

Decentralised sludge management systems are vital, if India is to achieve goal number 6 of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG). Discuss

Under the UN Sustainable Development ~~Goal~~ Agenda goal number 6, India is bound to provide clean water & sanitation for all.

While the governments in tandem with the local bodies have been working towards clean water & sanitation, the increase in dumping of untreated sludge in river bodies, local ponds is visibly seen.

In this context, the decentralised sludge management systems are vital because —

⇒ Rampant increase in constructions have prevented the local bodies to connect it to the centralised treatment plant.

Here, the decentralised systems can be installed to treat sludge locally & discharge it safely.

⇒ Thanks to Swachh Bharat Green, more and more rural areas are becoming Open Defecation Free. In near future, it is unlikely that huge capital will be invested in centralised treatment plants.

Here, the decentralised systems can assist in safely discharging the sludge.

⇒ Decentralised sludge management systems provide excellent business opportunities in the growing start-up ecosystem in India.

For the success of such decentralised systems, the government will have to make Green Building Codes compulsory, provide financial subsidies just like rain harvesting systems. The risk of manual scavenging must be absolutely avoided through regular intervention from the government.

After all it is also the constitutional responsibility of the state to provide clean environment for its citizens under Article 21 & it is the constitutional duty of the citizens to protect its waterbodies. This can be done more effectively through adoption of decentralised sludge management systems.