

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

(SOUTHERN ZONE)

OA No. 61 of 2024

IN THE MATTER OF:

Tribunal on its own motion **SUO MOTU** based
on the News Item in Bangalore Mirror
dt: 26.12.2023 titled,
“Bengaluru’s water bodies are gasping for oxygen”.

And

Central Pollution Control Board & Ors

Respondents

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Place : Bangalore

Date : 12.08.2025



Advocate for the Respondent No. 2 Board

A. Mahesh Chowdhary

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**REPLY ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT NO. 2 — KARNATAKA STATE
POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD**

1. PRELIMINARY SUBMISSIONS

- 1.1. The present Reply is filed on behalf of Respondent No.2, the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (hereinafter “the Board” or “KSPCB”), in response to the suo matter of this Hon’ble Tribunal in OA No. 61/2024 based on the news item published in Bangalore Mirror dated 26.12.2023 titled, “*Bengaluru’s water bodies are gasping for oxygen.*”
2. The Board places on record at the outset that it has taken the aforementioned matter seriously, has already been monitoring the water quality of lakes and stretches of the Dakshina Pinakini River, and has been coordinating and issuing directions to concerned local bodies and agencies for remedial action.

2. BRIEF FACTUAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The Hon’ble Tribunal has taken note of the Board’s analysis of 117 lakes in Bengaluru, which indicates that **over 10%** of the water-bodies recorded anoxic conditions (very low/absent dissolved oxygen). In particular, the Board’s laboratory analyses (November 2023 sampling round) recorded **Below Detectable Limit (in short BDL)** DO values (BDL defined

as DO \leq 0.3 mg/l) in the following **12 lakes and the Dakshina Pinakini River at Mugulur bridge:**

- i. Madiwala Lake
- ii. Herohalli Lake
- iii. Karihobanahalli Lake
- iv. Dasarahalli Lake
- v. Varthur Lake
- vi. Uttarahalli Lake
- vii. Dorekere Lake
- viii. Devarabeesanahalli Lake
- ix. Rampura Lake
- x. Kammasandra Lake
- xi. Chandapura Lake
- xii. Hosakerehalli Lake Dakshina Pinakini River (at Mugulur bridge)

3. MONITORING METHODOLOGY

3.1. It is relevant to state that the Board has been conducting periodic monitoring on a monthly basis, subject to the availability of water in these lakes and the river. The Dissolved Oxygen (in short DO) level is marked as “BDL” in cases where the concentration is \leq 0.3 mg/l.

3.2. Follow-up analysis from April 2024 onwards has shown variation in DO levels, ranging from BDL (0.3 mg/l) to 6.5 mg/l depending on seasonal, hydrological, and environmental factors.

3.3. Lake-wise and River-specific Remarks (based on Regional Office [RO] reports)

SI. No	Name of the Lakes	Remarks
1.	Madiwala Lake	As per Regional Office Bommanahalli letter dated: 23.05.2024, the Madiwala & Devarabeesanahalli lakes are BDL. The reason for BDL might be variation in temperature of the lake, decaying organic matter from aquatic plant and algae and also intrusion of sewage into the lake before diversion canal made in the lakes.
2.	Devarabeesanahalli Lake	
3.	Herohalli Lake	As per Regional Office Dasarahalli letter dated: 23.05.2024, Dasarahalli and Herohalli lakes are BDL. The reason for BDL might be variation in temperature of the
4.	Karihobanahalli	
5.	Dasarahalli Lakes	

