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The stink of death in Bellandur Lake

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According to the residents, the NGT's committee delayed shifting the silt for over a year

Decaying fish, rotting weeds and garbage have made it Hellandur; silt hasn't been removed for a year, residents tell NGT panel

An unbearable stench from the diversion channel at Bellandur Lake has compelled the residents of the area to seek the help of National Green Tribunal (NGT) Monitoring Committee members. Residents complain that the NGT's committee had turned a blind eye and a deaf ear for over a year, delaying the shifting of the silt.

On Friday evening, the Monitoring Committee members U V Singh and Professor T V Ramachandra, accompanied by engineers from Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) and Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), visited different locations of the Bellandur Lake to determine the cause of the foul odour emanating from the diversion channel.

Residents also questioned the NGT Monitoring Committee's members on the delay in shifting the silt to the designated place from Bellandur Lake. "For more than a year, piles of dug-up silt and weed have been lying in the lake. During the monsoon season, it dissolved and formed silt again, wasting a year's worth of time and resources. The weed is rotting and adding to the stench. The NGT should have an end-to-end implementation plan. The quarry where the silt has to be dumped is still not ready," said Sonali Singh, a resident of Bellandur.

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.

For more than a year, piles of dug-up silt and rotting weeds have been lying in the lake. During the monsoon season, it dissolved and formed silt again

– Sonali Singh, resident

“The fishy smell near Bellandur Lake has been unbearable for the past three to four days. It was causing headache and nausea for the residents in our neighbourhood,” said Bharati Mani, a resident.

The team also visited the diversion channel near Iblur and later visited the diversion channel at Kariyamma Agrahara near Kateramma Temple where the residents complained about the stench.

Install trash barrier

The NGT Monitoring Committee member U V Singh directed the BDA engineer to install a trash barrier between Iblur and Y-Junction to prevent flow of garbage and dead fish from Agara or other lakes into the diversion channel.

“We request the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) to immediately sample water near Varthur Kodi and take necessary action. We request the BBMP to immediately get the roads ready for transporting silt from Varthur and Bellandur Lakes,” said Elan Kulandaivelu, a member of Whitefield Rising.