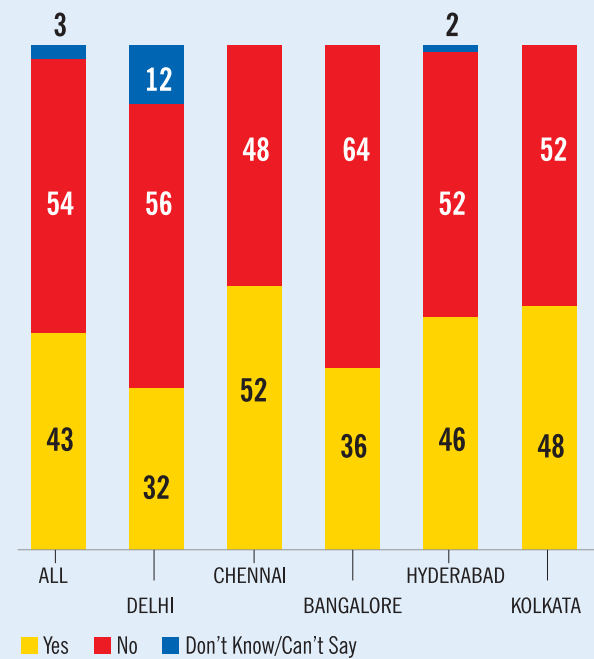


How Good Are Our Cities?

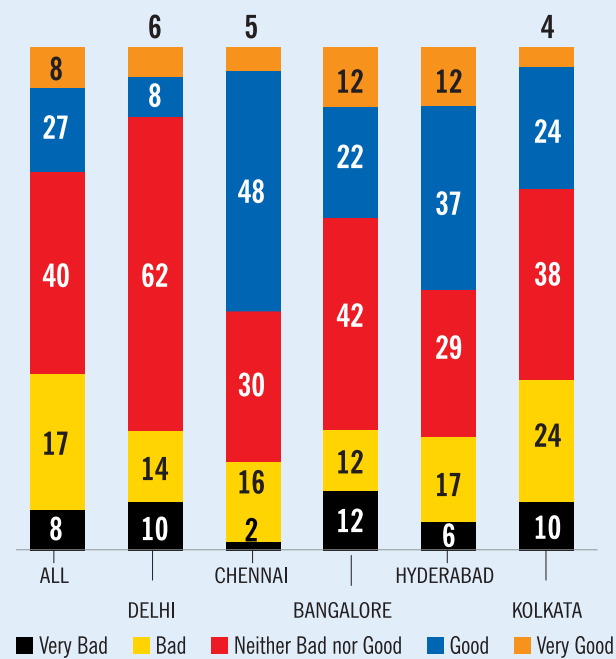
Following the deluge in Mumbai, and the consequent impact on business, *Business Today* decided to commission market research firm Synovate to find out just that. In a survey covering 246 CEOs and senior executives across five cities, Delhi, Chennai, Hyderabad, Bangalore and Kolkata—Mumbai was left out because, as pilots showed, its residents were unlikely to pick anything but the most negative response possible in every case—the firm discovered that India Inc. doesn't think very highly of the cities it works out of. No city, it emerges, has what it takes to handle growth. Chennai doesn't have enough water; Kolkata's drainage system could do with an upgrade; Delhi is bad in terms of power supply and worse in terms of law and order; and Bangalore could definitely do with some more roads and overpasses. Is anybody listening?

CAN YOUR CITY HANDLE GROWTH?



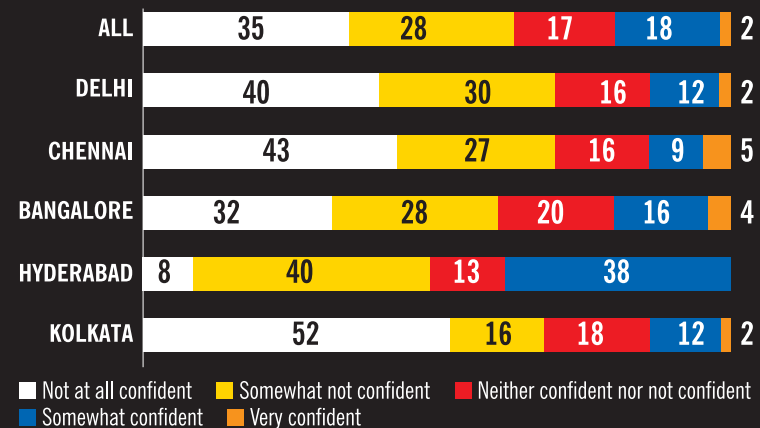
Barring Chennai, which escapes ignominy, but only just, no Indian city has what it takes to handle growth, say CEOs and senior executives. A better question to ask would have been 'To what extent does your city mis-manage growth?' And not surprisingly, Bangalore emerges the worst of the lot.

HOW WOULD YOU RATE YOUR CITY'S BUSINESS CONTINUITY ABILITY?



Business Continuity, a term once considered relevant only for BPOs and IT firms has, after the Mumbai floods, become a hot issue for all companies. Chennai and Hyderabad, not surprisingly, are considered far better than other cities in terms of business continuity. The first did cope with a tsunami with a fair degree of proficiency.

CAN YOUR CITY COPE WITH WHAT HAPPENED IN MUMBAI?

