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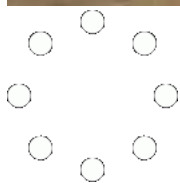
**BangaloreMirror**

## Video: Silt to be measured to the hilt at Bellandur, Varthur

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**Photo: Kaushik JN/MMCL****Bangalore M**

**to find out the current levels of accumulated silt at these water bodies**



*Survey at these lakes will help determine actual quantity of silt to be removed*

The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has taken up a total station survey of Bellandur and Varthur lakes to find out the current levels of accumulated silt at these water bodies.

“The total station survey will help us to know the quantum of silt at these water bodies. The survey is expected to be completed within a few days,” said BDA Assistant Executive Engineer SS Arvind.

According to Arvind, the total station survey will provide data on the heaps of silt accumulated on the surface and the actual quantity of the silt to be removed from the lake. “Engineers from the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) have collected samples of silt from Bellandur and Varthur lakes for testing. We are waiting for the report,” said Arvind.

Professor T V Ramachandra, a member of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) Monitoring Committee, said that the total station survey is part of the rejuvenation of Bellandur and Varthur lake.

Work on construction of the weighing bridges is in progress. Two weighing bridges each for Bellandur and Varthur Lakes are being constructed. These bridges will be used to determine the quantity of silt being transported by heavy trucks to the designated quarries situated at Mallasandra village near Bannerghatta, which is 25 km from Bellandur and Varthur lake.

Appreciating the authorities concerned for taking up rejuvenation of Bellandur and Varthur lake, Jagadeesh Reddy of Varthur Rising has described it as an important milestone for Varthur and Bellandur lakes rejuvenation initiative. “It is two decades of efforts culminated. It is a welcome move. The weighing bridges will ensure transparency and accountability of transporting silt from the water bodies,” said Jagadeesh Reddy.

Meanwhile, Sonali Singh, a resident of Bellandur and a lake activist, said the Bellandur Lake rejuvenation is happening at a snail's pace and the KSPCB is still collecting soil samples from across Bellandur Lake a whole year later, because of which movement of silt to the quarries is getting delayed.

“As previously highlighted, all progress made in terms of installation of CCTV cameras, trash barriers at sewage entry points of the lake have been undone. We see the government agencies dragging their feet over every action identified by the NGT Monitoring Committee,” said Sonali Singh.

According to residents of Varthur, a group of farmers from Sarjapura and other villages met the NGT Monitoring Committee and sought permission to use the silt from Varthur Lake as manure.

“The NGT Monitoring Committee members have directed the BDA engineer to prepare the details of number of farmers, names of villages, quantity of the silt to be transported to those villages. The farmers are advised to attend the next meeting of the NGT Monitoring Committee,” the resident said.