

# 80% of India's surface water is polluted, points out report

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**New Delhi:** Even as India is making headlines with its rising air pollution levels, the water in the country may not be any better. An alarming 80% of India's surface water is polluted, a latest assessment by WaterAid, an international organization working for water sanitation and hygiene, shows.

The report, based on latest data from the ministry of urban development (2013), census 2011 and Central Pollution Control Board, estimates that 75-80% of water pollution by volume is from domestic sewage, while untreated sewage flowing into water bodies including rivers have almost doubled in recent years.

This in turn is leading to increasing burden of vector-borne diseases, cholera, dysentery, jaundice and diarrhoea etc. Water pollution is found

## DOMESTIC SEWAGE POISONING WATER

**75-80%** of water pollution by volume is from domestic sewage

Estimated sewage generation from class-I cities and Class-II towns |  
**38,254.82 MLD**

Of this, only **30%** or **11,787.38 MLD** is being treated

➤ The remaining is disposed directly into water bodies, polluting three-fourth of our surface water resources

MLD=Million litres per day  
Source: Report by WaterAid India

➤ Untreated sewage flowing into water bodies has doubled from around **12,000 MLD** to **24,000 MLD** in class I and II towns between 1991 and 2008

➤ There were **269** sewage treatment plants with **211** in class I cities, **31** in class II towns, and **27** in other smaller towns



to be a major cause for poor nutritional standards and development in children also.

Between 1991 and 2008, the latest period for which data is

available, flow of untreated sewage has doubled from around 12,000 million litres per day to 24,000 million litres per day in Class I and II towns.

The database defines Class I towns as those with a population of more than 1 lakh, whereas towns with population ranging between 50,000 to 1 lakh are classified as Class II. The report, titled 'Urban WASH: An Assessment on Faecal Sludge Management Policies and Programmes at the National and State Level', is likely to be released next week.

According to the report, inadequate sanitation facilities, poor septage management and a near absence of sanitation and waste water policy framework are primary reasons responsible for the groundwater and surface water pollution. Experts say there are glaring gaps not just in treatment of sewage water but also in case of water treatment itself, used in supply of drinking water.

For the full report, log on to [www.timesofindia.com](http://www.timesofindia.com)