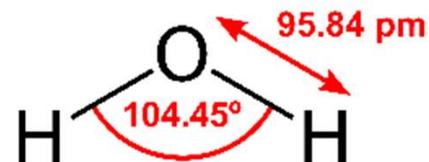




Since 1959



# Affordable clean water using advanced materials

T. Pradeep

Institute Professor, IIT Madras

[pradeep@iitm.ac.in](mailto:pradeep@iitm.ac.in)

<https://pradeepresearch.org>

Co-founder

InnoNano Research Pvt. Ltd.

InnoDI Water Technologies Pvt. Ltd.

VayuJAL Technologies Pvt. Ltd.

Aqueasy Innovations Pvt. Ltd.

Hydromaterials Pvt. Ltd.

EyeNetAqua Solutions Pvt. Ltd.

DeepSpectrum Innovations Pvt. Ltd.

Dr. Noelia Barrabés

Professor-in-charge



International Centre for Clean Water

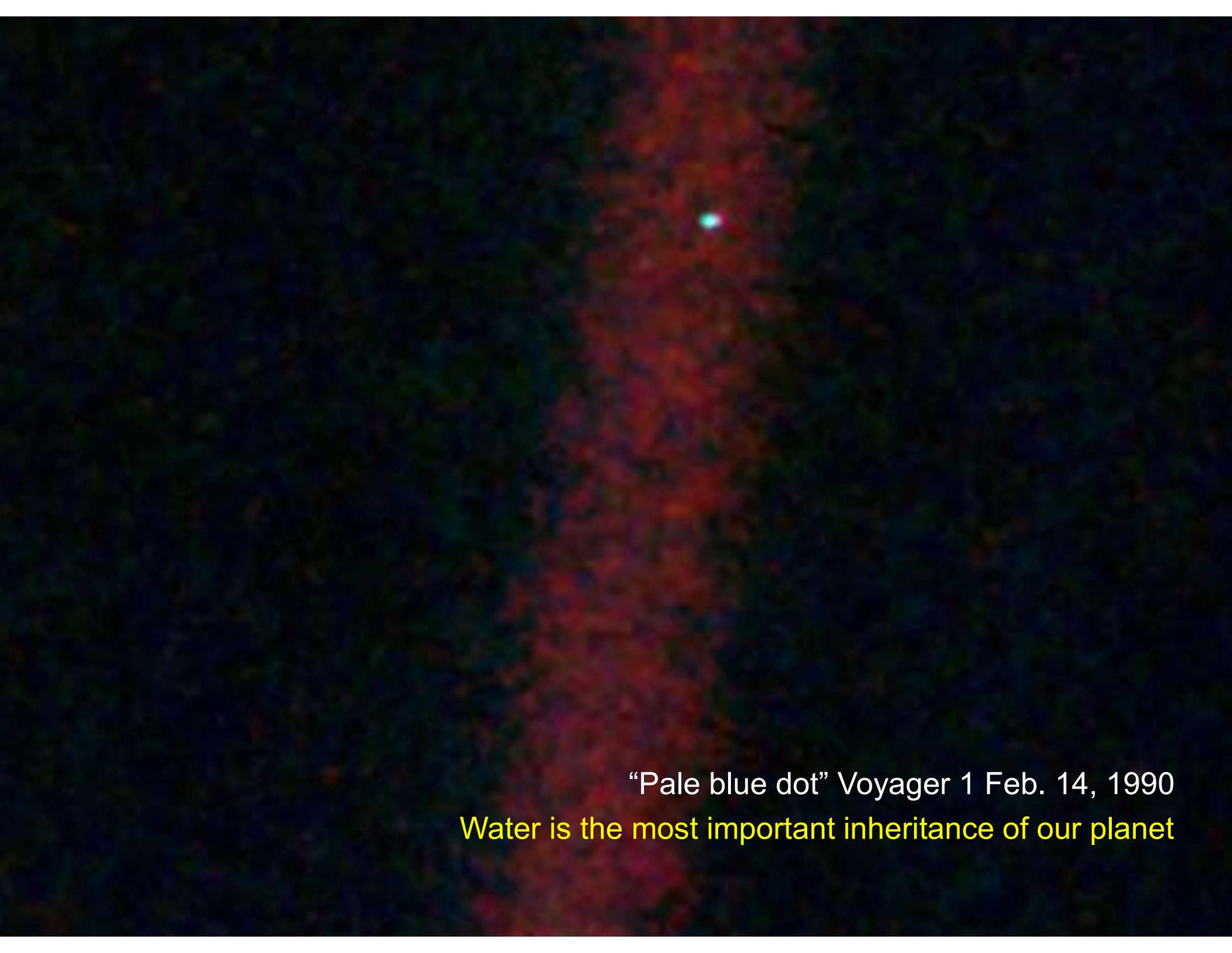


Associate Editor

ACS  
Sustainable  
Chemistry & Engineering



Technische Universität Wien, December 12, 2022



“Pale blue dot” Voyager 1 Feb. 14, 1990

Water is the most important inheritance of our planet

