

**Joint Committee Report of Vengayyana Kere/K.R.Puram Lake/Tank located at K.R.Puram
and Sannathammanahalli Village, K.R.Puram Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru
Urban District**

Preamble:

Sri. J.Jagan Kumar, resident of Bengaluru has filed petition/application before Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Southern Zone (SZ), Chennai with regard to the dumping of waste and discharge of untreated sewage into Vengayyana Kere/K.R.Puram Lake/Tank comprising in Survey No.9 of Krishnarajapuram (K.R.Puram) Village and Survey No. 46 of Sannathammanahalli Village of K.R. Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore Urban District.

According to the applicant, large-scale garbage and debris were dumped in the lake/tank and also in its buffer zone, untreated sewage/toilet sewage water is also discharged into the lake from the nearby residential apartments which is contaminating the water quality in the lake. Apart from this the plastic waste is also being dumped and it was also not properly maintained causing large scale weeds and plants being developed in that area for affecting the water quality which in turn affects the aquatic life as well. It is also alleged in the application that apart from dumping of garbage, the segregation of garbage is also being undertaken by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanaga Palike (BBMP) against the Municipal Solid Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 2016 in the lake. Though it was brought to the notice of the authorities, no action was taken by the authorities.

The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Southern Zone, Chennai has passed an order dated 27.10.2021 in Original Application No.222 of 2021 regarding the above allegations made by the applicant. In the said order, Hon'ble NGT has appointed a Joint Committee consisting of **Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru Urban District, District Forest Officer (DFO) having jurisdiction over the KR Puram lake, Superintending Engineer, Public Works Department and Environmental Officer, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), Bengaluru** and has directed this Joint Committee to inspect the area in question and submit a factual as well as action taken report, if there is any violation found and also Karnataka State Pollution Control Board has been made as Nodal Agency for co-ordination and for providing necessary logistics for this purpose.

Further, as KSPCB has been appointed as Nodal Agency for co-ordination, the Environmental Officer, Regional Office-Mahadevapura, KSPCB, Bengaluru had issued an information letter with

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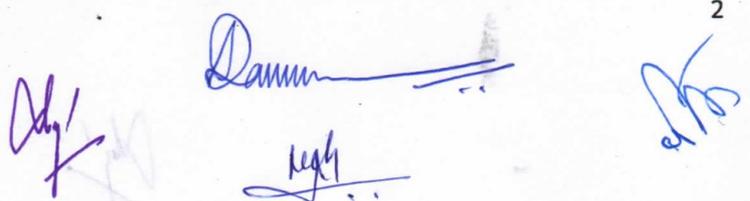


respect letter intimation/fixing of conducting spot inspection date under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (Bengaluru Urban Dist) vide letter dated 11.11.2021. Copy of the letter is herewith annexed as **Annexure-I**. Later, KSPCB had issued one more information letter dated 25.11.2021 wherein all the concerned respondents and concerned Departments were intimated to be present for spot inspection and preliminary meeting scheduled to be conducted on 29.11.2021. Copy of the letter is herewith annexed as **Annexure-II**. Hence, as per the directions of the Deputy Commissioner (Bengaluru Urban District), the Joint Committee on 29.11.2021 carried out the spot inspection of Vengayyana Kere/K.R Puram Lake/Tank, wherein all the respondents were also accompanied for inspection to ascertain the ground reality. The photographs taken during inspection are annexed as **Annexure-III** (8 number of photographs in one page).

Later, followed by spot inspection, a meeting was conducted under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner on 29.11.2021 at premises of Vengayyana Kere wherein following Departments' Officials were present:

1. The Deputy Conservator of Forest, Bangalore Urban District, Aranya Bhavan, 18th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bangalore.
2. The Superintendent Engineer, PWD, Bangalore Circle, Ananda Rao Circle, Bangalore.
3. The Environmental Officer, KSPCB, Regional Office-Mahadevapura, Shivanagar, Bangalore.
4. The Tahasildar, Revenue Department, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore.
5. The Tahasildar, BBMP, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore
6. The Assistant Director of Land Records, Survey Department, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore
7. The Executive Engineer, BWSSB
8. The Assistant Executive Engineer, BWSSB
9. The Assistant Executive Engineer, BBMP-Lakes
10. The Assistant Executive Engineer, BBMP-SWM
11. The Assistant Road Transport Officer, KA-53, Bhattarahalli, Old Madras Road, KR Puram, Bangalore.
12. The Police Inspector, KR Puram Police Station, KR Puram, Bangalore.

