are not able to get the total amount of influents, primarily due to lack of sewerage network in the city. A total network of 2,071 km of new sewer line projects was sanctioned after Namami Gange came into being but only 66.85 km has been laid. The STP that treats domestic waste water in Kanpur’s Jajmau has a capacity of 130 mld but its April-March average was only 60.5 mld. According to SMCG, all the existing plants in Kanpur have a capacity of 414 mld but are getting only 230 mld as influents.

For any city, STPs are being designed according to their sewage generation. The problem lies in the way sewage generation is estimated. ‘’The estimation of sewage generation is based on the assumption that 60 per cent of the water supplied is returned as waste water.’’ Some recent data compiled by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) shows that actual measured discharge of waste water into Ganga is 6,087 mld, 1283 per cent higher than the estimated discharge of waste water,’’ says a paper authored by Raghu Dayal in the Economic and Political Weekly in 2016. V K Mishra, president of Varanasi’s Sankat Mochan Foundation (SMF), reiterates that the very methodology of calculating sewage generation is faulty. SMF was given the task of constructing an STP of 85 mld near Assi Ghat at Varanasi in 2010. Mishra, who is also a professor in IIT-BHU, says, ‘’We carried out a three-day schedule for the Assi drain and our utter surprise we found that the discharge was 685 mld. That was way back in 2010.’’ Mishra says that when the entire city is not having piped water supply, how can this become the criteria for calculating sewerage generation? Mishra’s argument also finds support in UP State Annual Action Plan (SAAP) 2017-2020, which requires all industries to send their chrome liquor to the Chrome Recovery Plant and pay for the treatment. Industries are finding it easy to dispose their entire waste, including the chrome liquor, in the common drain which carries both domestic as well as industrial waste. ‘’CPCB’s observations find eerie resonance in the April-May 2018 report of Kanpur Jal Nigam. It says that chromium concentration in tannery effluent is 110.2 mg per litre. When Down To Earth (DTE) visited the CETP, chromium had formed a separate layer over the waste water and was visible with naked eyes. Against the design parameter of 175 mg per 100 litre and 200 mg per litre the effluent had the former at 203 mg/litre and the latter at 225 mg/litre. A visit to Jajmau and nearby villages unveils the reality on the ground. There is no board outside any of the four tanneries right on the bank of Ganga in Wajidpur village and they seem to be running almost anonymously. One can see that they