

*Date:*

20 March 2010

*Organisers:*

Arghyam

Bangalore Water Supply & Sewerage Board (BWSSB)

Karnataka State Council for Science and Technology (KSCST)

Bangalore Jalamandali Abhiyantara Sangha

*Venue:*

Jawahar Bal Bhavan – Cubbon Park, Bangalore

*Schedule:*

- Welcome address by Ms. Rohini Nilekani, Chairperson Arghyam
- Inauguration by Mr. Ramamurthy, Chairman BWSSB
- Address by Mr. Mohan Kumar, Secretary KSCST
- Stalls by rainwater harvesting contractors open to public
- Query redressal by Mr. Shiv Kumar (KSCST) on regulations of rainwater harvesting and technology available
- BWSSB wastewater treatment plant in Cubbon Park open for guided tour

*Stalls:*

- BWSSB **Safe, sustainable water for all**
  - 3D Models on Rainwater harvesting
  - Posters on importance of rainwater harvesting
  - Handbook of all trained plumbers/contractors in Bangalore
- KSCST
  - Display of different types of filters
  - Rainwater harvesting helpdesk talks about their service
- Arghyam
  - Promotion of India Water Portal ([www.indiawaterportal.org](http://www.indiawaterportal.org))

- Ask the Expert service
- H2S strip test bottles distributed
- Article on 'Water security for apartment owners', SS Ranganathan distributed

#### Rainwater harvesting contractors

- TIDE (Technology Informatics Design Endeavour)
- Green Technologies
- Labournet
- Biome Solutions
- Swaraj Foundation
- Great bear promotions
- Farmland systems
- Rainwater concepts
- Rainbow Rainwater Harvesting Solutions
- Ecoserve
- Framelines
- Aptech Engineering



# Arghyam

Report:

## Safe, sustainable water for all

The newly amended Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Act, 2009 stipulates that a large number of existing and new buildings in Bangalore need to implement rainwater harvesting by May 27th, 2010. The Rainwater Harvesting Mela event was therefore conceived with the purpose of making it easier for citizens to access the service providers for RWH.

The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Amendment Act, dated August 25, 2009 states "*Within nine months from the date of commencement of the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage (Amendment) Act, 2009, every owner or occupier of a building having a site area of 2400 square feet and above, or every owner who proposes to construct a building on a site area of 1200 square feet and above, shall provide for rainwater harvesting structure ...*"

On the occasion Ms. Rohini Nilekani spoke about the lessons that the citizens of Bangalore can draw from the Chennai experience, where the regulation has been extremely successful to rejuvenate the groundwater levels of the city. She further mentioned that each of us should co-operate with our government agencies to help them deliver their mandate and opt for rainwater harvesting in order to augment their daily water needs, thereby reducing their dependence on Cauvery water which is pumped from a far off distance to the city.



The Chairman of BWSSB spoke of how they are taking various initiatives to manage both the supply as well as the demand situation for water in the city. This regulation was truly about augmenting the supply side along with the latest Cauvery phase four inauguration. He also highlighted their partnership with KSCST and their integral role of providing training to plumbers of the city and gearing up a helpdesk to cater to questions from citizens as well as all the technological inputs for this initiative.

The query Redressal by Mr. Shiv Kumar from KSCST proved to be hugely useful for all the resident welfare associations' representatives and citizens too. Some of the commonly asked questions include –

- Do I have to get it done from a BWSSB trained plumber?

No, the citizens are free to choose their own plumber or do it independently

- Is there an incentive for implementing rainwater harvesting?

No, there are currently no incentives to comply with this law.

- It will be difficult to collect all the water from the roof, is there a mandate on how much?

We should aim to harvest the maximum

- Do I have to use the harvested water for drinking/domestic?

The harvested water can either be used for non-potable purposes or the groundwater can be recharged.

- Is it safe to drink rainwater?

Yes, rainwater is safe for drinking provided all precautions are undertaken such as cleaning of the rooftop and the path of stream of water, an appropriate form of filter is used and is collected in a hygienic form.

Some citizens were upset about the extreme measure by BWSSB of possibly shutting off the water and sewerage connection in case of non-compliance. Several others were curious to know the differences between the various filters and their function.

An estimated 2000 people attended the mela.



*Resources:*

Click here for

- [Photographs](#)
- [Information about rainwater harvesting](#)
- [To query water experts across the country](#)

