



This forum is on a mission to revive lakes in Western Ghats

In the last one decade, Manuvikas has desilted 2,500 lakes, including 10 bigger ones which are in the range of 50-100 acres



Lake rejuvenation work at Hosakatti in Sirsi taluk; Rejuvenated lake at Kapageri village in Sirsi taluk

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THE groundwater table in rural and urban areas of the district has been plummeting for the past many years due to improper maintenance of water bodies, unregulated extraction of groundwater and over dependency on borewells. In order to arrest water depletion, NGO Manuvikas has taken up the cause of rejuvenating lakes.

Already, the NGO has given a new lease of life to hundreds of lakes independently and with the help of other organisations. It has also assisted the state government to rejuvenate big lakes in Uttara Kannada, Haveri and Shivamogga districts.

Ganapati Bhat of Manuvikasa said: "Due to climate change, rainfall in the region has been affected. Even many villages of Sirsi taluk are facing drinking water problem in summer. At the same time, lakes are neglected and there is no storage of water. Therefore like-minded people founded Manuvikasa to rejuvenate lakes."

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The organisation came into existence in 2003 and started rejuvenating smaller lakes first. After 2008, it involved itself in this work completely. In the last one decade, the NGO has desilted 2,500 lakes, including 10 bigger lakes which are in the range of 50-100 acres.

Identifying their work, Deshpande Foundation of Hubballi came forward to assist the NGO on its mission.

Now, Coca-Cola Foundation, HDB Financial Services, GiveIndia and other organisations have joined hands with Manuvikasa to take up lake rejuvenation work.

The NGO has been developing lakes mostly in eastern parts of Western Ghats which include Sirsi, Haveri and Shivamogga regions. "By rejuvenating a large number of lakes in the last one year, they have conserved 1,788 million litres of water," he added.

At present, the organisation is busy giving life to 10 large water bodies in highly groundwater exploited areas of

Sirsi-Sorab (Shivamogga district) region which is notified by the Central Groundwater Board with the support of Coca-Cola Foundation. Currently, they have rejuvenated seven lakes and works of another three lakes are under way.

About the NGO

- * Manuvikasa founded in 2003
- * Till now, it has rejuvenated 2,500 small lakes and 10 big ones
- * Eastern parts of Western Ghats are their targeted area
- * Deshpande Foundation, Coca-Cola Foundation, HDB Financial Services, GiveIndia supporting their cause
- * They are conserving 1,788 million litres of water every year

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