

# Water and Well-Being in India

## 18th Dec 2017

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### Access to Safer Water

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#### Dug-well survey for scientific water use

Centre for Environment Education is conducting a survey of various dug-wells in and around the city to spread awareness on the right way to utilise these water sources. The survey will cover documentation, mapping and assessment of the existing dug-wells in the city as experts feel many of these have become a pit for dumping garbage over the years. Speaking to Mirror, Amarnath Karan, project-in-charge of Centre for Environment Education, said, "Dugwells use the first aquifer of groundwater and thus they are not very deep. Through this survey not only will we be able to take a note of the existing dug-wells but in future can also document the condition of water level

<http://punemirror.indiatimes.com/pune/civic/dug-well-survey-for-scientific-water-use/articleshow/61906922.cms>

#### Tackling the Ganges superbugs

Few people are surprised to hear that Indian waterways, including the holy Ganges River that sweeps across north India and Bangladesh, are a common source of stomach bugs and illnesses. Sanitation is notoriously poor in this country of 1.3 billion people; about half the inhabitants do not even have access to a toilet; and hundreds of children die each day from easily preventable ailments such as diarrhoea. What is less well known is that the waters of the Ganges can also carry so-called 'superbugs': bacteria with antibiotic resistance genes to fortify the bugs against any medicines that might be taken to cure disease.

<http://geographical.co.uk/opinion/item/2548-tackling-the-ganges-superbugs>

#### No evidence of China diverting water of Siang: CWC

"CWC has been closely monitoring the water levels of Siang and Brahmaputra but there is no evidence of any diversion of the Yarlung Tsangpo as the water levels on Indian side have not changed," a central government official said. Water samples of Siang river which were sent to CWC laboratory in New Delhi for toxic content have tested negative. "We were worried about possibility of toxic content but with the negative results now, the water is still fit for human consumption after proper filtering," the official said.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/no-evidence-of-china-diverting-water-of-siang-cwc/articleshow/62088735.cms>

#### Satellite images prove China's malafide intentions of diverting Brahmaputra water into desert

The bad intentions of China have again surfaced and this time with evidence of satellite images too. The latest satellite images shows how China has deflected the claims of India of diverting and polluting water of river Siang in Arunachal Pradesh. Speaking exclusively to India Today, Group Satellite Imagery Expert Colonel Vinayak Bhat (Retd.) confirmed the same, "China has stopped the water of Brahmaputra completely. At a place 60 km away into the territory, that is where they have constructed their dam of almost 200 m wide and the blockage is almost 900 m in length along the river, the entire water force has been channeled under the mountain through two tunnels which are almost 50 m wide and the entire river has been diverted through the mountains and it comes out almost 900 m on the north of that particular point," he said "This means they are trying to do something with the entire river water of Brahmaputra which will affect the entire Indian agriculture tomorrow. Because if they are planning to divert this water which seems to be the case, this is going

to harm the amount of water coming into India," added Bhat.

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/satellite-images-prove-china-malafide-intentions-of-diverting-brahmaputra-water-into-desert/1/1109597.html>

### **India says Chinese construction on river dirtying water**

Officials in India's northeast are complaining that Chinese construction activity on the upper reaches of one of the largest rivers that flows into India are likely turning the waters downstream turbid and unfit for human consumption. Over the weekend, Sarbananda Sonowal, the chief minister of India's Assam state, said the Brahmaputra river was contaminated with bacteria and iron, with laboratory tests declaring its waters unfit for human consumption. Sonowal asked that the Indian government take up the matter with Beijing.

<http://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/india-chinese-construction-river-dirtying-water-51734318>

### **Meet India's dam-building grandmother**

The trust works with local communities to find parts of the landscape that can capture water, like a reservoir. Instead of building man-made reservoirs from scratch, they use the natural contours of the hilly landscape, building slopes, and shoring up

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-42055000>

### **Meet India's "Water Mother" Who Helped Provide Water to Over 300 villages in Arid Region**

Ruia founded India's Aakar Charitable Trust which provides grants to rural areas that are the driest in the South Asian country. India's 71-year-old Amla Ruia is called the "Water Mother" for leading a campaign that helped provide water in over 300 villages in the arid desert region of Rajasthan in western India. Ruia - who uses traditional water harvesting methods - founded the Aakar Charitable Trust which provides grants to the local rural areas, which are the driest in the South Asian country, with the necessary resources to build the check dams. A portion of the contributions come from the local residents, which empowers local farmers to gain partial ownership of the project. So far, the trust has helped open nearly 200 dams

<http://www.telesurtv.net/english/news/Meet-Indias-Water-Mother-Who-Helped-Provide-Water-to-Over-300-villages-in-Arid-Region-20171212-0037.html>

### **Auto-chlorination to increase water purity**

West Godavari District Collector K Bhaskar said that auto-chlorination system would be implemented in 1,700 drinking water schemes in the district within three months for protection of public health on Friday.

<http://www.thehansindia.com/posts/index/Andhra-Pradesh/2017-12-16/Auto-chlorination-to-increase-water-purity/345769>

### **India declared free from Trachoma, a bacterial infection of eye**

India has been declared free from infective Trachoma which is a contagious bacterial infection of the eye. The Minister said, this has been possible due to efforts that included provision of antibiotic eye drops, personal hygiene, availability of safe water, improved environmental sanitation and availability of surgical facilities for chronic Trachoma.

<https://newsroompost.com/359498/india-declared-free-trachoma-bacterial-infection-eye/>

### **Health ministry declares India free from chronic infective eye disease 'trachoma'**

The Union health minister stated that the Survey results indicate that active trachoma is no longer a public health problem in India. "We have met the goal of trachoma elimination as specified by the WHO under its GET2020 programme. This has been possible due to decades of inter-sectoral interventions and efforts that included provision of antibiotic eye drops, personal hygiene, availability of safe water, improved environmental sanitation, availability of surgical facilities for

chronic trachoma, and a general improvement in the socio-economic status in the country," he said.  
<https://auroushealthcare.wordpress.com/2017/12/12/health-ministry-declares-india-free-from-chronic-infective-eye-disease-trachoma/>

### **India declared free of contagious eye infection trachoma**

Nadda said trachoma has been eliminated due to efforts that included provision of antibiotic eye drops, personal hygiene, availability of safe water and improved environmental sanitation etc. Trachoma is common in children till nine years of age.