# Water is at the centre of action

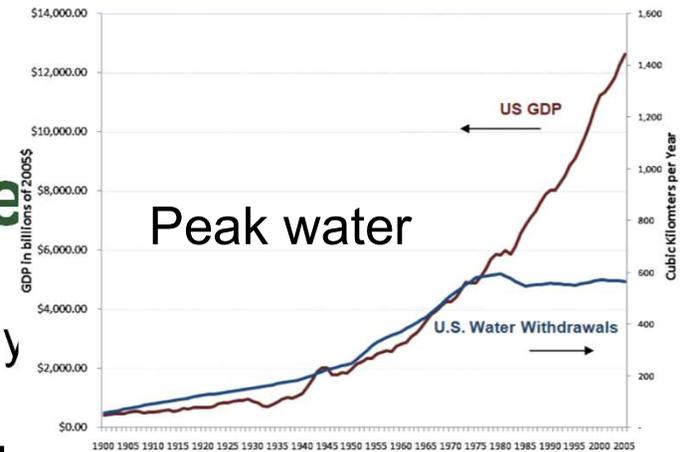


There is water in everything we do.

# Water is big.... Are we safe

Per capita water availability – 1500 CM per y

That water and its benefits need to reach all.



Peter H. Gleick and Meena Palaniappan, PNAS, 2010, 107, 11155–11162

## 3Ss for water **Store – Sensitive – Smart**

Average annual rainfall 1085 mm, 85<sup>th</sup> in a list of 186 countries

Traditions of storage and conservation – we store just about 8%

Water is for all – for every living form

83% of freshwater species have declined globally in the last 50 years!

GDP can grow even by capping freshwater withdrawals

We must find technologies of relevance

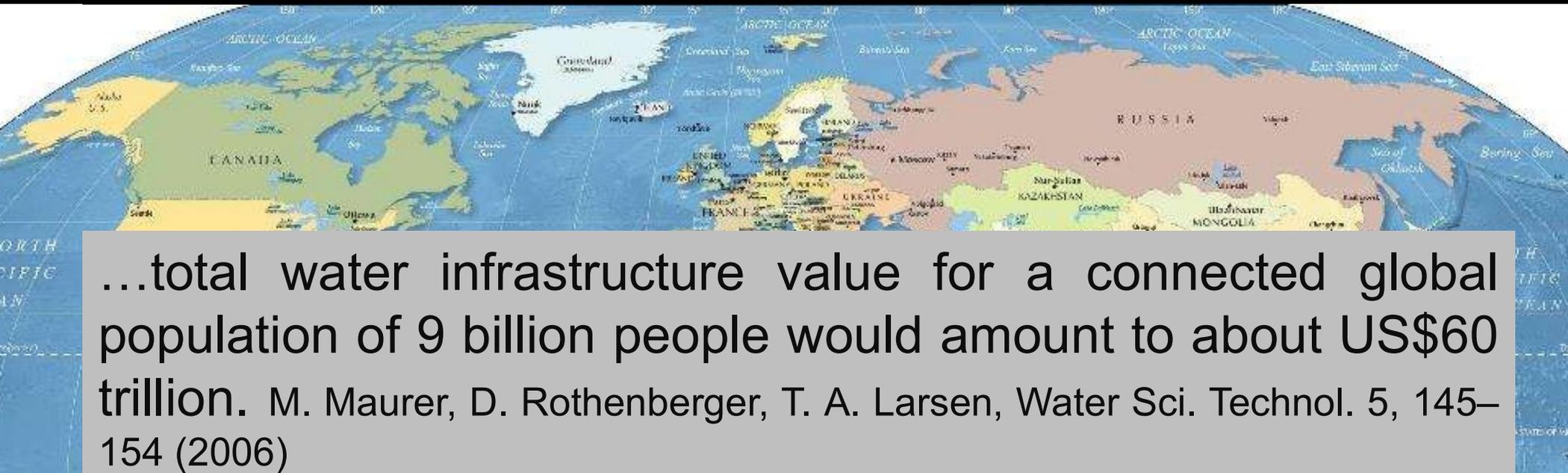
Energy - food – clothing – construction – manufacturing - .....



