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**Point for discussion this month**

**Groundwater pollution due to improper  
discharge of deadly effluents**

(For private circulation only)

Dear Readers,

The photograph is of most sought stream – Ambil Stream in Pune city. This is the third of its kind for which SERI (Shrishti Eco-Research Institute) has designed ecotechnological treatment systems to control the pollution from non-point sources in the highly urbanized area.

SERI has already joined hands with Clean River Committee to make one nalla treatment project in CME, Pune in 2003. Later on, the cooperation was extended to River Action Group – group of about 10 – 12 NGOs in Pune. They are concerned about the filthiness of Pune’s rivers. The successful implementation of Ambil Stream Treatment Scheme is the outcome of serious teamwork by all including Pune Municipal Corporation.

SERI plans to design ecofriendly technology for the highly polluting industries like distilleries, pulp and paper mills, textile industries, paint and emulsion industries. Based on our experience, we hope to develop cost effective natural technology for such deadly effluents.

Our pollution control activities are lagging behind the schedule. If our developmental plans join hand with environment quality, then there is no any other country in the world can show sustainable development in practice.

We request you to send your comments on “point for discussion”. Selected comments will be published in the next issue of SERInews.

Thanking you,  
Chief Editor

**NewsDigest****City Pollution**

Blacksmith Institute's report of highly polluted 300 cities worldwide is not a surprise. Rather it's the example of ruthlessness of developed human mind which ignores the requirements of environment.

Shrishti Eco-Research Institute (SERI) is working on social, health, economic and environmental impacts of the water pollution in the cities of Western Maharashtra from last two years. Pollution of water bodies in 10 corporation areas – viz. Ulhasnagar, Kolhapur, Pune, Nashik, Sangali – Miraj and Pimpri Chinchwad, Dhule, Jalgaon, Malegaon and Ahmednagar have been studied from last two years.

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### **Use of Wetlands as Treatment System**

National Environment Policy (NEP) of India is endorsed by Parliament in May 2006. Dominant theme of policy is to secure livelihood from conservation of resources rather than degradation. It says that Environmental degradation is due to population growth, inappropriate technology, and consumption choices (Wasting patterns), and aggravates due to institutional failures.

NEP 2006 suggests that wetlands can be used as alternative technology to capital intensive municipal sewage plants (page 33). This suggestion is with caution.

We suggest that artificial wetlands can be developed to treat wastewaters so that the integrity of natural systems shall not be disturbed. Another water body will be created to treat the waste using natural forces. It is a useful system for the establishments at hill stations otherwise the waste gets carried away to foothills and pollute the most serene water bodies.

SERI's Ecotechnologies like Soil Scape filter, Hydrasch Succession Pond, Green Channel, Green Bridge, Green Lake, and Bioincineration etc. are concurrent with the suggestions of NEP 2006. SERI's Sandeep Joshi has been working on these technologies from last 15 years.

- Sandeep Joshi

**SERI's Ecotechnology****3 Green Channel**

Useful for domestic and industrial wastewaters

- Application of filtration principle using land application system either overland flow or subsurface.
- This technology is useful for food and fruit processing units.
- This employs the principles of horizontal and vertical filtration simultaneously. This filtration takes place through the media, roots of plants and attached biofilms of various microorganisms which are able to degrade the pollutants.
- This system is applicable for sewage and wastewater from food and fruit processing units wherever enough space is available for garden.
- The system is designed such a way that the electricity requirement is zero.

- Sayali Joshi

**NewsCapsule**

- ✚ Palghar's Paneri restoration work is restarted as the monsoon is over.
- ✚ Navrachna School's Soil Scape filter system is revamped by Amit Naregalkar to take care of excess solids from toilet blocks.
- ✚ Sayali Joshi participated in Hyderabad Workshop on City Effluents in Oct. 2006 organized by a group of NGOs with help of European experts.
- ✚ SERI is working on pilot plant for the treatment of effluents from paint emulsion units.
- ✚ Dr. M. S. Kodarkar is presenting our ecotechnological products in Japan in an international meet organized on lakes in the last week of Nov. 2006.
- ✚ SERI has started Environment Design Centre to serve population at large and the environment professionals in dealing with pollution control issues.

Compiled by – Suhas Patil

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