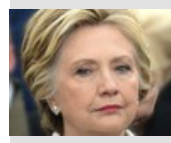




20 Rare Photos that Show What It's Really Like to Live in Iran

Ad: 90skidsonly



Hillary's Entire "Hit List" Just Went Public. You'll Never Guess Who's...

Ad: Health Sciences Institute



[HOME](#) > [NEWS](#) > [INDIA](#) > Kolar's Cry For Water Turns Specific: Send It Clean, After Bengaluru's Treated Water Froths In District's Tanks

Kolar's Cry For Water Turns Specific: Send It Clean, After Bengaluru's Treated Water Froths In District's Tanks

Y Maheswara Reddy | Updated: August 11, 2018

121 SHARES



FACEBOOK



TWITTER



REDDIT



SAVE

India is facing an acute water crisis. [There is a huge deficit of clean drinkable water](#) in the country. A recent report by [NITI Aayog](#) has highlighted the gravity of India's water situation. According to the report, if no action is taken to address this, the demand for water would far outstrip its supply by 2030. In fact, even by 2020, it is expected that 21 Indian cities will run out of groundwater. In the coming days, Indiatimes will bring you the stories from across the country, focussing on the water bodies and the ground reality of the situation. The following is the first story:

When farmers in the arid Kolar district of Karnataka asked the state government to resolve the water woes in the region, little did they know that the solution would trigger a series of other problems.

On July 19, farmers and environmentalists were in for a shock when the treated water used to fill Lakshmisagar Lake near Narasapur in Kolar district resulted in the formation of froth in the waterbody. Protests were staged and many even threatened to supply the foamy water to elected representatives in tankers.



untreated water from Bengaluru,” said Kurubarapet Venkatesh — a member of the Neeravari Horata Samiti, a committee seeking water to Kolar district.



Y MAHESWARA REDDY

DON'T MISS



With Mosques Still Under Water, Kerala Temple Let Muslims Offer Namaz In Its Compound



Son Of Electrician Bags A Whopping Rs 70 Lakh Package With American Firm



Train With 15 Lakh Litres Of Drinking Water, Temple Treasury & Khalsa Aid Reach Kerala To Help...



According to the Mysore State Gazetteer, Kolar district in 1968 had about 4,500 irrigation tanks, but only 126 irrigation tanks are currently functional, and not one of the thousands of open wells in the district are use due to declining groundwater level. The farmers of the district are thereby dependent on borewells for irrigation and to obtain drinking water. In order to bring this to the attention of those in power, they organised protests in 2017 demanding the state government to find remedial measures.

The-then Congress government, led by Siddaramaiah, announced a Rs 1,342-crore project for setting up sewage treatment plants (STPs) near Bellandur and Varthur lakes in Bengaluru to fill 126 irrigation tanks in Kolar with the secondary treated water piped through Koramangala Challaghatta (KC) Valley.

HC hearing on petition adjourned till 16 Aug

On June 2, the state government organised an event to celebrate the commencement of supplying the treated water to Lakshmisagar Lake. Karnataka Assembly Speaker K R Ramesh Kumar, who represents Srinivasapura in the Assembly, became emotional while witnessing the secondary treated water flowing into the lake.



KOLAR CRY FOR WATER

The farmers, too, were initially happy to see water in the lake and thought the state government had found a permanent solution to the water crisis.

“Many farmers offered poojas at temples thanking the Almighty. Farmers from other districts told us that we too can earn income on par with them since irrigation tanks, dry all these years, are set to be filled with water,” recalled Kurki Prasad, honorary president of Karnataka Prantha Raitha Sangha, Kolar taluk.

The Karnataka High Court has directed the state government not to release treated water to Kolar district till August 16. The High Court also expressed dissatisfaction over the negligence of the officials for not taking precautions to prevent the entry of untreated sewage water into Lakshmisagar Lake. During the hearing scheduled on August 1, advocate general Uday Holla appearing on behalf of the state government submitted that untreated water had gushed into Lakshmisagar Lake due to failure of system component.

project was implemented without any scientific studies and the secondary water contains large amount of industrial effluents with heavy metals.



Y MAHESWARA REDDY

“The state government had requested the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) to prepare a report on the quality of secondary water that is to be supplied to irrigation water tanks in Kolar district. The team submitted the report on August 28, 2015 stating that supply of contaminated water — with rich nutrients and heavy metals — will lead to the weed infestation in agriculture fields and contamination of groundwater. However, the government ignored the report and went ahead with the project,” Reddy said.

Environmental activists are shocked over the perfunctory attitude of the concerned authorities in protecting the lives of gullible farmers vulnerable to health hazards. “Who will be responsible if an innocent farmer, not aware of the poor quality of water in the lake, happens to drink this water?” asked Ahinda Manjunath, a water activist from Kolar. “There have been no awareness programmes for the farmers over the quality of the

'Meant for irrigation, industrial use alone'

C R Manjunath, Kolar district environmental officer, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), said he had collected water samples from 10 borewells in the vicinity of Lakshmisagar Lake to investigate if groundwater was polluted due to the release of secondary treated water into the lake. "We sent the water samples to a laboratory. We are expecting to get the report on the water quality by Wednesday," he said. Repeated attempts on August 1 to get his response about this report on condition of groundwater around Lakshmisagar Lake went in vain.



