

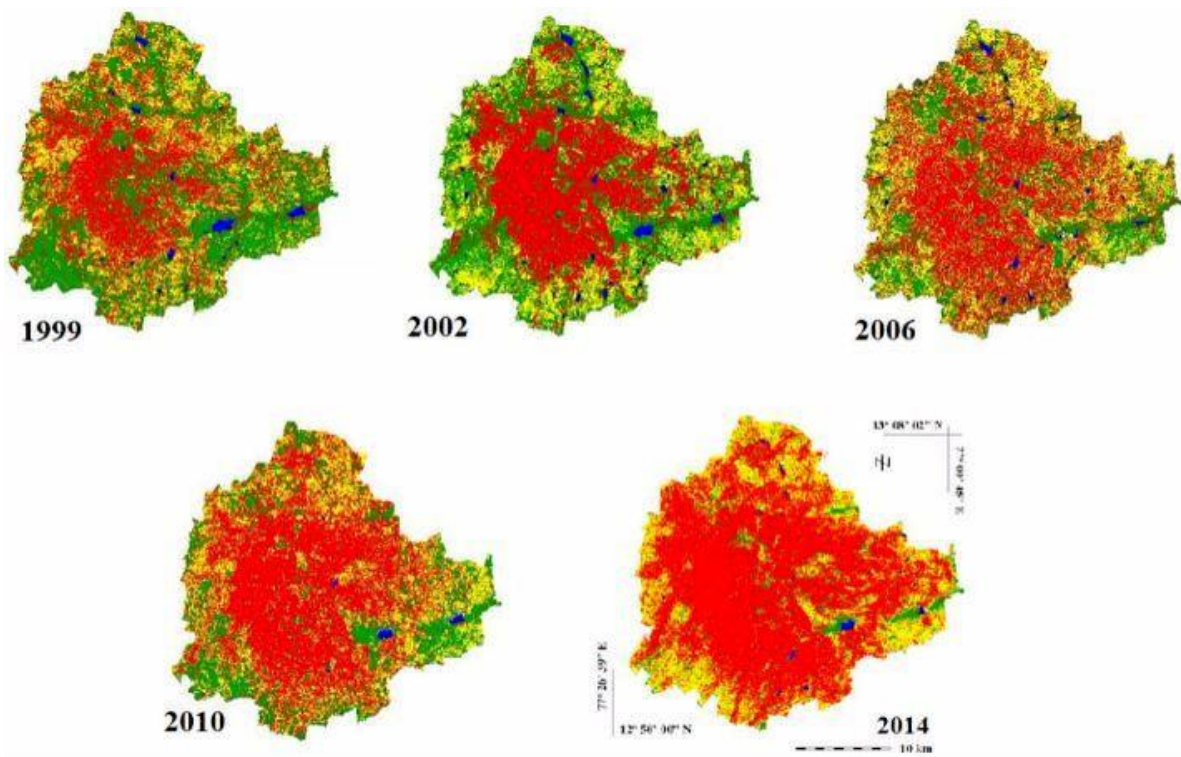
Urban Troubles

Five research charts show how Bengaluru is gradually becoming an unliveable city

Since 1970 Bengaluru's land growth or concretisation has increased by 925 perce

Sarayu Srinivasan (/author-articles/Sarayu-Srinivasan) | Tuesday, November 24, 2015 - 20:11

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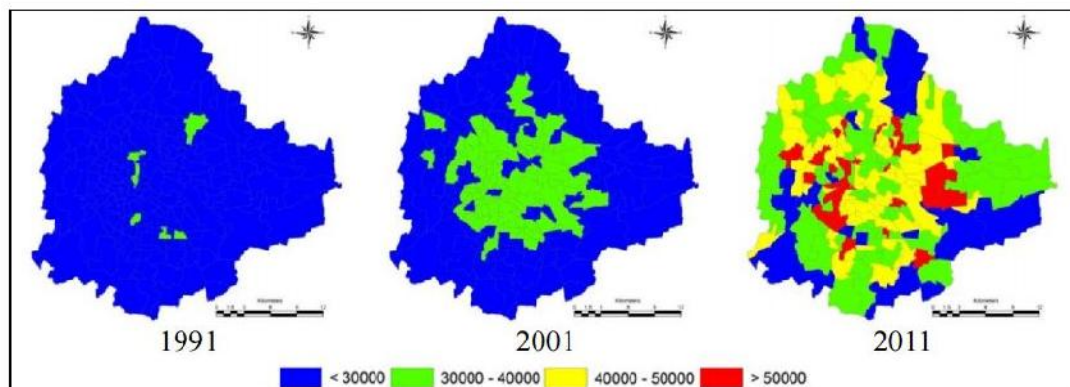
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The NEWS Minute

Thanks to continuous unplanned growth, Bengaluru's land growth or concretisation has increased by 925 percent since 1970. And this essentially means the city is just getting worse by the day. One might tend to ignore it saying this all in a span of 40 years, but the fact is that the rate of growth has shot up drastically since liberalisation in the 1990s.

An extensive study on land use dynamics in Bengaluru, carried out using remote sensing data from Landsat satellites, by Dr.T V Ramachandra from Indian Institute of Science (IISc) and his colleague Dr. Bharath H Aithal shows that "Bengaluru is gradually becoming an unliveable city". (As Ramachandra himself puts it).

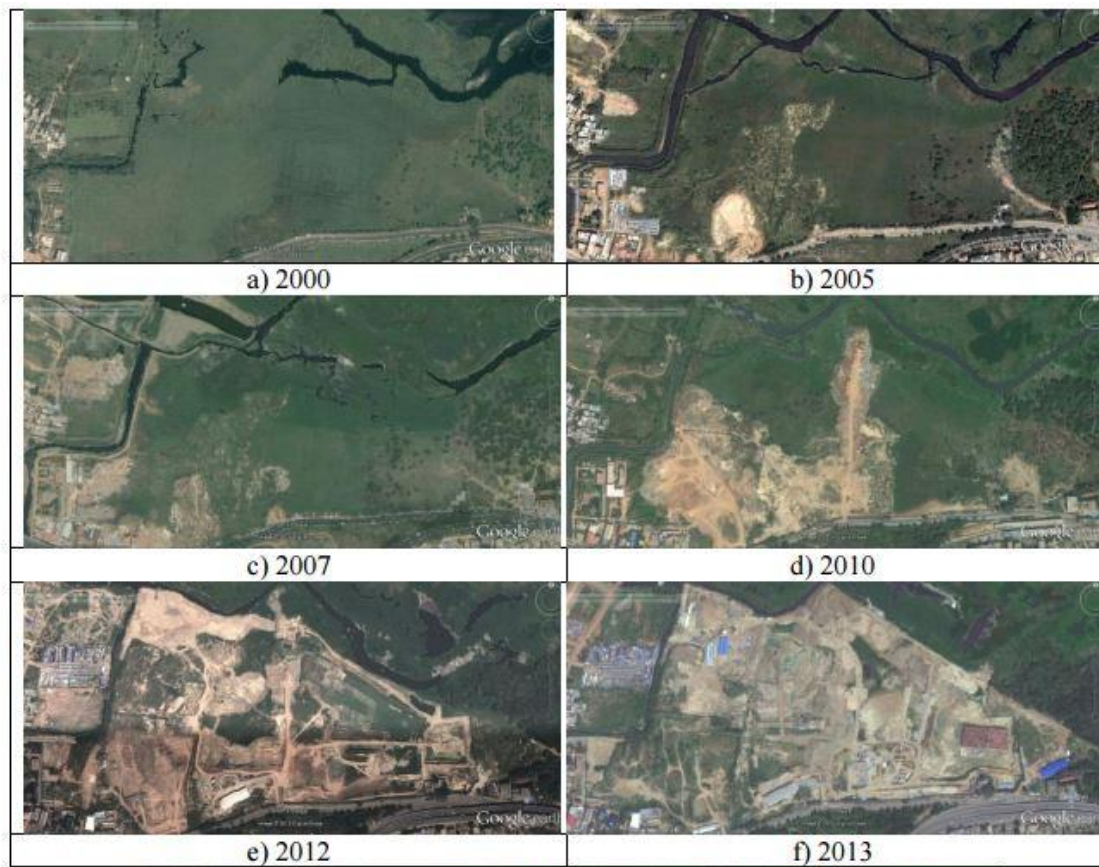
1. The first chart shows how the wardwise population has increased over a decade.

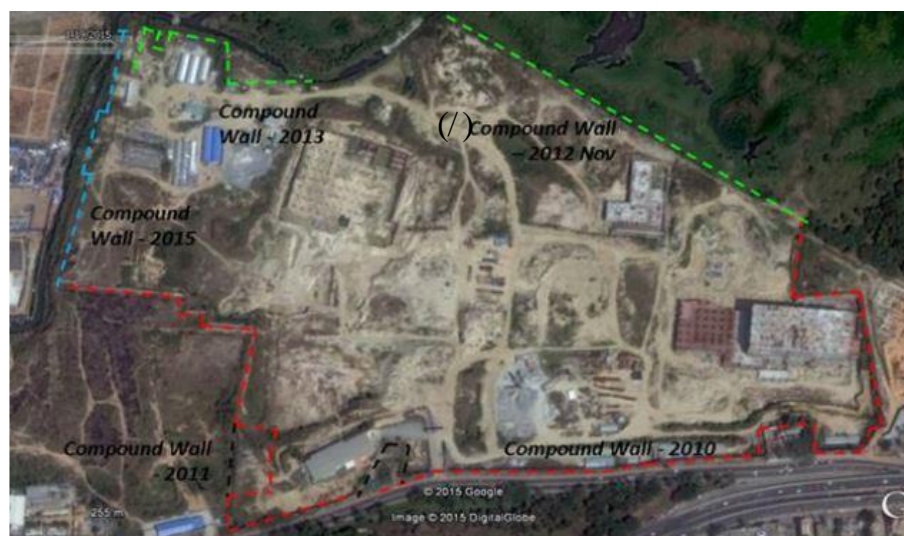


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The **NEWS** Minute

2. Ramachandra says, "From 2000 to 2014, India's silicon valley is rapidly losing its green cover with urbanisation having risen by 125 percent." The two charts in this series show the changes in landscape of the Agara-Bellandur wetlands from 2000-2015.



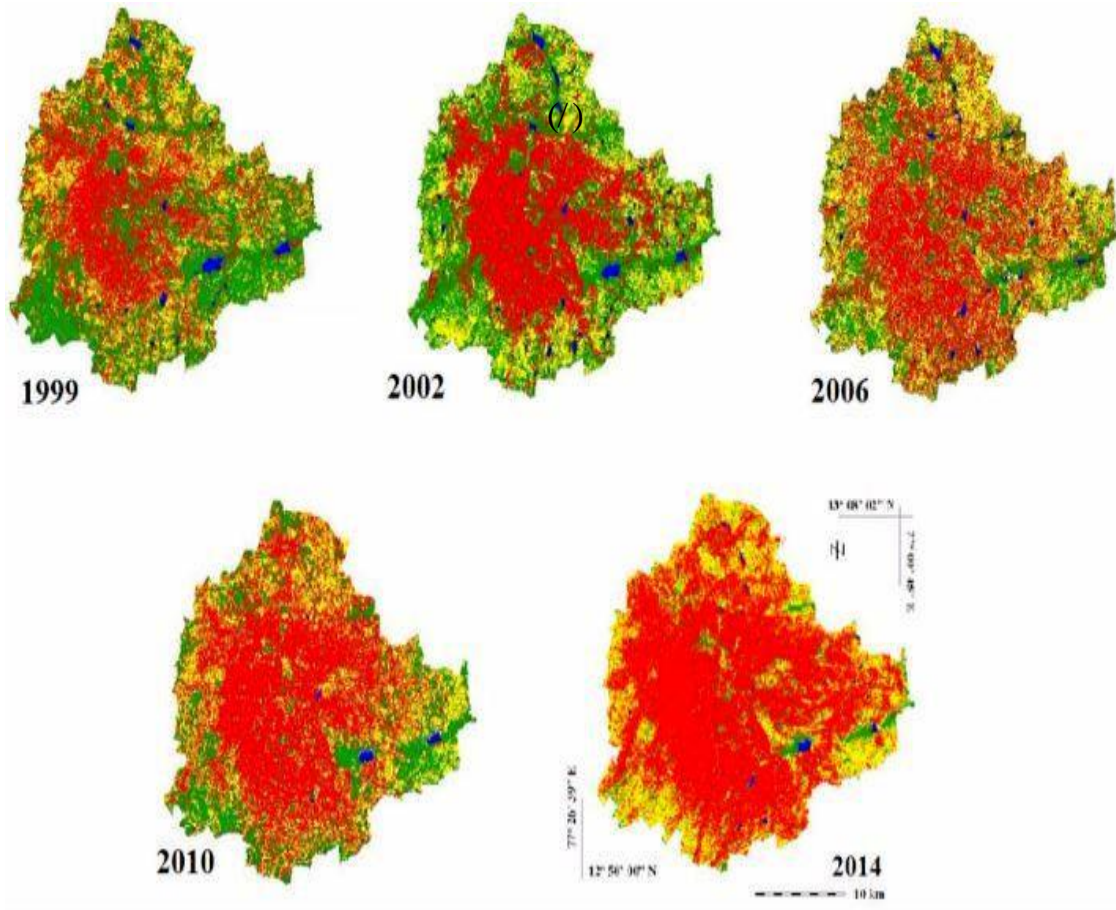


g) 2015

3. According to a research “Spatial patterns of urban growth with globalisation” the city in from 1999-2014 urban land use has increased by 184%, vegetation has decreased from 45% to 8.4%. Water class has also decreased

in cover to 0.74%. Ramachandra says that satellite imagery showed that in 2014, Bengaluru, which currently has a population of 95 lakh, had just 14,78,500 trees.

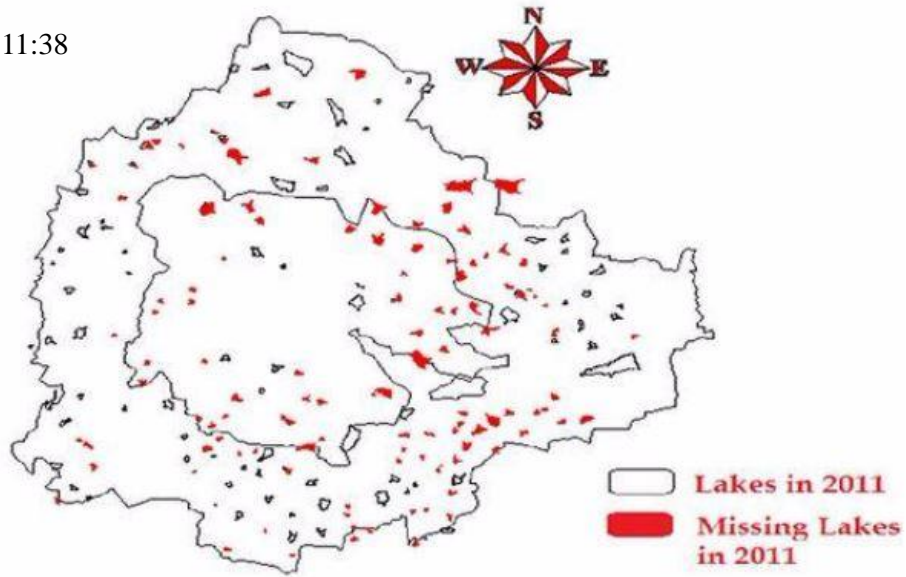
“For every seven persons there is one tree. Based on age, every day one person exhales 540-900 grams of carbon dioxide and one hectare of trees takes in close to 8 ton of carbon dioxide. So based on that calculation every person needs 8 trees. So you can imagine how pathetic the situation is.”



