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Contact: Executive Editor, Shrishti Eco-Research Institute, B-106,
Devgiri, Opp. P. L. Deshpande Garden, Near Ganesh Mala, Pune – 411
030. India. Phone: 91-20-24321773 /Telefax: 91-20-66206539

Website: www.seriecotech.com Email: seri_news@yahoo.co.in

Point for discussion this month Polluted lakes – is a result of high-
tech civil culture?

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Eternal Words

**A. P. J. Abdul Kalam with his co-author Y. S. Rajan writes in his
“India 2020 – A Vision for the New Millennium –**

**“If we want to achieve a developed India, we have to learn to get out
of pitiable state of inaction. If laws, rules and procedures have to be
changed, this should be done. The rate at which technologies offer
new solutions and new windows of opportunity is fortunately very
high in the current phase of human development. We can make up
the lost time and missed opportunities, provided we learn to move
fast. ... We need to think holistically and innovatively, and not in our
closed compartments. And above all we need to learn to act fast and
protect those who make genuine mistakes. Failure is a part of
venture!**

**Better Sanitary conditions and improved micro-environment in the
habitat or workplace are the most important requirements for
health... Removing health hazards to which our people are exposed
is a crucial national mission.”**

Dear Readers,

When we think about India as a developed nation, we need to talk about improved living standards with no compromise on environment quality. The status of the lake shown on the cover page is a representative of the deteriorating conditions of India's water bodies. Every time, it is told that the polluters would be shifted from the banks and shores of water bodies to control the pollution. Rehabilitation process takes its own time. Till the action taken, the water body reels under pollution leading to ecologically dead status – ecological coma.

As Dr. Kalam states the need of fast action, there is requirement of precise planning of short – term and long term measures and time bound implementation of action plan with uninterrupted financial support by the governance for sustenance of their own economy and assured health for their own citizens.

Sandeep Joshi and SERI's efforts to clean up the mess using natural forces and biodiversity has received poor attention as there is a closed compartment approach with energy intensive synthetic – artificial process units to manage the wastes. Till the actions are taken, the water bodies like the lake in Hyderabad on cover page will remain polluted. ETP near that place converted into STP will not function properly and the investment of crores will remain idle.

Global market will always talk about climate change to break the monopolies created over the period of time and the producers will be compelled to alter their recipes and products in the name of waste minimization. Despite of that, the deterioration of environment quality will not halt because waste generation will not stop any moment. Therefore there is need to look all these problems with entirely new approach – Ecological Approach in Urban System that is Urban Ecology – a more understanding of correcting the environmental conditions for urbanites transcending geographical boundaries of settlements.

Thank you,
Chief Editor

Newsviews

Environment & Politics

Citizens of India have been watching their politicians since from second half of 2008 year as they were planning for mid-summer elections in 2009. One actor turned politician had huge rally at religious place surrounded by forests. He was slapped with notice under Environment Protection Act of 1986 for damaging the natural vegetation as 5 tons of garbage was just dumped by political pilgrims.

The other famous politician known for his love for game organised CYG 2008. The event generated at least 5 tons garbage per day which needed careful disposal. The party known for their socialistic approach having office near natural stream is found to be polluter as visiting party workers used to throw waste plastic glasses, bags and food waste in the stream. Pune's politicians found, issues of solid waste junk on the city roads and ecologically dead Mutha River polluted due to city wastewaters, very sticky as they don't find any solution as the city administration sleeps on it.



Let's see what Barack Obama President of United States has to about environment as a politician –

Obama sponsored for health impact assessments for environmental health. A classic 1980s study demonstrated that poor neighborhoods are burdened with more environmental hazards than rich neighborhoods. The 1980s study established the field of "environmental justice"; this bill addresses environmental justice and health justice. It's bill to require health impact assessments and take other actions to improve health and the environmental quality of communities, and for other purposes.

Senator Obama opined that the Healthy Places Act of 2006 focuses on the built environment, which includes our homes, parks, and transportation systems. The Healthy Places Act of 2006 would expand these and other efforts to improve the planning and design of communities that can promote healthier living. It establishes and supports health impact assessment programs; better addressing environmental health issues; and creating a grant program to address environmental health hazards, particularly those that contribute to health disparities. Finally, the Healthy Places Act provides additional support for research on the relationship between the built environment and the health status of residents.

