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IISc Recommends Green Plan to Restructure BBMP

By Papiya Bhattacharya | Published: 13th April 2015 06:02 AM Last Updated: 13th April 2015 06:02 AM

BENGALURU: The BBMP should be divided keeping in mind the watershed topography of the city, says T V Ramachandra, a senior scientist with IISc's Centre for Infrastructure, Transport & Urban Planning. In a list of recommendations to BBMP for its restructuring, Ramachandra says, "Divide BBMP on the basis of watershed topography so as to administer the division easily."

The main recommendations of the presentation are: Each division/ zone must integrate the activities of all para-state agencies; executive powers should be vested with an empowered standing committee; five-year term for mayor; and disbanding of the BDA.

Work in unison

Ramachandra wants a mechanism to ensure that all agencies/ service departments such as BWSSB, health, forest, lake protection, police, fire, PWD, town planning, primary education etc. work in unison.

He also suggests a vision document with development plans and conservation strategies.

He says the BBMP must come up with annual environmental status reports. And that its web server must have information on common land (lakes, lake boundary, buffer zones of water bodies, and protected areas such as national parks, gomala, temple properties, railway properties, government properties, etc.)

He also recommends a threshold on the level of urbanisation in each zone/ divisions considering sustainability of resources like water.

Ramachandra is vocal about the need to decongest Bengaluru by shifting industries to other districts.

He has suggested that open spaces be maintained in each division with a mandatory 33 per cent greenery and decentralised waste treatment and management in each ward.

It was also recommended that only treated sewage be allowed to flow to water bodies. Eco-friendly buildings He advocates eco-friendly architecture in the form of green buildings with restrictions on glass facade. He says, "Ban such architecture, as they are not fit for a tropical climate."

Bengaluru can be salvaged if environment literacy is improved among the public through education from the school to college level.

The recommendations also promote a sense of belonging among the public and sincerity among bureaucrats and custodians of power and regulatory agencies.

Point to note

The 74th Constitutional Amendment Act (CAA) recognises urban local bodies (ULBs) as the third-tier of urban government by assigning them with specific civic functions.