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India with 18% of the World's population has only 4% of the world's water resources. In India, more than 50% of the population is facing scarcity of water, especially in view of population growth and economic development with more than 600 million population living in water shortage areas. Present conditions and future forecasting shows worsening water condition in the coming decades. Water being a basic human requirement needs appropriate planning, development, and management. The government agencies involve several action plans, policies and regulations across all levels of India's federal structure and consequently illuminating every facet of water resource management in all Indian states and sectors.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister of India in several episodes of Mann Ki Baat, spoke on the need for intensive water conservation and also combined these issues with several successful case studies. The Hon'ble Prime Minister of India exhorted every citizen of India that "every drop of rain should be conserved" further encouraging all possible solutions to conserve the water resources of India. In the purview of the above, to overcome the problem of water scarcity, efficient water management strategies and techniques (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle) have been planned and implemented. Central Pollution Control Board, played a pivotal role in the subject matter by implementing, continuous surveillance, and monitoring of industrial pollution, sewage, and water quality; technological intervention through participatory approach in industries such as Pulp & Paper, Sugar, Distillery, etc. for freshwater conservation, wastewater minimization, pollution load reduction and also reuse and recycling of treated wastewater in either industrial process or irrigation purposes. Domestic sewage, one of the major contributors of water pollution in the Indo-Gangetic basin has also been managed through capacity augmentation of sewage treatment facilities, adoption of alternative treatment technologies, action plan preparation and implementation for major drains and continuous surveillance. It also focusses on managing the water quality of river Ganga, Yamuna and its tributaries through pollution source mapping and action plan preparation and its implementation involving local administration and governmental agencies.

This special issue highlights all regulatory and technological interventions for water quality management for municipal wastewater, industrial wastewater, occasion and festivities deteriorating water quality, water sustainability and water reuse and resource recovery. Even after implementing all possible technologies and policies, we have a long way to go towards sustained utilization of water, protection and conservation of water resources, rainwater harvesting, development of surface and ground resources, the establishment of water bank, etc. These Water-management decisions covered in this special issue can have environmental, physical, social and economic impacts that are widespread and pervasive. It is, therefore, the need of an hour to disseminate the most relevant information for arriving at rational policies and decisions resulting in maximum environmental benefits.

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