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Not a drop drained, revived Hebbagodi Lake opens



Picture for representation only

DC CORRESPONDENT BENGALURU, DEC. 2

The Biocon Foundation, the CSR arm of Biocon Ltd. and Syngene International, dedicated the newly rejuvenated Hebbagodi Lake in Anekal taluk to the community on Sunday. Besides the bio-rejuvenated lake, a Children's Park and a safe drinking water facility using Reverse Osmosis (RO) technology were also opened for the public.

These facilities were inaugurated by Mr B. Shivanna, MLA, Anekal taluk, Mr Lakshman, chairman, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), Wing Commander (Retd) G.B. Athri and Biocon Foundation Managing Trustee Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw.

The Biocon Foundation, with approvals from the Karnataka Lake Conservation and Development Authority (KLCDA) and other government authorities, has brought back to life the dying 35-acre Hebbagodi Lake, which has led to improvement in the water quality and the return of flora and fauna. Apart from the children's park, a walkway has also been created.

The Biocon Foundation initiated the project under the guidance of Wg Cdr (Retd) Athri in mid-2016 and has successfully completed the project. Wg Cdr (Retd) G.B. Athri helped the Foundation synergise efforts to obtain the necessary multi-government approvals and providing guidance throughout the complex process.

Ms Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw said, "The Biocon Foundation is committed to address the pressing social and environmental issues in the state with strong community engagement and innovative solutions. The 'proof of concept' established at Hebbagodi Lake has opened the path for Biocon Foundation to initiate other lake rejuvenation projects and will contribute towards reviving other lakes in Bengaluru."

Wg Cdr (Retd) Athri said, "Without removing a drop of water from Hebbagodi Lake (which is the usual practice), we have successfully rejuvenated the lake. The water quality has attained pristine glory with the help of natural elements. The most important aspect of the rejuvenation process is that time-tested natural processes have been put into place."