The observations made by the Joint Committee and action taken with respect to Hon'ble NGT directions issued in the interim order dated 27.10.2021 are as detailed below:

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Direction No.	Subject of Direction	Observations of Joint Committee as on 29.11.2021	Action Taken
1	Whether there is any encroachment in KR Puram Lake/Tank as alleged	<p>As per ADLR recent survey and physical observations, few activities such as NH 75 road, BBMP parks, Houses, connecting roads, temple and private vacant land were observed which have encroached the lake area.</p> <p>During inspection, it was informed that, the development in lake buffer zone has been taken place over a period of 30 to 40 years ago.</p>	<p>The survey clearly identifies the encroachments by the private parties in the lake area. An extent of 31 ¾ Guntas is encroached by private parties for various purposes such as houses, temple and vacant land. Also, an extent of 11 Acres 28 Guntas is encroached by the Government for various public purposes such as NH 75 road, BBMP parks and connecting roads. The details of the same are annexed as Annexure-IV.</p> <p>The private encroachments will be evicted/removed following due process of Law. One-month time is required to remove/evict the private encroachment as informed by the Revenue authorities. No action is proposed for eviction/removal of Government encroachment since it is utilised for public purposes.</p>
2	Whether any garbage or debris is dumped in the lake or in the buffer zone of the lake	<p>Yes, earlier, garbage/debris was being dumped in the buffer zone of the lake. However, during inspection, it was observed that, the same has been cleared by BBMP.</p>	<p>Strict instructions have been given to the Officials of BBMP (SWM division) to stop further illegal dumping of garbage/debris and Officials of BBMP (Lakes division) were instructed to provide fencing for entire lake boundary. Also, earlier, BBMP (SWM-Mahadevapura Zone) had submitted their action taken report with respect to garbage removal in the lake bed and lake buffer zone vide their letter dated 24.11.2021 along with photographs and BBMP (Lakes) letter dated 29.11.2021 with respect to providing fencing</p>

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the lake boundaries, eviction of encroachment after demarcation of boundaries by ADLR and progress of development/rejuvenation works. Further, they have also stated that, Rs.13.80 Crores has been approved by Karnataka Tank Conservation and Development Authority for preparation of Detailed project report for Comprehensive development of Vengaiahna Kere. A grant of Rs.2.0 Crores has been sanctioned under State Finance Commission (SFC) grants for developmental works at Vengaiahna Kere, estimate is prepared for taking up of Chain link fencing repair works, construction of silt traps for inlets-2 and 3, construction of drain in-front of weir etc. Work order has been issued for this work and will be started from 18.12.2021. Another Rs.2.0 crores is allocated under BBMP grants for Vengaiahna Kere under which works of construction of sewage by-pass line and laying of pipes near waste weir by using trenchless technology will be taken up. The tender has been finalised and work order is to be issued. Also, Rs.8.0 crores is allocated for rejuvenation of Vengaiahna Kere under 15th finance Commission. The works proposed under this grant are dewatering and de-silting, improvements to main bund and walkway bund, pitching, construction of culverts for inlets, settling ponds, waste weir and fencing on western and eastern boundary. Tender is invited for this work and technical evaluation is in process. Lake fencing work will be started immediately after demarcating of boundaries by ADLR and eviction orders issued by Tahsildar and non-

