

# Farmers wary of taking toxic silt from lakebeds

## Say untested silt may contain contaminants

Rakshitha R

**BENGALURU:** Farmers who are promised the silt from the Bellandur and Varthur lakes are concerned that it could be contaminated, and have asked authorities to ensure it is clean.

Authorities expect to exhume as much as 6.60 million cubic metres of silt from the Bellandur Lake and 3.87 million cubic metres from Varthur. Sources said the silt could be used in 15,000 acres of farmland.

While the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) — in charge of carrying out the desilting of the two lakes — is unsure of what to do with the silt, talks are going on about dumping them in identified quarries.

But the committee headed by former Lokayukta Justice Santosh Hegde to oversee the rejuvenation of the two lakes,



**Authorities expect to exhume 6.60 million cubic metres of silt from Bellandur Lake. The silt could be used in 15,000 acres of farmland. DH PHOTO**

formed according to the directions of the National Green Tribunal in 2018, confirmed that the silt would be distributed among the farmers after tests.

"Talks have been held with the lake wardens and silt will be given to the farmers after tests," said T V Ramachandra, a scientist from the Indian Institute of Science.

Farmers, on the other hand, prefer uncontaminated silt and want the authorities to conduct tests to ensure they are safe. "They say the silt is free to be taken away and are distributing it without tests. In the past, the government gave us silt on subsidised rates from one of the lakes, but people had health problems when the

untested silt was used," said a farmer from Varthur.

Lake warden Jagadish Reddy said only a single layer of silt from these lakes made of organic compounds is usable. "That layer will shrink once the lakes dry out," Reddy said. "The whole portion of the silt could be given to the farmers after testing the quality of the organic matter by the horticulture department and other agencies. If toxic substances are found, making the silt unfit for horticulture purposes, it won't be given to the farmers," he added.

He also said the unqualified silt will be treated and dumped in quarries.

Meanwhile, the Hegde panel has asked for an extension of the deadline to submit their report to the green tribunal. The panel had time until this month. After the NGT gives its nod, the planned rejuvenation works would begin.

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# Fed up with commercial outlets? Air your views here

## DH-PV event today to make localities calmer

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** There have been several efforts to decommercialise residential areas and make neighbourhoods a safe and calm place for citizens. But the issue is still plaguing policymakers and urban planners.

Several resident welfare associations and organisations have staged demonstrations and even knocked on the doors of the court seeking justice.

The eastern, southern and western parts of Bengaluru have been fighting the cause for close to a decade.

In fact, in 2018, parliamentarian P C Mohan, CV Raman Nagar MLA S Raghu, along with the officials of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), had conducted more than five meetings between the traders and residents of Indiranagar, a place which has witnessed the highest number of commercial establishments in Bengaluru.

Even after repeated meetings failed to improve the scenario, Deputy Chief Minister Parameshwara ordered regulation of activities in resi-

**DH & Citizens for Civic Amenities**  
A partnership for better Bengaluru

**Discussion on 'Are residential areas turning commercial against their will?'**

**Venue** The Capitol Hotel, Raj Bhavan Road  
**Date** June 22

**Registration begins at 4.30 pm**



**Gangambike Mallikarjun**

Capitol Hotel, Bengaluru.

The event will be inaugurated by Mayor Gangambike Mallikarjun and will see presentation of views by urban experts V Ravichandrar, Indiranagar RWA collective i-Change Indiranagar member Swarna Venkataraman, along with BBMP officials — G M Ravindra, Joint Commissioner (East), BBMP; R Prasad, Additional Director (Town Planning); Manoranjan Hegde (Chief Health Officer) and B S Prasad, Chief Engineer (East).  
**DH News Service**

dential areas. While the drive gained momentum initially, it lost vigour later with only 715 out of 8,000-plus commercial establishments being cleared.

Taking a close look at the burgeoning crisis across Bengaluru and to provide a platform for citizens and policymakers to address their views, both *Deccan Herald* and *Pravani* in association with DH-PV Citizen for Civic Amenities initiative have organised a citizen interaction programme at 4.30 pm on Saturday at The



**There have been rampant land conversions around Bengaluru. DH PHOTO**

# Forming layout? Govt to fix min land requirement

**Sandesh MS**

**BENGALURU:** Revenue Minister R V Deshpande has sought a scientific report from the Directorate of Town and Country Planning on the minimum area required for forming a housing colony, or layout, with all basic amenities.

