Puram
18. Adambakkam
19. Kottivakkam
20. Sholinganallur
21. Okkium-Thoraipakkam
22. Pallikaranai
23. Ambattur
24. Nandanam
25. Ramapuram
26. Porur
27. Manapakkam
28. Mugalivakkam
29. Perumbakkam
30. Perungalathur
31. Tambaram
32. Mudichur
33. Meenambakkam
34. Kundathur



Adyar/  
Indira  
Nagar

IIT M  
Campus

