

# Residents breathe new life into Puttenahalli lake

Trust formed to revive lake which has been polluted by BWSSB, BBMP

**Niranjan Kaggere**  
@timesgroup.com

# W

hat the state government could not do, a bunch of residents from Yelahanka, including a retired IISc professor and an ex-service man, have done it. Their collective interest has not only resulted in the formation of Yelahanka Puttenahalli Lake and Bird Conservation Trust, but also ensured implementation of programmes to revive the dying lake.

Celebrating Independence Day in a different way, more than 200 people, including residents and students, took to cleaning of the lake on Thursday by removing weeds, plastic and other garbage dumped into the lake spread across 13.77 hectares.

K S Sangunni, retired professor from Indian Institute of Science, said: "With every passing day, condition of the lake was getting worse. A few of us realised if we do not take care of it, it would soon become history and decided to set up a trust, through which we would focus on rejuvenating it."

Hereceived support from Krishna



**Sangunni (centre) with students who took part in the lake cleaning operation**

Datta, Cdr Babu, both residents of Yelahanka.

Sangunni planned government agencies for the lake getting polluted. "We hardly see local residents polluting it. Instead, it is BWSSB and BBMP which are destroying it. BWSSB has let a 3 MLD (million litres a day) sewage line into the lake bed. BBMP has been dumping garbage and construction debris along the bank."

Bird expert S Subramanya has recorded various species of migratory birds that flock the lake from as far as Siberia and Himalayas. "Till some years ago, the lake was home to 75

species of birds. Due to increased pollution, birds have been giving the lake a miss. Today, you only get to see some common water birds."

A G Appu Rao, deputy conservator of forests (Bangalore Urban), who takes care of the lake, said, "We have written to BBMP and BWSSB a number of times not to discharge sewage into the lake. Yet, they have been releasing it directly. We are also pursuing the matter to declare the lake as a sanctuary. We have submitted a proposal to revive Puttenahalli lake as well as five other lakes at a cost of Rs 8 crore and awaiting government's approval."