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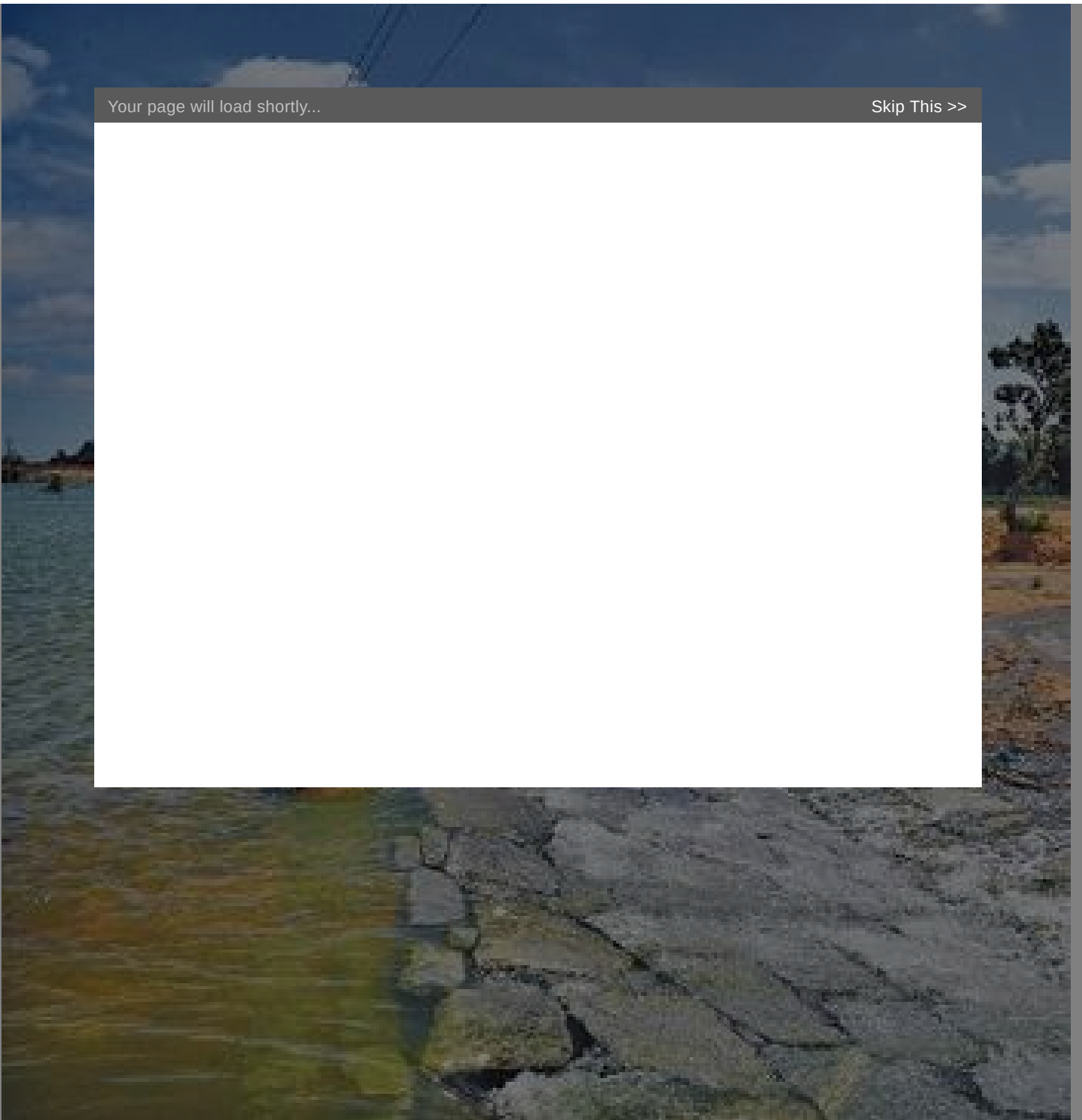


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Lakes in Kolar. (Photo | EPS)

By Akram Mohammed

Express News Service

BENGALURU: Residents of Lakshmisagar and nearby villages in Kolar had been wary of the Koramangala-Challaghatta (KC) Valley scheme ever since the secondary treated water from Bengaluru was released in June this year. Their fears of contaminated water being pumped into the lakes came true in a little over a month as lack of coordination between two departments working on the project

resulted in untreated water that plagues Bellandur, Varthur and other lakes of the city entering the lakes of neighbouring Kolar district.

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“Since a large quantity of vegetables consumed in the city are grown in Kolar and surrounding districts, any toxins or heavy elements in the water pumped to the lakes might enter the food chain causing health problems,” he said. Reddy, one of the petitioners in High Court on the issue, has also demanded that tertiary treated water be released.

However, BWSSB officials have refuted allegations regarding the quality of water, maintaining that all standards were met and heavy elements were below detectable levels.

Experts such as environmentalist A N Yellappa Reddy and IISc scientist T V Ramachandra have urged the government to explore alternate treatment methods to ensure that water pumped into lakes in these drought hit districts.

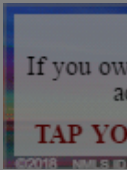
What happened

Ever since the first week of June, during a reality check by The New Indian Express, villagers had complained about the quality of water being supplied. The water, which was first pumped into Lakshmisagar lake, carried a distinct odour of detergent, raising concern among the local population in the parched district.

A Nagaraj, a resident of Lakshmisagar village, who had complained about mild frothing on the edges of lakes and along makeshift canals during the second week of June itself, was of the view that any water source had that water is tertiary treatment like the ones in

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