Y MAHESWARA REDDY

When questioned on the lack of awareness programmes, Manjunath said KSPCB has nothing to do with such programmes. "Our responsibility is to monitor water quality. The implementation of the project is between the Minor Irrigation Department and the

Executive Engineer of Minor Irrigation Department, S N Krishnappa said that treated water is only meant for irrigation and industrial purposes and certainly not for drinking purposes. When asked about the safety of farmers and animals due to the poor quality of water in Lakshmisagar Lake, Krishnappa said, "All farmers use potable water for drinking purpose. No farmer will drink this water. Nothing will happen if animals drink this water. There are many fish and water birds in the lake. It indicates the quality of water," he said.

Kolar MLA Srinivas Gowda said he found nothing wrong with the water in Lakshmisagar Lake and criticised the farmers and environmentalists for staging protests. He even offered to consume a bottle of water from Lakshmisagar Lake to prove his point. When this correspondent asked him to comment on the issue, he pretended to be busy in a meeting. "You have to come to Kolar to discuss this issue. I can't discuss it with you over the phone," he said before disconnecting the call.

Maheswara Reddy is a Bengaluru- based freelance writer.

121 SHARES

0 Comments

Sort by **Oldest** 



Add a comment...

 Facebook Comments Plugin

PROMOTED STORIES

AD: KETTO

Unable to walk, this train accident victim needs your help

AD: KETTO

She is scared of her own swollen belly. Help her beat Cancer

AD: FROPKY

29 Secret holiday pics of Bollywood

AD: FROPKY

Top 45 colleges ranked by attractive students

AD: BOLLYWOODGRID

Top 8 most popular Bollywood filming locations in India

AD: HEALTHGLAZE

Embarrassing Sporting Moments That Were Caught on Camera

Recommended by Colombia

ADVERTISEMENT

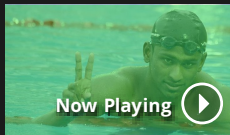
	<p>20 Rare Photos that Show What It's Really Like to Live in Iran</p> <p>Ad: 90skidsonly</p>		<p>Hillary's Entire "Hit List" Just Went Public. You'll Never Guess Who's...</p> <p>Ad: Health Sciences Institute </p>
--	---	--	---






Sports

His Family Is Stuck In Floods, While He Chases A Gold Medal



Sports

His Family Is Stuck In Floods, While He Chases A Gold Medal

Now Playing 



India

Simply Put, What Is A 'National Disaster'?



India

Kerala Off Red Alert But Rain Forecasts Keep State On Edge



Sports

5 Sports Stars Who Turned Politicians

[VIEW MORE VIDEOS >](#)

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE





HUMAN INTEREST

Dog Bites Rapist, Saves 14-Year-Old In Madhya Pradesh From Being Raped

SHEWALI TIWARI

47.7K SHARES

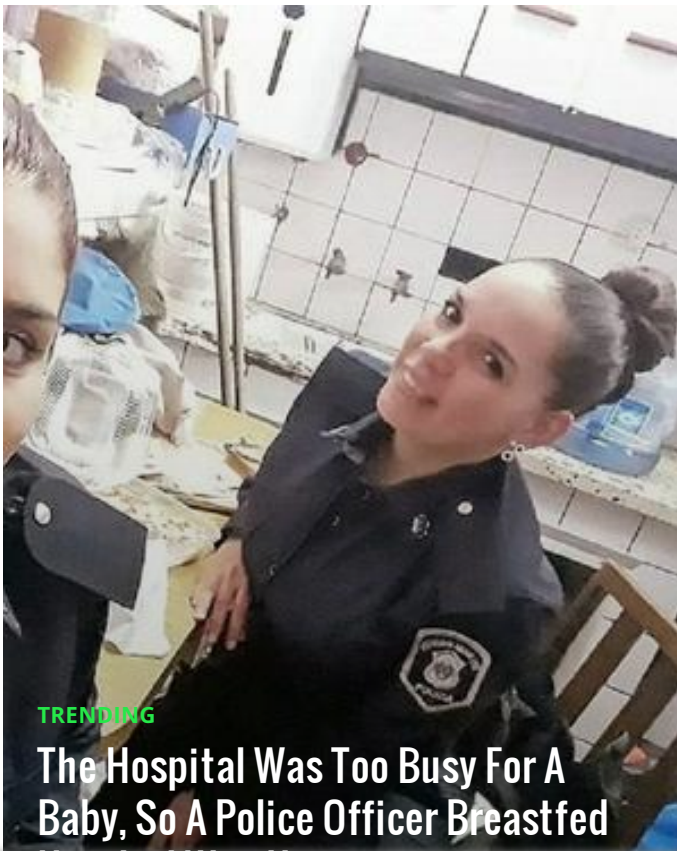


SOCIAL RELEVANCE

On Eid, Man In Lucknow Decides To Cut A Cake With Picture Of A Goat Instead Of An Actual Goat

