



Water stories from resurgent India

water symposium, International Project Platform Offenbach, Germany

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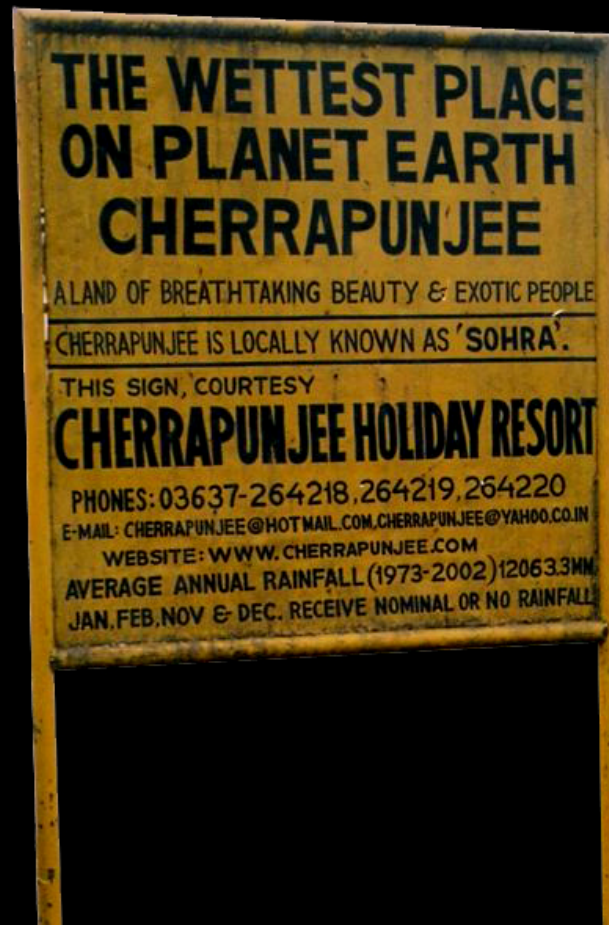
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"when water was everybody's business "

India receives 400 mham of rainfall

- interconnected routes of water management in India since the 19th century -
 - Colonial state centralized control and the state became the sole water provider
 - Communities and households ceased to be the primary agents of water provision and management
 - A growing reliance on surface water and ground water instead of rain water and flood water



“Cherrapunji faces acute water shortage because the torrential downpour is allowed to go waste.

In contrast the medieval city of Jaisalmer with an annual rainfall of 100mm has supplied millions of liters of water to its people for centuries !”



Baori, Rajasthan, India

(Baori is a traditional rainwater storage system which also acts as a place for social interaction. Today water has become a reason for social conflicts in India)



Tradition and Celebration

Role of joy, pride and participation



Kalash (used in Hindu temples to store water or milk)

Role of culture as an anchor

Power of the story



Water Rituals, Delhi, India

Lets invent new rituals using modern interdisciplinary tools



Water Conflict

Is coke the new GOD ?

Power of the brand, the image and the word



Global patterns of production-consumption triggered by competition-speed-growth imperative are not sustainable.

Can we use local resources to "actively disjoin" the workplace from global competition and rather build up local cycles of efficient mutual cooperation in a self-organized way? How can new technologies be used innovatively?

WATER WARRIORS

Eradicating rural poverty. From ecological regeneration to economic miracle; from water to wealth.

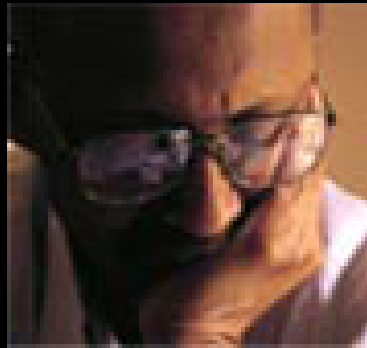


ANNA HAZARE : social activist who transformed the ecology and economy of Ralegan Siddhi village in India

His watershed management style includes the following elements:

