

Rain brings more chaos than comfort in Ggn

Bagish.Jha@timesgroup.com

Photos: Vinay Gupta

Gurgaon: Office-goers, students headed for an exam and flyers travelling for work meets — ‘Monday blues’ for them came on the road as they battled a maze of challenges that freak weather and shaky infrastructure had hurled at them.

A road cave-in here, a flooded street there and a stretch blocked by an uprooted tree somewhere else — there were hurdles everywhere that strong winds and 73.5mm of rain early in the morning brought in their wake. Roads in several areas developed craters. There were cave-ins around IFFCO Chowk on the Delhi-Gurgaon expressway, Sheela Mata Road, Atul Kataria Chowk, Basai and Palam Vihar, among others. The service lanes of Delhi-Gurgaon expressway and several internal stretches in Sushant Lok, South City, Palam Vihar and Gold Course road were under knee-deep water. Stuck on the road for hours, people were late to reach office, students got held up for their exams and several cancelled flights turned a nightmare for travellers.

Although the rain brought relief from the punishing spells



WATER WORLD: Complaints about waterlogging and snarls started pouring in from as early as 6.30am



of heatwave, there was no opportunity to soak in the comfort. Dharm Veer Singh had left his Sector 82 home an hour in advance to reach his son Dipen to the exam centre in Sector 54. Dipen had his computer science paper for CBSE X boards.

“There were traffic jams everywhere — the Kherki Daula toll, IFFCO Chowk and Golf Course Road. Police, too, could not do much. My son was 25 minutes late for his exam. One of his friends waded through wa-

ter to reach the centre, another hitched a ride. Many of them were 25-30 minutes late,” said Singh, president of Mapsko Casabella RWA. “Why don’t MCG and GMDA act in advance?”

It wasn’t easy for travellers either. Priyanka Sidana, who works with Hero MotoCorp, was stuck on the road for almost two hours. Her ordeal was far from over even when she reached the airport. “My first flight to Pune got cancelled. I then booked an alternative

flight, which also got delayed by three hours. I booked a third flight, which was again three hours late. Half the day was wasted in this. I finally boarded an evening flight,” she told TOI.

The Gurgaon administration did issue an advisory, asking corporate houses and private offices to allow employees to work from home. But by the time it did, the city was already much on the move.

For those working from home, it wasn’t any better: There

were power cuts in several sectors and the internet was feeble.

The squall toppled trees around the city — around 150, by estimates — on Monday morning. Most of these were at green belts or landscaped areas. Experts said this had likely happened because the roots of trees in landscaped areas are not as strong as they receive inadequate nutrients because of concretisation around them.

(With inputs from Siddharth Tiwari)