<http://www.poandpo.com/in-sickness-and-health/india-declared-free-of-contagious-eye-infection-trachoma-11122017327/>

### **A "momentous achievement": India now free of infective trachoma, says Nadda**

Announcing the successful elimination of Infective Trachoma from India among the senior Health Ministry officials and faculty from Ophthalmology Department of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Union Health and Family Welfare Minister JP Nadda called it a momentous achievement. On Friday, Nadda declared India free of infective trachoma, which has been a leading cause of infectious blindness among children. The minister said that the survey findings indicate that the active trachoma infection has been eliminated among children in all the survey districts with overall prevalence of only 0.7 percent. "This is much below the elimination criteria of infective trachoma as defined by the WHO. The survey findings indicate that the active trachoma infection has been eliminated among children in all the survey districts with overall prevalence of only 0.7 percent," said Nadda, who also launched the National Trachoma Survey Report (2014-17)

<http://zeenews.india.com/health/a-momentous-achievement-india-now-free-of-infective-trachoma-says-nadda-2064425>

### **There are alternatives to dams, but we are not talking about them: experts**

"India is the third largest dam-building nation in the world after China and the US. We have more than 5,000 large dams. Despite that, India's annual per capita water storage capacity is 225 cubic metres, which is far less compared to China (1,200 cubic metres)," says T G Sitharam, professor at the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru. According to Sitharam, the fact that the per capita availability of water per year in India is 879 cubic metres and it is a water-scarce nation does not mean that there is shortage of water but there is lack of storage of water or water management. And dams don't solve the problem of lack of water storage. On the contrary, the storage capacity of a river is reduced to 75 per cent due to the problem of silting.

<http://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/there-are-alternatives-to-dams-but-we-are-not-taking-about-them-experts-59297>

### **Nagaland Land Resources Dept mitigating climate change**

The National Water Mission (NWM) - one of the missions under the National Action Plan for Climate Change (NAPCC) which was launched in 2009 as a nation-wide effort to tackle climate change - has pointed to the need for sustainable development along with efficient management of water resources. With studies showing that groundwater levels across India is getting depleted on account of increasing demand for water from a growing population, there is an urgent need for taking measures to minimize the depletion of the groundwater. The Nagaland State Land Resources Department has taken up projects across the state to turn forest and other hitherto unused land into productive and thriving ecosystems. While the Department has data of rainfall of the last one and half year, there is no data to check if the springsheds have helped recharge the ground water. However, locals insist that the springsheds have helped increase the flow of water in the area.

<http://morungexpress.com/nagaland-land-resources-dept-mitigating-climate-change/>

### **Two labourers die after drinking water from farm well in Andhra Pradesh's Vizianagaram**

Two farmhands died and four others were admitted to hospital after they suddenly fell sick while

loading freshly harvested paddy on to bullock carts at Kella village of Gurla mandal in Vizianagaram district on Saturday evening. According to police, the labourers drank water from an open well nearby hours before they fell sick and they suspect that the water might be contaminated with pesticide. However, the exact reasons for the incident is yet to be ascertained, said Gurla sub-inspector Ravi.

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/states/andhra-pradesh/2017/dec/03/two-labourers-die-after-drinking-water-from-farm-well-in-andhra-pradeshs-vizianagaram-1717696.html>

## **Capture and Retention of Water**

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### **CM inaugurates water harvesting model at Ranchi ashram**

On the occasion of World Soil Day, Chief Minister Raghubar Das inaugurated water harvesting model at Ram Krishna Mission Ashram here on Tuesday and pledged to create a new and affluent Jharkhand. He asked people to follow the path of Swami Vivekanand and create India of his dreams. Das said that one should not solely depend on bureaucracy for development as its consequences have been seen in the past 67 years. "Mission to double the income of farmers under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has started and farmers are given instruction about better agriculture. Our joint effort can end poverty in the state full of natural resources," he said. The CM admired Vivekanand Seva Sangh working in 120 villages of Ranchi, Ramgarh and Khunti by Ram Krishna Mission and said that an assistance of 8 thousand rupees per month will be given to them.

<http://www.dailypioneer.com/state-editions/ranchi/cm-inaugurates-water-harvesting-model-at-ranchi-ashram.html>

### **As rains grow erratic, Pakistan taps irrigation to protect Punjab crops**

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Friday approved a \$275 million loan for the project, which is supported by the Indus River System Authority (IRSA), a government agency that oversees water sharing between provinces. "Having a sufficient and effective irrigation system is fundamental in the development of Pakistan's agriculture sector, a significant driver of the country's economy," said Ryutaro Takaku, a water specialist at the bank's Central and West Asia Department. The project "will help increase agricultural production and improve food security in Pakistan", he noted in a press release. System aims to capture floodwater and monsoon runoff to boost food production in climate change-hit region.

<http://www.eco-business.com/news/as-rains-grow-erratic-pakistan-taps-irrigation-to-protect-punjab-crops/>

### **Dual piping and Linganmakki are BDA's answer to meet water demand in 2031**

"The water woes of the city in 2031, with over 20.03 million people, will be much worse than what the draft RMP 2031 predicts," said S. Vishwanath, a water conservation expert. While for most megacities, the per capita water demand is 200 LPCD (multiplied by the total population), which includes industrial water demand as well, the draft RMP considers 135 LPCD for domestic (multiplied by the total population) and 90 LPCD (multiplied by the working population, which is taken as 60% of the total population) for non-domestic — estimates that will derail projects. The plan does not mention Rain Water Harvesting (RWH), a major lacuna, even as the BWSSB has begun aggressively pursuing RWH even for old buildings to reduce the per capita demand.

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/bangalore/dual-piping-and-linganmakki-are-bdas-answer-to-meet-water-demand-in-2031/article21003044.ece>

### **Delhi schools, colleges get 60 days to instal water-harvesting systems**

The National Green Tribunal on Thursday directed all schools and colleges here to install rainwater harvesting systems within two months at their own cost, or be liable to pay a fine of Rs 5 lakh. A bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Swatanter Kumar said any institution that fails to install a rainwater harvesting system within two months may have to pay environment compensation of Rs 5 lakh. A water harvesting system channels rain that falls on roofs and courtyards into storage tanks after flushing out the water from the first spell, which can be polluted.

