

Metro

Get grievances redressed at Janaspandana



BENGALURU: Citizens often complaining about their voices not being heard may not get the appropriate forum to air their woes.

But here is an opportunity for the residents of Byatarayanapura Assembly constituency to highlight woes in their area and get them redressed. *Deccan Herald* and *Prajavani* are holding 'Janaspandana - Citizens for Change' programme at the amphitheatre in Sahakaranagar, behind Balamuri Ganapathi temple, at 10 am on Saturday, April 22.

Agriculture Minister and local MLA Krishna Byregowda, corporators, officers from various government agencies such as Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, Bangalore Development Authority, Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board, Bescom and police will attend the event.

The event will cover Jakkur, Thanisandra, Byatarayanapura, Kodigehalli, Vidyanarayapura, Doddabommasandra and Kuvempunagar wards of the BBMP.

'Janaspandana - Citizens for Change' held at various places in the past brought relief to thousands of people as their grievances were addressed instantly. Issues that are often discussed at Janaspandana include roads, pavements, drains, streetlights, law and order, traffic, parks, playgrounds, open spaces, government schools, waste management, khata-related problems, tax collection, water, sewage, lakes and power outages.

Citizens willing to speak about the civic woes in their localities should reach the venue by 9 am and register their names.

They can contact Chandrashekar on 99017 21060 or email at janaspandana@printersmysore.co.in **DH News Service**

Govt begins lake cleaning

Lake cleaning, from Page 1

P N Nayak, BDA engineer-member, said fencing of the lake, started a month ago, was 70% done. "Weeding will start in three or four days. That is the immediate action we are taking," he told the meeting.

BBMP engineers promised to clear the debris from the stormwater drains. Their BWSSB counterparts said they would speed up the work on sewage treatment plants. Some committee members suggested the water body be handed over to defence personnel, as proposed earlier. "We are pressing for it, as it is the only way to revive the dying lake," Ramachandra said.

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HC stays proceedings against 2 ret'd BWSSB engineers

BENGALURU, DHNS: The high court on Thursday stayed the lower court proceedings against two retired BWSSB engineers S Krishnappa and N Narasimha Murthy booked for failing to control pollution in the city's lakes.

The pollution control board (KSPCB) had initiated criminal proceedings against the engineers who had failed to control the flow of sewage water into Madivala and Arakeri lakes.

KSPCB had filed a complaint under the provisions of Water Act, 1974, where the board has contended that the sewage was allowed to flow into the stormwater drain (SWD), which ultimately reached the lakes and polluted them. The petitioner said sewage water flowed into the lake through SWD which are controlled by BBMP. They said sewage flows from 110 villages where BWSSB's infrastructure is not present.

Uncertain future: 'Highly-polluting' HAL airport too in close proximity to water body 'Vicinity' problem may hinder closing of industries around Bellandur lake

Rasheed Kappan

BENGALURU: Shutting down industries that let out untreated effluents into drains leading to the Bellandur lake might not happen in a hurry. Reason: Lack of clarity on the extent of the lake's catchment area.

Hundreds of small-scale industrial units linked to garments, laundry, dyeing, leather tanning and automobile maintenance have sprung up around the lake. Many, it is suspected, discharge their chemical-rich waste water into stormwater drains that directly flow into the lake.

But if the lake receives 447 Million Litres Daily (MLD) of untreated sewage, shouldn't the scope of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) order be expanded to cover 40% of the area under Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP)?

Official estimates say as much as 1,400 MLD of sewage is generated in areas under BBMP's jurisdiction.

"Sewage generated by apartments, houses and other units in Bellandur and other areas surrounding the lake cannot exceed 2-3 MLD. How do you account for the 447 MLD?" wonders environmentalist

KLCDA plans to implement wetlands model to revive polluted lake

Bosky Khanna

BENGALURU: While the urban development department is chalking out engineering methods to revive the 900-acre Bellandur lake, the Karnataka Lake Conservation and Development Authority (KLCDA) is planning to implement the wetland model for cleaning the lake and conserving it.

G Vidyasagar, KLCDA chief executive officer told *DH* that it is first important to stop dumping in the lake and work on that has already started. Then the work on reviving the lake is needed.

"The wetland concept is cheaper and faster. Of course, it calls for periodic maintenance which can be done. This will be discussed with stakeholders on Friday. We also have to see how to handle hyacinth and silt accumulated over the years. KLCDA will discuss with IISc also," he said.

The wetland concept implemented by Prof C R Babu at the Yamuna Biodiversity Park

HC permits UBHL to seek more time in arbitration matter

BENGALURU: The High Court of Karnataka on Thursday permitted United Breweries (Holdings) Ltd (UBHL) to get consent from the official liquidator for extension of time for pronouncement of award in a separate arbitration matter involving the embattled company.

Counsel for UBHL placed before the court a letter addressed to Justice S P Bharucha, the former Chief Justice of India who is the arbitrator in arbitration proceedings between UBHL and others and Zuari Fertilizers and Chemicals and others.

