

Administrator  
promises to  
develop  
Bhyrasandra Lake

**BENGALURU:** Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) will develop the Bhyrasandra Lake under the Nagarothana Scheme, said the Administrator of BBMP, T M Vijay Bhaskar.

A day after the visit of the House panel on Lake Conservation to various City lakes, Vijay Bhaskar visited Kempambudhi Lake, Lakkasandra and Bhyrasandra lakes on Thursday and gathered information about the status of these water bodies.

Vijay Bhaskar said the Bhyrasandra Lake will not only be developed under the scheme but also be protected from sewage as well as encroachments.

The Administrator was pained to see the dumping of garbage and sewage spoiling the historic Kempambudhi lake. He directed the BBMP officials to draw an effective action plan to divert sewage through underground drainage system and revive the lake. On the occasion, some residents too gave a representation to him with a request to save the historic tank.

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In brief

Japan photo

# Bellandur lake polluted by trade effluents, BWSSB tells Upa Lokayukta

## Recent fire caused by chemicals, says water board's engineer-in-chief

**BENGALURU:** Lack of treatment plants and release of trade effluents from nearby industries have polluted the Bellandur lake, the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has stated in a preliminary report to the Upa Lokayukta.

Five out of the 17 in-let points at the lake are functional only during the rainy season and treatment plants have been set up at two points. In the remaining in-let points, sewage water directly enters the lake, causing pollution, the BWSSB's engineer-in-chief, T Venkataraju, stated.

Establishing treatment plants at all in-let points may cost around Rs 1,000 crore, the report stated. In respect of Nagasandra slum, Nagasandra Colony, Iblur, Agaram, Agaram Pump House and ST Bed (Shanivagilu Tank) Koramangala, the work is under progress. Venkataraju submitted that government sanction was necessary to set up treatment plants at all in-let points in the vast area of lake, around 471 acres.

The BWSSB engineer-in-chief also stated that there are almost 110 villages around Varthur and Bellandur lakes. "The BWSSB submitted that

close to 500 industries are situated at different places and trade effluents enter Bellandur and Varthur lakes. Large quantity of chemicals and other minerals entering the lake has caused the recent fire. This apart, most of the storm water drains connecting both the lakes have been encroached upon. As a result, free flow of water from Agara lake to Bellandur and from Bellandur to Varthur and downstream has been blocked. This has resulted in large quantity of foam formation at the narrow storm water area," Upa Lokayukta Justice Subhash B Adi said.

According to the deputy commissioner of Bengaluru Urban, the Varthur and Bellandur lakes are spread over 919 acres; Varthur lake alone spans about 448 acres. Seven surveyors are engaged in the survey which would take 15 more days to get over. They are also identifying encroachments around both the lakes, he submitted. On his part, the chief engineer (Lakes) of the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) submitted that fencing of the lakes could be completed only after encroachments were identified and cleared.

Environmentalists and residents of the nearby area have



**WORRYING SIGNS:** Free flow of water from Agara lake to Bellandur and from Bellandur to Varthur and downstream has been blocked. This has resulted in the formation of large quantity of foam at the narrow storm water area, says Upa Lokayukta. DH PHOTO

told the Upa Lokayukta that the Sewage Water Plants (STPs) set up by the BWSSB and apartments will not reduce the water pollution. Despite treatment, nitrate and phosphorous continues to remain in the water and it was unfit for consumption. "The environmentalists stated that so far as Bellandur and Varthur lake are concerned, the provision for wetland is necessary after the

discharge of sewage water treatment. There is a valley between Bellandur and Varthur which could be used as wetland for bioremediation. Besides, the two lakes can be used as tourism spots. Development of these lakes requires the involvement of senior officials and experts to evolve a permanent solution at the earliest," Justice Adi said.

The Upa Lokayukta has

called a high-level meeting on June 4 and directed the Additional Chief Secretary (Urban Development Department), the chairman of the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, the managing director of the Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation and Prof P V Ramachandra of the Centre for Environmental Sciences from IISc to be present.

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