<http://www.telegraphindia.com/india/delhi-schools-colleges-get-2-months-to-set-up-water-harvesting-systems-dgtl-186459>

### **Tamil Nadu: Agriculture department steps up water harvesting work**

Eight hundred farm ponds in dry Ramnad district have been identified and half of them deepened ahead of northeast monsoon. "Farm ponds are cost effective rain water harvesting structures and the project has now gained momentum among the farming community. The water stored in the farm ponds can be used for supplemental irrigation of rainfed crops like chillies, pulses and millets during critical stages of growth", explained an official with agriculture department.

<http://www.deccanchronicle.com/nation/current-affairs/290917/tamil-nadu-agriculture-department-steps-up-water-harvesting-work.html>

### **Nagaland Land Resources Dept mitigating climate change**

The National Water Mission (NWM) - one of the missions under the National Action Plan for Climate Change (NAPCC) which was launched in 2009 as a nation-wide effort to tackle climate change - has pointed to the need for sustainable development along with efficient management of water resources. With studies showing that groundwater levels across India is getting depleted on account of increasing demand for water from a growing population, there is an urgent need for taking measures to minimize the depletion of the groundwater. The Nagaland State Land Resources Department has taken up projects across the state to turn forest and other hitherto unused land into productive and thriving ecosystems. While the Department has data of rainfall of the last one and half year, there is no data to check if the springsheds have helped recharge the ground water. However, locals insist that the springsheds have helped increase the flow of water in the area.

<http://morungexpress.com/nagaland-land-resources-dept-mitigating-climate-change/>

## **Enabling Women**

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### **Women in Delhi Use Open Information Law to Get Services**

A law that permits Indians to get information about their government is helping a group of women in Delhi get needed services. The women have led a successful campaign demanding that city officials improve access to water, waste removal services and transportation. The women live in Savda Ghevra, a slum resettlement colony for people who have been moved from extremely poor areas. It is the largest such colony outside of the city of New Delhi. The success of the women is a rare example of poor people in India using the Right to Information Act to change their community.

<http://learningenglish.voanews.com/a/women-in-delhi-use-an-open-information-law-to-get-needed-services/4154174.html>

### **India - No toilets for women in PM Modi's Gujarat Hometown**

The 150 families of Nadoi wish the government's makeover plan had included them. The PM's toilet scheme would be a good start. "We have to go outside. Not one of us has a toilet at home," a woman tells us in Gujarati. The women point at open drains and the filth around them as proof of neglect. There is no electricity, no water supply and no gas either, they say. "We have to walk to a well to draw water every day," said another woman (name etc?). "We would like to vote but no one has ever visited us asking for votes."

<http://www.kractivist.org/india-no-toilets-for-women-in-pm-modis-gujarat-hometown/>

### **Is India on target?**

Malnutrition is the most alarming and persistent health problem faced by the world today as per a recent report of the International Food Policy Research Institute. The frightening statistics of infant mortality and retardation raises serious questions about the development models pursued by governments across the globe. Nearly half of all deaths of children under the age of five are attributable to malnutrition; 155 million children under the age of five are afflicted by stunting

caused because they did not get adequate nutrition in the first 1,000 days of their lives (UNICEF).

<http://www.deccanherald.com/content/648226/is-india-target.html>

### **Six Factors That Could Reduce Malnutrition In Madhya Pradesh**

Women's empowerment, better sanitation, improvements in maternal health could improve the nutritional status of children Madhya Pradesh, the state with 42% of its children under five years of age stunted or, short for their age, the fifth highest rate in the country, according to IndiaSpend analysis of 2015-16 data from the National Family Health Survey

<http://www.indiaspend.com/cover-story/six-factors-that-could-reduce-malnutrition-in-madhya-pradesh-34286>

### **Free medical checkup at night shelters**

The Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board rolled out its winter action plan on Friday. Through its 20 rescue teams, the agency has intensified efforts to bring the city's homeless to its 250 night shelters — where it will serve them tea and biscuits. Also, the agency will provide hot water at 83 permanent night shelters. Around 20 shelters are reserved for women and are monitored for their safety.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/delhi/free-medical-checkup-at-night-shelters/articleshow/62090402.cms>

### **After sanitation issue, Akshay Kumar now discusses menstrual hygiene in "PadMan"**

Akshay Kumar always chooses an unconventional way to raise awareness about social issues. After delivering a hit like 'Toilet; Ek Prem Katha', he is now back with another flick, which promises to be the story of a social awakening. The makers have released official trailer of Kumar's upcoming movie 'PadMan' on social media. A film based on the real-life story of Arunachalam Muruganatham, who took upon himself the responsibility of providing cheaper sanitary napkins to the women of his village. In PadMan, Akshay plays the titular superhero, who strives to provide a hygienic life to the women of his family. His interest and efforts is to ease the experience of menstruation for hundreds of Indian women, especially those living in rural areas.

<http://www.brecorder.com/2017/12/15/387259/after-sanitation-problem-akshay-kumar-now-discusses-menstrual-hygiene-in-padman/>

### **Hope Padman will start conversations within homes: Twinkle Khanna**

Her debut film production "Padman" is a biopic on Arunachalam Muruganatham, the inventor of a low-cost sanitary pad making machine in India. Actress-turned-author Twinkle Khanna says she is hopeful that the film will bring a spotlight on something that has been "hidden in the darkness" for so long. "If nothing else, I am hoping that it will start a conversation within homes," Twinkle told IANS in an email interview when asked about the message "Padman" will give amongst masses.

<http://indianewengland.com/2017/12/hope-padman-will-start-conversations-within-homes-twinkle-khanna/>

### **In India and Tanzania, women's NGOs are ushering in development - and not getting credit for it**

Women's non-governmental organisations also conducted research to determine whether local communities could afford to pay for basic urban services. They negotiated subsidies, fair pricing and flexible terms of payment with utilities on behalf of marginalised people. They arranged access to loans from microfinance institutions for households that could not cover the cost of water or electricity connections. And by insisting that water and electricity bills be issued in the names of female heads of households, they strengthened women's access to property and housing.

