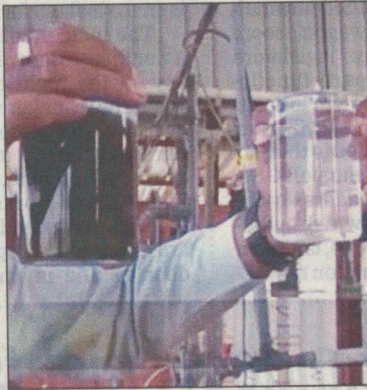


BBMP converts 12 million litres of leachate into water at Bellahalli

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Bengaluru: The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has successfully converted 12 million litres of leachate into water, which is being used to recharge the groundwater table near Bellahalli landfill.

Leachate is a blackish brown liquid that percolates from biodegradable garbage, posing significant threat to surface and groundwater. One metric tonne of garbage produces 40 to 50 litres of leachate, which raises a stink and causes health and environmental damages. With Bellahalli landfill slated to be full later this month, the leachate generated from the dump is expected to be an environmental hazard for decades to come.



SEA CHANGE: The water treated at the Bellahalli plant is being used for groundwater recharge and horticultural purposes

GREEN MOVE

The BBMP tried treating existing and freshly formed leachate using conventional methods like aerobic and anaerobic biological treatment—a combination of biological and chemical treatment. The process, however, was neither efficient nor sustainable due to variable characteristics of leachate, which is 50 times more contaminated and toxic than sewage.

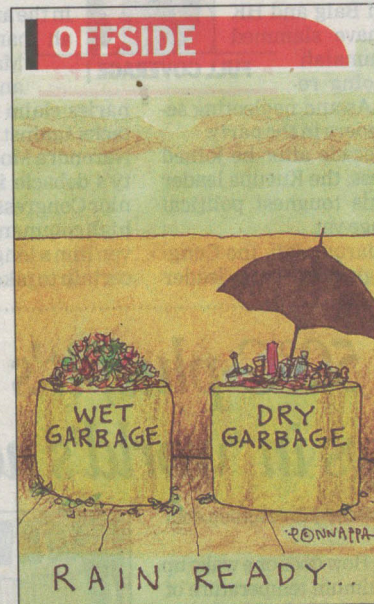
The BBMP then roped in Karnataka Rural Infrastructure Development Limited (KRIDL) to build a Rs 3.9 crore plant at Bellahalli to convert leachate into water. Its technology partner, Rew's India Pvt Ltd, a Bengaluru-based liquid waste management company, adopted FPSTAR boom tube resonator system, an advanced technology to convert old and fresh leachate into water.

The plant at Bellahalli has been operational since March 2018 and has so far treated more than 12 million litres of leachate, converting the same into water. The treated water is being used for groundwater recharge and horticultural purposes. The quality of the treated water conforms to all prescribed KSPCB norms.

Preventing pollution

A BBMP official said the water produced after treating leachate was found to be potable as per standards prescribed by the National Green Tribunal, but they did not want it to be used for drinking purposes, given the toxic nature of the wet waste involved.

One official said the objective behind the project was to avoid groundwater pollution due to leachate entering that space and contaminating nearby water bodies.



Produces cooking gas

The sludge that is formed after converting leachate into water is fed into a specially designed bio-digester, which produces cooking gas. The pilot cooking gas production plant has been operational for six months and is expected to be scaled up after necessary approvals to supply cooking gas to nearby villages.

However, BBMP commissioner N Manjunatha Prasad, who recently visited the plant, directed his officials to check the feasibility of providing cooking gas to the villages.

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