		lake, decaying organic matter from aquatic plants and algae and also overflow of sewage into the lake from diversion point due to insufficient bund height provided.
6.	Varthur	<p>i. As per the Regional Office, Mahadevapura letter dated: 08.05.2024, presently, Varthur lake rejuvenation work is under progress & all the storm water drains connected to lake are diverted by providing a diversion channel. Hence, there is no entry of water into the Lake.</p> <p>ii. Hence, RTWQMS (Real Time Water Quality Monitoring Station) have been installed at the diverted sewage drains (diversion channel), and the readings displayed on the website are the quality of waste water flowing in the diversion channel rather than the Lake water quality. Hence, after completion of the rejuvenation of the lake, the RTWQMS will be shifted to an appropriate place to monitor lake water quality.</p> <p>iii. To date, the samples have been collected from the diversion channel of Varthur Lake. Hence, the matter of depletion in oxygen levels does not arise. Also, it was required to cross-check the parameter readings between online readings and physical water test reports.</p> <p>iv. RO has addressed a letter to BWSSB & BDA, so far has not received reply.</p>
7.	Rampura	<p>i. As per RO Mahadevapura letter dated: 08.05.2024, presently the lake is under rejuvenation and in dry condition.</p> <p>ii. Diversion channel has been made to avoid sewage entry into the lake. The sample of water is being collected from the diversion channel. Hence the matter on depletion in oxygen levels does not arise.</p> <p>iii. RO has addressed a letter to BWSSB & BDA, so far has not received reply</p>
8.	Uttarahalli	<p>i. As per RO RR Nagara, letter dated: 23.05.2024, lake is being rejuvenated by</p>

		<p>BDA and sewage is being diverted by the BWSSB. At present, no sewage entering the lake.</p> <p>ii. Lake is almost dried-up due to poor monsoon season during last year and very shallow water stagnated at the southern part of the lake.</p> <p>iii. Very less water stagnated in the lake for a long time resulted in the depletion of oxygen</p> <p>iv. At present, there is no flow of sewage to the lake. However, there is chance of entry of sewage from the northern side of the lake during heavy rainfall.</p> <p>v. RO, R R Nagar has issued notice vide letter No.105, dated: 08.05.2024 to the BBMP & BWSSB to take measures to stop the lake being polluted. BWSSB has submitted reply</p>
9.	Doraikere	<p>i. As per RO RR Nagara, letter dated: 23.05.2024, BWSSB has not provided complete sewerage network in the catchment area of Dorekere and the sewage from the missing links joining, attributed to the depletion of oxygen levels.</p> <p>ii. BWSSB needs to stop the entry of sewage to the lake and to divert the same to their nearest STP for scientific treatment.</p> <p>iii. BBMP has provided STP adjatent to the lake to treat the sewage; however STP is not being operated scientifically</p> <p>iv. Due to entry of untreated sewage to the Dorekere from the northern side of the lake.</p> <p>v. Dumping solid waste inside the lake.</p> <p>vi. RO has addressed a letter to BWSSB & BDA, so far has not received reply.</p>
10.	Hosakerehalli Lake	<p>i. As per RO RR Nagara, letter dated: 23.05.2024, sewage is entering the lake from the south and eastern side of the lake. Lake is completely occupied by Eichornia Crassipes (Water Hyacinth) witnessing sewage entering the lake.</p>

		<p>ii. BWSSB needs to stop the entry of sewage to the lake and to divert the same to their nearest STP for scientific treatment.</p> <p>iii. There is an urgent need for rejuvenation of lake by BBMP Lake division by desilting, removing water-hyacinth, making walking pathway around the lake and to provide the fencing to the lake.</p> <p>iv. RO has addressed a letter to BWSSB & BDA, so far has not received reply.</p>
11.	Dakshina Pinakini River	<p>i. As per RO Sarjapura letter dated: 23.05.2024, the overflow of water from yellamallappa chetty lake, varthur lake and hosakote lake is joining to this river, but, there is no local bodies exists near muguluru bridge.</p> <p>ii. On verification of analysis report, the DO level is varies from sample to sample (0 to 6.1 mg/l), this may be due to the entry of raw sewage into the lake and overflow from the lake is joining to this river</p>
12.	Kammasandra Lake	<p>i. As per RO Sarjapura letter dated: 23.05.2024, The lake is located in the CMC Bommasandra limit and CMC authority has not provided 100% UGD system in the area. The sewage/sullage generated from the CMC area has been connected to the storm water drain and same water was entering to the lake.</p> <p>ii. Presently, the lake was rejuvenated and there was no entry of water in to the lake and also there is no water in the lake. The sewage/sullage generated from the CMC area has been diverted from the lake by providing diversion drain.</p> <p>iii. This office has collected the water sample from the diverted drains for analysis. On verification of the analysis report, the DO level is varies from sample to sample (0 to 5.1mg/l), this may be due to the analysis of water sample collected from the drain and also due to environmental variation.</p>