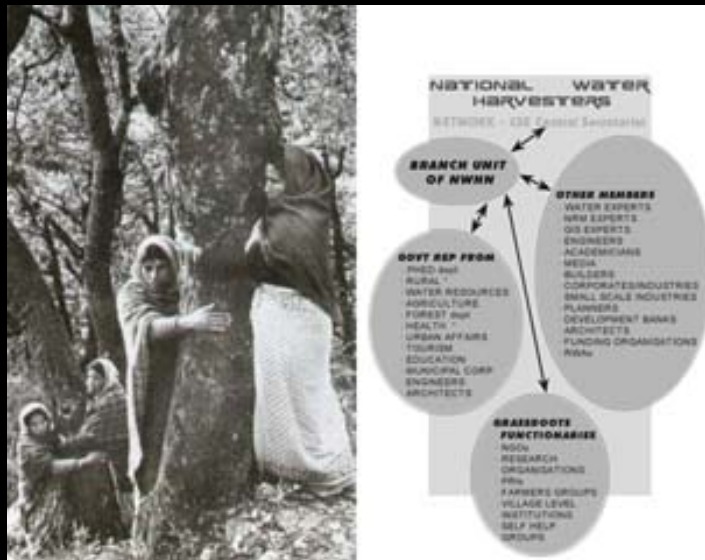
- ❑ Conservation of water
- ❑ Voluntary spirit, Self-reliance and Education
- ❑ Social upliftment and Women's emancipation
- ❑ Participation of youth
- ❑ Consensual politics
- ❑ Prohibition and self regulation
- ❑ Family planning
- ❑ Ban on felling of trees and open grazing

KEY: Creating the right balance between tradition, policy and social mobilization

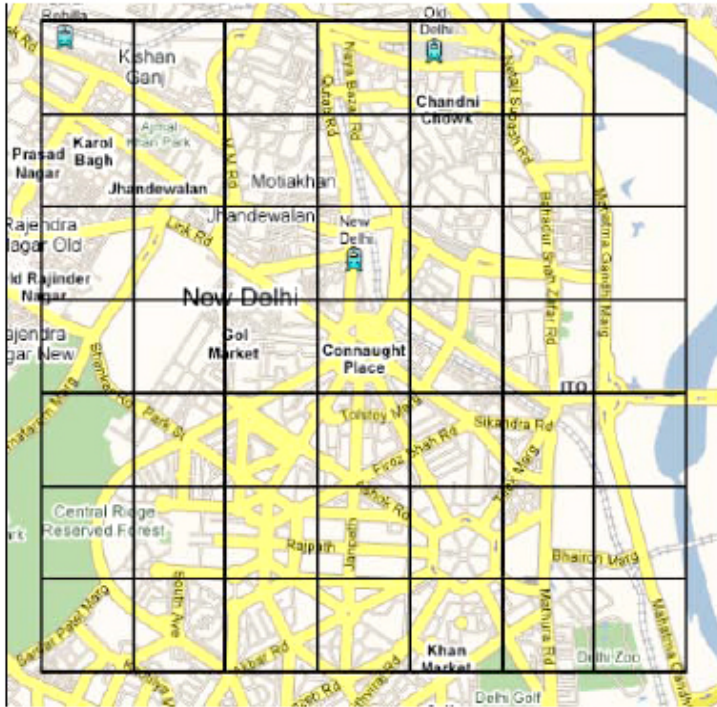


ANIL AGGARWAL : founder of Center for Science and Environment, which promotes the revival of traditional systems of water harvesting as a practical solution for drought proofing the affected areas. The organization has developed a comprehensive strategy to further the impact of its campaign for participatory, equitable and decentralized paradigm for water management. The Real Green Revolution is about rainwater harvesting.

- As part of the water freedom campaign, the national water harvester's network influences policy debate in India and pushes for policies that incorporate decentralized, participatory and locale-specific water harvesting systems which use rain water, snow melts, sub-surface water etc. It further works as a platform for networking, empowerment, information dissemination and consolidation and a resource center with while collaborating with all stake holders. With water literacy as a core objective it is working towards replicating and propagating successful local initiatives. Since 1990's numerous public interest petitions(PIL's) have being successfully filed by local people and groups in India to protect urban wetlands. The petitioners range from high profile lawyers, academicians, to concerned individuals and groups. The increasing role of non governmental organizations(NGO's) is another hopeful sign.



