

Govt orders expert panel to oversee Bellandur lake survey

BENGALURU, DHNS: To rejuvenate and comprehensively develop the highly polluted Bellandur lake, the state government on Tuesday formally issued an order constituting an expert committee with a mandate to undertake and oversee a scientific survey of the city's biggest water body.

Headed by Additional Chief Secretary (Urban Development), Mahendra Jain, the committee has as its members the Commissioners of the BDA and the BBMP; Member Secretary, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board; Chairman, BWSSB; Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru Urban District; Dr T V Ramachandra, Indian Institute of Science; Prof Ramaprasad; Dr Yellappa Reddy, Environment expert; Dr Sharath Chandra, Atree; president, Bellandur Residents Welfare Association; Ramamurthy; Siddaiah, former BBMP Commissioner; CEO, Karnatak Lake Development Authority; Secretary, Minor Irrigation Department; Chief Engineer (Waste Water Management), BWSSB; Engineer Member, BDA and CEO, Namma Bengaluru Foundation.

Bengaluru Development Minister K J George had announced the setting up of the committee at a recent workshop

organised by the BDA on Bellandur lake. The panel, he said, would submit its report to the government in three weeks. Namma Bengaluru Foundation, lake experts and other NGOs had made power-point presentations on the possible ways to rejuvenate the lake.

Terms of reference

The committee's terms of reference for the restoration and rejuvenation of the lake would be:

- To suggest a vendor agnostic appropriate technology that could be used / adopted for a one-time restoration / rejuvenation of the lake;
- To recommend targeted quality parameters of the lake water to be achieved on completion of the restoration project;
- Mode of maintenance after completion of the project;
- To suggest a structure for a sustainable and critical biodiversity conservation project;
- To prepare timely and detailed technical reports, letters and documents;
- To arrange individual / group field visits to monitor the project progress; to document the events properly; and
- To support activities linked to organisation of conferences, seminars and training courses.