13	Chandrapura	<p>i. As per RO Sarjapura letter dated: 23.05.2024. the lake has been rejuvenated by the minor irrigation department. The local bodies located on the upstream of the lake have not been provided with 100% UGD system and sewage/sullage generated from these local bodies are connected to storm water drain.</p> <p>ii. The storm water drains which were earlier connected to this lake has been diverted, but, seepage is still entering to the lake</p>
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4. It is relevant to state that, as per Respondent No. 2 – Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, the depletion of Dissolved Oxygen levels in the identified lakes and the Dakshina Pinakini River is primarily due to the entry of untreated sewage from unsewered residential and commercial catchments, the decay of organic matter and proliferation of aquatic weeds such as water hyacinth, stagnation caused by poor inflow during lean monsoon years, and the ongoing rejuvenation works in certain lakes where water quality samples are presently collected only from diversion channels, thereby reflecting wastewater characteristics rather than the post-rejuvenation lake water quality.
5. **The steps taken by the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board include** continuous monthly monitoring of Dissolved Oxygen and other key water quality parameters; issuance of notices to the concerned local bodies, BWSSB, BDA, BBMP and CMCs directing them to stop sewage inflow and ensure diversion to the nearest STPs; coordination with rejuvenation agencies to facilitate post-restoration water quality monitoring through RTWQMS in the main water bodies; and recommendations for the removal of aquatic weed infestations as well as measures to enhance aeration in stagnant lakes to improve oxygen levels.
6. **The proposed actions of the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board include** expediting the completion of rejuvenation works at Varthur, Rampura, and Chandapura Lakes; improving bund heights at diversion points to effectively prevent sewage overflow into the lakes; ensuring 100% underground drainage (UGD) coverage in catchment areas feeding the

affected lakes and river stretches; and enforcing strict compliance with the operational norms of sewage treatment plants (STPs) to ensure effective treatment and discharge standards are consistently met.

7. The Board submits that the low Dissolved Oxygen levels recorded in the identified lakes and the Dakshina Pinakini River are primarily attributable to the inflow of untreated sewage from unsewered catchments, the natural decay of organic matter, and prevailing environmental conditions, with some lakes presently under rejuvenation or without any water inflow. The Board affirms its commitment to continuous monitoring, strict enforcement of pollution control measures, and sustained coordination with all stakeholder agencies to restore and maintain healthy water quality in these water bodies.

Place : Bangalore

Date : 12.08.2025



Advocate for the Respondent No. 2 Board

A. Mahesh Chowdhary

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VERIFYING AFFIDAVIT

I, Sudhakar K. S, S/o Shivaram Gowda, aged about 52 years, presently working as the Environmental officer, the representative of the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board having its office at Parisara Bhavana, No. 49, Church Street, Bengaluru – 560001, the Respondent No. 2, do hereby solemnly affirm and state on oath as follows:

1. I am the authorised representative of the Respondent No. 2 in the instant petition. I know the facts of the case and hence swear to this affidavit.
2. I submit that the averments made in para. Nos. 1 to 7 of the reply statement are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

I swear that the contents made out in the above paragraphs 1 to 2 are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

Identified by


DEPONENT

SWORN TO BEFORE ME

Advocate.

Place: **Bangalore**

Date: **12.08.2025**