UBHL sought the court's permission for extension of time to pronounce the award in arbitration for six months from February 18, 2017. UBHL filed an Original Side Appeal against the ruling by a single judge to wind up the company for its inability to pay loans to international companies and a consortium of banks. UBHL argued that it had no obligation to repay the loans as it was only the principal guarantor.

The lenders filed a case against UBHL seeking their dues from the now-defunct Kingfisher Airlines. UBHL had given corporate guarantees for loans to run Kingfisher, which caused the collapse of Vijay Mallya's liquor business. Mallya owns 52.34% in UBHL. A division bench of Chief Jus-



Industries, small and big, are directly responsible for the heavy metal contamination of the lake water, and the KSPCB should be squarely blamed for letting them operate, says Dr T V Ramachandra from the IISc. KSPCB chairman Lakshman inspects a frothing Bellandur lake in this DH file photo.

Nagesh Aras.

The definition of 'vicinity' would require more clarity. Aras explained, "For instance, would the Iblur lake - which is linked to the Bellandur lake by a 400m channel - be part of the latter's catchment area? Any pollutant that enters the

Iblur lake will reach the downstream Bellandur lake in two hours."

Industries would also mean the big public sector undertakings, many of which lack adequate Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs). Since these PSUs were well outside the city

limits when they were established decades ago, STPs were not mandated for them.

However, the city's explosive growth has brought these industries well within the BBMP area. Many of them are in close proximity to the Bellandur lake. So is the HAL airport,

classified under the extreme red category by the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB).

By implication, 'industries' could also include hundreds of car and bike garages that repair smoke-spewing automobiles and release the pollutants into drains. This way, vehicular pollutants can take on an industrial dimension. Airborne pollutants released by slow-moving vehicles settle down and are washed by rains into the lakes adding to the heavy metal silt.

'KSPCB's negligence'

Industries, small and big, are directly responsible for the heavy metal contamination of the lake water, and the KSPCB should be squarely blamed for letting them operate, contended Dr T V Ramachandra from Indian Institute of Science.

The KSPCB's negligence, he said, had led to mushrooming of polluting industries around the lake. Zero discharge claims are bogus. Even big aviation companies in the lake's vicinity are at fault. Samples tested from the Bellandur lake had shown traces of aviation fuel. Stringent enforcement of the rules by the KSPCB could have prevented this, he added.

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Green board to list polluters on its website

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) will put up a list of all the 585 industries which are polluting Bellandur lake on its website.

"We are yet to receive the National Green Tribunal order but based on media reports, we have started issuing notices to industries," said KSPCB chairman Lakshman.

He said the 585 industries have been categorised based on the level of pollutants. "We will act tough against all of them. As many as 97 are extremely hazardous and we will deal with them as sternly as possible," said Lakshman.

On the decision to list violators on its website, Lakshman said it is a way to shame the polluters and make people aware who is behind the damage caused to Bengaluru's ecology.

"It is another way of preventing polluters from causing damage. Once neighbours too come to know about the polluter, they will raise an alarm on spotting any repeat violation," said Lakshman.

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Garment units around Bellandur in a tizzy after NGT's closure order

Most of the units were said to have shifted from Tiruppur in Tamil Nadu

BENGALURU: A day after the National Green Tribunal (NGT) ordered the state government to close industries around Bellandur lake, several garment factories involved in dyeing and washing clothes were in a state of panic.

The NGT ordered closure of 97 garment units which are polluting the city's biggest waterbody. Most of them are small units on Haralur Road, Kudlu Gate and Bommanahalli and have moved here from Tiruppur in Tamil Nadu after the government there cracked down on them.

A prominent fabric company with its head office in Bengaluru has 30 units across the city. Soon after the NGT order, its officials visited all the units asking their staff not to let out any untreated effluents.

Requesting anonymity, an executive of the company said: "We do not know whether we are among those named in the list of 97 units but we are taking extra precautions. Since morning, our superiors have been visiting all our units."

Karnataka State Industrial

Oxygen injections to rejuvenate gasping lake

BENGALURU: A Bengaluru startup has offered to help revive Bellandur lake by introducing oxygen injections into the polluted waterbody.

Sunandan Lala, technical consultant at PCI Gases, told *DH* that they can offer a free month-long demonstration on how inducing dissolved oxygen injections into the lake helps revive it.

"This method is common in Europe, but has never been tried here. If the government gives us a 8x6 metre plot, in a month we assure positive results. The government will just have to provide us the electricity to operate our machines," he said.

Explaining the model, he said they have equipment filled with oxygen. Into this, a small quantity of lake water is mixed and then released back

into the lake. "As the lake is highly polluted, oxygen cannot be introduced directly into it. Hence, it has to be dissolved with the same water and then released into the lake. This is effective as oxygen can be inducted as and when required," he said.

"We have a 30-35 cubic feet cylinder ready at our plant in Bommasandra to be used immediately. We are a three-month-old organisation in the city, generating oxygen for hospitals and industries," he said.

Lala said this method would not cost the government more than Rs 4 lakh to 5 lakh and can be adopted along with other methods for quick results, especially on improving the water quality.

