

On revamp priority list, Satpula Lake being filled up with raw sewage water from drain

Kushagra.Dixit@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Satpula Lake in south Delhi was listed in 2021 as one of the 1,040 wetlands to be rejuvenated by Delhi govt's wetland authority. However, raw sewage water is now being pumped into it for over a month from a large drain in Khirki near Saket court.

The lake, covering 3.06 acres in official records, is situated inside a park of Delhi Development Authority (DDA). During a visit, **TOI** found that the lake was getting filled with murky and stinking water being sent to it through frothy streams that originated from a tank linked to the large drain.

"It's nullah water, the lake is being filled for over a month now. Sometimes the stink is high, it often makes our skin itch," said a maintenance worker clearing the lake bed as the aim is to fill up the lake soon. The pumping

of untreated sewage is also leading to sludge deposition and groundwater contamination, among others.

The tank from which the water was being pumped towards the lake through a small plantation is part of a newly built sewage treatment plant (STP). Although it

seemed not to be working, operators at the spot claimed otherwise. "The water is well treated using the new STP," claimed an official, even as the stinking grey water was producing froth and depositing sludge at the edge of the lake. The same water was also being used to irrigate the new

plantation there.

Some other officials, however, said the STP had not yet been commissioned and was in the trial phase.

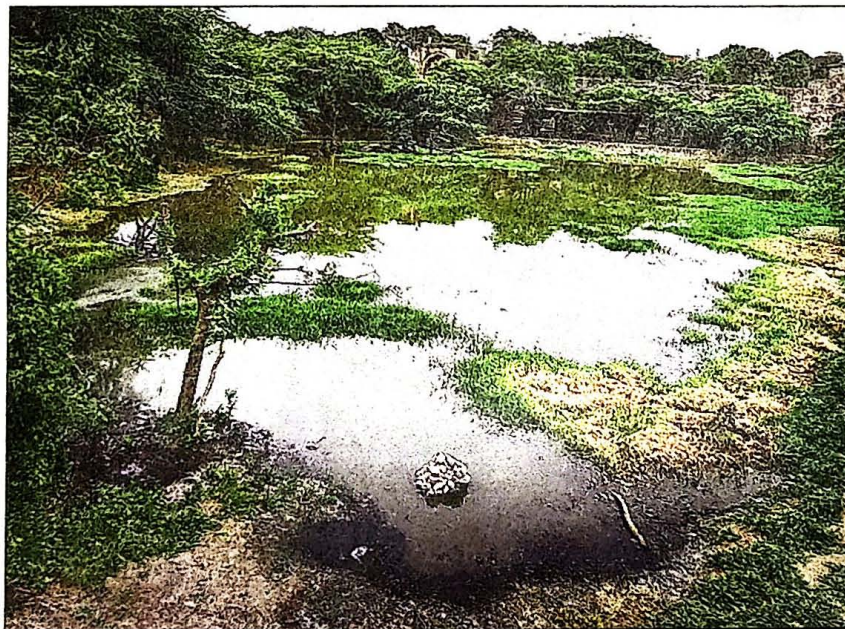
No reply was available from DDA.

In the past, similar conditions were noticed at some other lakes or ponds like Bha-

laswa Lake and in Japanese Park in Sector 10 Rohini. The water rejuvenating them had very high fecal coliform level, a mark of untreated sewage.

Despite listing 1,040 waterbodies for notification and preservation in 2021, not a single one has been recognised in three years.

Photos: Rajesh Mehta



GOING DOWN THE DRAIN: The lake is among 1,040 waterbodies listed by Delhi govt's wetland authority for notification and preservation in 2021