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# '1 tree per 6 people in city'

**DC CORRESPONDENT BENGALURU, MAY 8**

A report prepared by a group of ecologist on trees in Bengaluru points a grim picture of the dwindling green cover and has blamed the civic agencies for the sorry state of affairs. The report - 'Trees of Bangalore' - was prepared by the Energy and Wetland Research Group of IISc and the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) and it was released by the Board Chairman Dr Yaman Acharya on Thursday. The researchers blamed the BBMP for having poor coordination with the other civic agencies which has, many times in

- Total No of Trees in Bengaluru is 14,78,412, while Nagpur has 21,43,838, Mumbai (9,17,844) and Navi Mumbai (4,76,120).
- Vegetation in Chickpet and Shivajinagar is less than 1 hectare, though it is larger in Varthur and Kolandur.
- Bengaluru is spread across 741 sq km and the area under vegetation is 106.20 sq km.
- In Varthur there is one tree per person, but in Chickpet there is one tree per 25 persons.
- The campus of Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has recorded 22,000 trees.

the past resulted in unnecessary cutting of trees. "The poor coordination between the civic agencies benefits land and timber mafia. The mafia is removing the trees and encroaching upon lake beds and community lands in city, but the government is failed to stop it. The BBMP is overburdened hence the tree management and lake preservation in city should be decentralized," the report said. It also pointed out that poor planning was reducing the city's tree cover. "Everybody had warned the BBMP that the Sampige Road in

Malleswaram will not be able to cater the crowd that may throng to the mall. Now the government is planning to remove trees from the road," said Dr P V Ramachandra from IISc who headed the research team. Ramachandra pointed out that the tree cover in some areas is so poor that there is one tree for 25-30 persons. "It's only areas like Varthur which have a ratio of one tree per person, but in many wards of Bengaluru the green cover is badly affected. We are suggesting the government should provide incentives for those who grow trees on their properties," Dr Ramachandra added.

Board Chairman Dr Yaman Acharya said that there should be one tree per person in Bengaluru and the Board will request the government to make it a standard norm when the report is submitted. "We will urge them to ensure that for every tree lost, three are planted and maintained by the authorities and people. No tree should henceforth be cut for any infrastructural works without consultation of all civic bodies," he said. Acharya added that the Board will urge the government to make it mandatory for tree planting in empty spaces. Small patches of urban forests must be created as lung spaces on the lines of Singapore.

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