

Dear Mr Kannappan,

Thank you for accepting an invitation to meet Neer Exnora Activists at Chennai on Monday. I would be grateful if you can give us a little leeway and give us an option to make it Jan 4 Sunday forenoon or afternoon. Suggested topic for presentation : Water Strategy for Tamil Nadu : Rejuvenate Water Bodies for 21st Century through Modern Technology ".

We in Tamil Nadu have heard about " Maadham Mummaari ! " ! We do not get it though any more ! We are told that it rains only for 60 days a year post 2000 as against 120 days post 1900. We are also told that the quantum of total rainfall is 10% less on an annual average basis. 50 years of deep borewell culture and urbanisation has destroyed ancient Kudi Maramathu and reduced rural water bodies to extinction.. Over 50% is in disuse. Rogue mining of riverbeds has multiplied excess flows into the sea and deprived the ground water recharge for the past 25 years! Governance of water bodies is conspicuous by its absence and on the contrary, political party workers compete to encroach the lake lands and temple tanks . It is a miracle we still survive as a civilised society !

It is to reverse this trend we have formed Neer Exnora. Objective is to form Neer Exnora Panchayat for each and every major or sensitive water body across Chennai Metro area and Tamil Nadu State and help the locals take charge and be visible first to prevent abuse : dumping of garbage, sewage and encroachment. Rest will fall in place. We have made a humble beginning in 2007-08 and covered 20 sensitive (most abused!) water bodies.

It is in this background that I have suggested the topic as above. Please feel free to change the title. What is important is that it should be aligned with real life and solutions therefor as above.

Preferred time will be 10 AM on Sunday or 6 PM on Monday. 6 PM Sunday is better than Monday ! Sunday will be preferred by most members. The venue will mostly be in T Nagar Vani Mahal or Sringeri Mutt Hall in Eldams Road.

Look forward to seeing you soon.

Best Regards
S Rangarajan