SHEWALI TIWARI

16.8K SHARES



TRENDING

The Hospital Was Too Busy For A Baby, So A Police Officer Breastfed



sling
TELEVISION

IND vs ENG 2018

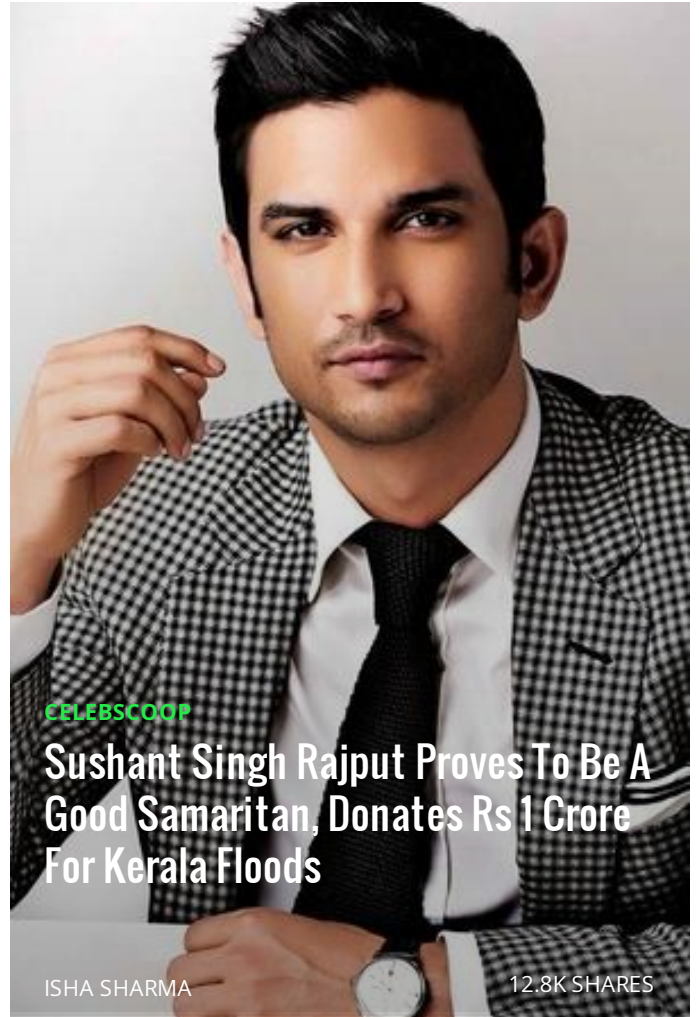
TEST MATCHES

AD
01ST AUG - 11TH SEPT
Watch India vs England on Sling TV

GRACE BAINS

25.3K SHARES

SLING INTERNATIONAL





TRENDING

More Than 1.5 Lakh Indians Marched In New York To Celebrate Independence Day

SHEWALI TIWARI

12.4K SHARES



AD

Would you believe what Indians wear on Holidays?

EROPKY



WTF

Pune Man Apologizes To His Girlfriend By Putting 300 Hoardings, Police Register Case

ARUSHI LOHIA

13.1K SHARES



HUMAN INTEREST

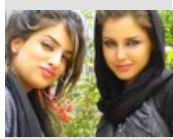
Kerala-Born Businessman In UAE Pledges To Donate 50 Crore To #KeralaFloods Fund

SHEWALI TIWARI

9.3K SHARES



ADVERTISEMENT



20 Rare Photos that Show What It's Really Like to Live in Iran

Ad: 90skidsonly



Hillary's Entire "Hit List" Just Went Public. You'll Never Guess Who's...

INDIA ON A PLATE - EPISODE 1



OUR NETWORK

MENSXP

IDIVA

WHATS HOT

SPECIALS

NBA

#GIRF2017

#FITIT

#NOTAPLASTICOHOLIC STORIES THAT MATTER 2016

#PUNJABDRUGCRISIS

GO FOR GOLD

INDIANAMA

WANDERLUST

#BUDGET2017

#SELFIEEXPERT

STORIES THAT MATTER 2016

#ERROR377

#FRONTLINES

PANAMA PAPERS

ABOUT US

KNOW IT

TRENDING TOPICS

PHOTOGALLERY

MOBILE APPS

ARCHIVES

OUR AUTHORS

SITEMAP

CONTACT US

PRIVACY POLICY

GET APP

STAY UPDATED WITH ALL THAT'S BUZZING AND TRENDING WITH INDIATIMES APP!



FOLLOW US ON





OTHER SITES

[NEWS - TOI](#) / [CRICBUZZ](#) / [HAPPY TRIPS](#) / [BUSINESS INSIDER](#) / [GIZMODO](#) / [LIFEHACKER](#) / [GAANA](#) / [TECHRADAR](#) / [WHAT'S HOT](#) / [ZIGWHEELS](#) / [FILMPOP](#) / [FEMINA](#) / [PROPERTY](#) / [SPEAKING TREE](#)

COPYRIGHT © 2018 TIMES INTERNET LIMITED. POWERED BY INDIATIMES LIFESTYLE NETWORK. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED