

TODAY'S PAPER

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Forget drinking, water from city lakes unfit even for bathing



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NO TOP-CLASS LAKES

No lake fell in Class A, B or C where water can be used for drinking with or without treatment and for bathing

➤ **Class D:** suited for wildlife, fisheries

24 LAKES

➤ **Class E:** suited for irrigation and industrial cooling

47 LAKES

➤ **Below Class E:** doesn't meet any of the above criteria

4 LAKES

SOURCE: KSPCB



There was a time when Bengaluru's lakes quenched the thirst of residents living around them. Today, the water in the city's lakes cannot even be used to bathe, let alone drink. Untreated sewage and lack of adequate rain are being cited as the reasons.

The latest classification of lakes by the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) reveals that water in a majority of the 75 lakes and tanks sampled are so bad that even conventional treatment, followed up with disinfection, will not make it fit to be consumed.

Of the 75 lakes sampled by the KSPCB between April 2015 and March 2016, not a single one was classified as a safe source of drinking water or bathing. Some have deteriorated even further.

This year, the popular Sankey Tank was classified under 'D' (fit only for propagation of wildlife and fisheries) while last March it enjoyed a 'Class C' rating (a drinking water source with conventional treatment followed by disinfection.)

As many as 47 of them have been graded under 'Class E' where water is fit only for irrigation and industrial cooling. Only 24 were certified as being ideal for the propagation of wildlife and fisheries. Samples in four lakes were found to be so below par that they could not be classified under any of the categories. This included Kammasandra Lake, which was classified as 'E' in March 2015 and is now 'Below E'.

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