<http://scroll.in/article/860419/in-india-and-tanzania-womens-ngos-are-usher-ing-in-development-and-not-getting-credit-for-it>

### **More work but not enough wages for women in India**

According to a study, women spend two to ten times more time on unpaid work. The recently released Action Aid report in collaboration with UN women, Invisible Work, Invisible Workers - The



Sub-Economies of Unpaid Work and Paid Work, said that it has emerged that not only do more women engage in unpaid work compared to men, this is in addition to their paid activities; this creates a burden for them with implications on various facets of their life cycle – on their health, on their ability to acquire education, skills, a paid job and an independent income as well as a voice and social status.

<http://www.nationalheraldindia.com/inclusion/more-work-but-not-enough-wages-for-women-in-india>

### **Viewing National Water Policies through a Gendered Lens**

Despite the international recognition accorded to the key role played by women in issues around water, the extent to which India's national water policies accommodate gender concerns remains to be examined. Based on an in-depth content analysis of the three nwps—of 1987, 2002, and 2012—this paper argues that incorporation of women in the planning, provisioning, and management of water resources continues to be disregarded. Women's concerns in the water sector are articulated around their domestic roles and subsumed under notions of "household" and "social equity." The larger questions of water rights of women, both in terms of access and control over decision-making, remain unaddressed.

<http://www.epw.in/journal/2017/48/special-articles/viewing-national-water-policies-through-gendered-lens.html>

### **Clean energy can potentially transform the lives of millions of rural Indian women**

A recent study by OECD found that women in India work nine hours a day on average, compared to seven hours a day for men. Most of this time is spent on unpaid activities, such as household work and care-giving for the elderly or for children, leaving little time for paid labour or social and leisure activities. This scarcity of discretionary time is referred to as "time poverty." While unpaid labour by women is a global phenomenon, the problem is particularly acute in India, where women's unpaid labour hours are second only to women in Kazakhstan, and the tasks performed by them are particularly intense and arduous, such as carrying water and chopping firewood.

<http://qz.com/1140821/clean-energy-like-lpg-can-potentially-transform-the-lives-of-millions-of-rural-indian-women/>

### **Ivanka Trump to promote women in India amid questions about garment workers who make her clothes there**

Looming over Ivanka Trump's visit will be an uncomfortable question that Trump's company has refused to answer: What are the work conditions for laborers in India who have pieced together clothes for her fashion line? Trump has called for more support for working women around the world, but she has remained silent about the largely female garment workforce in India and other Asian countries that makes her clothing.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/economy/ivanka-trump-to-promote-women-in-india-amid-questions-about-garment-workers-who-make-her-clothes-there/2017/11/26/6aba6f04-cee1-11e7-81bc-c55a220c8cbe\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/economy/ivanka-trump-to-promote-women-in-india-amid-questions-about-garment-workers-who-make-her-clothes-there/2017/11/26/6aba6f04-cee1-11e7-81bc-c55a220c8cbe_story.html)

### **What about living women's honour?**

Owing to economic inequality, poor hygiene and low proportion of women in the legislature, India has slipped down from 87 last year to 108 out of 144 countries, according to the World Economic Forum (WEF). India ranks 139 in 'Economic Participation and Opportunities for Women'. The most abysmal for Indian women is 141th rank in 'Health and Survival', which is a terrible disgrace. Woefully, women will struggle and cease to be if they fail to fall in line with what men approve of! Female subjugation in India is long, hard, clumsy, toxic and coercive.

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/comment/what-about-living-women-s-honour/502944.html>

### **What is on the wish list of women in India PM Modi's hometown?**

As we approached the town of Vadnagar in the western Indian state of Gujarat, the glitter and shine of the government's most ambitious flagship scheme Swachh Bharat Abhiyan or "Clean India Mission" felt dim. A group of female students took me to a nearby ground where they would go to defecate in the open every morning. The fact that Rohit Vaas still has two separate defecation

grounds for men and women demonstrates that the benefits of a 10.9mn rupee (about \$168,800; £126,700) fund allocated for building toilets in rural areas have not reached parts of Mr Modi's own village.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-india-42078003>

### **These women have broken all stereotypes to improve sanitation in rural India**

As India pitches headlong into making toilets in the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), there are heart-warming stories of women leading campaigns for better lives in their panchayats against heavy odds. A small percentage of the 271,000 villages that have rid themselves of open defecation can be attributed solely to the efforts of these women. Research has shown women gain more than men from better sanitation and hygiene. They can use toilets in the safety of their homes and do not have to face insults or harassment when defecating or urinating in the open. Their health improves as they do not have to 'hold on' until dark. Using toilets reduces the risk of getting urinary tract infections, diarrhoea and water-borne infections. Women, as block development officers, sarpanches, jalabandhus and self-help group (SHG) members, have demonstrated sanitation improvements are possible utilising local resources and strategies.

<http://www.businessinsider.in/These-women-have-broken-all-stereotypes-to-improve-sanitation-in-rural-India/articleshow/61682191.cms>

### **Rajasthan's education department's magazine asks women to grind chakki and fill water pitchers to stay fit**

The Rajasthan education department is in the grip of controversy after one of its publications suggested women to grind chakki (stone grinder), fill water pitchers or mop floors in order to stay fit. These suggestions were published in the November issue of the department's monthly magazine, Shivira (Shiksha Vibhag Rajasthan).

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/education/story/rajasthan-education-department-magazine-women-fitness/1/1088338.html>

## **Governance and Empowerment**

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### **Malnutrition burden in India remains high, nutrition profiles of 640 districts reveal**

The government's flagship program National Nutrition Mission (NNM) has a clear picture of the challenges it faces in dealing with malnutrition after the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) on Wednesday released nutrition profiles of all states and 640 districts of India. The malnutrition burden in India remains high despite some progress and there is tremendous inter-state and inter-district variability, the district wise nutrition profiles show. NITI Aayog officials said the district wise data would help the government in taking localized action to support the NNM's target of bringing down stunting percentage from 38.4% to 25% by 2022, and reducing stunting, under-nutrition, and low birth weight by 2%, and anaemia by 3% per annum.

