

BDA's Master Plan-2031 proposes to recycle water

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** BDA's provisional Revised Master Plan-2031 has laid emphasis on recycling water for potable and non-potable purposes. The master plan also intends on getting water from Linganamakki dam to Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) limits.

The master plan highlights an increase of city's population. It also predicts a rise in the migratory population in Bengaluru, which will contribute to an increased demand for water. BDA has proposed in the plan to utilise water from Sharavathi basin, apart from utilising the existing water resources to the optimum. BDA officials emphasized the importance of people opting for rainwater harvesting and that BBMP and other departments must improve the drainage and water supply connections.

The official pointed that the water level in Linganamakki dam is 151 tmcft. B N Thyagaraj committee had earlier made a suggestion that if water can be supplied to Linganamakki dam it can also be supplied to BBMP areas.

## In city today

### GENERAL

**Indian Red Cross Society and Bangalore University:** Inter-State Youth Motivation Camp, inauguration by H N Ramesh, V-C of BU, NSS Bhavan, Jnanabharathi campus, 11 am

**Bangalore Canine Club:** 23rd and 24th International Dog Show and Bangalore Canine Club All Breed 40th and 41st championship dog show, White Orchid, Manyata Tech Park, Outer Ring Road, 9 am

**Jawahar Lal Nehru Planetarium:** Exhibition 'Science in Action' for students of class VII and above, Experiments on Tesla coil, Thermochromism, Magic fire and water rocket propulsion, 10.30 am

**Sri Skanda Co-operative Society Limited:** Opening Ceremony, guest Siddalinga Mahaswami, seer of Siddaganga Mutt, No 100, 2nd main, Annapoorneshwari Nagar circle, Nagarbhavi, 9.30 am

**Goethe-Institut Indien:** Experimenta 2017, the International

# Green disaster: No coordination between Palike, BDA Varthur Lake breaches once again, thanks to BBMP's negligence

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Waste weir breach was once again reported in Varthur Lake on Thursday due to engineering negligence and lack of coordination between the BBMP and the Bangalore Development Authority.

On Thursday morning, local residents noticed water from the lake overflowing into the waste weirs, as the sandbags stacked on the Varthur village side was ineffective in preventing the drain.

Observing the lake gradually bleeding dry, locals were quick to alert the citizens and the authorities concerned.

Members of the White-



Foam seen at Varthur lake. DH PHOTO / JANARDHAN B K

field Rising said the lake had also breached a month and a

Kodi close to the lake bed and stacked a wall of sandbags 20 days ago to prevent the lake from draining.

The road-widening work is taking place on the waste weir and the authorities had dyked up the lake's north-eastern side. This seemed to have increased the pressure on the south-western side of the lake facing up to the village and caused the breach.

The same side of the lake had breached during the south-west monsoon season and now, water flowed down the waste weir and further downstream, members of the Whitefield Rising said.

BDA executive engineer

Veersingh Nayak, who rushed to the spot, blamed it on the BBMP's negligence. The civic body has been instructed to consult with the BDA and take its permission before carrying out public works, he added.

He also said the BBMP has been asked to install pipes and appropriately divert water before embarking on any civic work.

An on-sight BBMP engineer, seeking anonymity, said the breach could have happened due to negligence on the part of the contractors and workers. "Water has also drained due to increased inflow," he said, assuring that the issue will be probed.

## Pipeline to Kolar chokes Varthur Lake

Rasheed Kappan

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Tons of debris and mud dumped right inside the canal linking Bellandur with Varthur lakes are a clear violation of the National Green Tribunal (NGT)'s 75m buffer zone restrictions. But they have an official sanction: The Minor Irrigation department's pipeline project to take treated water from the city to Kolar.

In Bellandur Ammanikere, adjacent to the new BWSSB Sewage Treatment Plants (STP), the dumping has reduced the canal to a narrow strip.

Truckloads of debris and mud are being unloaded deep inside the canal boundary. While no attempt is made to clear the existing encroachments, the pipeline project could end up threatening the very existence of Varthur lake, warn lake experts.