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A part of the lake scarred by an accidental fire early this year. DH FILE PHOTO.

in New Delhi and Prof T V Ramachandra in Jakkur lake are very inspiring, he said. Inputs from these two models will be taken for reviving Bellandur and Varthur lakes, he added. KLCDA also introduced the engineered wetland model on Agara lake and it has shown positive results, he said.

The engineered wetland model includes mechanical, biological and purification meth-

ods to treat sewage and clean a water body. But the wetland concept is purely biological where plants which absorb nutrients and clean the water body are introduced.

Ramachandra from Centre for Ecological Sciences, IISc said the wetland concept is cost-effective. But the biggest challenge before the government is to stop the 400 mld of sewage entering the lake.

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The city weather cooled down following the unseasonal rainfall on Thursday evening. DH PHOTO

Rain brings chill in air, today could be no different

BENGALURU: Cool weather persisted in the city as several areas experienced rainfall on Thursday afternoon, which continued intermittently into the late evening.

According to India Meteorological Department (IMD), the city recorded 0.6 mm of rainfall at 5.30 pm, which increased to 1 mm at 8.30 pm. HAL airport recorded 0.4 mm of rainfall but no rain was recorded at the Kempegowda International Airport.

Sundar M Metri, in-charge director, IMD Bengaluru, said similar weather conditions

would prevail on Friday, with cloudy skies, rainfall and thundershowers towards the evening and night.

The rainfall brought relief from the heat and brought down temperatures. Maximum temperature in the city was 35.2 degrees Celsius and minimum 23.9 degrees Celsius. At the international airport, maximum temperature was 35.2 degrees Celsius and minimum 24 degrees Celsius while at the HAL airport, maximum temperature was 34.8 degrees Celsius and minimum 23 degrees Celsius. Tempera-

tures are expected to remain in this range on Friday, too. The rain was accompanied by thunder in some areas, and wind speed was 30 kmph at 3.45 pm.

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) control room received many calls regarding damage to trees. Six trees came down in Remco Layout, RPC Layout, Sunkadakkatte and Basaveshwaranagar. Fifteen tree branches fell in Nandini layout, Basaveshwaranagar; Attiguppe, Vijayanagar, NR Colony, Bapuji Nagar and other places.

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In city today

GENERAL
Bangalore University and Enable India: Workshop on Braille, Jnana Jyothi auditorium, Central College, 11 am.

National Collection: Felicitation to freedom fighter H S Doreswamy, Dr H N Multimedia conference hall, National College, Basavanagudi, 11 am.

Karnataka Human Rights Commission: One day workshop for health workers and public for awareness on human rights and protection, City Primary Health Centre, BBMP Maternity Hospital premises, Palace Guttahalli, 10.30 am.

Exhibition: "Crystal" jewellery and clothes exhibition, Hotel Lalit Ashok, Kumara Krupa Road, 10.30 am.

CULTURAL
Sri Rama Seva Mandal: 79th Rama Navami Music Festival, concert by Trichur brothers, Vidyaubhushan, 21/1, 4th Main, 2nd Cross, Fort High School premises, Chamaraipet, 6.30 pm.

Institute of World Culture: Talk by H S Satyanarayana on "B G L Swamy", Wadia Hall, B P Wadia Road, Basavanagudi, 6.15 pm.

Bengaluru Lalitkala Parishath: Play on "Beedi Bimba Rangada Thumba", written by Karanam Pavan Prasad and directed by Nandeesh Acharya, Dr H N Kalakshetra, 36th Cross, 2nd Main, 7th Block, Jayanagar, 6.30 pm.

Aishwarya Kalaniketan: Comedy play "Kirik Currency" directed by Raju Vaividhya, Udayabhanu Kalasanga, R K Mutt Layout, Kempegowda Nagar, 7 pm.

RELIGIOUS
Sharada Tutorials: Discourse on "Transcendental Meditation" by Rishi Seshadri, Tutorial premises, No 50,

4th Cross, Mallewaram, 6 pm.
Vedanta Satsanga Kendra: "Satyam Jnanamanantam Brahma" by K G Subraya Sharma, Adiyanta Mandira, V V Puram, 7.45 am.

Paramartha Vichara Sangha Trust: "Swarupanupamardena" by Dr K G Subraya Sharma, Adiyanta Mandira, V V Puram, 7.45 am.

Sri Shankara Jayanthi Mandali: Talk on "Thaitiropanishath" by Yogesh Joshi, Sri Shankara Jayanthi Mandali, Shankara Krupa Road, 16th Cross, III Block, Jayanagar, 6 pm.

Ragigudda Sri Prasanna Anjaneyaswamy Bhaktamandali Trust: Talk on "Adhyatma Ramayana" by Lakshmesh Bhat, Sankrutika Mandali, 9th Block, Jayanagar, 6.30 pm.

City weather

FORECAST: Partly cloudy sky. A spell of rain/thundershower likely during night.

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	35.2 C
Minimum	23.9 C

Rainfall 0.6 mm

Humidity 60 pc

Sunrise 6.03 am

Sunset 6.33 pm

Moonrise 1.55 pm

Moonset 1.52 am

(Onset data recorded at 5.30 pm. Source: IMD)