The report, when it comes, will help the authorities regulate rampant land conversions and rising litigations over revenue layouts around Bengaluru. If implemented properly, the report could put an end to the unscientific formation of layouts on the outskirts of the city.

Holding a review meeting of sub-registrars and tahsildars on Friday, Deshpande was surprised when no official had a clue about such a requirement.

"While officials have been approving land conversion files, none of them knew the actual extent of land required to develop a layout with all the facilities," a senior revenue official who attended the meeting told *DH*. "The minister came down heavily on tahsildars for blindly clearing land conversion files without visiting the field and ascertaining the facts."

The meeting also exposed unscientific registration of agricultural lands to allow the construction of houses and apartment blocks, which has been leading to ownership clashes.

Bengaluru Urban Deputy Commissioner B M Vijay Shankar told this newspaper: "Developers are only worried about marketing every piece of land and are least bothered about providing basic amenities such as parks. The report will help us check the formation of unscientific layouts."

The minister also ordered taking the possession of encroached lands and preventing further encroachments by land grabbers. Steps have also been taken to protect and preserve reclaimed government land, which can be used to build parks, libraries, etc.  
**DH News Service**

# HC seeks action against illegal religious structures

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** The high court directed the registrar general of the court to initiate a suo motu public interest litigation pertaining to the construction of religious structures encroaching public roads and parks.

A division bench headed by Chief Justice A S Oka was hearing a petition filed by S Ravichandra, who has challenged the illegal construction of a Saibaba temple in a public park measuring one acre situated at Police Quarters, Magadi Road.

The court also observed that the state had failed to implement the Supreme Court's direction issued in 2009 ruling that no unauthorised construction will be permitted in the name of gods and religion on public streets, public parks or places.

The petitioner contended that several representations were submitted to the authorities, but no action was taken. He also said the park was the only space available for the residents of the police quarters, where more than 1,000 police families reside, to walk.

The petitioner has also added that Sri Saibaba Sarvajanika Ganapathi Devalaya Trust claiming to be the sole trustee, with the support of the local MLA, minister/former MLA/MLC has constructed the illegal temple within the park area, and is looting the devotees under the guise of different pujas and ceremonies. The hearing of the case was adjourned to July 2.

# World Yoga Day: Politicians, citizens turn up in large numbers across city

# With health in mind, Bengaluru bends for yoga

**BENGALURU:** Bengalureans embraced yoga on Friday, as young and old, men and women stretched and twisted at various events organised by public institutions in the city.

The Ayush Department's event at Kanteerava Stadium, titled 'Yoga for heart', saw the participation of more than 10,000 people. Patanjali Yoga Shikshana Samiti began the event with Pranava Omkara, Shanti Mantra, breathing exercises and mental preparation.

Health Minister Shivananda Patil, who inaugurated the event, said yoga was part of the ancient wisdom handed down by our forefathers and should not be commercialised. "In 2011, the Indian team won the World Cup with the help of yoga. They should practise it more to emerge champions this time," he said.

The yoga postures of 123-year-old seer from Kolkata Swami Shivananda Babu left participants stunned.

The Bengaluru Division of the South Western Railway also organised a yoga event in which senior officers, including Divisional Railway Manager Shri B G Mallya, took part.

About 6000 persons, including officers, junior com-



missioned officers and others, took part in the Army's Karnataka and Kerala Sub Area's event.

At PES University, about 600 students and members of the teaching faculty participated in the event. Vice Chancellor M R Doreswamy said yoga had been made part of the time-table in the university considering its importance.

At Maulana Azad International Urdu University Polytechnic and Regional Centre, staffers joined the yoga day event. Director of the Centre Khaji Ziaulla spoke about the importance of practising yoga.

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**The 'Yoga for heart' programme at the Kanteerava stadium on Friday attracted thousands of yoga aficionados.**



**(From left) MP Shobha Karandlaje in New Delhi; former chief minister BS Yeddyurappa at the BJP office with party workers in the city; and sports minister Rahim Khan, health minister Shivananda Patil and yoga guru Vachanananda Swami at the Kanteerava stadium. DH PHOTOS/ANUP R THIPPESWAMY**



**Governor Vajubhai Vala at the Bangalore University campus. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT**

# Violinist creates 'Bharatha' raaga

**MYSURU:** Violinist Mysuru Manjunath has created a new raaga 'Bharatha' in Carnatic music as a tribute to Yoga Day.

Manjunath said, "Mysuru is famous for both music and Yoga. June 21 is both International Yoga Day and World Music Day. 'Bharatha' is a musical tribute to yoga."

