Wastewater Management

Why in news?

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November 19 is world toilet day, this year it is celebrated with a theme Handle wastewater better.

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What is the status of waste water management in India?

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- India has made progress in toilet construction under the Swachh Bharat Mission, by achieving 71.54 per cent toilet coverage from 38.70 per cent in 2014.
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- But half of India’s population still defecates in the open.
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- According to the Central Pollution Control Board, some 61,948 million litres per day was generated and only 30 per cent of India’s wastewater is recycled.
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- In India today, all wastewater goes into lakes, rivers and ponds.
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- In Delhi, for instance, 90 per cent of urban households have sewage systems whose wastewater, gets dumped directly into the Yamuna.
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- Thousands of crores of rupees is being spent to clean river and purify water at the same time list of dying rivers is growing.
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What are the areas India need to concentrate?

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- Behaviour change communication should go hand in hand with toilet construction and toilet adoption, to make India open defecation free.

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- It would be useful to independently assess as to how many of the new toilets have water and are cleaned regularly.
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- There is clearly a need to step up the funds allocated under the Swachh Bharat Mission for managing and treating wastewater.
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- Many western countries use recycled sewage for cooling systems for thermal power plants, India can consider this.
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- Efforts should also be taken to rope in Corporates to play an active role in wastewater management.
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- Social initiatives with a strong local presence and knowledge of local communities can help develop solutions that address the specific sanitation needs of a community.
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Source: Business Line

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