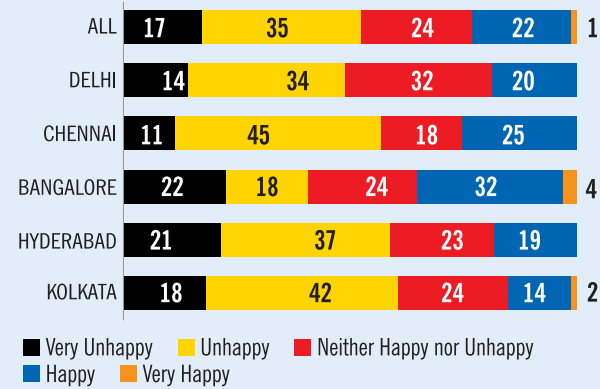


'You must be joking' wasn't a listed response for this question. It should have been. Hyderabad may have come out on top but it was paralysed on July 15 following 6 cm of rain.



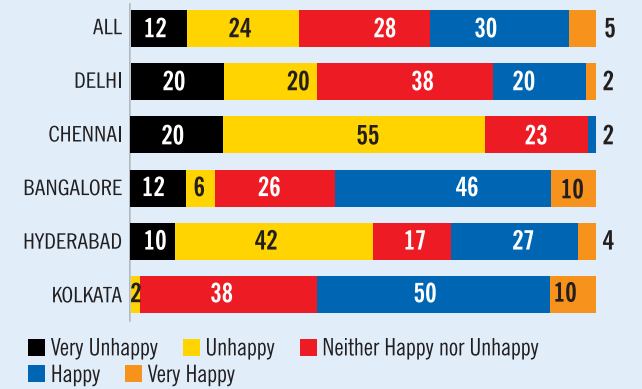
Your Experience With Your City

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE SYSTEM



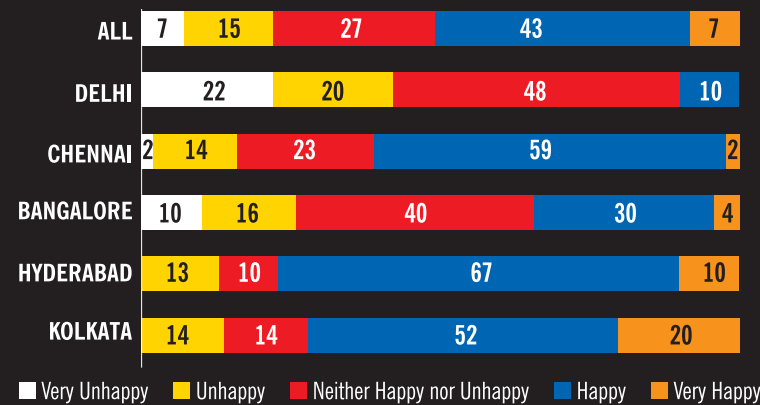
Kolkata would appear to be the worst offender. That shouldn't come as a surprise to anyone: until July 26, everyone's worst flooding experience concerned the city.

WATER



That CEOs and senior executives would pick Chennai as the worst in terms of water management was pre-ordained. And there is nothing happening on the desalination front either.

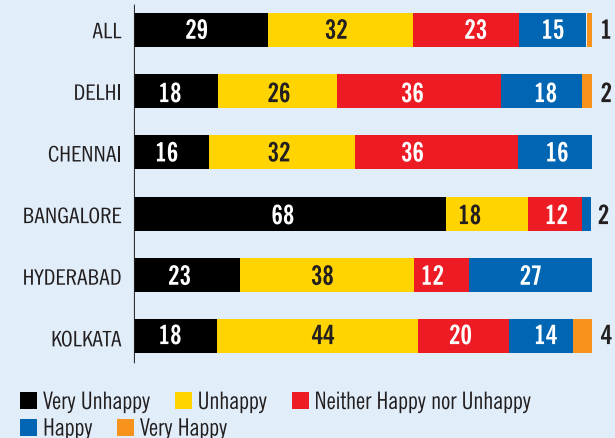
POWER



Delhi can't have enough power; Bangalore's CEOs and senior executives seem to have forgotten that their companies run more on back-up power than anything else.

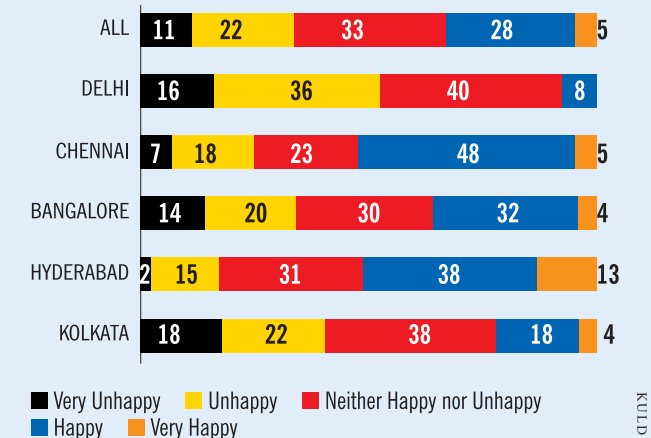


ROADS & TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT



The roads to Bangalore's airport and its famed electronics city are perfect illustrations of how traffic shouldn't be managed. The score (86 per cent of the respondents are very or somewhat unhappy) says it all.

LAW & ORDER



Delhi is the worst offender but there is nothing to cheer about here; every Indian city can aspire to improve on this front. As for Hyderabad, well it can only be a matter of time.