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**Title : City's greenery under threat**

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**Hyderabad**

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### **IISc Study Says Unplanned Urbanisation Primary Cause; City's Built-Up Area Rose By 400% between 1999-2009**

Soaring temperatures can well be attributed to the decreasing green cover and unplanned urbanisation taking place in the city, a study backed by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore has said.

In an alarming revelation, the recently-released study said that the green cover in the city had fallen from 2.71 per cent to 1.66 per cent in the last two decades, primarily because thousands of buildings sprouted across the city. In fact, researchers predict that the built-up area in the city, which stands at 13.5 per cent, is poised to go up to 64.6 per cent by 2029, resulting in further loss of flora in the city.

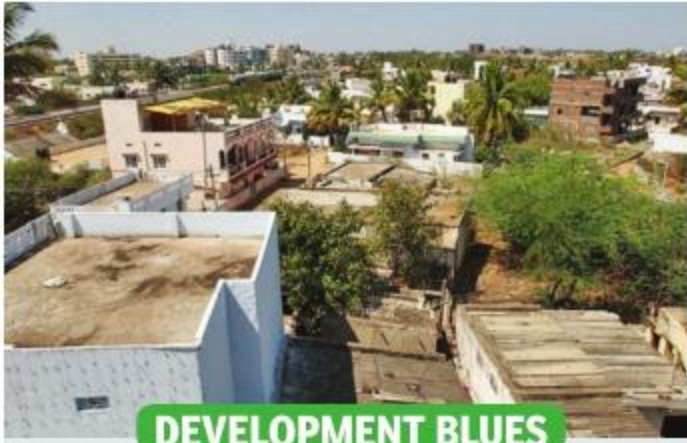
The urban built-up area rose by 400 per cent between 1999 and 2009, says the study, carried out between April 2013 and March 2016 by the Energy and Wetlands Research Group, a research group comprising IISc faculty. Among Tier-I cities such as Ahmedabad, Kolkata and Bhopal, researchers found the highest growth in built up area in Hyderabad.

In the study titled 'Urban Revolution: Urbanisation Pattern and Environmental Sustainability Analysis of Major Cities in India', researchers analysed the dynamics and the ecological consequences of urban expansion. The team analysed spatial data covering four decades of the city and found that unplanned urbanisation had had a huge environmental impact on the city .

“The results of the land cover analysis showed vegetation cover has declined during the past four decades with the increase in non-vegetative area (buildings, open space, water etc). A major increase has been noticed post-2000 with the government policy of supporting IT sector in the state,” says the study.

While Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation's move to cut 3,100 trees around the KBR Park has attracted severe criticism, researchers have blamed rapid urbanisation for weather change. “During our study, we found that in Hyderabad, buildings with glass facades were major contributors to increase in temperature. While an individual living in a normal building consumes 700-800 units of energy per year, someone living in glass facades consumes 14,000 to 17,000 units per year. High level of energy consumption eventually leads to rise in temperature and global warming,” said TV Ramachandra, co-ordinator in the research group which conducted the study .

Researchers further warned that if urbanisation continued at the current rate, vegetation levels would drop further. According to predictions, a higher tendency of urbanisation will be seen along arterial roads, and industries, followed by transport sector facilities and educational institutions.



## DEVELOPMENT BLUES

▶ Green cover has fallen from 2.71% to a meagre 1.66% in last two decades

▶ City built-up area stands at 13.5% and poised to grow to 64.6% by 2029

▶ Major increase in built-up area noticed post-2000 with govt policy of supporting IT sector

### From bad to worse

Year	Built-up area	Vegetation
2019	35.18%	3.03%
2024	51.25%	2.67%
2029	64.6%	2.55%