

# Study finds serious changes in Pampa riverine system

It witnessed unprecedented water scarcity last summer

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The Environment Resource Centre (ERC) of the Pampa Parirakshana Samiti has observed that indiscriminate sand-mining, coupled with unscientific interventions on the riverbed by the government agencies, has resulted in alarming changes in the riverine system of the Pampa over the past two decades.

ERC director K.S. Binu and the samiti general secretary N.K. Sukumaran Nair told *The Hindu* that the Pampa river basin had witnessed an unprecedented water scarcity during the previous summer, from January to June. A more or less similar situation was also reported from the basin of the Varattar, a rivulet linking the Pampa and the Man-



**Cause for concern:** The carbonaceous clay like soil dug out from a well at Nedumprayar on the banks of the Pampa river.

imala rivers. Moreover, the Pampa waters in certain parts of Chengannur were found in a blackish colour during the first week of June. Water in almost all wells in the immediate vicinity of the riverbanks has depleted. A 30-ft deep well situated right on the Pampa banks at Nedumprayar was deepened by 4 ft to find

some carbonaceous clay like soil in the bottom layer, Dr. Binu says.

Dr. Binu and Mr. Nair said a study report submitted by another expert team led by Mr. Ajayakumar Varma, scientist, has predicted only another 55-year life for the Pampa, if the present state of affairs with the river system continued.