

Press Release

Dr. TV Ramachandra: Bellendur Lake a goldmine Seeks Industries support to rejuvenate the once pristine Lake

Renowned scientist from Indian Institute of Science **Dr. T V Ramachandra** today said that Bellendur Lake which is in the thick of controversy due to its massive pollution, can be easily restored to its former glory by just desilting the bed of the lake.

He said: “By just dredging out the deposited silt from the lake, the once pristine water body can be rejuvenated and brought back to life once again. The exotic flora and fauna and the aquatic life supporting lake’s ecosystem can be recreated by just desilting the heavy deposits which has got accumulated over the years”.

Delivering a guest of honour address at the Workshop on Water Conservation and Rainwater Harvesting for Industry organised by Bangalore Chamber of Industry and Commerce (BCIC) Dr. Ramachandra revealed that the Government need not worry about spending money the desilting the lake, rather it can take the support of the industry to dredge the silt and sell the same to the farming community and brick kiln industry which would be more than willing to take the dredged rich soil.

He said:” Bellandur Lake has seven million cubic metres of NKP (ammonium nitrate) silt worth Rs. 1,500 Crores. If the industry or any other body comes forward to take up the project under CSR or any other community service, the government will actually gain rather lose on this project.”

While heavily coming down on the numerous industries and the massive apartments lined up along the Bellandur Lake which are responsible for killing this water body, Dr Ramachandra expressed surprise that “the government at the very first instance should not have allowed these concrete structures to come up at all. It is quite intriguing how the government not only allowed these structures line up along the lake but also allowed them to pollute the lake”.

Dr. (Mrs.) Tejaswani Ananth Kumar who delivered the keynote address at the workshop called upon all concerned citizens of Bangalore to plant trees and not waste water the way we do right now as she warned that water will turn more scarce as we continue to plunder this precious gift of nature.

Meanwhile, **Mr. Thyagu Valliappa**, President BCIC speaking at the workshop assured the government that it will chart out a strategy to support the projects related to water conservation and rejuvenation of the lake.