

Hon'ble Shri. Justice N.K. Patil, Committee:

On 26th November, 2010 the Division Bench of the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka presided by Hon'ble Chief Justice, while hearing a batch of petitions connected with WP 817/2008 appointed a Committee consisting of 10 members headed by the Hon'ble Chairman of High Court Legal Service, Hon'ble Mr. Justice N.K. Patil, to examine the ground realities, to suggest the required steps and measures to be taken for preservation and restoration of lakes in and around Bangalore and to submit its report.

Accordingly, the Committee has met as frequently as required and deliberated on the various facets of the problems of lake conservation, sought the views of experts and experience people, examined the root causes and ground realities and prepared the Action Plan for preservation and restoration of lakes in and around Bangalore and submitted the report on 26th February 2011 to the Hon'ble Chief Justice, High Court of Karnataka.

The Committee recommended following strategies for preservation of Bangalore lakes:

- ✚ Lake area should not be diverted for any other purpose.
- ✚ Lake area is to be surveyed with total station as per village map and records, encroachment removed, if any, and latitude & longitude values of corner stone to be recorded.
- ✚ Raja Kaluves and branch kaluves are to be surveyed and encroachment therein evicted.
- ✚ The present norm of 30m buffer surrounding legal boundary of lakes is a must to preserve the lakes.
- ✚ Lake preservation has to be integral to layout development of BDA and should not acquire lake area at the time of notifying the area for development and allotment.
- ✚ Absolute requirement like survey, removal of encroachments, fencing, watch and ward, clearing of blocked and encroachment of Raja Kaluves and drains, waste weir repairs and de-silting to be taken up on priority.
- ✚ Effective lake area should not be reduced by converting lake into parks, children play grounds, widened bunds etc., and de-silting to be limited with minimum depth near foreshore and maximum at the bund.

- ✚ Sewage entry should be stopped prior to any lake developmental activities taken up. Lake restoration is to be taken up based on lake series/ sub-series and not in isolation, to have better result and impact.
- ✚ Lake development should not increase disturbances in areas where there are local and migratory birds, aquatic flora and fauna are in abundance.
- ✚ Annual field inspection by higher authorities of the custodian organizations and annual jamabandi of lake records by Revenue department and custodian agencies to be carried out.
- ✚ Selected lakes are to be developed augmenting water supply to city and sewage entry into such selected lakes has to be stopped totally and tertiary water treatment has to be installed.
- ✚ Lake development committees have to be constituted with representatives from Resident Welfare Association/ NGOs.
- ✚ Traditional users of the lakes like dhobis/ fishermen interests are to be taken care of.

Recommended Action Plan:

- ✚ Preservation and restoration of lakes in BBMP area.
 - Action: BBMP, BDA, LDA, KFD.
 - Time frame: by the end of 2014
- ✚ Record verification and joint inspection of certain lakes/kuntas in BBMP area.
 - Action: Revenue Department, BBMP, LDA
 - Time frame: By the end of 2011
- ✚ Preservation and restoration of lakes in the custody of Zilla Panchayat, Bangalore Urban District in Bangalore City (BBMP + BDA area)
 - Action: Zilla Panchayat, Bangalore Urban District & Minor Irrigation Department.
 - Time frame: By the end of 2012 (for ZP lakes) and by March, 2012 for MI lakes.
- ✚ BWSSB Action Plan to completely collect and treat sewage in BBMP area.
 - Action: BWSSB
 - Time frame: By the end of 2014

- ✚ Water quality monitoring by KSPCB
 - Action: KSPCB
 - Time frame: One year
- ✚ Annual inspection of all the lakes in Bangalore city by higher officials
- ✚ Creation of data base for the lakes in Bangalore city and making it web hosted.
 - Action: LDA and Revenue Department
 - Time frame: By the end of 2012
- ✚ Augmenting Water supply to Bangalore city from Lakes:
 - Action: BWSSB
 - Time frame: One year

Specific Recommendations:

- ✚ Government may examine extending the scope and jurisdiction of Bangalore Metropolitan Task Force (BMTF) to remove encroachments on lake lands.
- ✚ Separate cell may be created in the Revenue Department of survey of lake areas in the Bangalore city, with dedicated staff of 100 surveyors, to complete lake survey as planned.
- ✚ Government may consider imposition of Green Cess and its modalities may be worked out. It may be levied on Vehicle users/POL consumers, Energy inefficient buildings etc. Funds so generated can be utilized for maintenance of the restored lakes.