<http://www.livemint.com/Politics/yk1cGXB90ZvvbAwhTvkkYJ/Malnutrition-burden-in-India-remains-high-nutrition-profile.html>

### **The Dignity Mind-Set for Scaling Social Change**

Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement (SVYM), working in the state of Karnataka, serves 2.5 million people—including indigenous tribals and the rural and urban poor—in the fields of health, education, and community development. But the organization's founder, Dr. R. Balasubramaniam (Balu), says he never loses sight of the organization's original inspiration: one elderly woman. She lost her sole source of emotional and economic support when her son died in the hospital where Balu was a third-year medical student. Her loss was doubly painful, as she couldn't afford the prescribed medicines that might have saved him. Balu asserts that his failed attempt at consoling the grieving woman drove him to launch an organization that would work within the system to advance the rights of tribal people "to live a dignified life."



[http://ssir.org/articles/entry/the\\_dignity\\_mind\\_set\\_for\\_scaling\\_social\\_change](http://ssir.org/articles/entry/the_dignity_mind_set_for_scaling_social_change)

### **Niti Aayog is in denial about hunger in India - but the problem is worse than the statistics show**

The Global Hunger Index put out by International Food Policy and Research Institute was released on October 2017 and tracks the state of hunger worldwide. India's Global Hunger Index score is placed at 100 out of 119 countries. Instead of reflecting on the state of food security in India, Ramesh Chand and Shivendra Kumar Srivastava, both members of the Niti Aayog, called the Global Hunger Index "a misleading hunger index" in an article of the same name published in The Hindu on December 4. The article is of particular concern, coming as it does from an important arm of the government

<https://scroll.in/pulse/861214/niti-aayog-is-in-denial-about-hunger-in-india-but-the-problem-is-worse-than-the-statistics-show>

### **This #UKCharityWeek, why not donate a Tweet? Join WaterHarvest for their #IPromiseWater Campaign!**

Today, at 18:30 thousands of people will register a clear and loud message that water is a right that should be afforded to all and not something determined by where you live or what your gender, race, religion or ethnicity is. However, WaterHarvest needs your help to ensure this message is heard far and wide. That is why this #UKCharityWeek WaterHarvest is asking you to donate a tweet to its #IPromiseWater Thunderclap campaign.

<https://www.charitytoday.co.uk/ukcharityweek-not-donate-tweet-join-waterharvest-ipromisewater-campaign/>

### **Water Aid's comments on Swachh Bharat "Out of Order"**

A recent report by Water Aid may end up misleading readers about the present status of sanitation in India, as it fails to clarify that its findings are not based on the latest data. The report, titled 'Out of Order - The State of the World's Toilets 2017,' quotes data from the WHO-UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP), which extrapolates data on sanitation based on findings from studies between carried out between 2000 and 2015. Due to this, it misses most of the progress made under the Swachh Bharat Mission, which aims to eradicate open defecation from the country by October 2019.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/water-aids-comments-on-swachh-bharat-out-of-order/articleshow/61739328.cms>

### **British couple who spent 30 years in search of "Wells for India"**

Rajasthan has become a second home for a British couple who regularly come here for three decades in their mission to help the unprivileged section get access to water. Nicholas Grey and his wife Mary Grey have founded 'Wells for India', a support and fund-raising organization.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/udaipur/british-couple-who-spent-30-years-in-search-of-wells-for-india/articleshow/56903633.cms>

## **Improving Sanitation**

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### **Understanding the Indian rural sanitation market**

As a follow-up to the Sanitation Innovation Accelerator, IRC, Ennovent and Ecociate Consultants commissioned a study to gain insights in the sanitation market in Bihar and Odisha, two states with relatively low levels of sanitation coverage: 29% and 43% respectively. The study was conducted over a period of 3 months (from January to March 2017) in two rural districts: one with a high population density and situated in a heavy clay silt agricultural plain (Samastipur district, Bihar) and the other with a low population density situated in a sandy tropical coast (Ganjam district, Odisha). The study came up with several recommendations detailed in this story..

<https://sanitationupdates.wordpress.com/2017/12/15/understanding-the-indian-rural-sanitation-market/>

### **Eram Scientific Wins India's First-ever Swachh Bharat Hackathon For e-Toilet Innovation**

Eram Group, a diversified business conglomerate headquartered in Dubai, announced that its group company - Eram Scientific Solutions has won the Swachhathon 1.0 award in India's first-ever Swachh Bharat Hackathon, organized by the Indian Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation. Eram won the maiden Swachhathon 1.0 award in a hotly contested competition by trumping both domestic and foreign firms working on the sanitation technology space. The Hackathon received a massive response in six categories. Eram won the award in the 'Monitoring Usage of Toilets' category.  
<http://www.live-pr.com/en/eram-scientific-wins-india-s-first-ever-swachh-r1050718560.htm>

### **Bill Ford Better World Challenge Projects Expand to India and Mexico**

The Ford Motor Company Fund, and executive chairman Bill Ford, announced the award of \$200,000 in funding as part of the Bill Ford Better World Challenge. This grant will support two international projects to improve health and sanitation conditions in India and Mexico. These two recipients will be joined by a third award allocated later in 2018. The first grant for the 2018 year has been awarded in the rural district of Kancheepuram, India, just outside of Chennai, where toilets and private restroom facilities are nonexistent. The grant will provide 100 residential SMART toilets in three villages for a total of 300 toilets. The SMART toilet facility is equipped with lighting, allowing for hand washing, and provides twin pits for sustainable use and maintenance.

[http://www.sustainablebrands.com/press/bill\\_ford\\_better\\_world\\_challenge\\_projects\\_expand\\_india\\_mexico](http://www.sustainablebrands.com/press/bill_ford_better_world_challenge_projects_expand_india_mexico)

### **A Cultural View of Sanitation**

Ending open defecation isn't just about building more toilets—it's also about making sure the culture is receptive to new sanitation practices.

[https://ssir.org/book\\_reviews/entry/a\\_cultural\\_view\\_of\\_sanitation](https://ssir.org/book_reviews/entry/a_cultural_view_of_sanitation)

### **Stakeholders meeting on 'Clean India' campaign**

A district-level consultative meeting on 'Clean India' campaign was organised here on Wednesday by the district administration. The meeting was presided over by District Collector C. Kathiravan. The campaign is implemented in the district with the participation of Bengaluru-based non-governmental organisation 'Public Affairs Centre' and Krishnagiri-based Annai Trust. According to the district administration, the panchayats of Thimmapuram in Kaveripattinam, Billanakuppam in Vepanapalli, and Chennapalli in Shoolagiri have been declared 'Clean Panchayats' as per the norms of the campaign. As many as 149 panchayats in the district have attained open-defecation free status and over 72% of the households in the district have their own individual toilets.

