

E n v i r o n m e n t S e r v i c e s & R e s e a r c h O r g a n i z a t i o n



K a s h m i r E n v i r o n m e n t N o d e

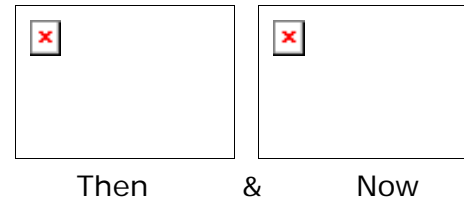
An Electronic Networking for Sustainable Development in Kashmir

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River Jhelum

Lifeline of Srinagar Under threat



Life in the Srinagar city and elsewhere in Kashmir revolves around the river Jhelum. The Jhelum river drains the Kashmir valley and it originates from a small spring at Verinag though its true source is a few kilometers further to South East. The four streams viz. Sundran, Bringi, Arapath and Lidder join the Jhelum close to Anantnag near Khanabal. The length of the Jhelum from its source to Baramulla is 241 Kms. The major towns contributing pollution to the river are Anantnag, Srinagar, Sopore and Baramulla. The wastewater from these towns is discharged into nalahs, drains, canals, which ultimately reach the river Jhelum and is the main source of its pollution

Srinagar City has 54 dewatering Plants and 32 discharges into river Jhelum .River

Jhelum is also one of the source of drinking water supply for Srinagar, Sopore and Baramulla. With high growth of urban areas and increase in development which includes increase in supply of drinking water, augmentation of sewerage systems, the quantum of untreated wastewater and solid waste is rapidly increasing.

It is therefore imperative to undertake remedial measures for prevention of pollution of river Jhelum by formulating schemes for environmental infrastructure works to intercept, divert and treat the domestic and industrial wastewater. The programme must also addresses the problems of siltation, bank erosion and agricultural run-off containing pesticides and fertilisers with the help and close interaction with the concerned nodal ministries. The Bio-diversity of the river must be studied and monitored to restore its ecological status

Schemes for pollution abatement under the Jhelum River Conservation Plan (JRCP) are proposed to be implemented . The investment costs for the implementation of the schemes shall be borne by the Govt. of India. The costs for operation and maintenance of the assets to be created under the project shall be fully borne by the J&K State Govt.

It is imperative to undertake remedial measures for prevention of pollution of river Jhelum by formulating schemes for environmental infrastructure works to intercept, divert and treat the domestic and industrial wastewater.

Esro Emphasis shall be laid on appropriate treatment technologies and resource recovery from sewage/sullage, by using the treated sewage for irrigation, the

sludge for manure. The schemes under the JRCP will be implemented by the J&K state government through its identified nodal agency, J&K Lakes and Waterways Development Authority (LWWDA), Srinagar. The project lays a strong emphasis on public participation and institutional development to sustain the programme in the long term. The Ministry of Environment and Forests, GoI, is co-ordinating the overall implementation of the programme through the National River Conservation Directorate

The following categories of works should be taken up under this programme.

- Interception & Diversion of municipal wastewater

- Sewage treatment

- Low cost sanitation

- Improved crematoria

- Solid Waste Management

- Bio-monitoring and Water Quality Monitoring studies

- Improvement of ghats

- Afforestation along the river banks

- Community participation
- Institutional Development and Training

esro is hopeful that programme will also addresses the problems of siltation, bank erosion and agricultural run-off containing pesticides and fertilisers with the help and close interaction with the concerned nodal ministries. The Bio-diversity of the river will have to be studied and monitored to restore its ecological status.

While the schemes under the Jhelum River Conservation Plan are being implemented on the same lines as in Ganga Action Plan Phase - I, esro expect special emphasis to be laid in order to reduce the cost on sewage conveyance and minimising the energy needs for pumping the sewage. Efforts must be made to decentralise the sewage conveyance and treatment facilities. Also a strong emphasis must be laid on the sustainability of project investments by adopting an Integrated Approach in Project Planning, Formulation, Implementation and giving adequate attention to Community Participation, Gender issues, Institutional Development & Operation and Maintenance aspects.

esro will provide ever possible services for the conservation of the River Jhelum , when ever made to do so