

NITK initiates action over bacterial contamination

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mangaluru: Laboratory analysis by external agencies of water samples from NITK Surathkal, detected bacterial contamination in two sources—a borewell and a well. The contamination was identified using the 'Most Probable Number' testing method,

IN TWO WATER SOURCES

which estimates bacterial presence in water, said Prof Pushparaj Shetty D, who oversees hostel operations at NITK Surathkal.

The administration at NITK Surathkal collected 34 water samples in the presence of hostel inmates and sent

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them to the College of Fisheries, Mangaluru, for testing to address concerns about water safety. The institution, home to over 6,000 students, reported health issues among hostel residents in the second week of Jan. While food was initially suspected, the cause was later linked to water contamination.

Shetty said that to confirm the cause of contamination and address concerns among

sceptical hostel inmates, the institution enlisted an external agency for water testing. Samples were collected from all water sources, and the results revealed bacterial contamination (MPN) in two sources—a well and a borewell. The other samples collected from various sources, including hostels, tested negative for contamination. Upon receiving the reports, the institution promptly initiated chemical treatment to rectify the issue, which has now been completed. "We have also submitted reports to the health department detailing the corrective measures taken," he said, adding that the type of bacteria present in the two water sources is not mentioned in the report.