Where do we go when our National Environment Policy of 2006 states development should be through conservation of Environment and here we find that health of environment is totally neglected by politicians and administration during the election process. The city administration and officials of pollution control authority rejected to participate in people's movement to clean Indrayani River taking cover of code of conduct for parliamentary election 2009.

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CASH – Citizens Action for Sanitation & Health

TransNVtech, Pune has taken initiative to support the concept of CASH – Citizens Action for Sanitation and Health floated by Sandeep Joshi while working on different polluted streams in Pune with people's actions and movements.

- Priyamvada

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From SERI's Desk

Pilot Plant to Treat Polluted Lake

Hyderabad – an ever growing IT metro city of South India is spewing wastewaters and solid wastes into their water bodies. It is said that there are 169 lake water bodies in Hyderabad city. Every time administrative boundaries are increased, the number of lakes under control of urban authorities is increased. There is urgent need to create an independent authority to rescue the water bodies from urban pollution so that urban development and environment are harmonised.



Pilot plant was mooted when GRIN (Green Infrastructure), Pune joined hands with SERI to venture into cleaning and restoring of lake with ecotechnological pollution control processes. In a shortest possible time, the pilot plant was developed and installed near polluted lake in Hyderabad to demonstrate the effectiveness of vertical ecofiltration –

Soil Scape filter in removing the colour (visible pollution parameter) from the lake water.

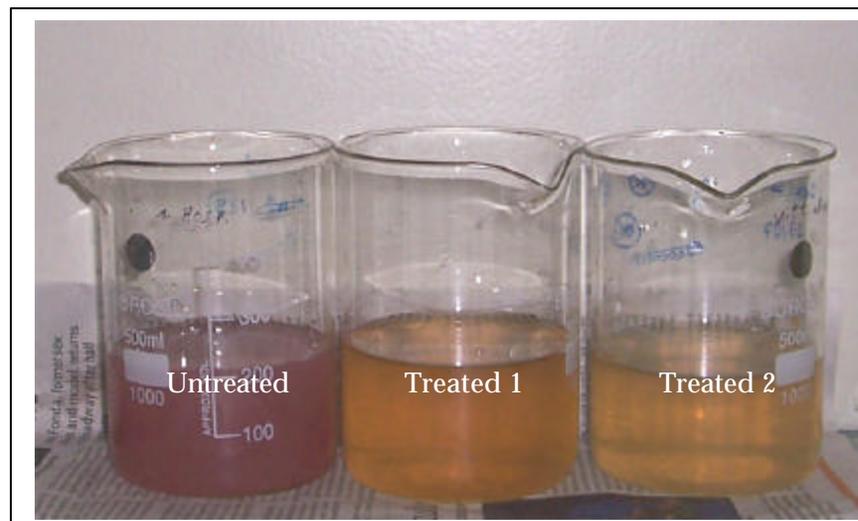


It's a picturesque lake having meter gauge rail track on one side and the other side a soil bund beyond which the new airport road runs. There is agglomeration of small scale industries which generate hazardous effluents. These discharges are released into the stream entering into lake.

A two stage filtration system was developed using SERI's multispectrum ecofert - biologically activated medium - impregnated with various efficient groups of microorganisms. This system was provided with a small pumping system to lift the lake water to Tank no. 1 - a storage tank to help in regulating the daily input for the Soil Scape filter units (no. 2 & 3). These Soil Scape filters were acclimatised with 10% of desired flow rate. Untreated and treated water samples were checked for various parameters.

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The pilot plant was run for 50 days and the performance of the system increased over the period of time. The green plants in the filters fully grown in 15 - 16 days and the performance improved.



Results of samples tested are given below with % reduction values -

Sr. no.	Parameter	Untreated	Treated	% reduction
1.	TSS (mg/l)	413.4	36.8	91.1
2.	TDS (mg/l)	575.9	443.3	23.0
3.	Turbidity, NTU	248	3	98.79
4.	COD, (mg/l)	338	182	46
5.	BOD, (mg/l)	136	64	52.94
6.	Metals	Reduction 85 - 95%		

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