

14-cottah Mahisbathan pond turns into field, BMC steps in

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PROMISE TO RESTORE WATER BODY

Kolkata: A pond, spanning 12-14-cottah land at Mahisbathan behind Sector V, Salt Lake, has allegedly been filled up in a matter of a week, apparently to carry out constructions there. Alerted, the BMC promised to restore the water body to its original state. It is also sending a notice to police to find the accused.

TOI on Thursday visited the spot off a library in Mahisbathan in BMC Ward 28 and found the water body filled up with waste and debris.

BMC MMiC (environment) Rahima Bibi Mondal said the matter was recently detected and the civic body was taking rectifying steps. "A notice is being sent to the police and the water body will be restored to its original state. It could not be found who were behind the illegal fill-up. The debris was suspected to have been dumped

- **Spot:** Mahisbathan, behind Sec V
- **Steps:** BMC has sent a notice to police to trace the culprit
- **It promises to restore the pond to its original state**



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at night," Mondal said. Pointing out that water bodies in the area were often being filled up, in the guise of dumping waste there, she said, "We are keeping an eye out. No water body or pond can be filled up."

BMC officials said they regularly cleaned up ponds in their area. "We are conducting regular clean-up by manually dredging and picking up mud from the bed of

the ponds so that people can use the water bodies," said a civic official.

In BMC Ward 38, which covers Duttabad, there are 64 ponds. Ward authorities, with the help of boys from local clubs, clean up the water bodies every Sunday. "The exercise is aimed at preventing waste from getting piled up on the banks and stopping mosquito breeding," said a Ward 38 official.