

retired Dr V. Shanta
lifetime achievement
award.

Father of Free Software movement
Dr Richard Stallman to deliver
lecture at IIT Madras on Feb. 6.



■ The pathetic condition of the nine tanks is evident from a study conducted by Siruthuli, an NGO, that works for restoration of water bodies

Choked waters



Clean tanks needed to quench residents' thirst

VIDYASHREE
DHARMARAJ | DC
COIMBATORE, FEB. 4

The civic body must ensure zero

sewage into the tanks and weed out the hyacinth

some of the tanks.
The civic body needs a two-pronged approach to tackle the issue — first ensure nil discharge of sewage into the tanks, and then weed out the hyacinth, opine naturalists.

According to Siruthuli managing trustee Vanitha Mohan, tanks are primarily meant for groundwater recharge and rainwater harvesting and not for discharging sewage. It is important to stop sewage discharge to arrest the growth of weeds. And, for this, the government can either divert the sewage to a central location or set up decentralised

water treatment system (Dewats) in every tank so that sewage is treated before being discharged into the tanks. Dr. Rajitha, a nature conservationist in the city, said the civic body should start the cleansing the Noyyal from where it originates as most of the water in the tanks comes from the river. It is not just the nine tanks in the city, all the 18 in and around Coimbatore have to be desilted and restored if the groundwater-level is to be improved.

With the population growing, it is a myth that Pillor and Siruvani schemes alone can help them, he asserted. A vast majority of the people depend upon borewell water for irrigation.

Unclean tanks could also be breeding grounds for water-borne diseases and result in epidemics, observe the state health fraternity.

POLLUTED RESOURCE

Ground reality

- Only six of the erstwhile 72 wards of the city corporation have potable water
- Groundwater-level has become contaminated with sewage being discharged into the tanks
- Unclean tanks could be breeding grounds for water-borne diseases and result in epidemics

Corp'n drive can save water bodies

DC CORRESPONDENT
COIMBATORE, FEB. 4

Discharge of drainage into and dumping of garbage in tanks should stop.



Recharge groundwater

Tanks are primarily meant for groundwater recharge and rainwater harvesting. It is important to stop sewage discharge to arrest the growth of weeds

— Vanitha Mohan trustee, Siruthuli



Corporation effort

Civic body has been directed to prepare a detailed report for desilting eight tanks strengthening bunds, treating sewage and setting up platforms and fencing at a cost of ₹134 cr under JNNURM

— M. Karunakaran collector

te the underground drainage project, hanging fire for over three years now, to help the water tanks regain their lost glory. This will ensure that disposal of drainage is streamlined and not discharged into the tanks.

The corporation had taken over the tanks from the PWD in 2008 to desilt, strengthen the bunds, beautify the surroundings and turn them into even recreation centres, but this has been an unfulfilled promise. A release issued by the JNNURM wing in the corporation after the tanks were acquired, had stated that the objectives were to generate revenue from the parks or other recreational centres near the tanks, but this continues to remain a pipedream for entertainment-starved Coimbatore.

take stringent action against those encroaching on the water bodies. The water hyacinth weed should be removed and used for production of biogas. The weeds can also be used as manure, said members of the residents awareness association of Coimbatore.

All attempts to contact mayor S.M. Velusamy failed. Collector M. Karunakaran said the civic body has been directed to prepare a detailed report for desilting eight tanks — Ukkadam Periyakulam, Valankulam, Singanallur tank, Muthasankulam, Selvachinthamani tank, Selvampathy tank, Narasampathy tank and Krishnampathy tank — strengthening the bunds, treating sewage and setting up platforms and fencing at a cost of ₹134 crore under JNNURM.



Valangulam tank encroached by huts. (Right) Singanallur tank in Coimbatore covered with hyacinth.

