

## **New technology to treat waste water**

**PANAJI:** BITS-Pilani KK Birla Goa campus and Ghent University have developed a novel technology relying just on electricity to disinfect waste water and thus limit the risk to inhabitants around open drains.

With support of the Programme Management unit at Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (PMU-BIRAC) of the Department of Biotechnology and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), the researchers have developed this novel technology.

The core of the technology is an electrochemical system, in which the water is treated by pH changes and the production of chlorine, a strong disinfectant. The system can be coupled to a high-rate wetland enabling higher-quality water. In the past years the teams have first tested the system at laboratory scale, then at single household scale and now the system is operational for a communal toilet for 100 people. The system continuously met the requirements for pathogens set by the