

# 5 days after flooding, Chennai wages grim battle

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**CHENNAI:** Five days after unremitting rains brought by cyclone Michaung submerged most of Chennai, wrecked civic infrastructure and cut off power for millions of residents, large parts of the city's low-lying neighbourhoods in the north and south remained inundated in chest-deep water that started to recede on Friday, with households still without electricity or essential supplies.

Velachery, Perungudi, Kodungaiyur, Choolaimedu, Semmichery, Thiru-Vi Ka Nagar and Pulianthope areas were still underwater on Friday evening, said residents and officials, with authorities using helicopters to drop food packets on rooftops.

The toll from Chennai's worst floods in eight years — which



**People wade through a waterlogged road during heavy rain owing to Cyclone Michaung in Chennai.**

PTI

saw nearly 500mm of rain pummel the city in 36 hours between December 3 and 4 — rose to 20, said police officers, warning that the number would likely inch as waters recede and rescuers retrieve more bodies. Rescuers retrieved two bodies from a 60-foot deep trench in Guindy in

south Chennai on Friday morning, said officials. To be sure, the floodwaters have receded from most neighbourhoods on higher ground, largely in the centre of the city, including Royapettah, Adyar, Anna Salai, East Coast Road, as local authorities began resuming power supply and

repairing roads.

Still, for residents of Chennai's densely populated fringes, the bruising impact of cyclone Michaung, which made landfall in Bapatla in Andhra Pradesh on Tuesday, is a painful reminder of the city's vulnerability to climate-wrecked disaster.

P Raju, a resident of Kodungaiyur in north Chennai said, "I have approached everyone, but no one has visited us to help even after four days of being under six-foot moat of rainwater and without electricity."

Tamil Nadu chief secretary Shiv Das Meena said, "We are reviewing this every three hours and resuming power supply step by step."

"Transport and milk supply has returned to normalcy. We are improving the supply of drinking water," the chief secretary added.