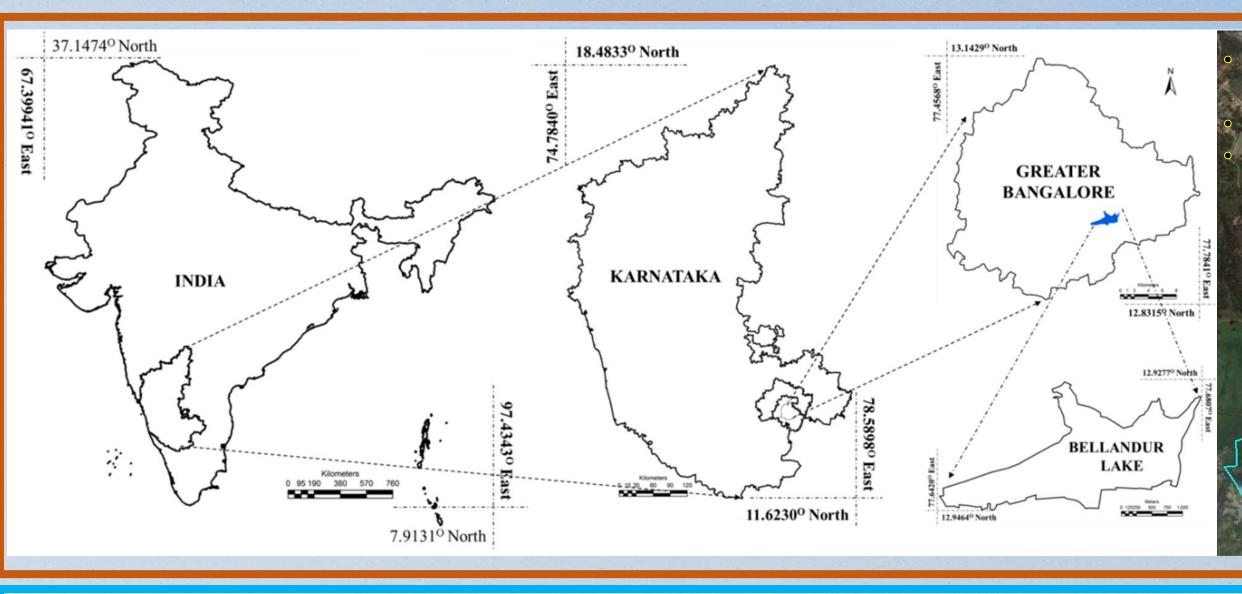
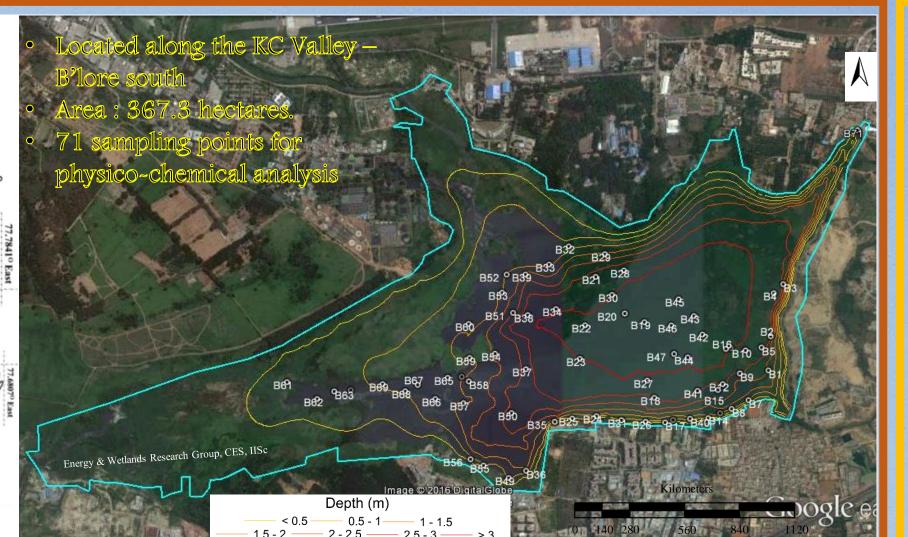


