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NGT team's visit hurries up Bellandur Lake clean-up

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Cleaning work in progress at Bellandur Lake on Sunday

Residents of Bellandur invited National Green Tribunal (NGT) Monitoring Committee Members UV Singh and Prof TV Ramachandra to visit the diversion channel at Bellandur Lake on Friday to investigate into the source of a bad odour in the area.

Residents of apartments nearby have been suffering during the last week due to the stench from the lake and the diversion channel that carries sewage from upstream areas.

During the visit, Singh and Prof Ramachandra saw a lot of dead fish and weeds at the waste weir. They directed the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) engineer to take measures to clean up the area. With the BDA engineer promptly fixing the problem, residents are happy.

Sonali Singh, a resident of Bellandur, said the residents appreciated the NGT Monitoring Committee members for visiting the lake despite it being a holiday (Eid Milad).



The stink of death in Bellandur Lake

Finding dead fish, garbage and weeds at the waste weir near Bellandur, U V Singh directed the BDA engineers to engage workers to keep the waste weir clean.

“Singh had asked a BDA engineer to get the waste weir area cleaned of solid waste, weeds and dead fish. Happy to see cleaning work is in progress on Sunday morning. NGT also directed the BDA engineer to get trash nets installed but that is pending,” said Sonali Singh.

Bharathi Mani, a resident, said the most important work is for the silt to be moved to a quarry.

Some of the smell still lingers. Hopefully it will be gone in two days. The most important work now is for the silt to be moved to a quarry. NGT is our only hope
–Bharathi Mani, a resident

Balaji, a resident, said having a detailed project report (DPR) or some key milestones on the progress of rejuvenation of Bellandur Lake for the next six months is a must.

Nagesh Aras, a resident of Bellandur, said the dead fish were caught in the water hyacinth at the weir. “Just cleaning the hyacinth will not solve the problem; the bypass channel brings a lot of nutrients to this area, and hyacinth will grow quickly. It is a losing battle. Instead, the only solution is to intercept the sewage upstream (Agara STP) and treat before releasing it downstream. This will prevent hyacinth from growing in this area,” Aras said.