

## Status of Wastewater Generation and Treatment in India

**R.M.Bhardwaj, Scientist 'C'**  
**Central Pollution Control Board,**  
**Parivesh Bhawan,**  
**India**  
[scrmb.cpcb@nic.in](mailto:scrmb.cpcb@nic.in), [rmbdelhi@yahoo.co.in](mailto:rmbdelhi@yahoo.co.in)

**ABSTRACT:** Urban centers in India lack infrastructure for sanitation, and the wastewaters generated are not managed appropriately. Inadequate treatment facilities for sewage have deteriorated the water quality of aquatic resources. Deterioration of the water quality results in health problems for the public at large. The rapidly increasing population and resultant wastewater generation may make all perennial aquatic resources unfit for their desired uses in the years to come, if wastewater generated in urban centers is not treated completely.

The Central Pollution Control Board carried out studies to assess the status of wastewater generation and treatment in Class I cities (population > 100,000) and Class II towns (population between 50,000 and 100,000) during 1978-79, 1989-90, 1994-95 and 2003-04.

The latest study indicates that about 26 254 million litres per day (Ml/d) of wastewater are generated in the 921 Class I cities and Class II towns in India (housing more than 70% of urban population). The municipal wastewater treatment capacity developed so far in India is about 7044 Ml/d - accounting for 27% of wastewater generation in these two classes of urban centers. An attempt is made to estimate the urban population and resultant wastewater generation for 2051.

There is urgent need to plan strategies and give thrust to policies giving equal weighting to augmentation of water supplied and development of wastewater treatment facilities. The future of urban water supplies for potable uses will grossly depend on efficient wastewater treatment systems, as the treated wastewater of upstream urban centers will be the source of water for downstream cities.