125% increase in concretisation in Greater Bengaluru

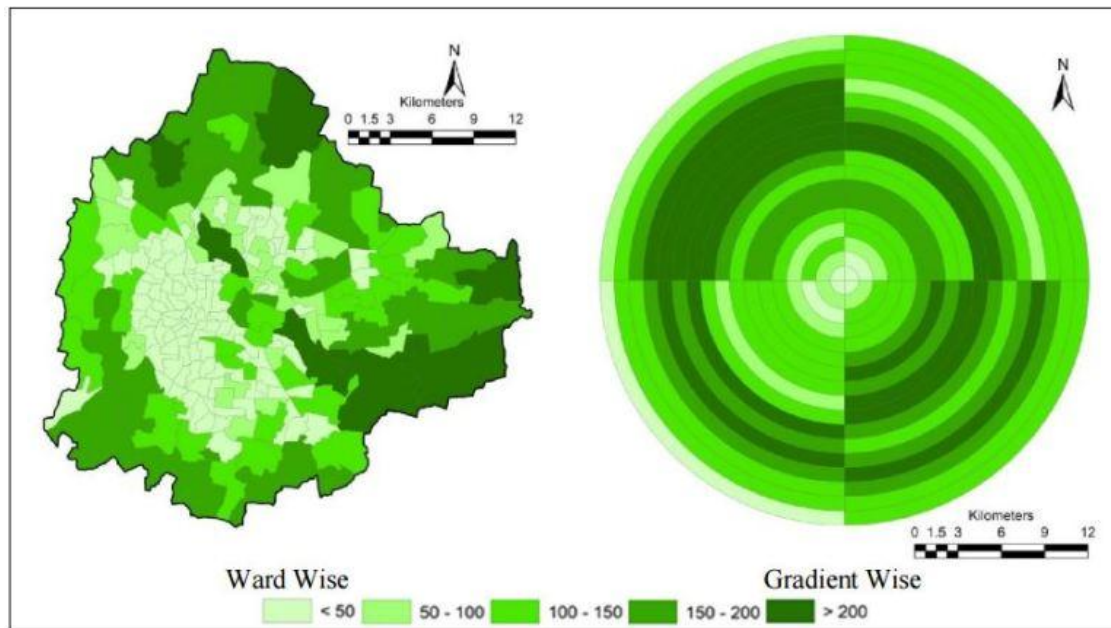
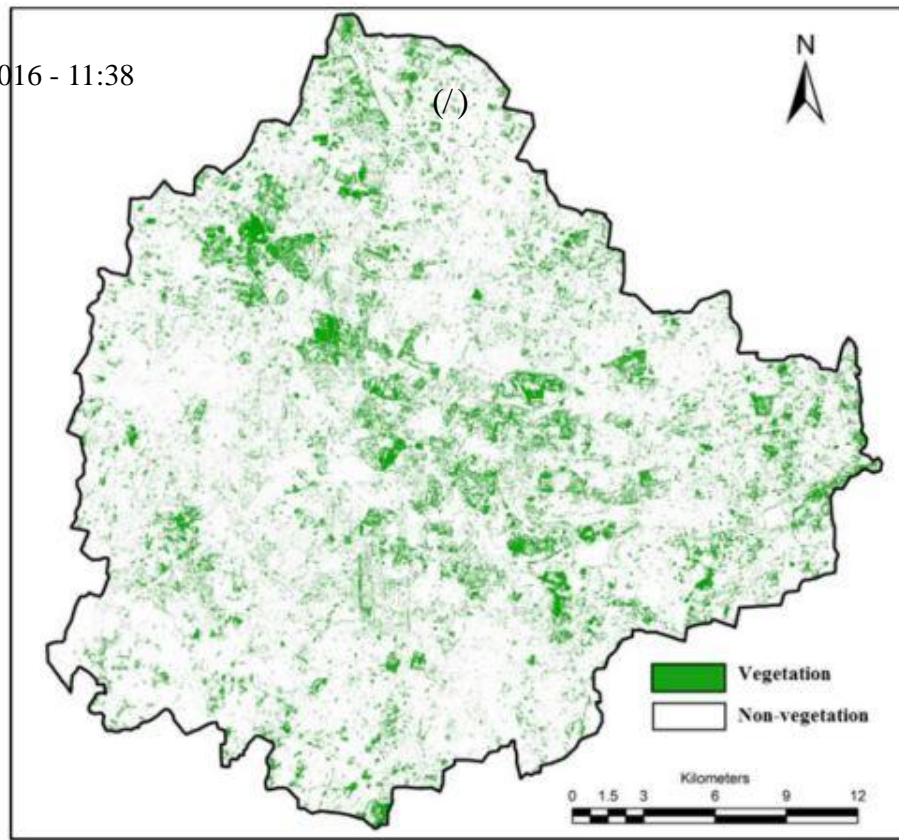
4. Most Bengalureans would know of the unending lake issues that the city has been facing. Less than one percent of Bengaluru is covered by water bodies. The research shows that 54% of lakes were encroached for illegal buildings. Field survey of all lakes (in 2007) showed that nearly 66% of lakes were sewage fed, 14% surrounded by slums and 72% showed loss of catchment area.

