

DH Spotlight on May 27 to focus on revival of Bellandur, Hebbal lakes

BENGALURU, DHNS: With a push by the National Green Tribunal (NGT), efforts to revive the city's dying Bellandur and Hebbal lakes are on an overdrive.

To discuss the issue threadbare in an open forum, *DH* has organised the third edition of its 'Deccan Herald Spotlight' at the East Cultural Association, 100 Feet Road, Indiranagar on Saturday, May 27, 5 pm.

Themed "Bringing Bellandur and Varthur lakes Back to Life", the event will have its focus riveted on the city's endangered water bodies and the sustainability of the revival efforts.

Designed to be interactive, engaging and informative, the Spotlight discussion will be led by Mahendra Jain, Additional Chief Secretary, Urban Development.

Offering his researched inputs will be Dr TV Ramachandra, Co-ordinator, Energy and Wetlands Research Group, Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science.

Also high on the agenda will be the insights of Environment Support Group (ESG) coordinator, Leo Saldanha; Bangalore Development Authority

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(BDA) Member Engineer P N Nayak and Usha Rajagopalan, trustee, Puttenahalli Neighbourhood Lake Improvement Trust. Participants could register online at <http://www.deccanherald.com/spotlight>. Spot registrations will begin at the venue at 4.30 pm. Over 300 citizens and lake activists are expected to take part in the event. They can pose questions to the panellists on lake revival efforts and trigger engaging discussions. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had on Monday visited Bellandur lake and urged BDA, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) to speed up the clean-up drive. NGT's deadline will end in a few days.

Two weed harvesters and earthmovers are currently engaged in removing wild plants from the lake. More such machines are expected to join the revival efforts soon.