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# B'luru lake has India's largest floating island

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**Bengaluru:** Once a garbage dump in Electronics City, Hebbagodi Lake has now made it to Limca Book of Records for having India's largest floating island.

The 12,000-sqft island has strips of vegetation that crisscross the waterbody. It comprises rafts that allow plants to grow hydroponically (without soil, and through mineral nutrient solutions) and act as cleaning agents. The floating rafts are built with reused PVC pipes.

The objective is to improve water quality by removing excess nutrients and maintain the pH level of the water between 6.5 and 8.5 — considered normal. The roots of the plants grown on these rafts have pollutant-digesting microbes that degrade the pollutants in the waste water that flows into the lake.

Spread over 35 acres with a 2km perimeter and located in Anekal taluk of Bengaluru Urban district, the lake's jo-

urney back to glory began in August 2016 when biotech major Biocon India and its subsidiary, Syngene International, took up the lake revival project under their corporator social responsibility programme.

Hebbagodi Lake has five sewage inlets from residential areas and two stormwater inlets. It is downstream of Shikaripalya, Tirupalya and Veerasandra lakes and upstream of Kamma-sandra Lake. In October 2017, Biocon Foundation signed a pact with the state government for lake restoration.

Silt-removing and de-weeding operations were taken up on a war footing. The weed was composted to spread green cover around the lake. Energy-efficient cascading aerators were installed to increase the level of dissolved oxygen in water. Underground conduits were laid to address sewage spills and stench. A culvert was constructed to prevent excess sewage flow.