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3	<p>Whether there is any discharge of untreated sewage/septage water discharged into the lake</p>	<p>Yes, there is entry of untreated sewage into the lake. The lake is having 3 inlets and the details are as below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. At Meenakshi temple side 2. At BWSSB STP (old 20 MLD) side 3. At TC Palya Signal (Bhattarahalli side) <p>The paramount reason for pollution of Vengayana Kere/K.R Puram Lake/Tank is sewage/sullage flowing in the storm water drains entering the said lake, rapid and large scale urbanization, change in land use pattern, under capacity of sewers, encroachment of sewers, damages to sewerage system and direct discharges from unauthorized layouts in upstream areas etc., leading to substantial quantity of sewage flowing in the storm water drains. Hence, the Committee directed the BWSSB authority to submit action plan with respect to stoppage of entry of sewage into the lake.</p>	<p>disputed areas will be fenced from 18.12.2021. Also, they have stated that, as per the directions issued during spot inspection, they have taken action to clean existing pathway and lake area (other than water body) from 01.12.2021. Copy of the letters viz., BBMP (SWM-Mahadevapura Zone) and BBMP (Lakes) along with photographs are herewith annexed as Annexure-V and VI respectively.</p>
		<p>BWSSB authority has submitted a report on the measures taken by them for preventing the entry of wastewater into the lake wherein they have stated as below:</p> <p>There are 03 inlet points to the lake and 01 outlet from the lake. The present condition in the inlet and outlet are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Inlet 01 on South western side of the KR puram Lake i.e., from KR Puram STP side In this inlet treated water from the two KR Puram STP's is let into KR Puram Lake and there is no untreated waste water entering to Lake from the this side. 2. Inlet 02 from North western side (Meenakshi Temple side) which convey storm water from CMC areas, to this lake and only during rains the untreated sewage mixed with the rain water enters the Lake. 3. Inlet 03 and Outlet – in between the inlet 03 and out let point on North Eastern side of Lake there is a damage to the existing old NP2 class pipeline running adjacent to the lake which is inundated in the lake and with the result waste water through the damaged points from this pipeline is mixed with 	







the lake water and overflowing near the Waste weir of the Lake.

Under Waste Water Management (WWM) Zone, the following 2 STPs have been established and these STPs are under Operation and Maintenance.

Sl. No.	Name of the STP	Capacity	Currently Treating
1	K R Puram (Old)	20 MLD	15.30 MLD
2	KR Puram (New)	20 MLD	16.13 MLD
Total		40MLD	31.43 MLD

In the downstream of these two plants BWSSB has already established a 15 MLD capacity STP at Yellemallappachetty Lake and at present this STP is receiving a sewage of 12 to 13 MLD for treatment. After treatment the sewerage will be let into natural drain. BWSSB has taken all necessary steps to run these STPs to their full capacity.

The works mentioned below will be taken up as a remedial measure immediately to prevent the sewage entering to the Lake from KR Puram STP side (Inlet no.2)

1. By taking the maintenance works from the WWM Zone for clearing the blockages and de-silting work of sewer network for removing silt which was deposited during the recent heavy rains.
2. By connecting the any left out house connections /laterals which are discharging directly to the SWD to the sewer network from the Maintenance Zone.

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The works mentioned below will be taken as a short term measures to prevent the sewage entering to the Lake near outlet side (Inlet no.3).

The sewage generated from the Lake city Layout, BEML Layout, Rangappanathota / TC Palya Village was conveyed through the 450mm dia NP2 Class pipe which was laid very long back in the KR Puram Lake Bund and it is damaged at outlet point of the lake. Since this pipeline was laid in the lake bed which is inundated in the water now it has sunk at many places and there is no free flow of sewage in the pipeline and it is not possible for repair. In view of the above a new 450mm dia NP3 Class RCC sewer pipeline for a length of 450Rmt will be laid at a said location from Rangappanathota to TC Palya signal all along the Lake Bund to link to the newly laid 600mm dia sewer at TC Palya signal under WWM Zone and it is planned to be completed by the end of March 2022. Copy of BWSB report is annexed herewith as **Annexure-VII**.

KSPCB will continue to monitor the lake water quality on monthly basis and submit report to the Committee. The compiled analysis results for the period from April 2017 to September 2021 are annexed as **Annexure-VIII**. Further, KSPCB has collected water samples at four different sides of the lake on 10.11.2021. The analysis results of the said samples are as below:

Sr.No.	Sampling location	Inference
1	East kodi	Class D
2	South Side	Class D
3	West Side	Class D
4	North Side	Class D

KSPCB is monitoring the lake water quality on monthly basis and water quality conforms to **Class D**- Propagation of Wild Life, Fisheries and **Class E**-Irrigation, Industrial Cooling, Controlled Waste Disposal.