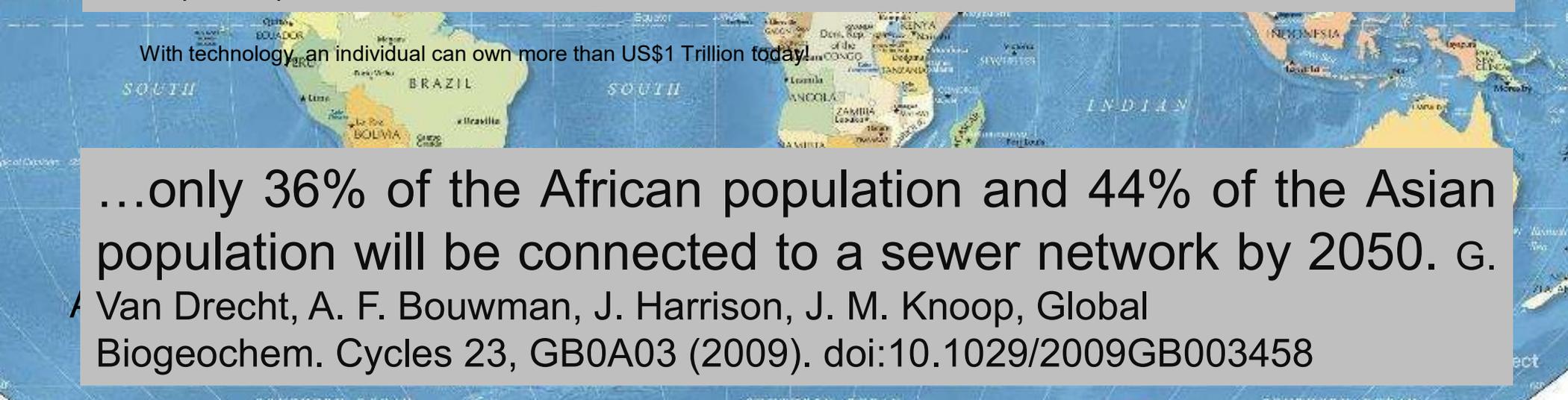
# Water is big in every scale –

# Gaps, opportunities, wealth, satisfaction

# Water, sanitation and inequality

A world map showing global water infrastructure value. The map is color-coded by region, with North America and Europe in shades of green and yellow, and Russia and parts of Asia in shades of brown and red. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent grey box.

...total water infrastructure value for a connected global population of 9 billion people would amount to about US\$60 trillion. M. Maurer, D. Rothenberger, T. A. Larsen, *Water Sci. Technol.* 5, 145–154 (2006)

A world map showing sewer network connectivity by 2050. The map is color-coded by region, with Africa and parts of Asia in shades of yellow and orange, and South America and parts of Europe in shades of green. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent grey box.

With technology, an individual can own more than US\$1 Trillion today!

