

River Sal needs urgent dredging: Minister

Team Herald

MARGAO: Admitting that there is an urgent need to dredge River Sal to avoid flooding, Town and Country Planning Minister Vijai Sardessai said it was also important to clean up the river as much as possible and that was the reason why Vertical Wetlands & Riverbed Filtration was being attempted for the first time at the new whole sale fish market.

Developed by BITS Pilani and TERI, the technology is being used for the first time in Goa even though the firm had tried other models at Cujira and other places. Natural plants will be used to release bacteria that would break down the pollutants in the water and release improved water.

A reed bed will be prepared where 10 cubic meters of water from the market and 30 cubic meters of water from River Sal will

be taken in for filtration and the bacteria will break down the sewage particles in the water.

The Rs 17 lakh project is totally financed by the Department of Biotechnology of the Central Govt revealed Dr Shrikant Mutnuei Associate Professor at BITS Pilani, Goa. He said 10 cubic meters of the treated water will be used in the market itself for gardening and cleaning, while the remaining water will be released in the river.