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Conserve water or be doomed

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Considering the fact that Bangalore has not seen a water tariff revision in years, the city urgently needs a water regulatory authority that would fix the tariff for water consumption, according to A Ravindra, chief advisor to the chief minister.

He was speaking on the sidelines of a workshop on 'Strengthening Participatory Approaches in Urban Water Supply and Sewerage in Karnataka', organised by Athena Infonomics and the British High Commission along with various urban local bodies in the state.

Answering a question on political interference when it comes to fixing tariff, Ravindra said: "Rates are a problem in the city. The expenditure by the Bangalore Water and Sewerage Supply Board (BWSSB) is much higher than its income. If we do not regularly raise tariff, at some point, when we do raise it, it will become a burden on the people as it may be high," he said, adding that having a water regulatory authority will be an advantage in this regard. "The water regulatory authority will regulate the tariff hikes and ensure that it does not become a burden on the people," he said.

Ravindra said: "Unless the city makes an effort to conserve water, there could be chaos in the near future. We cannot depend on the Cauvery forever as the distribution of water in the city is inequitable. Bangalore needs to take a step towards conserving water or it could become as chaotic and as urgent an issue as the garbage problem," he said.

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