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Thursday 30 December 2010

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Bangalore will have to revive its lakes, if it has to stave off a crisis by 2015

City heading for water famine

Bangalore, December 22, DHNS:

Five more years, and Bangalore will be faced with a full blown water crisis, hitherto restricted to pockets on its outskirts.



Armed with research findings, Indian Institute of Science (IISc) scientists fired the warning salvo yet again on Wednesday. The message to the State was clear: Preserve the existing water bodies, take immediate remedial measures or perish.

“Lake 2010,” a symposium on “Wetlands, Biodiversity and Climate Change” here was just the apt venue to raise the critical water issue. Dr T V Ramachandra, Senior Scientist, Energy and Wetland Research

Centre (EWRC), Centre for Ecological Sciences (CES), IISc, categorically asserted that Bangalore’s water bodies were poorly maintained and if the trend continued, the water crisis would be severe.

The common man, he said, was hardly aware of the severity of the problem. Water from river Cauvery will just not be enough to quench the thirst of a burgeoning Bangalore.

“The literacy level about ecological conservation among Bangaloreans is just 3.5 per cent. We need more literacy programmes to ensure protection of water bodies. The ground water is over-exploited. We need to create more water bodies so that the water table comes up,” he said.

Drastic dip

Parts of Bangalore are already reeling under an acute water shortage. For instance, the ground water level has seen a drastic dip in and around the Bengaluru International Airport (BIA). The reasons are clear: A real estate boom in the vicinity. A few more years, and “there will neither be ground water nor Cauvery water,” cautioned Dr Ramachandra.

An IISc study had clearly indicated where the City’s unbridled, unplanned growth was heading.

The study found that the built-up area had increased by a whopping 466 percent between 1973 and 2007. Due to this, the City’s temperature shot up by at least two degrees. Only in spots with adequate green cover, such as IISc and water bodies, was the temperature relatively cooler. Creating more wetlands, the study revealed, was the right solution.

The IISc had shown a way to raise the water table through plantations and creating a water body in the campus. “If you dig 5-10 feet beneath the forest in IISc, you will get water now,” informed an IISc scientist.

Besides unplanned urbanisation and rapid encroachment of existing water bodies, the problem also had other sources. Said a scientist: “Most of our water bodies are threatened by the BBMP contractors. It happens through encroachment or solid waste disposal.”

The encroachments eventually led to increase in built up area, and in turn raised the City’s temperature.

Relic forests

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Dr M D Subhash Chandra, a speaker at the symposium, emphasised the need to conserve primeval forests in Uttara Kannada districts. These forests being major water sources, merits protection. "The entire peninsula including Bangalore will be in dire straits, if these Gondwana relics are threatened," he warned.

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By: Dev

On: 25 Dec 2010 10:40 am

Only 5 more years !? Ouch!

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By: dwaraka

On: 23 Dec 2010 08:39 pm

All major IT companies who have the sprawling estates in Whitefield Electronic city should have tertiary watertreatment plant by now. Let them refurbish and reuse the waste water and discharge the excess into the ground. Make the tertiary treatment a must will help. Impose this rule to all the major apartment high rises, thus will help recharge the ground water. Also the ample rainfall we receive in Bangalore is a indicator that we are wasting 100% of the runoff water. If we could collect such runoff and in tankers and discharge them at designated areas identified outside the city we could start recharging the ground water table. Also it is time we start thinking about cleaning the vrishabhavathi valley and see if we could use that water too atleast for construction and gardening purpose

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By: Vijaykumar

On: 23 Dec 2010 02:02 pm

KG Bus Station, National Games Village, Kanteera Stadium, Millers Tank area and scores of other areas are once tanks. I remember during 1970s Millers tank was flooded and water was overflowing. In the name of deveopment our corrupt netas killed hundreds of lakes/tanks not only in Bangalore but throughout the country. Apart from wiping out lakes the existing water bodies were denied replenishment by illegal constructions on the catchment areas. Nature is taking its revenge. There is no use blaming the nature or pleading with rains gods. We have have to suffer for our misdeeds.

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By: G Chandrashekar

On: 23 Dec 2010 01:04 pm

Many of the Civic Amenity sites are given to trusts in the name of schools and others thereby destroying greenery by State Govt.Though 50% of the CA sites should be marked as greenery but no such thing is happening. Govt. only should be blamed for the encroachment on CA sites.

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By: Faiz Ahmed

On: 23 Dec 2010 11:10 am

All major contractors, Business houses and IT groups have to contribute to making Bangalore green and beautiful! Wake up Bangaloreans wake up Citizen of India. Let our generations to come quench their thirst

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Tel: +91 (80) 25880000 Fax No. +91 (80) 25880523