

Airport Road Raises a Stink

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HEBBAL: A stench hits passers-by near the Esteem Mall flyover, and nothing has been done about it in a year.

Venkat, a commuter who catches a bus there, said, “I don't see anything being done about it.” S P Rudramurthy, Chief Engineer (Projects) at BWSSB, told City Express, “There is a stretch of flowing sewage water in that area. Water is comes down from areas such as Vidyaranyapura that are upstream.”



He is aware of the stink, and says water stagnates near the flyover because of construction debris.

“We are building a pipeline in a storm water drain that will join the Raja Kaluve on Hennur Road. The sewage water will be treated there. This is being done under a Rs 60 crore project with the World Bank’s help,” he said.

He admits the stink is bad, and gets worse in the evenings. The Hebbal Crematorium is also in the same area.

Ramanjaneya, BBMP Asst Executive Engineer for the area, says, “We have a filter at the crematorium to make sure that only clean air is let out. The drains and sewage are causing the stench and we hope BWSSB takes care of it.”

Environmentalists emphasise the need to recycle sewage water before it is released into the lakes.

Prof T V Ramachandra from Centre for Ecological Sciences at Indian Institute of Science, said, “Builders dump construction debris in the drain. Stagnation of this water leads to the generation of smelly gases like hydrogen sulphide and hence the stink.”

“We have a state-of-the-art airport in Bengaluru but those who travel into the city are being exposed to this stink. If we do not treat our sewage, this will only get worse,” he warned.