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KARNATAKA

Fire breaks out in the middle of Bellandur Lake



STAFF REPORTER

FEBRUARY 17, 2017 00:00 IST

UPDATED: FEBRUARY 17, 2017 03:51 IST

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The fire was noticed on Thursday evening. Firemen managed to put it out only by around 10 p.m. Special Arrangement

For a few hours, fire department personnel could not even access the spot

Fire in the highly polluted waters of Bellandur Lake is nothing new. But even fire department personnel were stumped on Thursday evening after seeing dense smoke emerging from the middle of the lake.

They could not even attempt to find the source of the smoke as they had no way to access the spot. “How can we put out a fire in water?” said one fireman.

It was around 10 p.m. by the time they managed to put out the fire.

They suspect that the fire originated in the thick layer of hyacinth in the lake. But they are clueless on what set the hyacinth on fire.

“Waste has been dumped in the lake deliberately. Either someone has set it on fire, or the chemicals inside the lake may have got ignited,” said a fire official.

Over the last one year, the lake has garnered international attention for froth that spills over to the roads nearby and toxic fumes that ignite spontaneously.

Residents in the neighbourhood point to the incessant burning of waste. “Garbage is routinely burnt in the vicinity despite our protestations and