Whether the quality of the water has been contaminated on account of such illegal activities and who is responsible for such things

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	<p>The analysis results of the above are herewith annexed as Annexure-IX</p>	<p>The reasons for contamination of lake water is as detailed in the BWSSB report stated at Direction No.3.</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Whether the allegation of segregation of waste dumped in that area is taking place by using any machine or other methods by involving the officials of BBMP</p>	<p>BBMP (SWM-Mahadevapura Zone) had submitted their action taken report with respect to garbage removal in the lake bed and lake buffer zone vide their letter dated 24.11.2021 along with photographs annexed as Annexure V. In the said letter, BBMP authority has stated that, the garbage has been cleared by Solid Waste Management (SWM) Cell of KR Puram Division. Land outside the lake (outside the gate of front side of lake) was used for shifting of garbage from primary collection vehicle to secondary collection vehicle. No sorting of garbage is being done in this place. Complete cleaning of this area has been done and unauthorised parked vehicles have been removed. Almost care is taken that no leachate is mixed with the lake water. Land has been identified near T.C.Palya of KR Puram ward at Sy. no-7/1 Sunshine layout Ward for the construction of new Transfer station which will be in operational within one month. All the primary and secondary garbage collection vehicles will be shifted shortly. All old scrapped and unfit tipper vehicles have been removed.</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>Whether if any damage has been caused to environment on account of such illegal activities, they</p>	<p>Strict directions have been given to BBMP (SWM) officials to shift this transfer station to their newly identified land near T.C.Palya of KR Puram ward at the earliest and to stop further dumping/sorting of garbage/debris at KR Puram lake.</p>
	<p>BBMP is not carrying out any sorting activity. Land outside the lake (outside the gate of front side of lake) was used for shifting of garbage from primary collection vehicle to secondary collection vehicle.</p>	<p>Yes, earlier, garbage/debris was being dumped in the buffer zone of the lake. However, during inspection, it was observed that, the same has been cleaned and cleared by BBMP.</p>

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	<p>are directed to assess the damage caused to the environment and also assess the Environmental Compensation (EC) and also to suggest the methods by which the same can be restored to its original position.</p>	<p>KSPCB has collected both water as well as sediment samples from the lake. The inference of lake water samples are same as detailed at direction no.4.</p>	<p>Further, KSPCB has collected sediment samples at four different sides of the lake on 12.11.2021. The analysis results of the said samples are herewith annexed as Annexure-X. The analysis results are compared with the Concentration limits stipulated under Schedule II of Hazardous Waste (Management, Handling and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2008 and with Specifications for compost quality stipulated under Schedule II of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 and it is noted that, the analysis results are within the limits stipulated under above said Rules. Hence, it can be ascertained that, the lake sediment is non-hazardous in nature.</p>
7	<p>The committee is directed to take water as well as sediment samples from the lake and if there is any contamination found, find out the source and take appropriate action against those persons who are responsible for the same in accordance with Law.</p>	<p>Yes, earlier, garbage/debris was being dumped in the buffer zone of the lake. However, during inspection, it was observed that, the same has been cleaned and cleared by BBMP.</p> <p>Strict directions have been given to BBMP (SWM) officials to shift this transfer station to</p>	<p>KSPCB through its network of regional offices has regularly inspected the facilities operated by BBMP. For any non-compliance observed, Board has issued notices, directions and conducted personal hearings. In furtherance of direction issued by the Hon'ble NGT for implementation of compliance of Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2016, frequent meetings were held under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Chairman of State</p>
8	<p>Whether Municipal Waste and (Management and Handling) Rules-2016 are being followed by the BBMP in that area and the directions issued by the Hon'ble</p>	<p>Yes, earlier, garbage/debris was being dumped in the buffer zone of the lake. However, during inspection, it was observed that, the same has been cleaned and cleared by BBMP.</p> <p>Strict directions have been given to BBMP (SWM) officials to shift this transfer station to</p>	<p>KSPCB through its network of regional offices has regularly inspected the facilities operated by BBMP. For any non-compliance observed, Board has issued notices, directions and conducted personal hearings. In furtherance of direction issued by the Hon'ble NGT for implementation of compliance of Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2016, frequent meetings were held under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Chairman of State</p>