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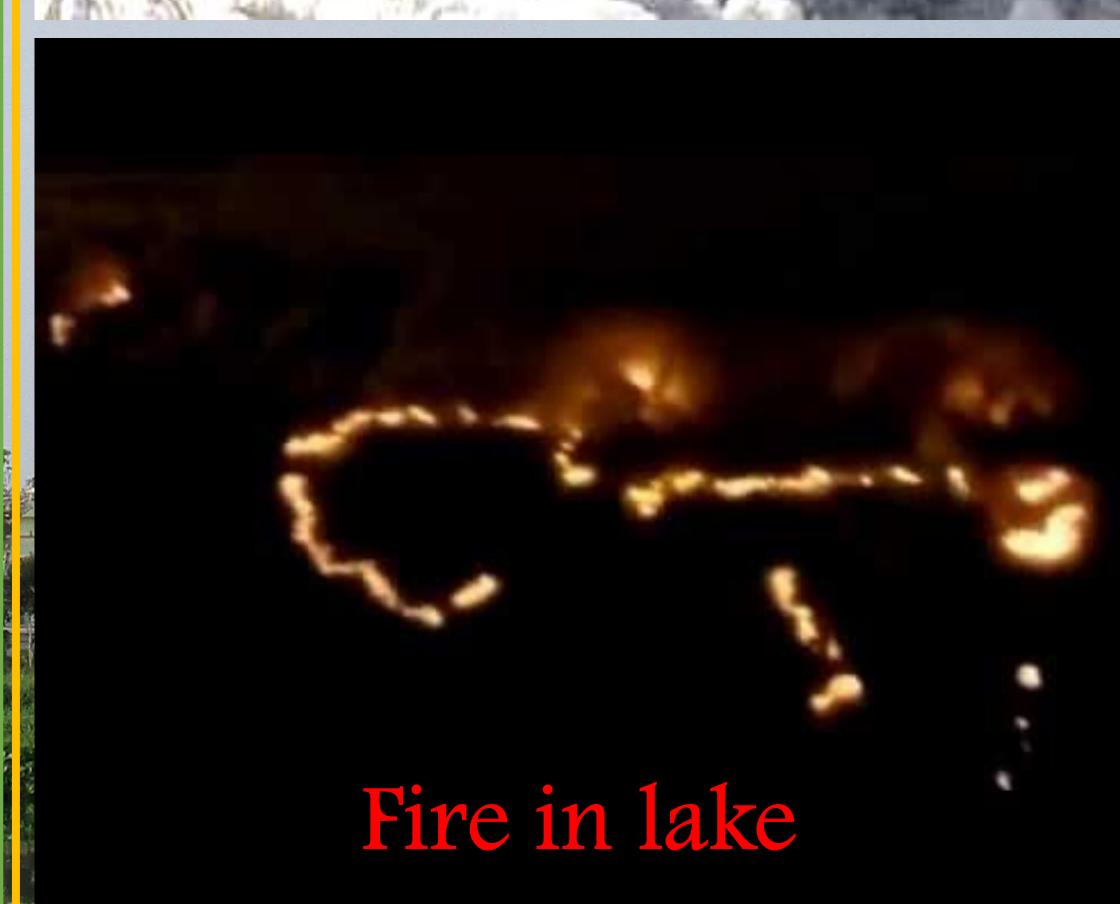


