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# Groundwater depletion raises concern

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bangalore:** Depletion of groundwater and inadequacy of sewage treatment plants are two major worries for the city in the Environment Report Card of Bangalore released here on Friday. Inadequacy of piped water supply by BWSSB has resulted in dependency of groundwater with the table drastically falling due to unscrupulous extraction.

In some areas, borewells have virtually dried up. Also, with an over-exploitation of groundwater beyond the rechargeable limit, a large number of semi-critical, critical, over-exploited and over-developed watersheds have emerged. About 85% of water supplied gets converted into waste water which needs to be treated before being discharged into nallahs or other water bodies. The quantity of waste water treated is much

## SUGGESTIONS

- Govt must focus on environmental governance. We need an integrated action plan with time frame for implementation.
- Stepping up rainwater harvesting implementation
- Waste segregation should be made mandatory, starting with households and continued during collection and final disposal

## About Environment Report Card (ERC)

ERC has been drawn up by Centre for Sustainable Development in collaboration with IBM. Data was collated after survey of 1,675 households and 108 establishments

By 2020, over 50% of the state could be urbanized. Any effort to mitigate issues in Bangalore will hold good for the entire state. We need to look at low-cost effective solutions for meaningful intervention.

**S V Ranganath** | CHIEF SECRETARY

We're making efforts to augment bulk water supply and establish sewage networks. It's difficult to lay down water connections and more difficult to put sewerage lines in the

newly developed peripheral areas.

**Gaurav Gupta** | CHAIRMAN, BWSSB

Sewage pollution is the biggest challenge with big gaps even in core areas. Uninterrupted power supply will also get bring down air pollution level by 7%. Municipal garbage waste needs to be taken up on priority and recycled. At least four units are needed in Bangalore to convert waste into energy.

**A S Sadashivaiah** | CHIEF, KARNATAKA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

less than the required quantity. "It will not be out of place to mention that some private layouts, apartment blocks depend on their own sewage treatment facilities," the report notes.

South Bangalore good: Of the three BBMP zones, South has a deficit of 20% sewer connections compared to hardly 3% in east and west Bangalore. But satisfaction levels are highest among South Bangalore residents with regard to the sewerage system. Blockage of sewers has increased from 8% in 2005 to 22% in 2011.

Citizens attributed lack of response from civic authorities, blockages and improper maintenance and encroachment by commercial establishments on the drains as reasons for low satisfaction. Even in the BBMP area, 3.4% in the east, 2.2% in the west, 20.2% in the south and 40.2% in the newly added areas still don't have sewerage connection.

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