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5. Ever wondered what happens in Chennai during the monsoons can happen in Bengaluru too? Encroachment of natural drains, topography change caused by constructions, removal of green cover, depletion of wetlands are the prime reasons for frequent flooding even during normal rainfall post 2000 in the city. While the first figure in the series shows how sparsely vegetation is distributed across Bengaluru, the second figure vegetation wardwise. Many wards in the central areas obviously need to make an immediate action plan to increase vegetation.

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78% of green cover has been lost over a decade.

One can't really say whether the IT sector has been good

or bad for Bengaluru. The city over decades is been seen as the land of opportunities and diversity of job markets and especially the industrial sector (IT sector) in last couple of years, says Ramachandra.

“The IT sector has increased the influx of people from other states and the city is facing the brunt as it has to accommodate all of them. There has been no planned expansion at all,” Ramachandra said.

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Bangalore is a basket case. Its unlivable. You can point the fingers at government , for the decline, but its never a solo game. Every 30x40 site that citizens of Bangalore built - they choose *not* to have any green areas there, everything is cement , citizens were apathetic, there is no civic sense. This did not happen in 5 years, its been building up for last 20 years. I agree 20 years ago it was a different city , but the "I don't care" attitude was present even then in the city dwellers.

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lack of town planning and permission for illegal construction being the two main reasons. IT has expedited the decline but this was waiting to happen even otherwise . The worst fear for me is there is no improvement even after knowing the reality. Schools, offices, homes, hospitals all fight for space inside the city. If there were a good network of roads that could take people out to work to the outskirts and bring them back, we could have essential services in the core areas and the city could have been planned to grow wider easily. anyway... wishful thinking

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Great analysis + research

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You plan for parks you get parks. You plan for Greenery. You plan for roads you get roads. You don't plan you get Bangalore.

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Go to any BDA complexes in bangalore city. You'll know the extent of corruption in public offices. There is nothing in the list you can do without paying bribe in RTO offices. Town planning offices also take a huge illegal money in the form of bribe. Population in the city has grown out of all bounds. If you are going to blame the growth of IT sector for all these, you are wrong. Huge populations from bengal and north east states who are unskilled laborers have changed the equation of all demographic observations. Most of the construction workers are from north eastern states.

Forget the ever increasing concrete jungle and polluting water bodies. The driving habits have