

NOW YAMLUR FROTHS, BUT AUTHORITIES DO NOT CARE

By Preethi Ravi, Bangalore Mirror Bureau | May 21, 2016, 02.00 AM IST



Six months to build a ramp around lake to reduce the froth due to churning water, but it serves no purpose

Despite it being a year since the frothing of the lakes in Bengaluru caught the attention of international media, there has been no respite for the residents living near lakes, thanks to untreated sewage. With the onset of heavy rains for the last two days, Yamlur lake located behind HAL airport has begun to froth. Resident living nearby have to put up with the stench and consequent skin allergies and respiratory diseases. This brings the focus on the officials, who are indifferent to this situation.

"Presently, there is more froth in Yamlur than in Bellandur lake as there is construction going on for sewage treatment," said Balasubramaniam V, a Yamlur resident, who works in an IT firm. An IISc study mentions that frothing occurs due to particulate organic and inorganic compounds. Most surfactants originate from detergents, oil and grease that is used in households or industries. Turbulence occurs in the lakes, hence froth is formed.

RAMPANT ALLERGIES AND WHEEZING

The unbearable stench from the lake that is triggered during the rains has made residents' lives difficult. The toxic air has been causing respiratory illnesses among residents. According to the study conducted by IISc a year ago, on bursting, the foam bubbles emit chemical mist that is toxic in nature. When this comes in contact with the skin surface or nasal passages, irritation is caused. TV Ramachandra from IISc, said, "Inhaling of toxic air on regular bases can lead to cancer and other respiratory disorders in the long run." Abhinandan Y, a resident of Yamlur for over four years, said he had seen an increase in cases of wheezing among families living in his apartment.

"I often get eye irritation and headaches, these days. The officials should take serious note of this issue before it goes out of hand."

ENCROACHMENT OF RAJAKALUVE

Srinivas R, a resident of the area for over 36 years, says the encroachment of rajakaluve has led to stagnation of water and flooding in Yamalur. "Nearly four decades ago, families living around were dependent on the lake, but today it's become unfit even for fishes," he said. He further added that the Yamalur lake is an orphan lake. "When we tried to complaint to BBMP, BWSSB and LDA, nobody takes any responsibility for this lake. There is garbage near the lake, it mixes with the water, which leads to breeding mosquitoes and dengue. Several complaints to the officials have fallen on deaf ears," added Srinivas.

TRAFFIC ISSUES

Thanks to the heavy rains in the last two days, there is chaos when it comes to traffic. The Yamalur Bridge is an intermediate road from Marathahalli to Bellandur, which is always piled up during peak hours.

But with the rains, frothing increases and it is spilling over on to the roads, which adds to the traffic woes. Aiyappa MM, who works in Manyata Embassy Business Park, said, "There is no road, there are only potholes."

TEMPORARY EFFORTS FAIL

The officials built a ramp at Yamalur lake to prevent frothing but this was a futile task, according to the residents. "The officials took nearly six months to build that ramp to reduce the churning of the water flow to reduce the froth. This was a temporary effort and utterly useless. Instead, they should have used to the money for the construction of an STP, which is a permanent solution. The temporary measures like building of the ramp and fencing around the lake, are just an eye wash." Chief engineer of BWSSB, SM Ramakishna, did not respond to BM's calls for his reaction.

WORK INSPECTOR SUSPENDED

Meanwhile, Bommanahalli zone's work inspector Chandrashekhar (ward No 191, Singasandra) was suspended after he reportedly did not attend at rainaffected area on Thursday night.

It is said that after rain lashed South Bengaluru, including some parts of Bommahalli, shoulder drains were flooded and water was flowing on the road.

An official said that he was on night duty and citizens called Bommanhalli zone and reported that rain water was over flowing on the roads in the few areas of HSR Layout, Kodi Cikkanahalli, Anugrah Layout and some parts of Puttenahalli area. Citizens also complained that Chandrashekhar did not respond to calls and misbehaved over phone. On this basis, he has been suspended.

Rs 32CR SPENT ON SILT REMOVAL ALREADY

Interestingly, the BBMP claims that it has taken up silt removal work from storm water drains and till now it has spent nearly Rs 32 crore. This apart, Rs 1 lakh each has been sanctioned at sub-division level to tackle rain-related emergency works in the next four months. The officials have also been asked to remove garbage and trees growing inside the valleys and SWD spread over 863 kms in the city.

NEXT 48 HOURS

Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain/thundershowers. Maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to be around 31 and 22 degree Celsius respectively

GALLERIES



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