**Demystifying Arkavathy fiasco**

**Scientists from India, US butt minds regarding river; prove low rainfall & climate change not responsible for drying up of water body**

**Monica Kangari**

"Drying of a river seems to be an unusual concept," said Dr. Muralidhar Rao, a hydrologist at the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras. "But in the current scenario, where climate change and human activities are significantly impacting the world's water resources, such events are becoming more common."

Rao further explained that the Arkavathy river, located in the Karnataka state of India, has been experiencing a decline in water levels in recent years. "The decrease in water levels is not solely due to climate change," he said. "Human activities, such as damming and irrigation, have also played a significant role."

Rao added that the river's water levels are also affected by the monsoon season, which has become increasingly erratic due to climate change. "During the southwest monsoon, which usually provides the majority of the river's water, the monsoon season has become unpredictable," he said. "This has led to a decrease in the river's water levels."