

# Why Karachi Floods?

By

**Dr. Noman Ahmed  
Professor,  
NED University of Engineering & Technology, Karachi**

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# Background

- Karachi experienced torrential rains during third week of August 2025
- City and settlement infrastructure failed to drain the rain waters
- Mobility on major streets became completely suspended for many hours.



- Several neighbourhoods along the M-9 Motorway, Karachi Central, West, East and South were inundated.
- In a few hours, thousands of households experienced flood damages to properties and assets worth millions of rupees
- Confusion about rain prediction and forecast remained as few government agencies came up with contradicting perspectives



# Why Karachi Floods?

Some perspectives are outlined

- Mismatch between drainage infrastructure and land use changes
- Lyari and Malir rivers now completely transformed; two expressways have changed the morphology of disposal potential
- Disposal of Malir significantly reduced due to land reclamation in Karachi South. Many city drains (nullahs) experience the same challenge
- Road and highway development does not take into account the adjoining levels of the neighbourhoods and secondary streets/lanes



# Building consensus on 'what to do'

- Comprehensive strategy to manage exceptional rain and urban flooding events.
- Ring fencing neighbourhoods and locations routinely inundated; Sadi Town is an example
- Building capacity of UC, town and municipal corporation staff to manage respective drainage infrastructure.
- Altering the road, street and highway designs to enable them manage inundation



- Ensuring gravity flow of inundation waters into disposal without fail.
- Restoring natural drainage channels in and around the city.
- Conserving permeable surfaces of public spaces
- Training equipping and mobilizing a volunteer force for emergency services.
- **No physical development must alter the natural flow of water, especially in natural drains**

