

REMOVAL OF WEEDS UNDER WAY: OFFICIAL

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The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has claimed that 95% of the weeds in Bellandur lake has been removed. "Because of the rains, the operation has slowed down. But we expect it to be completed within two weeks," said P.N. Naik, engineering member, BDA.

He said over 19,000 tonnes of wet weeds has been removed and composting will begin within a week.

However, T.V. Ramachandra of the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), one of the members of the expert committee, called the steps an "eyewash". "Industrial and domestic effluents continue to flow into the lake. Encroachments have not been removed. Even the removal of weeds is not being done with sincerity. These are just ad hoc measures and [are] clearly not enough."

Reacting to the National Green Tribunal pulling up the State in an emergency hearing on Thursday, Jagadesh Reddy, member of Varthur Rising, said: "It is evident that the recommendations of the expert committee are not being followed and citizens are apprehensive about the funds allocated for cleaning the lake."