Yoganiyoga, deemed to be the Yoga anthem composed in 'Bharatha' raaga, was launched in over 2,000 places across the globe. The yoga anthem was played at Mysuru Race Club.

"Creating music is a challenge. It's like creating new words, which are vague most of the times. Once a raaga is created, we have to check, if it already exists among more



**Mysuru Manjunath**

than 50,000 raagas. Every raaga has a character. It projects an emotion. While creating a raaga, we should have a purpose," he said.

"Both music and yoga are related to both spirituality and wellness. The new raaga

should match the concept of yoga. The anthem communicates dignity, to suit the nature of yoga. It is named Bharatha as it gives a sense of strength and power," he said.

The anthem, penned by Sanskrit scholar Shathavadhani R Ganesh, describes yoga through the lyrics of 'Bharatha'. The soundscape was provided by musician Praveen D Rao. The idea of the project was initiated by the Centre for Soft Power and SVYASA Yoga University, Manjunath said.

Manjunath created 'Yaduveera Manohara' a raaga during the wedding of Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar, the scion of Mysuru's erstwhile royal family.  
**DH News Service**



**Yoga teacher Prakash Guruji at the Kanteerava stadium. DH PHOTO/S K DINESH**



**(Top) Yoga enthusiasts at the Sri Sringeri Shankara Mutt in Shankarapuram; (below) students at a yoga session at PES University.**



# School/College corner

## Students' council takes shape at Carmel PU College



**The newly-formed students' council at Carmel PU College. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT**

» The newly-formed students' council at Carmel Pre-University College, Basaveshwara Nagar, was instituted during a grand investiture ceremony on 15 June.

Adrian D'Souza, Founder, Deccan Group of Companies, presided over the function and instituted the council with the authority of powers by giving away badges and sashes.

College principal Sandhya Menezes introduced the new members while Roshan

Menezes administered them the oath of office. Addressing the students, D'Souza reminded them that leadership is more of guiding somebody and not exercising authority. He urged them to imbibe the qualities of humility and simplicity.

Manju, a sub-inspector from the Basaveshwara Nagar police station, cautioned students to stay from bad elements and not fall prey to distractions that would ultimately land them in trouble and legal problems.

## In city today

### GENERAL

**Surana College:** 22nd Graduation Day; Peenya campus; 10.30 am.

**Vasavi Vidyanikethan Trust and Pacer Foundation:** Round table discussion on the draft National Education Policy; VVN Trust, Vanivilas Road, Basavanagudi; 10.30 am.

**REVA University:** Inaugural ceremony of the architecture block; M Venkaiah Naidu, Vice President, to take part; Architecture Block, REVA University, Rukmini Knowledge Park, Kattigenahalli, Yelahanka; 4 pm.

**NMKRV College for Women:** Commerce Fiesta '19; Mangala Mantapa, NMKRV College for Women, Jayanagar; 10 am.

**Indian Institution of Technical Arbitrators:** Workshop on 'Construction contracts and dispute management'; Hotel Rialto, Seshadri Road; 9 am.

### CULTURAL

**Sri Aurobindo Complex Trust:** Sug-

ama Sangeetha; Cultural Hall, Aurobindo Marg, JP Nagar 1st Phase; 5.30 pm.

**Kannada Sahithya Parishath:** Pankajashri Sahithya award and Mahithi Hakku Thagna J M Rajashekhara Prashasti; Krishnaraja Parishanmandira, Kannada Sahithya Parishath, Chamarajpet; 5.30 pm.

**The Kala Premi Foundation:** Evening of Melody; Seva Sadan Auditorium, 14th Cross, Malleswaram; 6 pm.

**Bharatha Jnanabhivruddhi Trust:** Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Jayanthi; Krishnaraja Parishanmandira; Kannada Sahithya Parishath, Chamarajpet; 10.30am.

**Upasana Trust:** Dr H S Venkatesh Murthyavarige Abinadane programme; Dr HN Kalakshetra, Jayanagar 8th Block; 4.30 pm.

**RELIGIOUS**  
**Sai Gitanjali Sri Sathya Sai Seva**

## City weather

**FORECAST:** Generally cloudy sky. Light rain very likely.

### TEMPERATURES

**Maximum** 29.4C

**Minimum** 20.7C

**Rainfall** trace

**Humidity** 78%

**Sunrise** (June 23) 5.55 am

**Sunset** (June 22) 6:48 pm

**Moonrise** 10:51 pm

**Moonset** 9:58 am

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm. Source: IMD)