

# Fall in green cover

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13.55% pushing up the mercury levels further.

Dr Ramachandra told Bangalore Mirror, "The uncontrolled growth will further erode the landscape affecting the natural resources as well as local ecology. The simulated land use pattern for 2020 by our team revealed increase in the built-up area (concrete jungle) from the present 48.66% to 70.64%. As per our observation, the north-east of the city will see intense urbanisation, particularly around arterial roads, national and state highways. The region would be starved of natural resources and prone to frequent instances of flood."

The scientists have also noticed considerable variations in temperature too. "Bangalore which clocked 18 degree and 12 degree in peak summer and winter respectively during the '70s is now witnessing 35 degree and 30 degree. Our ward-wise observation of temperature pattern in Bangalore revealed that areas that have thick vegetation and water bodies (lakes) relatively measured 2 to 3 degree less than the other places," Dr Ramachandra said. The scientists also expressed concern over the fast-depleting levels of water table in areas around Bangalore North where intense urbanisation activities have been observed. "These areas have already been classified as overexploited regions in terms of underground water table," explained one of the researchers.

Keeping in mind the startling observations, the scientists have called for a sustainable city planning. "The entire exercise will only be fruitful when bureaucracy, policy makers, urban planners and city managers take note of the poor foresight," he added. The report was released on Wednesday by 'green swamiji' Gangadharendra Saraswathi swamiji of Sonda Swarnavalli Mutt as a prelude to the upcoming national symposium 'Lake 2014' scheduled to be held from November 13 to 15 at Sirsi in Uttara Kannada.

