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Bandage for a fracture

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In its fight against froth, BDA is resorting to sprinkling water on Bellandur Lake to reduce the amount of foam produced and prevent it from entering the streets

Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) which is the custodian of Bellandur Lake had to sprinkle water from sprinklers attached on the edge of the lake to stop the

formation of toxic froth that was noticed at the two ends of the lake. The sprinklers have been put in place to stop the foam from spilling over onto the road or catch fire, just like in the past.

“An Indian Institute of Science study has ascertained that froth is caused due to the phosphorus content in detergents that enters the waterbody as sewage. Many steps are being taken to bring the froth under control and stop it from spilling onto the road. The use of sprinklers is one of the solutions,” a senior BDA official said.

BDA has made it clear that cleaning work at the lake is going on and will continue and, till then, temporary measures have been put in place to stop froth from forming. BDA is also keeping an eye out for any fires on the lake, an incident that got global attention and brought notorious reputation to the lake. A proposal has been made for the installation of a floating trash barrier to keep the lake clean.

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Sonali Singh, a resident in the area, said, “The frothing that is happening on both the ends of the lake has been there for quite some time. The frothing is due to the phosphorus content in the detergents and, unless detergents are banned, it will continue unabated. Secondly, untreated sewage is still entering the lake and the government has made it clear that it will only be able to stop this once the sewage treatment plants are functional. And that will only be possible by 2020.”

Meanwhile, BDA officials held a meeting with the residents of the area. The meeting was also attended by the commissioner who is personally supervising the lake rejuvenation work at Bellandur. During the meeting, the civic body agreed to continue deweeding and cleaning the lake.

A BDA official added that work on the installation of a sluice gate is progressing and it will start the work on setting up wetlands along the lake.

The civic body will also use a floating trash barrier on an experimental basis to see its efficacy in keeping the lake trash free. Fencing and barricading work around the lake is currently in progress.