

# Sewage, excess fish polluted Ulsoor Lake, says report

Pollution board proposes treatment plant, monitoring pisciculture

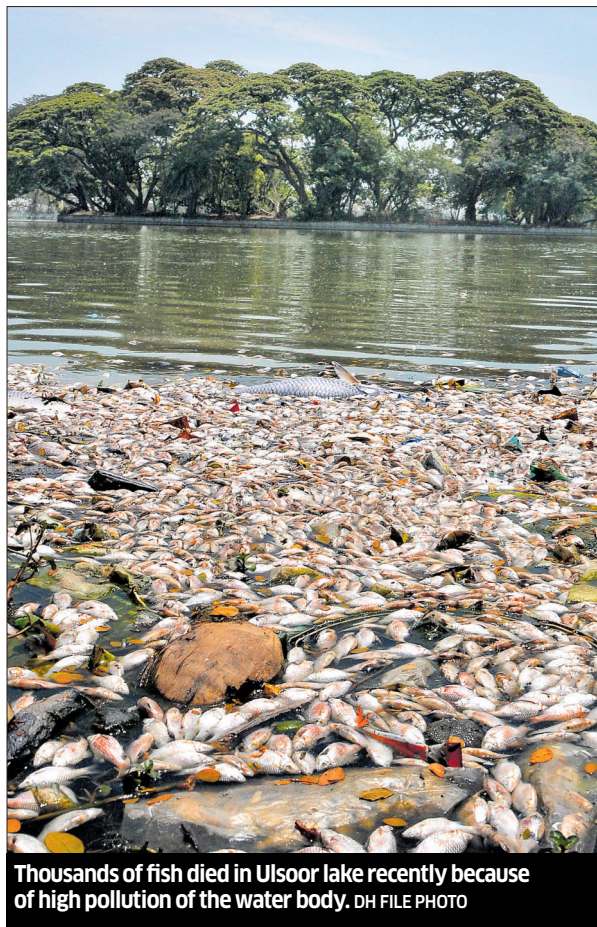
Bosky Khanna

**BENGALURU:** The Ulsoor Lake, where scores of dead fish surfaced recently, is highly polluted because of sewage and unscientific pisciculture, the pollution control board's analysis reveals. Releasing a report to various stakeholders, the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), also made certain recommendations, including setting up of a sewage treatment plant.

According to the report, dissolved oxygen (DO) level was 0.3 milligrams a litre (mg/l) against the prescribed 4mg/l near the Madras Engineering Group (MEG) Centre. The level of biological dissolved oxygen was 48 mg/l. The total coliform bacteria also exceeded the limit because of sewage entering the lake.

The report notes that though sewage was diverted into sewers, it was seeping in from the damaged storm water drains. It also shows that local fish density in the lake had increased. The contractor, during pisciculture released 1,75,000 fingerlings into the lake against the permitted 80,000 in 40 hectares of the lake. This also led to drop in DO levels.

On March 6 and 7, scores of dead fish were found floating on the lake. The KSPCB collected water samples on March 7 and 8 and convened a meet-



Thousands of fish died in Ulsoor lake recently because of high pollution of the water body. DH FILE PHOTO

ing with stake holders.

KSPCB chairman Lakshman told Deccan Herald that the report was submitted to the government and other departments including Bangalore Water Supply and Sewage Board (BWSSB), Bruhat Ben-

galuru Mahanagara Palike, Fisheries Department, Lake Development Authority, MEG & Centre and fishermen's association.

"We have given them a list of recommendations and called for their immediate im-

plementation," Lakshman said. KSPCB, which has given Rs 100 crore to BWSSB for establishing sewage treatment plants at Bellandur and Varthur Lake catchment areas, has asked it to reserve Rs 4 crore for setting up an STP of

2 MLD capacity within 12 months at Ulsoor Lake. "We have also directed them to examine, plan and prepare a detailed project report before commencing work," Lakshman added.

**DH News Service**

## KSPCB's recommendations

- Fisheries department should monitor activities of the contractor after leasing the lake for pisciculture.
- BWSSB should set up an STP upstream of the lake and ensure only treated water enters the lake. MEG should spare half an acre of land for this.
- BBMP should reconstruct the wetland before the monsoon. For this bund, a well-designed screen should be set up to arrest entry of floating debris.
- BBMP should provide diffused micro-bubblers at the sedimentation tank and should also provide fountains in the main water body.
- BBMP should provide online pH and DO meters at appropriate locations in consultation with KSPCB.
- Fisheries department should periodically monitor hydrobiological and physicochemical levels at the lake. This should be done in all lakes wherever pisciculture is undertaken.
- Fisheries department should also establish a nursery within the lake to facilitate pisciculture.
- Before next pisciculture contract is awarded, fisheries department should regulate inlet of fingerlings.
- Fisheries cooperative society must keep lake clean.
- MEG should ensure effluents generated from canteen and toilets are discharged only into underground BWSSB drains.
- MEG should deploy two power boats in the lake for at least two hours a day.



Palike workers and volunteers remove dead fish from Devarabeesanahalli lake on Saturday. DH PHOTO

## Dead fish removed from DB Halli lake

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** The workers of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike and volunteers on Saturday cleared the dead fish that surfaced at Devarabeesanahalli (DB Halli) lake at Sarjapura three days ago.

Hundreds of dead fish were removed from the water body by the Palike workers, Wipro employees and members of 'Friends of Lakes', a group that works for the rejuvenation of lakes in and around the City. Weeds and plastic were also cleared along with fish, during the three-hour drive. Ram Prasad, convenor and founder of FOB, said the dissolved oxygen content in the water had come down leading to the death of aquatic creatures.

"The role of citizens is as important as that of the civic agencies in saving the lake," he opined. Vijay Nishant, an urban conservationist, said the stench

emanating from the lake had reduced after the dead fish were cleared. "The flow of sewage into the water body is mainly responsible for the death of fish," he said.

An official from the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, who visited the spot to take stock of the situation, told *Deccan Herald* that a report will be prepared based on the water sample collected. "The improper functioning of a sewage treatment plant set up on the lake premises seems to have triggered the death of fish in the lake. The report would outline the exact cause," he added.

KSPCB officials said that a notice would be issued to the guilty - the BBMP, BWSSB, apartments or private companies - if there was any violation of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974. They said that the report on Ulsoor lake incident would be ready soon.

## 'Garbage scam costing Palike Rs 37 cr a month'