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MONTHLY NEWS LETTER FROM BARANAGAR MUNICIPALITY

From Chairman's Desk

Water Scarcity is imminent in big Cities

Cape Town is in the unenviable situation of being the first major city in the modern era to face the threat of running out of drinking water. However, the plight of the drought-hit South African city is just one extreme example of a problem that experts have long been warning about - water scarcity. Despite covering about 70% of the Earth's surface, water, especially drinking water, is not as plentiful as one might think. Only 3% of it is fresh. Over one billion people lack access to water and another 2.7 billion find it scarce for at least one month of the year. A 2014 survey of the world's 500 largest cities estimates that one in four are in a situation of "water stress". According to UN-endorsed projections, global demand for fresh water will exceed supply by 40% in 2030, thanks to a combination of climate change, human action and population growth. Like other countries, India struggles with water pollution and Bangalore a big city in India, for example is no different: an in-depth inventory of the city's lakes found that 85% had water that could only be used for irrigation and industrial cooling. Not a single lake had suitable water for drinking or bathing. India is staring at severe water crisis. Between 1951 and 2011, water availability per person dropped 70%. By 2050, it is expected to reduce to just 22% of the present availability. Depleting ground water is a major cause of water shortage. India is the world's largest user of groundwater, accounting for 25 percent of the world's extracted groundwater. Over-exploitation has resulted in the decline in groundwater levels. In some parts of the country, the decline is more than one metre per year. Gujarat has already consumed 68% of its groundwater and figures among the worst offenders in exploiting aquifers for domestic, irrigation and industrial use.

There are several remedial measures those can be adopted to prevent this ensuing crisis The household water should be treated properly so that they become environmentally safe. Adequate care should be taken to ensure that effective sewage treatment process is in place and that contaminated water does not get mixed with the environment. Effort should be made to prevent the river water, normally act as source of drinkable water for Cities to get contaminated. People should not be allowed to throw wastes into the river water. Further, effective urban runoff (discharge of polluted storm water into river) mitigation system such as retention basins, infiltration basins, etc. should be in place. Washing, bathing of cattle in the pond that is used by human should not be done. It is an essential step that should not be avoided. A system of regular testing of pond and lake water can be introduced to ensure the safety of the water. Sanitation system must be improved. The use of water as **coolant by large industries and power plants must be reduced**. The practice of cleaning the drinking water reservoirs on a regular basis need to be strictly followed. Efforts coordinated with proper awareness from all sectors can save us from this non-obvious but frightening crisis knocking our door..

Thanks and regards

1. Beautification Work of Park under 2016-17 is Completed.
2. Work for park under 2017-18 has been started.
3. Work Order issued for ESR 1813 Cubic Meter Capacity at Ward No 21.