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**TIMES CITY**

# Lake panel report will ignore NGT's new guidelines: Koliwad

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bengaluru:** Assembly speaker KB Koliwad, who helms the committee on lake encroachments, said the panel's report will not acknowledge the National Green Tribunal's (NGT) renewed guidelines on buffer zones for lakes and rajakaluves (storm water drains).

On May 4, NGT had directed the state government to increase the buffer zone of waterbodies to 75 metres, and primary, secondary and tertiary rajakaluves to 50, 35 and 25 metres each. However, with the government not specifying whether it has accepted the guidelines or not, the committee will not take

## **BUFFER ZONES**

them into consideration, Koliwad said. Constructions located 30 metres away from waterbodies and 50 metres from the middle of rajakaluves will not be considered encroachments by the committee.

In June, the committee had directed civic agencies to temporarily stop construction in the vicinity of waterbodies. It had ordered revenue officials to do a re-survey of lakes falling under the jurisdiction of BBMP, BDA and Karnataka Lake Conservation and Development Authority (KLCDA) in the Bengaluru region, based on the NGT guidelines.

The speaker said the committee had received details of the re-survey but won't consider them while preparing the report. The final report based on the old guidelines will be submitted in the next two months.

## **Will consider old buffer zones**

The government has not come out with a public statement or intimation on whether the new NGT guidelines have been accepted. So, we will identify encroachments based on the previous buffer zones

**KB Koliwad** | SPEAKER AND COMMITTEE HEAD

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