

## Thousands of dead fish surface at Bengaluru's Ulsoor Lake

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[By Sonam JoshiIndia-32861 seconds ago](#)

Thousands of dead fish have been discovered floating on the shores of the Ulsoor Lake in the heart of the southern Indian city of Bengaluru on [Monday](#).

One of the city's oldest and largest lakes, Ulsoor is a popular spot for picnics and boating. In recent years, it has been plagued with pollution due to the release of untreated sewage and choked with water hyacinth.

"This occurred because of a high amount of organic content in the lake due to untreated sewage. With temperatures rising in the city, there is more biological activity and a reduction of oxygen

levels in the water, which caused the deaths," TV Ramachandra, professor at Bengaluru's Indian Institute of Science, told *Mashable*.

Residents [say](#) that the dam that separated the sewage water from flowing into the lake broke two years ago, and had not been repaired.

The mass deaths are also due to the lake's stagnant water. "Bengaluru's lakes were originally inter-connected. Since all the channels have now been blocked, Ulsoor is a stagnant water body," Ramachandra says.



A view of the pollution near Ulsoor Lake in Bengaluru.

There are several indications that the problem of pollution in the city's ecosystem runs deeper. In the last few years, there have been similar instances of large-scale fish deaths in Bengaluru's other water bodies, including [Gowdanapalya Lake](#), [Sankey Tank](#), [Cubbon Park](#) and [Mathikere Park](#).

Even before it came to be called India's IT capital, Bengaluru was known for its inter-connected lakes, but unchecked construction and pollution have resulted in many of them getting contaminated and dying. Last year, Bellandur Lake made international headlines after it caught fire and later began spewing toxic froth.



A view of the Ulsoor Lake in Bengaluru.

Last year, the local government announced plans to build a [floating](#) restaurant at Ulsoor Lake, which may further damage the lake's ecological balance. Ramachandra argues that the solution to reviving Ulsoor Lake lies in treating all the sewage that goes into the lake and installing a few fountains to ensure aeration. "This is the heart of the city," he says, "so it will only help the people."