watermapping Delhi: making water visible



Creating a powerful tool for political interaction

Listening to people's water stories

Understanding one's regional water reality

the method: collecting data and opinions from 35 areas

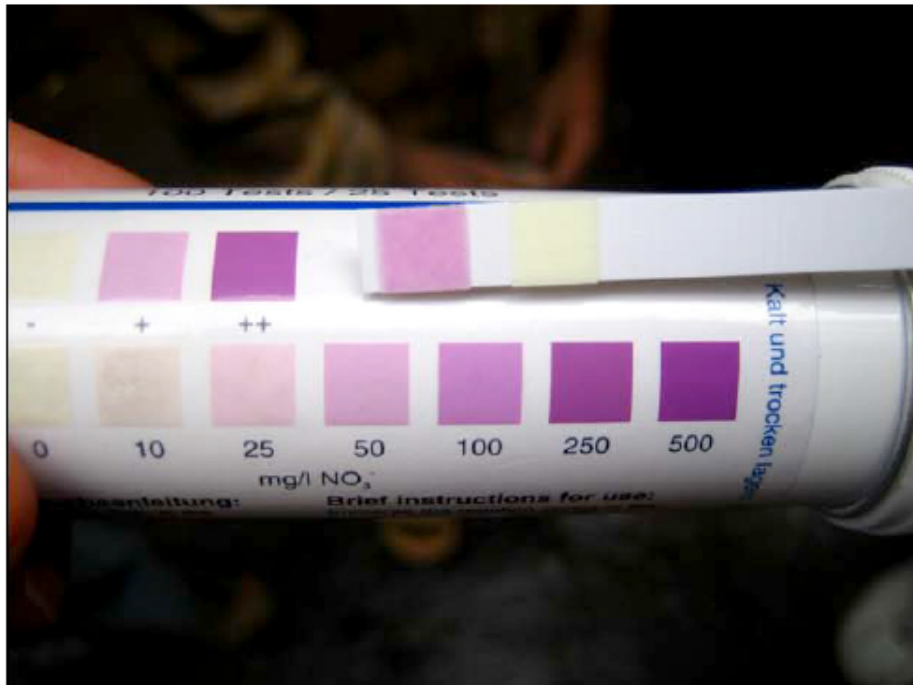


Choosing which team will go to which parts of town

Intuitively deciding where to go within the designated area

Opening our eyes and serendipitously deciding who to talk to

talking while testing



Testing the nitrate (NO³) concentration: 1 test = 1 minute

Sharing the process immediately and very simply

Conducting the analysis cost efficiently: 1 test = 5 cents

the poorer the people are, the more water-conscious they are



The poor invest more time and % of income for water

People desperately want to know more about water quality

(Water) illiteracy is very harmful to global water resources

what needs prohibiting right away in Delhi



Open water running through waste dumps

The use of tap water for anything but filtered drinking water

Filling bottles with infested water

what needs to be done as soon as possible



Give filters to every household; avoid boiling and save energy

Implement water education as crucial part of Indian culture

Stop drilling holes; collect rain water

water IS life



watermapping works!

Water is the biggest shared social issue, regardless of position

More than a scientific issue, water is a cultural issue

Water research must be taken from the lab to the street

The grid is a good methodology as it avoids useless debate

Water testing must be conducted openly in front of the people

GOING BEYOND WATER

- The idea of a sustainable future is a constantly evolving one. We need an **International Platform for Growth and Resilience**, which tinkers towards a more inclusive, collaborative methodology through a system of integration. One of the initiatives could be to bring 'polar' groups together to find a common ground.
- Moving towards a long term view by creating new cultural anchors. **Anchors** create an effective self-regulatory pattern in a system. They challenge convention and transform the idea of control, dominance and self-importance to that of mutual respect and interconnection with others.
- The power and **spirit of WE**. How can we move gradually towards a "we" based culture from a "I" based approach? Joining hands and treating certain issues as sacred is critical for our survival.
 - Natural resources as **green insurance**. The idea of water, air and soil being legally sacred. Role of the state and public policy.
 - Moving towards **purposeful action**. Beyond words, numbers and definitions.
 - Towards **diverse, self organized and self reliant** communities. Analyzing the community based approaches in eastern nations to inspire such initiatives in other societies.
- Finding appropriate ways and methods to bring **'ethical' thinking and practical experience** as a core topic in design education and education in general. The issue of awareness and information for all. Once we 'know' what we are going to 'lose', our perspective on things will change
 - Learning **to care and to share**.



Gangae cha yamunae cha iva godaavari sarasvathi
Narmadae sinduu kavaeri jale smin sannidim kuru