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-tamilnadu/stakeholders-meeting-on-clean-india-campaign/article21617595.ece>

### **Chinese and Indian toilet revolutions look to Singapore's bottom line**

President Xi Jinping has called for a "toilet revolution", which will be the centrepiece of his "new countryside" drive. The goal is to improve the quality of life of the country's 600 million villagers - the same number of people that India's Narendra Modi is trying to wean from open defecation in India. After riding to power in May 2014, the Indian prime minister launched the Swachh Bharat (Clean India) campaign with the aim of eradicating open defecation by 2019. The national campaign spans 4,042 cities and towns and includes the construction of 110 million toilets, the largest toilet building programme in the history of mankind.

<http://www.scmp.com/week-asia/opinion/article/2123157/chinese-and-indian-toilet-revolutions-look-singapores-bottom-line>

### **Redesigning the toilet for areas without running water**

Toilets, or rather the absence of them, are a pressing public health problem. Some 2.3bn people worldwide lack access to safe and affordable sanitation and 1.8bn drink water contaminated by human faeces, according to the organisers of the UN-recognised World Toilet Day, marked this year on November 19. This state of affairs puts people at risk of dysentery, cholera, typhoid, worms and

other diseases, says the World Health Organisation. Inadequate access to sanitation exposes women to additional risks of rape and assaults, as the UN and non-governmental organisations have pointed out. Similarly, the challenge of managing menstruation in the absence of a toilet means that women frequently miss education and employment opportunities.

<https://www.ft.com/content/f158df1a-c562-11e7-b30e-a7c1c7c13aab>

### **No rain, but sewer overflow adds to Chennaiites' pain**

After stormwater now it is turn of sewage water to flow along the city roads. For the past one week there is not much rain in Chennai, but there is a constant flow of foul emanating water along the north Chennai city roads. Sewer overflow has been a common menace in low-lying areas of north Chennai and the situation near the slaughterhouses are even worse. Public residing in old parts of Chennai is forced to wade through sewer overflow and sanitation is a major issue in Thiru Vika Nagar, Choolai, Egmore, Pulianthope and Pattalam areas.

<http://www.deccanchronicle.com/nation/current-affairs/051217/no-rain-but-sewer-overflow-adds-to-chennaiites-pain.html>

### **This Swachh India campaign will educate school teachers, principals about hygiene, sanitation**

As part of its nationwide hygiene and sanitation campaign "Dettol Banega Swachh India", RB India in association with Jagran Peהל concluded a five-day training programme for Noida government schools' teachers and principals. Through the training session, the teachers and principals were taught how to use a teacher's manual and deliver the curriculum including the activities, creating a conducive environment for improvised hygiene and sanitation. The Hygiene E curriculum was introduced across these schools with the support of Noida District Magistrate and implementation partners in line with WASH delivery model. Developed by RB India in partnership with Butterfly Fields and XSEED, this curriculum has key elements like hygiene in school, home, neighbourhood, personal hygiene, and hygiene during illness.

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/education/story/swachh-india-campaign-hygiene-sanitation/1/1102898.html>

### **Solar-Powered & Self-Cleaning, These are The Toilets India Needs!**

Recently, on World Toilet Day 2017, the zoo launched the first-ever 'Smart She' toilet on its premise. Equipped with a sanitary napkin vending machine and a napkin incinerator, the unmanned self-cleaning toilet also has baby feeding and diaper changing stations. The user has to insert a coin to open the door, and its sensor-based light system is automatically turned on once you enter the toilet. This unique toilet design is the brainchild of Thiruvananthapuram-based Eram Scientific Solutions, an R&D social enterprise that works on innovative solutions that can provide better sanitation for the nearly 600 million Indians who still defecate in the open

<http://www.thebetterindia.com/122372/solar-self-cleaning-toilets-eram-scientific-sanitation-un-india/>

### **India even behind Somalia when it comes to safely managing sanitation services**

Globally, about 2.3 billion people still lack basic sanitation service, according to the WHO-UNCIEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) titled 'Progress on Drinking Water, Sanitation and Hygiene 2017'. The JMP was responsible for monitoring the 2015 Millennium Development Goal (MDG) target and is now tracking progress towards the 2030 Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets related to drinking water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). The majority of the 2.3 billion people, who lacked basic sanitation service as on 2015, either practised open defecation (892 million) or used unimproved facilities like pit latrines without a slab or platform, hanging latrines or bucket latrines (856 million), according to the report.

<http://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/india-well-behind-somalia-bangladesh-when-it-comes-to-safely-managing-sanitation-services-59217>

### **More than just toilets needed**

India cannot fulfill its dream of becoming open defecation free by 2019 only by building more toilets. Emphasis must also be on bringing about behaviour change. Swachh Bharat Abhiyan has to become a people's movement. The ambitious Swachh Bharat Abhiyan recently celebrated its anniversary on October 2. This unprecedented cleanliness movement has October 2, 2019, as the target date to achieve a completely clean India. But according to a latest report by WaterAid, an NGO, around 732 million people, which includes 355 million women and girls, still do not have access to a toilet in the country. In fact, if this section of the population were to stand in a line, the queue could circle the Earth more than four times. This basically translates to the fact that these infrastructure-challenged people are still resorting to open defecation as a part of their daily routine.

<http://www.dailypioneer.com/columnists/oped/more-than-just-toilets-needed.html>

### **WaterAid report on India's sanitation "factually incorrect": Govt**

The government on Tuesday disputed a report released last week by WaterAid, an international NGO, that more than 732 million Indians defecate in the open or in unsafe or unhygienic toilets. The report, 'Out of Order—The State of the World's Toilets 2017,' also claimed that India has the highest number of women—355 million—waiting for a toilet. In a statement, the ministry of drinking water and sanitation said that WaterAid's findings extrapolated data for the period between 2000 and 2015 and missed out the progress made under the Swachh Bharat (Clean India) mission.