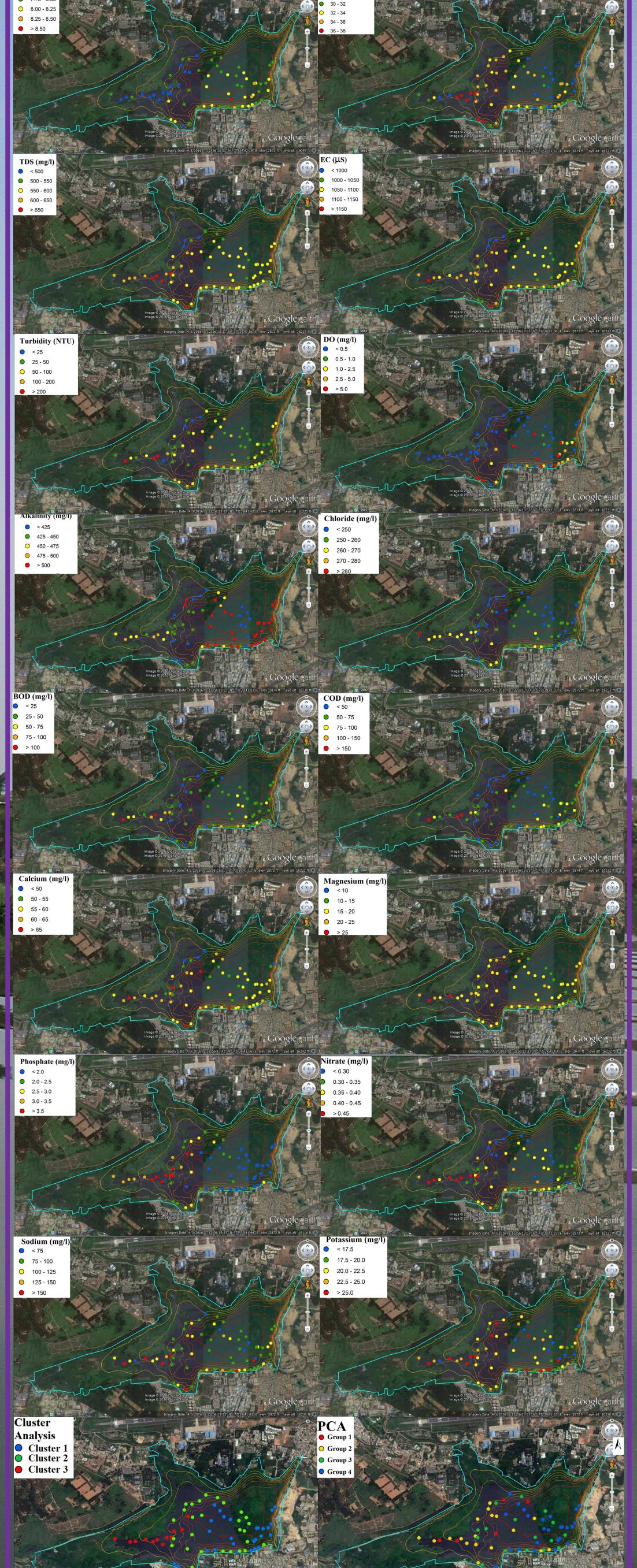








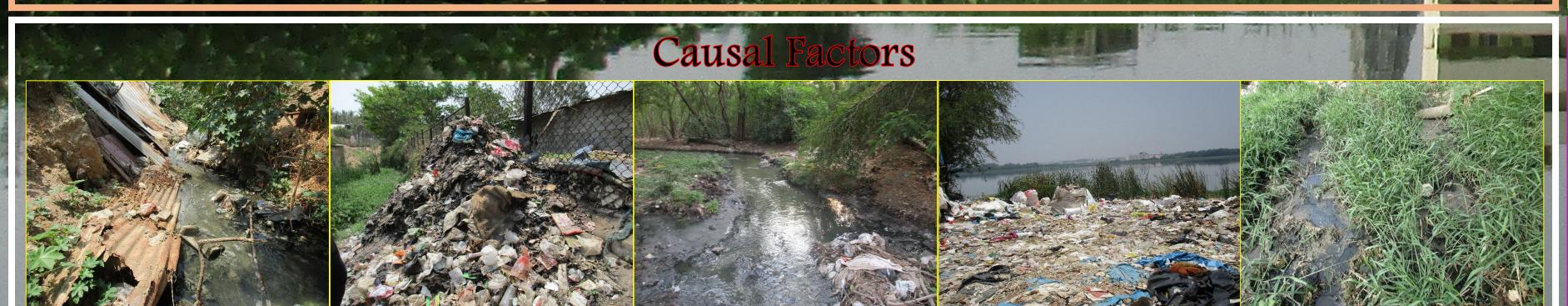




Field Investigations









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'Silt in Bellandur, Varthur lakes worth Rs 1,800 cr'

searchers at the Indian Insti- study.

in restoring city's

when government agencies cite lack of funds for not

restoring sewage-filled

A bathymetric survey and could be used to restore the nure to manufacture bricks collection of water samples, lakes, said Prof TV Ramachanand as an alternative to sand. along with efforts by re- dra of IISc, who is leading the Varthur and Bellandur lakes

tute of Science (IISc) and Varthur and Bellandur lakes metres worth of silt, which if Madras Engineer Group and were last de-silted in 1970. The removed will not only restore

active participation by citizens, bathymetric survey shows that the lakes, but also address all revealed that the silt accumu- a large quantity of silt has ac- the sand problems in the city,

lakes is worth Rs 1,800 crore. both the lakes, which together Prof Ramachandra also said Contractors charge the gov- are spread over 1,000 acres. that before restoration, Jakkur

ernment for de-silting the lakes This blocks the natural lake was surrounded by about

and quietly earn additional rev- process of ground water 300 borewells and had higher

ated in Varthur and Bellandur cumulated over the years in he said.



lakes, a study has indicated the high economic value of enue by selling it to a third partecharge, the professor said ty. However, this aspect real and recommended wet dredger lake improved ground water rejuvenating the water bod-ies (in the form of accumu-economic value of the silt has sludge as the first step towards found no nitrate traces in the Team carrying out bathymetric survey at Varthur Lake BENGALURU: Preliminary findings of a survey, conducted to fathom the depth of Bellandur and Varthur lakes, show a massive decrease in their depth. The bathymetric survey noted that the depth has reduced to less than one metre in many places at Varthur lake. It used to average about 30 feet in the past. Bathymetry is the study of underwater depth.

