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**Point for discussion this month**

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**Eternal Words**

V. R. Krishna Iyer in his book titled Environment Protection and Legal Defence states that –

We need environment law societies, conservation organisations, informed intellectuals, independent scientists and mass mobilisation organs well informed on industrial pollution. A comprehensive code must provide for all these anti-pollution operation fighting Corporate Almighty. This is a vital policy position if the State is to take the danger of pollution by Industry seriously.

While emphasising on the need of mobile environmental courts, he says that a constructive approach to pollution prevention and waste conversion pays dividends. Environment is one of the basic resources for development and therefore sustainable development must occupy high place in the overall planning process.



Dear Readers,

The cover photograph is of God's Own Country Kerala's river near Kochi. The soil bund is segregating the freshwater and estuarine – salt mixed water. It's amazing to see the different aquatic ecosystems in just 10 ft distance. I am sure the water quality is suitable for domestic uses on upstream (left side of bund) side. The downstream side on right of the bund is flooded with industries and discharges. In the visit many environmentalists were saying that the pollution authorities should pay attention seriously to attenuate the pollution. It's surprise to know that the sea near Kochi receives sewage drains just like any coastal city including Mumbai. If you visit Mumbai's beaches, you may confront foul odours. Especially, during the high tide, the dirty water washes shore leaving decaying solids back.

Every year, World Environment Day is celebrated by every government or non-government organisations and everybody vows to create awareness among the masses about the deteriorating condition of environmental quality. Healthiness of living spaces is eroding alarmingly and the poor people are paying through their nose to sustain their lives. Is it a cost of failure of public services being paid by taxpayer additionally? Many say that human race will be drowned in its own waste. That's why there are agitations on dispersion of waste from urbanised centres into the surrounding semi-urban and rural areas where it becomes a cause of contention and degraded standard of living.

There is a ray of hope. If the positive work is done for the benefit of society, definitely it's a step forward to save thousands of lives from the vagaries of pollution. In 2003, SERI's Sandeep Joshi demonstrated the recipe of a filter to purify water for drinking using locally available materials during Jal Dindi – a journey on waters of distance 450 km. Then onwards SERI continued research on development of simple, low cost filter for the poor communities which suffer due to discharges of wastes from elite and upstream communities. The recent findings are quite encouraging. These simple filters are found to be effective in elimination of very high concentration of faecal coliforms. Student of biotechnology worked on "Shrishti Filter" to know the efficacy of removal of critical parameters.

Thank you,  
Chief Editor

### Newsviews

#### **New Bhagirathas!**

According to Hindu religion the holy river Ganga was bought from heaven to Earth by Bhagirath. He had shown the river the path to Earth. The efforts done by him are famous as "Bhagirath Efforts" in Hindu literature.

The New generation's Bhagirath are also doing efforts to control pollution of number of rivers present on Earth. Cores of rupees are funded by different governments for this major cause.

In Tiruchi district of Tamil Nadu, Rs. 253 core is sanctioned for flood control projects and the main expenditure is on constructing retaining walls along seven – km stretch of the river across the city.

Can canalization of the river prevent pollution or flood situation? Is it solution or aggravation of the problem? The basic reason of the floods is mainly construction in the river course or obstacles.

#### **No comments!**

UK's Green Guru says fat people contribute to climate change. Beware Fatties!

Sir Porritt, Government's chief Green Adviser believes that fat people are a threat to the planet! In explanation of this point he said that fat people eat more protein rich food which is responsible for giving rise to greenhouse gases because of the toxic methane livestock emits. Also obese people are more likely to use cars rather than walk or cycle, therefore producing more carbon emissions.

Sir Jonathan, chair of the sustainable Development Commission said, " Fat is a climate change issue".

#### **Present is not enough, what about Future?**

In Pune city one of the social organizations had carried out the survey of Sewage Treatment Plants in Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) areas. Though PMC has total 5 STPs they are treating only 50-60% of total sewage from the city. And this is reflecting in the analysis of river water samples near STPs.

*From SERI's Desk*

**Hats Off to Citizen's Action for Sanitation & Health!!**

While talking about the river or water pollution everybody has lots of suggestions for the society. But very few people are showing right path to the society by implementing pollution control measures at individual level.

Mr. Sanjay Athavale is one of those climate warriors! Besides software professional he is working with some Environment Protection Group GREEN HILLS in Pune. After interaction with SERI experts, the idea of having Sewage Treatment Plant( STP) for his individual house struck to his mind. With the help of SERI's guidance, he developed a small unit of Soil Scape Filter of capacity 1000 liter/day in his backyard to treat the wastewater from his house. The treated water is being used to maintain the garden surrounding his house. The filter is underground so there is no requirement of electric motor to spread the waste water over the filter. Also the treated water is circulated in the garden with the help of a motor but not running on electricity. It is attached to a bicycle and paddling the bicycle produces sufficient energy for the motor to lift the treated water.

Amazing! The operation cost is totally nil!! The garden is healthy on treated water as well as the family is healthy by bicycling everyday in spare time!



There is need for more and more “Sanjay” to come forward to save this Planet Earth from pollution. SERI salutes his initiative! SERI will be more than happy to help such initiatives!

## **Katewadi: Eco-village**

SERI is again entrusted a pioneering ecological work of bringing harmony of people and nature by nourishing the ecovillage concept. The Katewadi village in Baramati taluka, Hon. Union Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar's hometown in Pune district, is scheduled to become the first eco-village in the country of its kind. With support by the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) a proposal to this effect has been forwarded to gram panchayat for execution. The thrust of this plan is to allow people to experience their links with the natural resources around them. The motivation for establishing an eco-village is to validate the gradual integration of supportive social and cultural structures and avoid destructive environmental practices. Eco-villages are intended to be socially, economically and ecologically sustainable communities that allow social networks within a broader framework.

The eco-village plan focuses on sanitation and health which aims at promoting community livestock management, solid waste management; provision of community blocks, sewage treatment by green bridge technology, energy conservation through biogas power generation, solar street lighting system, focus on lake conservation adjoining the Kaneri temple and heritage conservation of Hanuman temple etc. are all part of the plan.

### **Conceptual Plan for Ecological Restoration and Sewage Management in the Village**

As conceived by Dr. A. R. Supate, Project Leader, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, and Mrs. Sunetra Pawar, supporter of Ecovillage concept, there are two project components for waste management and ecological restoration of water bodies as given below

1. **Stream pollution control**
2. **Lake restoration**



The ecovillage should bring harmony among the village and environmental processes. A photograph of village shows the cleanliness and willingness of the villagers to undertake the project.

