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### Title of the paper: "Salute to Chennai"

**Abstract:** In this paper my aim is to focus on “Salute to Chennai”. Last year, Flood in Chennai had killed hundreds of people and caused widespread damage in the region. It caused a universal damage and a gigantic flooding in Chennai, driving thousands from their homes, shutting auto factories and paralyses the airport in Chennai. The drainage system was stopped functioning. Creeks and culverts were blocked due to excessive dumping of garbage. People suffered without basic necessities like food, milk, vegetables and drinking water. They don’t have place to stay. This is because a tank, lake, canal or river of 20 years ago, is today the site of multi-storey residential and industrial structures. So who came forward to help the people at once from their critical situation? What were the situations they faced? Who are the real heroes, heroines and helpers for Chennai people? Let us have a look:

## **Salute to Chennai**

### **Introduction:**

**As an Indian, I am very proud to write this article which is about the tribute to Chennai. In December 11 2015, Chennai was fully sunk by the torrential rain which resulted in terrible flooding. Hundreds of people were died and thousands of families were displaced from their houses. It caused a universal damage and a gigantic flooding in Chennai, driving thousands from their homes, shutting auto factories and paralyses the airport in Chennai. The Coovum River, Adyar River and Buckingham Canal, which serve as the main rain water drain for the city, were encroached. Before fifteen days to the flood, the Indian Meteorological Department had given intimation to the Government about the strong El Niño, and the Government had failed to give security and precaution to the people to maintain an effective storm water drainage system.**

**“While officials at the India Meteorological Department have said the exceptionally strong El Niño, along with a rare “coincidence of various factors”, has resulted in the heavy rain, there’s no denying that Chennai has failed in maintaining an effective storm water drainage system”(Web).**

### **Results and discussions:**

**When a normal limit of rainfall exceeded more than three times, the drainage system was stopped functioning. Creeks and culverts were blocked due to excessive dumping of garbage. Chennai recorded a three times monstrous 260 cm of rainfall. Chief Ministers Mr. Arvind Kejriwal, Mr. Nitish Kumar and the Karnataka Government offered their legal support and Rs 5 Crore as immediate relief fund. Will a fund or money help the people in that critical state of affairs? Of course not.**

**So who came forward to help the people at once at that critical situation? Who are the real heroes, heroines and helpers for Chennai people?**

**Mostly Chennai people will not have touch with their neighbours. They are not dependents and will not interfere with other personal matters. Even if there is an accident on the road during office hours, they never bother. We all felt that this is the mentality of Chennai people. But that is not true. They are the real heroes and heroines. People who were safe, at once formed groups, collected funds, imported boats and helicopters to pass the people to safer side. There were no partitions like Hindus, Muslims or Christians. They all joined hands shared basic necessities like drinking water, food and milk. Even private schools, colleges and IT companies were opened as shelters for homeless people. Later the Indian Army, Navy and Air Force were operated in Chennai, for rescue and relief operations. The Navy rushed its warship to Chennai, which carries 20 divers, five Gemini boats and four landing craft boats. Also NGOs and collectives provided shelter, basic necessities and offered manpower in rescue operations. Even Bharti Airtel, BSNL, Vodafone and Aircel helped by reducing rates and offering free services to their customers. Later Government collected funds and helped the suffered people, by giving their basic commodities.**

**“Chennai hosts over 165 BSE-listed companies (registered in the city) with an aggregate market capitalisation of over Rs 285,000 crore. A big automobile manufacturing and IT hub, the floods have badly derailed the business activity in the city as companies stopped their production activity and shut down offices with instruction for employees to stay home or work from home”(Web).**

**Chennai had come to a fundamental languish in the grip of fear and terror. The sales report of Chennai based well-established factories of automobile industry around the city like Hyundai, Ford, BMW, Nissan, TVS Company had reported that during the period of flood, the company suffered loss of approximately 15,000 units due to inclement weather. Renault-Nissan and Ashok Leyland were forced to lock the manufactures. Also the insurance claim for these damaged vehicles in flood was also raised to 1000 Crore.**

**“Moreover, insurance claims for damage to property, automobiles and other goods following the devastating floods in Tamil Nadu could rise to well over Rs 1,000 crores, general insurance companies estimate. While the earlier deluge in the state, which started on November 8, has already resulted in claims of around Rs 500-600 crore, the recent torrential rains could cause far more damage, insurers point out. The public sector United India Insurance has the biggest exposure to the state” (Web).**

**Root cause:**

**Three years back, Mumbai city received 100 centimeter rain within 24 hours and it drained within one day into sea. This is because the drainage systems were de-silted properly. Likewise in Chennai, it was only 49 centimeter of rain in 24 hours. But due to improper drainage system the Chennai was completely sub merged under water for 15 days. As usual our great authorities were putting blame on rain gods. Also the Chembarambakkam lake was opened which directly affected the airport, KK Nagar, Ashok Nagar, Saidapet, West Mambalam and Adyar. CMDA’s report to the Madras High Court articulated that, there are over 5 to 6 lakh illegal constructions in the city. Also Mr. Arun Janardhan reported that hundreds of stay orders against devastation had been**

**obtained for constructing flats, IT companies and business houses. A tank, lake, canal or river of 20 years ago, is today the site of multi-storey residential and industrial structures.**

**“As Arun Janardhan reports from Chennai, despite several HC orders ordering their demolition, the buildings stand — often after appeals to the Supreme Court, and due to the inefficiency of the CMDA’s legal wing. Hundreds of stay orders against demolition orders have been obtained by both business houses and individuals. Across Chennai, illegal construction has been making neighbourhoods unrecognisable — what may have been a tank, lake, canal or river 20 years ago, is today the site of multi-storey residential and industrial structures, he says”(Web).**

**Conclusion:**

**. At least in future, the government should give importance to experts in Civil & Structural Engineering in order to save general public from natural & man made calamities. Also they should give importance to Flood Discharge Planning, Earthquake Protection Engineering and Structural Engineering in decision making level. Thus Chennai people had proved that though they were unprepared for extreme weather events like rains, droughts and cyclonic storms which are becoming more frequent and intense, they are the real heroes and heroines who saved themselves without depending on any higher authorities. By seeing their courage and confident, people from other natives, students from different schools and colleges came forward to help “CHENNAI”. “HATS OFF CHENNAI PEOPLE; JAI HIND”**

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