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Bengaluru staring at a severe water crisis, warns IISc study

Bosky Khanna, September 19, 2016, Bengaluru, DHNS



An ongoing study by a team of researchers from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has indicated that Bengaluru will soon face a huge water crisis. The study that is likely to be out soon says that if no immediate steps are taken, the city will go dry.

Prof T V Ramachandra from the Centre of Energy and Wetlands Research Group at the IISc said that despite floods in July 2016, the city is set to experience water crisis because of improper planning and ineffective implementation of the existing policies.

The Cauvery water dispute with the neighbouring Tamil Nadu will also have a bearing on the city's water needs because of increasing dependence on piped water. This apart, the study points out that wastage due to leakages and indiscriminate use by people is also adding to the growing problem.

Prof Ramachandra said that Bengaluru annually receives 750- 800 mm rainfall while the city lakes can hold only 35 tmcft. "At least 98% water bodies in the city are encroached upon," he said. Of the 35 tmcft water stored in the city lakes, 90% is sewage-fed water, the study points.

The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) supplies 1400 mld everyday from Cauvery river. There are 9.15 lakh connections in the city. Their estimate shows that 1.4 lakh consumers should instal rain water harvesting systems, but only 62,000 have it. BWSSB is yet to reach out to 110 villages in the CMC and TMC areas.

The study also pointed out that Bengaluru generates 15 tmcft sewage water daily. Of the water used by Bengalureans, 70% is wasted and joins sewage lines and the

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irrigation, industrial cooling, controlled waste disposal) and 29% lakes fall under Class D and E (can be used for wildlife and fisheries). The research team also showed that there has been an 88% loss in green cover in the city, a 79% loss in water bodies, a 925% increase in concrete land from 1970 to 2006 and over 75% of city land has paved surfaces.

"Unless water is used judiciously, rain water harvesting strictly implemented, inter-connectivity of lakes and drains restored, there will be severe water crisis, especially in the backdrop of less rainfall in the Cauvery basin. There is also a need to treat and recycle sewage water," Prof Ramachandra explained.

Studyfindings

- City has lost 79% water bodies.
- There is 925% increase in concretisation
- 75% of city land paved
- 98% lakes encroached upon
- 90% lakes are sewage-fed

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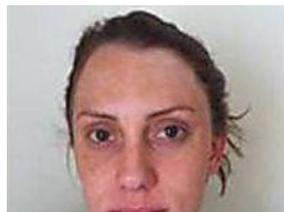
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venkat • 3 days ago

Last para.....“Unless water is used judiciously, rain water harvesting strictly implemented, inter-connectivity of lakes and drains restored, there will be severe water crisis, especially in the backdrop of less rainfall in the Cauvery basin. There is also a need to treat and recycle sewage water,” Prof Ramachandra explained.....millions of times we have heard this.....rain water harvesting...why is the Govt not strict about this?Why BWSSB is not strict about this..... are they following seriously with defaulters?...car washing and road washing with Cauvery water should be banned across state with immediate effect...even simple measures like these are not followed..

4 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Manava → venkat • 3 days ago

Even in California they stopped washing cars during crisis

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



virtual reality → venkat • 3 days ago

How can i give you 3 yes's. well said.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



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what is the use of all of us crying Hoarse?No body bothers about all these matter.s..The BWSSB ,the Governmental authorities do not even bother about what is happening in Bangalore..Violations violations and Violations galore leading to the break down in all fronts....traffic woes,water and sanitation problems,lack of proper infrastructure.NO ONE GETS PUNISHED.BBMP,BDA,REGISTRAR'S OFFICES REEK OF CORRUPTION OPENLY.NO BODY CAN CONTROL THEM.For a biriyani anything can be done...quo vadis?

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virtual reality → venkat • 3 days ago

the city is growing so fast, the tax collections inadequate to meet the requirements, the private sector should have been given the authority to develop new areas with the upto date facilities and to charge accordingly, instead they are allowed to build without facilities in place and people move in and then the govt is made responsible to provide. the government will only provide after it has the funds so for years its collects just to provide. We are between a capitalist system and a social system. A social system will only survive where the govt is rich and capitalism where there is no corruption.

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NARENDRA M APTE • 3 days ago

Obviously it is necessary to recognise that henceforth water will be a scarce resource. We as citizens must wholeheartedly support implementation of policy and plans to conserve available water and for use of the available water with minimum wastage. It will also be necessary to recycle waste water. But is there political and administrative will to implement water conservation policy and programmes? I also believe we need public education campaigns to involve all citizens in efforts for water conservation and optimum use.

3 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Vishnu • 3 days ago

Instead of periodically reporting doomsday scenarios, IISc must be recommending solutions and working with the government to implement solutions. History shows



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