How to prevent water logging?

CPR Environmental Education Centre lists out measures to be taken in Chennai

NT Bureau
Chennai, Nov 7:

The recent rains have disrupted normal life in Chennai and the surrounding districts, where water stagnation is seen at many places.

CPR Environmental Education Centre, (CPREEC) has stated that though infrastructure in transportation has improved considerably, the inland waterways of Greater Chennai and the water bodies of Chennai, Kancheepuram and Tiruvallur districts have been totally ignored.

The Adyar, Buckingham Canal and Cooum are the main waterways flowing through Chennai and drains into the Bay of Bengal, it said.

CPREEC has come out with few measures to be taken to prevent water logging. Here what it says.

- Usage of plastic bags of less than 40 microns should be curtailed as they are clogging up the drains and obstruct free flow of water.
- Desilting of temple tanks, lakes and ponds should be carried out periodically during summer. There are more than 75 temple tanks in Chennai city.
- Temple tanks and water bodies in the districts of Kancheepuram and Tiruvallur can be desilted to improve the water holding capacity. The inlet and outlets of these water bodies should also be checked and cleared of encroachments.
- Waterbodies in Chennai, Kancheepuram and Tiruvallur districts should be linked for the overflow from one to reach another.
- The Buckingham Canal should be cleared of debris to ensure free flow of rain water. In many places, several pillars have been built on the canal for MRTS and indeed they obstruct the flow of water.

The Government should take appropriate measures to deepen the Pallikkaranai marsh to improve the water holding capacity.

A few simple measures to be followed by citizens

- Construct rainwater harvesting structures/systems which will recharge the ground water aquifers.
- Maintain the existing rainwater harvesting structures in house/ flat/ avoid cementing/concreting compound around buildings and houses.
- Interlocked tiles can be used to enable water penetration.