<http://www.livemint.com/Politics/W8sDH78az3MXcMoghP8vQK/Water-Aid-report-on-sanitation-factually-incorrect-govt.html>

### **Indian Govt committed to improve sanitation: Narendra Modi**

On the World Toilet Day on Sunday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi reaffirmed his government's commitment towards improving sanitation facilities across the nation. "I compliment all those individuals and organisations working towards building more toilets in various parts of India. Their invaluable contribution adds solid momentum to Swachh Bharat Mission," the Prime Minister tweeted. In a video posted on Twitter, Modi stressed the need to end the concept of open defecation saying that this is the best gift that can be given to women. Modi had also exhorted people to fulfill Mahatma Gandhi's vision of Clean India.

<http://www.thehansindia.com/posts/index/National/2017-11-20/Indian-Govt-committed-to-improve-sanitation-Narendra-Modi/340384>

### **A perfect sanitation solution**

The Twin Pit-Pour Flush system is undoubtedly the best form of sanitation that is safe and sustainable but there are certain challenges that need to be addressed before we achieve the goal of an Open Defecation Free India by 2019. It has been three years since India launched the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (SBA) to achieve the ambitious target of an Open Defecation Free (ODF) India by 2019. The Modi Government has been doing its bit to meet the target but there are two very critical aspects that require intervention to achieve the goal. First, relates to software, i.e. changing people's mindset to use toilets. Second, relates to hardware i.e. to ensure that people have access to the right products and technologies that make toilet-use easy and safe. While most campaigns do address the software aspect, they often fail to understand the importance of hardware.

<http://www.dailypioneer.com/sunday-edition/agenda/opinion/a-perfect-sanitation-solution.html>

### **Women face sanitation hurdles at government establishments**

While the government is stressing on building toilets for every household in the country to achieve the ambitious open-defecation-free target, sanitation facilities at various government establishments like administrative offices, courts and educational institutes aren't women friendly. Last year, in a sample study participated by 198 girls from Aurangabad district's rural areas, women rights activist Renuka Kad found out startling figures concerning sanitation facilities in rural schools. All the girls participating in the survey from ages 13 to 18 years preferred staying at home during

their periods due to the absence of toilets in school and lack of cleanliness or water in toilets.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/aurangabad/women-face-sanitation-hurdles-at-government-establishments/articleshow/61706873.cms>

### **More than 732 million Indians don't have access to toilets: Report**

More than 732 million Indians still defecate in the open or in unsafe and unhygienic toilets, three years after the launch of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan (Clean India Mission), said a report released on Thursday. The 'State of the World's Toilets 2017' report by WaterAid, which works on issues related to water and sanitation, said the situation was worse for women and girls, 355 million of whom are still waiting for a toilet, the report said. The statistics also depict India as the country with the maximum number of people (around 56%) without toilets and basic sanitation. "In India, a staggering 355 million women and girls are still waiting for a toilet; if they were all to stand in a queue, it would stretch around the Earth more than four times.

<http://www.livemint.com/Politics/1GBhfKxOxJkxmRgMoyvhPL/More-than-732-million-Indians-dont-have-access-to-toilets.html>

### **India Has Highest Number Of People Without Basic Sanitation: Report**

India, the world's second-largest country by population, has the highest number of people without basic sanitation, according to a report. The report says despite immense progress through the Swachh Bharat (Clean India) Mission, more than 732 million people still suffer fear and indignity of relieving themselves in the open or in unsafe or unhygienic toilets- a situation that is worse for women and girls. "In India, a staggering 355 million women and girls are still waiting for a toilet; if they were all to stand in a queue, it would stretch around the Earth more than four times!" WaterAid's State of the World's Toilets 2017 report says

<http://www.ndtv.com/india-news/india-has-highest-number-of-people-without-basic-sanitation-wateraid-report-1776912>

### **A \$62 billion business opportunity is hiding behind India's toilet troubles**

Three years after rolling out the Swachh Bharat (Clean India) campaign, which among other things aims to eradicate open defecation by 2019, India is far from solving its filth problem. Over 70% of rural India still lacks adequate sanitation facilities, World Bank data shows. Over 56% of Indians—some 732.2 million of them—lack access to basic sanitation. Globally, these are the worst numbers, according to a 2017 report by the international charity WaterAid. The situation is so grim that girls drop out of school due to a dearth of functional toilets on campus.

<http://qz.com/1129822/a-62-billion-business-opportunity-is-hiding-behind-indias-toilet-troubles/>

## **Use of Scarce Water**

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### **No evidence of China diverting water of Siang: CWC**

The national river water monitoring agency, Central Water Commission (CWC), has found no evidence of China diverting water of the Yarlung Tsangpo, which flows through southern Tibet into India, first as Siang in Arunachal Pradesh and then as Brahmaputra in Assam till it enters Bangladesh as Jamuna, to build dams. But, it has no conclusive reason why Siang has turned black due to cement-like slag, which has been flowing from across the McMohan line for over a month now. The contamination has also been noticed in Brahmaputra at different locations in Assam, hundreds of kilometers from Arunachal Pradesh. "CWC has been closely monitoring the water levels of Siang and Brahmaputra but there is no evidence of any diversion of the Yarlung Tsangpo as the water levels on Indian side have not changed," a central government official said.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/no-evidence-of-china-diverting-water-of-siang-cwc/articleshow/62088735.cms>

### **Some smart solutions to farm distress**

Input usage can be brought down by using integrated farming methods in which there is a balance between preventive agronomic methods and some curative chemical methods without sacrificing yields and quality. Firstly, there is a need to reduce tillage and promote better soil structures. Minimum tillage helps prevent soil erosion. Secondly, soil structures, damaged because of indiscriminate use of chemical fertilisers, need to be restored. Biotechnology solutions like nitrogen-use efficiency gene and phosphorus-use efficiency gene reduce consumption of fertilisers significantly. NUE and PUE are in the regulatory system. If we can make them commercially available it can help in reduce fertiliser consumption, reduce cost and promote better soil structures. <http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/opinion/some-smart-solutions-to-farm-distress/article9993864.ece>

### **Pak SC asks cement company to refill water in Katas Raj temple pond**

Pakistan's Supreme Court on Wednesday ordered a local cement factory to fill water in the pond of Katas Raj temple in Chakwal within a week, taking cognisance of reports that such factories had caused the drying of the water body. The Bestway Cement factory, which was asked to fill the pond of the Hindu shrine, is one of the four major cement production units in the area. A three-member SC bench headed by Chief Justice Mian Saqib Nisar is hearing a suo motu case based on media reports that the pond is drying out due to water consumption by these factories. The factories are reportedly draining the pond through a number of wells which have reduced the subsoil water level the created shortages for domestic users as well.