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	<p>NGT in OA No.606/2018 have been complied with and if not, what is the nature of action taken by the KSPCB in this regard against the local bodies.</p>	<p>their newly identified land near T.C.Palya of KR Puram ward at the earliest and to stop further dumping/sorting of garbage/debris at KR Puram lake.</p>	<p>Level Committee (SLC) (Constituted as per Hon'ble NGT, Principal Bench, New Delhi Order O.A No.606/2018) with BBMP officials reviewing the progress made in SWM which includes Construction and Demolition (C and D) Waste Management, Plastic Waste Management, Bio-Medical Waste (BMW) management, E-waste management, and Hazardous waste management as there was a need to give special attention with regard to SWM by BBMP as more than half the SW generated in the entire state is in Bengaluru. During latest meetings held on 20.01.2021 and 22.07.2021 few important directions have been issued by the Board to BBMP. However, BBMP is yet to submit compliance report. To further lay stress on this important issue, a Demi-Official letter has been addressed to the Chief Commissioner, BBMP inviting his attention to the matter. The details of directions given by the Board to BBMP and action taken report with respect to directions issued by the Hon'ble NGT in OA No.606/2018 submitted by KSPCB is herewith annexed as Annexure-XI.</p>
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Other points to be noted by Hon'ble NGT for kind consideration:

The Principal Secretary, Forest Ecology and Environment Department is arrayed as Respondent No.1 in this OA No.222 of 2021. However, the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Bengaluru Urban Division has submitted a letter addressed to The Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru Urban District dated 01.12.2021 informing that, K R Puram Lake (Sy.no.9, Area 38A-12G) and Santhammanahalli Lake (Sy.no.46, Area 26A-23G) with total 64 Acres and 35 Guntas was handed over to BBMP with respect to Government order dated 11.12.2019 and 19.03.2020 respectively. The above mentioned lake is not in the custody of the Forest Department to carryout the maintenance activities, as it is handed over to BBMP as on 19.03.2020. Copy of the letter along with the supporting documents are herewith annexed as **Annexure-XII**.





After the Joint Committee inspection of Vengayyana Kere/K.R Puram Lake/Tank for ascertaining the ground reality and after verification of action taken reports submitted by the authorities, the Committee has derived certain Short/Medium term and Long term Remedial measures with respect to restoration of the lake to its original position which are as below:

Short/Medium term Remedial Measures– within 3 months

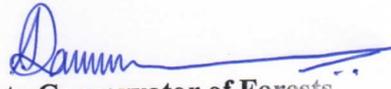
Cause	Recommendations	Agency
Lake encroachment	1. Providing Fencing to the lake	BBMP (Lakes)
	2. Removal of lake bed encroachment	BBMP (Lakes) and Revenue Dept
	3. Stop dumping of C and D waste	BBMP (SWM and Lakes)

Long term Remedial Measures– within 6 months

Cause	Recommendations	Agency
Rejuvenation of Lake	1. Rejuvenation of Vengayyana Kere/K.R Puram Lake/Tank	BBMP (Lakes)
	2. Ensure free passage of water (by restoring storm water drains, waste weirs, freeing of all debris)	BWSSB and BBMP (Lakes)
	3. Stoppage of untreated sewage inflow	BWSSB and KSPCB
	4. Removal of C and D waste on lake bed	BBMP (SWM and Lakes)

Hence, we submit this report along with Annexure I to XII before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Southern Zone (SZ) for kind consideration.


Deputy Commissioner
Bengaluru Urban District


Deputy Conservator of Forests,
Bengaluru Urban Division


Superintending Engineer
Public Works Department
Bengaluru


Environmental Officer, Karnataka
State Pollution Control Board
(KSPCB), Bengaluru and Member
Convener