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Tuesday 16 April 2013  
News updated at 5:58 PM IST



Weather  
Max : 35.9°C  
Min : 23.8°C



In Bangalore  
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## Rs 100-cr plan to revive Lakshmantirtha

Bangalore:Sept 30,2012 DH News Service

**The Western Ghats Task Force, with the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, has started a campaign to halt pollution of River Lakshmantirtha.A tributary of River Cauvery, it flows through Hunsur in Mysore district.**

Sand mining, illegal encroachments and severe pollution have killed the river, said Task Force chairperson Anantha Hegde Ashisara, in Bangalore on Saturday. The Karnataka government has drawn a Rs 100-crore project to revive the river. The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) will take up a study to ascertain the pollution level in the river, he said.

### Heritage status

Noting that residents of Hunsur have demanded heritage status for the river, Ashisara said in the next phase of the campaign, awareness will be created in every village about tackling pollution of the river.

As the course of River Shalmala has already been declared protected, efforts are on to protect Malaprabha, Sharavathi, Kumudvathi, Varada and Souparnika rivers. A workshop will be organised for the youth at the Freedom Park at Mavinagundi near Jog Falls, on October 2, said Ashisara.

The park that is developed by the Forest Department houses a jail and a police station, whose history goes back to 1932, he added.

In 1932, a group of women led by Bhageerathamma, a resident of Mavinagundi, staged a satyagraha for 31 days at the Mavinagundi police station. She led the satyagraha to oppose the British authorities, who had seized their cattle for non-payment of taxes.

The protesters, including Bhageerathamma, were jailed for eight months. The department has also installed busts of the women freedom fighters, he recounted.

### Slice of history

The workshop, thus, aims to bring this slice of history to the youth, he added. Minister for Primary and Secondary Education Vishweshwara Hegde Kageri will inaugurate the workshop. KSPCB chairperson Vaman Acharya will launch the plastic ban, said Ashisara.