The survey is being conducted by T V Ramachandra of Energy and Wetlands Research Group, Indian Institute of Science, with the Madras Engineering Group (MEG) and volunteers from Ramachandra, who briefed reporters about the survey on Tuesday, observed that silt has accumulated over the lakebeds. He estimated the quantity of silt, two to three feet high, at about Representatives of MEG say they have the required technology to de-silt the two lakes. The group has an eco-battalion tasked with projects related to environmental protection. **Sell Sand, Restore Lakes** Experts taking part in the survey believe de-silting the large water bodies will provide several benefits. The removal of silt helps in recharging the groundwater, depleting rapidly in city limits. "Moreover, the commercial value of the silt, which can be used as sand for construction or to make bricks, is about Rs 1,800-2,000 crore. The money for lake juvenation can be raised by desilting," an expert said.

One of the primary objectives of the survey was to find out how much silt has collected over the years, and to make recommendations on rejuvenation of the two lakes During the survey, samples were taken every 10 feet along the length and breadth of the two The survey began on April 4 from Varthur lake, and is expected to conclude either of Wednesday on Thursday. The lakes were last desilted in 1970 Citizens responded with enthusiasm to the survey, and have joined the drive to restore the As part of the rejuvenation efforts, experts and scientists from the Indian Institute of Science have been recommending wet dredging. Ramachandra had recommended a bathymetri survey to also estimate the amount of silt and sludge