

NGT-appointed committee submits report on lakes

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The National Green Tribunal-appointed committee to oversee the protection and rejuvenation of Agara, Bellandur and Varthur lakes has submitted its report to the tribunal.

“If the report is accepted and implemented, agencies that have not followed the rules and regulations can be penalised. We have studied the lakes in detail and have prepared the report after taking into consideration the ground realities,” said Justice (retd) N. Santosh Hegde who headed the committee. He added that it is up to the NGT whether or not to accept the report.

Among other things, the report has an action plan for the rejuvenation and maintenance of the lakes, guidelines on resources and tackles the issues of compliance and non-compliance of rules and regulations by various stakeholders such as the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), Bengaluru Development Authority (BDA), Bangalore Water Supply and Sewage Board (BWSSB), Minor Irrigation Department, and KSPCB. Mr. Hegde has written to the NGT asking if the report could be shared with the departments concerned and the public. “If they allow, I will share it. Otherwise, the NGT will do the needful,” he said.

Expressing confidence over implementation of the report, another member of the committee said that if the government follows the guidelines, lakes in the city would be enriched and groundwater levels in the surrounding areas would be recharged.

Members of the committee appointed in December last year included T.V. Ramachandra from the Indian Institute of Science, U.V. Singh, former chief conservator of forest, nominees from the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), and Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). The committee was slated to submit its report on June 30, but was given an extension.

Fire breaks out in Sadaramangala lake

A fire broke out in Sadaramangala lake near K.R. Puram on Saturday night leaving citizens and residents worried.

“Around 9.30 p.m., parts of the lake where garbage and debris had been dumped caught fire. We immediately called the fire department who doused the flames,” said Dinesh M., a resident of Sadaramangala.

Residents allege that the BBMP has not fenced the lake because of which lorries dump garbage and construction debris.

“The BBMP took up rejuvenation work a year ago. So far, they have only desilted the lake. This problem will recur if garbage continues to be dumped there,” said a resident.

According to local residents, it's only recently that trucks have resumed dumping debris in the lake. They urged the BBMP to finish the rejuvenation work as soon as possible and appoint security guards.