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**THE TIMES OF INDIA**

# Rainwater harvesting pits tackle waterlogging in a few housing societies

TNN | Aug 2, 2016, 07.06 PM IST

**G**urgaon: At a time when most parts of the city faced severe waterlogging, which led to heavy traffic jam last week, a few condominiums and residential societies, including Nirvana Country in Sector 50, Gurgaon One and Beverley Park II, managed to save rainwater and prevent waterlogging thanks to rainwater harvesting pits.

While Nirvana Country, spread across 300 acres, saved nearly 1,42,000 litres of rainwater, Gurgaon One, which is spread across about 10-acre saved 18,000 litres on Thursday and Friday. Meanwhile, Beverly Park-II, spread across seven acres, saved over 12,000 litres of water.

These societies, sources said, were successful in preventing waterlogging.

"We got rainwater harvesting pits cleaned in May in an attempt to prevent waterlogging and recharge groundwater. Hence, we should ensure that storm water drains and rainwater harvesting pits are cleaned so that water from concrete surface can easily flow down to pits," Sanu Kapila, RWA president of Nirvana Country, said.

Till last year, areas like Nirvana used to report massive waterlogging after rainfall. "Rainwater harvesting is mandatory in any residential society in the city. However, there are a very few complexes, wherein residents are enjoying the benefits of rainwater harvesting. I am happy that Nirvana is one of them. Last year, we faced massive waterlogging owing to potholed roads. It also raised dengue threat," Rakhi Sachdev, a resident of Nirvana Country, said.

Residents of Gurgaon One feel that prevention of waterlogging is significant to save internal roads. "We can hardly do anything about sector roads managed by the civic authorities. We have channelised all stormwater drains towards rainwater harvesting pits so that water can be saved and roads can be protected from potholes. It is waterlogging that makes roads potholed. Due

to an effective rainwater harvesting system, we have saved a lot of cost that generally goes into road repair," said Ramesh Kumar, a resident of the society.

"After Thursday's moster jam, when I stepped out of home,I was shocked to see the condition of MG Road. It was badly waterlogged, while internal roads in our society were absolutely fine. It seems that rainwater harvesting saved at least our internal roads," Shikha, a resident of Beverly Park II, said.

Experts feel that depleting groundwater levels should be augmented through natural infiltration of rainwater into underground formations by artificial recharge, which is possible by constructing rainwater harvesting pits. "Rainwater is a natural source of good quality water and needs to be protected, conserved and used for the benefit of mankind. Besides ground rainwater harvesting pits, I think rooftop rainwater harvesting should also be installed to save potable water," said Ved Prakash Khichuka, the chairman of the Committee for Environment & Pollution Control, NCR Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Huda has constructed around 300 rainwater harvesting pits in 2013 to overcome the problem of depleting groundwater level and waterlogging in the city. However, more than 60 per cent of the pits have been non-functional since their construction owing to engineering faults.