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The system needs more UV Singhs: Expert

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The brave effort by chief conservator of forests UV Singh to stop a gang of lake polluters has not only made him a hero but raised many questions among experts.

TV Ramachandra of Energy and Wetlands Research Group Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, said: "I am not surprised by the attack. It is sad that environmental laws are not being strictly adhered to."

Each high rise (industries, commercial complexes and even apartments) should have a treatment plant of its own. Unfortunately, waste is recklessly dumped into water bodies by contractors, he said.

"The sewerage should be treated before it is let into the lake and the effluent should be treated and used by industries. But the regulatory framework is too weak to enforce the rules. There is need for more UV Singhs in the system," he said.

Environmentalist AN Yellappa Reddy said agencies and the government have no control over the activities of the industries. "They should know how many industries are there, the chemicals being used, the waste disposal mechanism and where the effluent are let out," he said.

There should be complete control on all industries which release effluent and obnoxious gases, he said.

The manpower of environmental agencies should be strengthened to look into all aspects of pollution. Since mafias are involved in acts like the one that took place at Nagawara Lake, there should be better coordination with the police in carrying out such operations.

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