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/pak-sc-asks-cement-company-to-refill-water-in-katas-raj-temple-pond/story-tGSJT3xU2STCXjIshPybSN.html>

### **ACB yet to prove role of Ajit Pawar, Tatkare in Rs 70,000 crore water projects**

Exactly three years after chief minister Devendra Fadnavis granted permission to the Anti-Corruption Bureau to conduct an open probe against high profile NCP leaders Ajit Pawar and Sunil Tatkare, the agency is yet to establish their role in the irrigation scam. The Rs 70,000-crore scam was the main poll plank of the BJP in the 2014 Lok Sabha and assembly elections. In a related development, the Nagpur ACB on Tuesday filed four separate first information reports for rampant corruption and irregularities in the Gosikhurd irrigation project. Though the FIRs do not name Pawar or Tatkare, all the proposals were dealt by them at different stages.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/acb-yet-to-prove-role-of-ajit-pawar-tatkare-in-rs-70000-crore-water-projects/articleshow/62046291.cms>

### **"Only way forward for Karnataka is to move to climate-resilient farming"**

Israel is in the process of setting up 30 centres of excellence in different parts of India, including three in Karnataka, for promoting particular crop varieties, says the only way Karnataka and similar States can deal with adverse climatic conditions is total transformation from rain-fed agriculture to cent per cent climate-resilient agricultural system.

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/only-way-forward-for-karnataka-is-to-move-to-climate-resilient-farming/article21383255.ece>

### **These solar canopies supply shade & electricity, as well as catch and filter rainwater**

A pair of Indian entrepreneurs has developed what they claim is "the most advanced integrated plug and play system" for shade, water, and energy. Solar canopies and carports, which can provide shade underneath them while harvesting clean energy from the sunlight that hits them, can be a great asset in both public and private spaces, but the startup ThinkPhi goes one step further with its flagship product. The company's model 1080 not only produces renewable electricity from the sun (and stores it in integrated batteries), but it can also collect and filter rainwater.

<http://www.treehugger.com/solar-technology/these-solar-canopies-supply-shade-electricity-rainwater-catchment.html>

### **Bundelkhand Lakes to be "encroachment free"**

The CM said all the lakes of Sagar division comprising Tikamgarh, Chattarpur, Damoh and Sagar



districts will be demarcated and the encroachments will be removed from the lakes. Land will be identified to dig up new ponds. Besides, check dams and stop dams will also be constructed, said Chouhan. The chief minister said that the government, society and organisations working in the field of water conservation will work together to "change the picture of Bundelkhand region", adding that every necessary step will be taken to revive the drying rivers of the region in view of the erratic rainfall pattern in the region

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bhopal/bundelkhand-lakes-to-be-encroachment-free/articleshow/61897820.cms>

### **Bijepur village cries for attention**

While most of the villagers are into farming, locals claim that there is no trace of irrigation facility here. It is the rains that decide the fate of farmers. Even as the villagers had been demanding construction of a check dam across river Utali, the officials at all levels chose to ignore the matter, locals added. "The check dam would have irrigated the agricultural fields in the village. But it is not on the agenda of the district administration or any political party. Moreover, the embankment of a bridge over river Utali is also getting eroded and despite apprising the officials of the impending threat, no action has yet been taken," villagers complained.

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/states/odisha/2017/nov/24/bijepur-village-cries-for-attention-1709648.html>

### **Israeli technology to transform Indian agriculture**

One of the most critical issues for the farming community is availability of water. Fresh water withdrawals are highest by the agricultural sector, and accounts for nearly 84-85 percent of water withdrawal in India, which is well above the global average. India and Israel have had a very strong partnership in Agriculture. Under the India-Israel Agriculture Project, Centre of Excellences were established in various states which are helping the farming fraternity in India to adopt the latest technologies such as micro irrigation systems.

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/tech/internet/israeli-technology-to-transform-indian-agriculture/articleshow/61752914.cms>

### **Twitter Stories**

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**C .M.Tiwari tweeted: RT @charupragya: Can we make water out of thin air? Won't it be so incredible if India can do that too? At WaterGen in Israel, a start-up that has become a pioneer in extracting drinking water from the humidity in the air.**

Can we make water out of thin air? Won't it be so incredible if India can do that too? At WaterGen in Israel, a start-up that has become a pioneer in extracting drinking water from the humidity in the air. #CleanWater, #RenewableResources, #IndiaVisitIsrael, #YoungLeaders

<https://twitter.com/ChandraMohanTi6/status/942223883238649856>

**@I\_Say\_What Tweeted: RT @VOAStevenson: India Says Chinese Construction on River Dirtying Water**

India Says Chinese Construction on River Dirtying Water @abc

[https://twitter.com/I\\_Say\\_What/status/942194318260834304](https://twitter.com/I_Say_What/status/942194318260834304)

**Khan Khadija tweeted: RT @Hina\_KhannFc: This is the reason why hina said not to use tap water for cooking food. Tap water is not good for health**

This is the reason why hina said not to use tap water for cooking food. Tap water is not good for health. But people will still target her and say her wrong. HINA RULES BB11 - INDIA LOVES HINA #BB11 @eyehinakhan @Hinaholics @hinakhanfc\_ @HinaAddicts

<https://twitter.com/KhanKhadija5/status/942216321554464768>

**Khushdeep Singh tweeted: RT @INCIndia: New images confirm the outcome of India's weak foreign policy response: China is possibly blocking the Brahmaputra,**

New images confirm the outcome of India's weak foreign policy response: China is possibly blocking the Brahmaputra, and diverting the water into a desert. Results of a pushover Prime Minister?

<https://twitter.com/K1h2u3s4/status/942214725663780864>