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Education

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Chennai: Want to know the quality of groundwater in your city neighborhood? Soon, all you have to do is enter the latitude and longitude of the area in Google Maps and you'll be able to do this.

It provides information such as the closest point of data collection, data collection time, water quality details, and whether the water is contaminated.

The International Clean Water Center (ICCW) at IIT Madras and the Tamil Nadu Government have launched a pilot project in the city to map the city's groundwater quality. Graduate students from Stella Maris University will be involved in the collection of samples.

Initially, researchers plan to collect data from 90 locations three or four times a year. It will be further enhanced to monitor the quality of groundwater in real time.

TPradeep, professor of ICCW, said: "With the help of students, we can continuously monitor the quality of groundwater and provide real-time monitoring.

Students can take images of water or use agents to analyze pollutants. Information is uploaded to the cloud in real time.

The center is also developing a small device for testing the quality of tap water and treated sewage. "It's a huge amount of data that gives us real-time information about cities and their health and population," he added. It also issues an early warning in the case of water-borne diseases.

"We started the project by manually collecting data three or four times a year. Data is collected before and after the monsoon to understand the impact of the monsoon on groundwater. In the meantime," said ICCW CEO Nanda Kumar E.

The center uses university students because it takes a lot of effort to collect data. In the internship, students earn 2 credits.

"Our purpose is to provide water data in real time. Anyone can access Google Maps and click on a specific location to see the water quality within a 2 to 5 km radius of that location." He added.

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