
HOME / SOCIETY

Bengaluru's Varthur Lake catches fire; poses threat to migratory birds, say environmental activists [Video]

The National Green Tribunal had earlier pulled up the Karnataka government for neglecting its water bodies, which have led to rising incidents of lake fires.

By : Bismah Malik

Jan 21, 2019 10:38 IST



The largest water body & the most polluted lake in Karnataka

Bengaluru's water bodies are in the spotlight once again after its Varthur Lake caught fire at three different spots on Sunday afternoon.

Local residents told News Minute that smoke emanating from the fire entered their homes and sometimes spread as far as 2kms from the lake.

The incident has occurred at a time when migratory birds flock the city and make its lakes their habitats for several months. Environmentalists are predicting that the wetlands in Varthur Lake may have caught fire and could also destroy the nests of the migratory birds.

Varthur Lake had also caught fire in 2017. Several environmental [activists](#) say that the

lakes in Bengaluru catch fire due to the chemicals and garbage dumped there.

"It is highly likely that the illegal settlements around these lakes are causing the pollution there as they do waste segregation near these water bodies and dump the left-over garbage into the lake. This really is a black day in the history of Varthur Lake," Jagdish Reddy, an environmentalist, told India Today.

"Besides the garbage deposition, the lakes are also polluted with the construction, demolition materials, human faeces and other effluents," he added.

Bellandur Lake, infamous for extreme pollution levels, had caught fire more than 10 times in 2018. The environmental activists have attributed consistent inflow of untreated sewage and industry effluents into the water body as the main reason behind the fires.



Varthur lake in South-east Bengaluru caught fire on Sunday afternoon, which has become a cause of concern for the citizens and activists in the city [ANI/Twitter](#)

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has already slapped a Rs 50 crore fine on Karnataka government for neglecting Bellandur and Varthur lakes. They say the fires not only destroy the ecology of the water bodies but also harm humans.

The environment watchdog has also ordered a fine of Rs 5 lakh on people who dump garbage into these lakes.

A recent study by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, has said that almost 98 per cent of the lakes in Bengaluru are polluted with sewage and chemicals and almost 90

Watch the Varthur lake catching fire here:



Whitefield Rising
@WFRising

There is a fire in the lake.

Now, you say that to anybody, and they will think you have gone a bit loopy.

Not in namma city. This is all too real for us. Fire in the middle of #VarthurLake. It's happening now. @KarFireDept @chairmanbwssb @BlrCityPolice

24 3:17 PM - Jan 20, 2019

42 people are talking about this