The project was conceived in 2015 to use Bengaluru's treated sewage water to recharge the groundwater level in Kolar. The plan is to send the water to 121 parched tanks in Kolar and five in Chikka-



Debris and mud, dumped to facilitate laying of the pipeline to Kolar, has encroached deep into the rajakaluve at Bellandur Ammanikere, strangling the water flow to the Varthur Lake. (Right) Trucks are dumping debris inside the buffer zone of the Bellandur Ammanikere near the lake. Citizens say they are not sure if the trucks are private or government sanctioned.

ballapur for agricultural use. Construction work had begun in July 2016, and the project is expected to be completed in 2018.

The pipeline project was planned in a hurry and is being executed without consideration for the grave consequences to the lake and wetland ecosystem of Bellandur and Varthur, says Dr T V

Ramachandra from the Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science.

The encroachment, he says, is a "clear violation of the physical integrity of the lake. This is a serious issue. The Bangalore Development Authority and Minor Irrigation Department should respond. BDA is also inactive in removing the existing encroachments. The entire



catchment's topography is being altered."

What has further upset the lake conservationists is this: The project has virtually taken over the buffer zone of the critical Rajakaluves, and even ventured deeper to build roads. "There is absolutely no clarity whether the trucks dumping debris are part of the project or not," notes a

Bellandur-based lake activist, Elangoven.

The virtual blockade of the Rajakaluve at Bellandur Ammanikere had triggered flooding in Tubarahalli and Munekollela during the recent rains.

"The entire K&C Valley stormwater and sewage is now directed through just three pipes," he points out.

## Siddaramaiah to meet Nirmala tomorrow on defence land swap

Chiranjeevi Kulkarni

**BENGALURU:** Projects stalled owing to confusion between the BBMP and the defence department over land deals may soon see the light of the day with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah set to meet Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday. The confusion has stalled 22 projects.

Sources in the chief minister's office said the land exchange deal will be taken up on priority. The BBMP officials were busy re-surveying the defence land over the last two days and seeking permission from the defence authorities to use drones for measurement of the area.

The BBMP has sought land from the defence ministry for 23 projects some of which have been pending for years. In exchange, the Palike has offered 209 acres, including 207 acres in Tammanayakanahalli.

Road and railway traffic continues to be interrupted at Byappanahalli since the work on ROB was halted five years ago following objections by the defence department.

The bridge eliminates a level crossing on the road connecting Banaswadi with Old Madras Road.

The level crossing is closed more than 60 times a day. At least 10 trains pass the stretch during the morning and evening peak hours, when traffic snarls stretch for a kilometre.

"Sometimes, the gate is closed for more than 20 minutes. Waiting for train to pass during evenings is excruciating," said Vinod Mathur, who travels between Banaswadi and Swami Vivekananda Metro Station every day.

In 2011, the South Western Railway took up the work at a cost of about Rs 20 crore. The elevated approach way and the

**BBMP OFFICIAL: We are keen on the project. A meeting with the Defence Minister is set to take place on December 2. We hope a solution would be found soon.**

deck were built within a year when the defence red flagged the project.

The years that followed have witnessed a series of meetings, exchange of letters and even a government order in August 2016, allotting alternative land to the defence department in exchange for the 2.46 acres at Byappanahalli.

The BBMP officials said they have offered 2.14 acres, including Kensington Road swimming pool and about one acre that was leased out to the Madras Engineering Group over 50 years ago. "The defence department has replied recently, highlighting the differences in the cost of the land. The cost of the BBMP land is higher than the defence land," sources said.

While a survey by defence officials has found the BBMP land costlier by over Rs 20 crore, a BBMP survey puts the difference at only about Rs 1.5 crore. The gap has led to a confusion.

"Officials have met two defence ministers over the last five years and traveled to Delhi several times to find a solution. We hope to find a solution soon," the source added.

While defence officials did not reply to queries sent by DH, BBMP Special Commissioner (Projects) B M Vijaya Shankar said: "We are keen on the project. A meeting with the Defence Minister is set to take place on December 2. We hope a solution would be found soon."

DH News Service

## Bangalore Midnight Marathon to have highest registration this year

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** The 11th

Marathon.