

## City lakes dying

Study shows that only 40 lakes will exist three years down the line

By Deepthi Ranga  
Posted On Friday, May 01, 2009



**Ulsoor Lake, one of the main attractions in the city**

If you believe that Bangalore is a city with plenty of lakes, here is a reality check. **Dr Ramchandra Mohan, a professor at the Zoology department, Bangalore University** and his team of researchers have conducted a study on all the lakes in the city. Speaking to Bangalore Mirror, he said, “There was a time when Bangalore was known for its lakes and water bodies.

Not so long ago, in 1979, Bangalore had 379 lakes. Now the city has only 81 lakes and most of them are well on their way to the grave.”

Resurrection of these lakes may not be possible. But saving the existing ones has become his goal. “The health of a lake is considered good if the dissolved Oxygen level in the water is above 6.5 milligrammes per litre. But the Oxygen level in most of the lakes in the city is below 2 mg per litre. This can prove to be fatal for the aquatic life of the lakes,” he said. Pollution and encroachment are just a few reasons for the vanishing lakes. **Dr Mohan** felt that if these lakes are saved, the water needs could be met. “The population has increased drastically over the years.

In 1942, Bangalore had 4.5 lakh people. That increased to 90 lakh in 2008. Now with growing demand for water, the number of lakes should have also increased. But it has not. Bangalore needs 840 million litres of water per day. Our government is only supplying 705 MLD (million litres of day) of water. If these lakes were restored or at least if the existing lakes are maintained, this difference of 135 million litres can be met everyday.”

### **GLOOMY OUTLOOK**

The team has found that if this depletion continues, then 40 of the 81 lakes will die within the next three years. “Five of my students are working on various lakes in the city. Our government is struggling to keep small lakes clean. Government should budget water and give equal supply of water to every household so that water can be used sparingly. Our study shows that these lakes will need massive cleaning up. All the sewage should be diverted and not let into the lake,” said **Dr Mohan**.

**He** said water should be categorised into three types: Water for domestic use, for irrigation and recycled water. “Bangalore never uses 70 million litres of water which is recycled. About 98 per cent of water supply is from the Cauvery river. It’s about time that we clean up these lakes and use this water for domestic use.”

Statistics reveal that of all the water that the city gets, 35 per cent is used for household purposes, 3 per cent for non-household purposes, industries use 2 per cent, Defence uses 3 per cent and Railways use 1 per cent. Public taps use 17 per cent and the remaining 39 per cent of water use has not been assessed. If this water can be used well or even traced, then our water demands can be met.

### **VANISHED LAKES**

Lakes in Bangalore have turned into buildings and complexes.

Dharmambudi lake is now Majestic bus stand

Sampangi tank is now Kanteerava stadium

Koramangala Lake is now National Games Village

### **Symptoms of death**

The first sign of a lake dying (Eutrophication) is algae growth. Algae release Nitrogen gas which is toxic for the fish. They also block sunlight from entering the lake. When sunlight is blocked,

photosynthesis doesn't take place. Water temperature also goes down and the dissolved Oxygen levels go down. Thus the aquatic life is affected and the lake begins to die.

**Comment** (2 Comments Received)

I am glad to bring to your kind notice that recently it came in rediffmail, out of all the cities in India, Bangalore has been identified as the best city. It is all due to the efforts of people like you to preserve the lakes and ponds in the city. Currently,

krupanidhi, [krupanidhi\\_srirama@rediffmail.com](mailto:krupanidhi_srirama@rediffmail.com) Dated : Wednesday, May 06, 2009 08:54 AM

Ms. Deepthi Ranga and Dr. Ramachandra Mohan deserve Compliments to inform Public through Press and try to open eyes of Authorities concerned in control of Lakes preservation. Lake is also home for Fish cultures which is food for all living beings can not be ignored. Apart from augmenting Drinking Water resource, maintaining healthy Lakes will rejuvenate Ecology and Environment with opportunity for Business of Water sports and entertainment. Inventions in Nano Dimensional low investment Products of High Merit originated from INDIAN Research such as Biosanitizer and Nualgi, are ignored by Authorities which can offer low cost ecology maintenance of Lakes for life with Drinking Water Quality auto maintenance, despite sewage ingress continued with or without STP output Reconditioned resource let off in Lakes.

Kishore Kaikini President { BAE MISSION} NGO, [kishorekaikini@gmail.com](mailto:kishorekaikini@gmail.com) Dated : Tuesday, May 05, 2009 01:00 PM

Copyright 2008 Bennett Coleman & Co. Ltd. All rights reserved