

# Pilot project in Margao works towards cleaning Sal

Rakesh Mundy

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**Panaji:** Salcete's tiny River Sal has been a major cause of worry in recent years, due to its rising pollution levels. The department of biological sciences of BITS Pilani KK Birla, Goa Campus, is now working towards finding a solution.

Using funds from the central government's department of science and technology, 500sq m of wetland will be created near the Margao fish market at a cost of around Rs 20 lakh. This will be a pilot demonstration to treat effluents from a drain flowing into the river.

The project will be executed under Srikanth Mutnuri of the department of biological sciences of BITS Goa campus, who has over 12 ye-

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE

➤ In the river bed filtration system, **water is withdrawn from one or more wells** near a river or lake

➤ The well is **installed more than 50m** from the river

➤ The river water (together with

groundwater) is **induced to flow through porous riverbed sediments**



ars of research experience in bioremediation and waste water treatment.

"Around 40 cubic meters of water per day will be treated under the pilot demonstration project. Vertical constructed wetlands with river bed filtration will be used. This project is in collaboration with The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), Goa. Vertical construc-

ted wetlands require low energy, are low maintenance and there is no recurring expenditure. It also has the advantage of being one of the most cost-effective waste water technologies, which is easy to operate and reliable," said Mutnuri, who has research projects from several funding agencies, including the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.