

Lake (g)razed to ground

PIC: RANJANA B R

DEEPTHI M R

Bangalore's growth can be summed up in two ways. One, a super-fast growth and two (a dubious one, though), its vanishing water bodies. Take, for instance, the Nagarbhavi lake, which prided itself for its aquatic life and rare avian population. Now, it is almost invisible.

A vast stretch of water weeds has converted the lake bed into a grazing land. Located on a four-acre area, it was once home to several species of birds, but has now turned into a marsh filled with hyacinth and weeds.

Till recently, people used to flock to the lake to recharge their lungs with fresh air or for religious rituals.

SEWAGE THE CULPRIT

"The disappearing lakes has got to do with sewage water getting mixed with lake water. With excess amount of nitrates and phosphates, sewage water is nothing but a fertile feed for the growth of aquatic weeds. When this is let into the lake either due to the encroachment of sewage canals or illegally, it will foster the growth of weeds and shrink the water-holding capacity of the tank," said Dr Ramachandra Mohan, professor, zoology department, Bangalore University.

Experts have said the increased growth of water hy-



Water weeds have choked Nagarbhavi lake, which has shrunk in size over the years

acinth and grass will drive lakes towards the path of extinction. "When water plants grow in the lake, water gets more oxygen. But an excess amount of these weeds destroy the lake. Further, weeds consume all the oxygen available in the water and restrict sunlight from entering the lake. This spurs the growth of bacteria," Dr Mohan said.

FOUL SMELL

Sampath Kumar, a resident of the area, said the accumulated silt and decaying weeds besides the sewage water emit foul smell.

A portion of the lake was given to Ambedkar Polytechnic College located right behind

the lake. A dhobi ghat is situated behind the lake and washermen use this water for washing clothes. "The water is contaminated as the sewage water from the college hostel is let into the lake and the same water is used by washermen at the dhobi ghat. The lake has shrunk in size in the past 12 years," said Hemavathi, another resident.

The Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) officials had visited the spot in 2006 and asked the people in the locality not to come up with new buildings close to the tank bed. Since then, nothing has been done to preserve this precious water body.

Zoology dept to celebrate centenary

Bangalore University announces year-long programmes

Express News Service
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YEAR-LONG programmes have been chalked out by Bangalore University to commemorate the centenary celebrations of its Zoology Department. In this regard the university released a special centenary year logo, here on Saturday. Following is a snapshot of the programmes lined up.

Seminar

The department is organising a seminar on revision of under-graduate and post-graduate syllabus on September 23, which will be followed by workshop on revision of UG and PG syllabus from September 29-30. They will also organise a national workshop on biodiversity awareness, conservation and utility on October 12 and October 13.

Conferences

National Beekeeping Congress and All-India Honey festival from February 25-27, 2010. There will be a symposium on recent trends in the field of Cell Biology during April, 2010. Later, during May-June 2010, an international conference on animal health and global warming will be held, which will also be the valedictory function for the year-long function. "I am personally meeting President Pratibha Patil on September 8 to invite her to the valedictory function," Bangalore University vice chancellor Dr N Prabhu Dev said.

Books

The university will publish a

book on history of the genesis of the Department of Zoology from 1909 till date. A compilation of the department's research activities for the last decade is also on the anvil.

Summer schools

Summer schools for both teachers and students to update the recent developments in animal sciences will be organised. This includes classroom teachings, lab and training on specialised areas like toxicology, gerontology, medical entomology, water quality and management.

Memorandum of Understanding

The department will be signing a Memorandum of Understanding with University of Aberdeen, United Kingdom on 'Physiology of Aging' and with Tokyo Metropolitan Institute of Aging on aging. An MoU with National Institute of Animal Nutrition and Physiology, Bangalore, on 'Physiology and Toxicology' will also be signed.

Stamp

Registrar Sanjay Vir Singh said that the Department of Posts will bring a stamp to commemorate centenary celebrations in October.

Department's past

The department was started by borrowing a microscope and one dissection set from the Department of Physics in 1909 at Central College. Prof C R Narayana Rao was the first head of the department.

Department to celebrate 100 years

DC CORRESPONDENT

BENGALURU

Aug. 29: To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Bangalore University's zoology department, the varsity will organise a year-long programme of seminars and conferences. A book on the history of the department will also be published.

Releasing the centenary logo on Saturday, vice chancellor N. Prabhudeva said BU may organise the National Beekeeping Congress and the All India Honey Festival in February next year. This will be followed by a symposium on cell biology, conferences on animal health and global warming, and seminars on revision of undergraduate and postgraduate syllabi. President Pratibha Patil has been invited for the valedictory function, he added. The zoology department will sign memorandums of understanding with UK-based Aberdeen University, Tokyo Metropolitan Institute of Ageing and city-based National Institute of Animal Nutrition and Physiology.

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In brief

Centenary of BU Zoology dept

A slew of national conferences, seminars, summer schools for teachers and students have been scheduled to commemorate the centenary celebrations of Zoology Department, Bangalore University, reports DHYS from Bangalore.

On Saturday, releasing the special centenary year logo, the varsity Vice-Chancellor Dr N Prabhudev said that the Zoology Department plans to organise a seminar on revision of under graduate and post graduate syllabus on September 23, which will be followed by workshop on revision of UG and PG syllabus during September 29 to 30.

The Sixth National Beekeeping Congress and All India Honey festival will be held during February 25 and 27, 2010 followed by a symposium on recent trends in cell biology during April 2010 has been scheduled by the Zoology Department. In May-June 2010, an international conference will be held on animal health and global warming, which will also be the valedictory function for the year long function. The varsity will also publish a book on the history of the genesis of the Department of Zoology from 1909 till date.

Summer schools for teachers and students to update the recent developments in animal sciences will be held later in the year. Classroom teachings, lab and training on specialised areas of apiculture, toxicology, gerontology, medical entomology, water quality and management, vector biology and other areas are the contents of summer schools.

The Department will also sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the University of Aberdeen, UK on 'Physiology of Aging' and with Tokyo Metropolitan Institute of Ageing on Aging. The Department of Posts will bring out a stamp in commemoration of the centenary celebrations, to be released in October.