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**“Toxic foam triggered by sewage outflow covers Marina beach”**

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**CAREFUL PLEASE:** Beach-goers frolic in the foam at the Marina on Sunday unmindful of its harmful effect. Researchers tracking the phenomenon said the foam is toxic and is a result of the discharge of tonnes of untreated sewage into water bodies

## Toxic foam triggered by sewage outflow covers Marina beach

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Chennai:** Many city residents spent their Sunday evening getting drenched or dipping their feet in the foul smelling and frothing waters at Marina.

While for the visitors, the cloud of white foam hitting the coast may have become a regular sight and fun to play with in the city beach, researchers tracking it said the foam is toxic and is a result of discharge of untreated sewage into water bodies. They warned that touching it could cause skin allergies.

On Sunday, snow-like foam was seen along the coast from Napier Bridge to Kannagi Statue where visitors were seen playing in the water. Researchers said the foaming happens when the pollutants in the sewage from the cooum river mix with the saline coastal waters. "There is a possibility that the toxic algal blooms were triggered by nutrients like phosphate.



**RISKY AFFAIR:** A man plays amid the noxious froth

It is also possible that if there was dredging going on in the Cooum, sewage could have gotten mixed because the wind direction is southerly i.e from Cooum from the north towards Adyar river in the south," a city researcher said. "Such blooms are seen during and after monsoon or whenever the phosphate content is high in sewage," the researcher added.

The phenomenon has affected fishermen over the years. S Palayam from Coastal Resource Centre and a fisherman from Urur kuppam said many fishing hamlets, who were dependent on the Cooum and Adyar rivers, have lost their livelihoods over the years due to the indiscriminate discharge of sewage polluting these water bodies. "There are around 25 fishing villages from Ennore to Besant Nagar and people from many of these villages were dependent on the two rivers for their livelihood half a decade ago. Now because of the pollution, you cannot even see a bird flying near these rivers," he said.

Earlier, in a report submitted to the National Green Tribunal, researchers from National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR), which is monitoring coastal water quality, said they have reported toxic algal blooms eight times between 2013-2020. NCCR researchers said they did not notice any toxic algal blooms on Saturday.

News Item in The Times of India newspaper, Chennai Edition dated 08th February 2022

**CHENNAI:** Many city residents spent their Sunday evening getting drenched or dipping their feet in the foul smelling and frothing waters at Marina. While for the visitors, the cloud of white foam hitting the coast may have become a regular sight and fun to play with in the city beach, researchers tracking it said the foam is toxic and is a result of discharge of untreated sewage into water bodies. They warned that touching it could cause skin allergies. On Sunday, snow-like foam was seen along the coast from Napier Bridge to Kannagi Statue where visitors were seen playing in the water. Researchers said the foaming happens when the pollutants in the sewage from the Cooum river mix with the saline coastal waters. "There is a possibility that the toxic algal blooms were triggered by nutrients like phosphate. It is also possible that if there was dredging going on in the Cooum, sewage could have gotten mixed because the wind direction is southerly i.e from Cooum from the north towards Adyar river in the south," a city researcher said. "Such blooms are seen during and after monsoon or whenever the phosphate content is high in sewage," the researcher added.

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