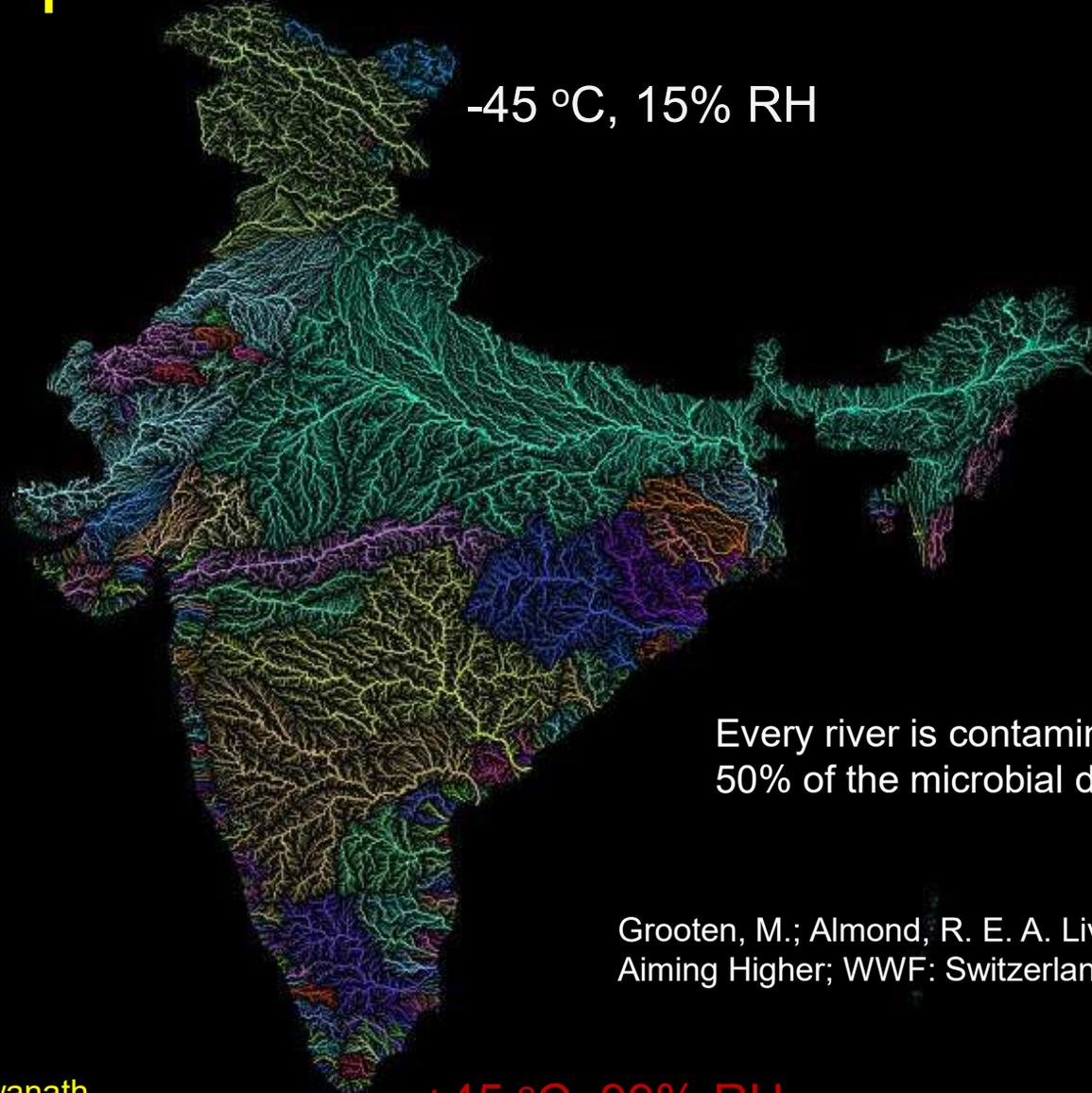
...only 36% of the African population and 44% of the Asian population will be connected to a sewer network by 2050. G. Van Drecht, A. F. Bouwman, J. Harrison, J. M. Knoop, *Global Biogeochem. Cycles* 23, GB0A03 (2009). doi:10.1029/2009GB003458

**Total wealth of India – US\$12.8 Trillion**  
**Total wealth of USA – US\$126 Trillion**

# Challenges

## Every possible need

Arsenic  
Fluoride  
Uranium  
Mercury  
Chromium  
Perchlorate  
Nitrate  
Pesticides  
Antibiotics  
Plastics  
Detergents  
.....



-45 °C, 15% RH

Every river is contaminated  
50% of the microbial diversity is lost for ever

Grooten, M.; Almond, R. E. A. Living Planet Report - 2018:  
Aiming Higher; WWF: Switzerland, 2018.

From S. Vishwanath

+45 °C, 99% RH

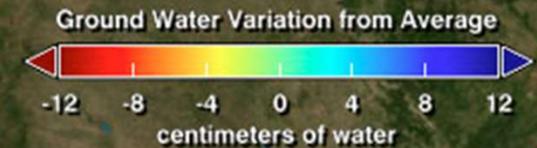
# Indian agriculture

67% of agriculture run on GW

Total districts 742  
Water stressed >300  
256 with critical or overexploited ground water levels  
'India is suffering from its worst water crisis in its history.'

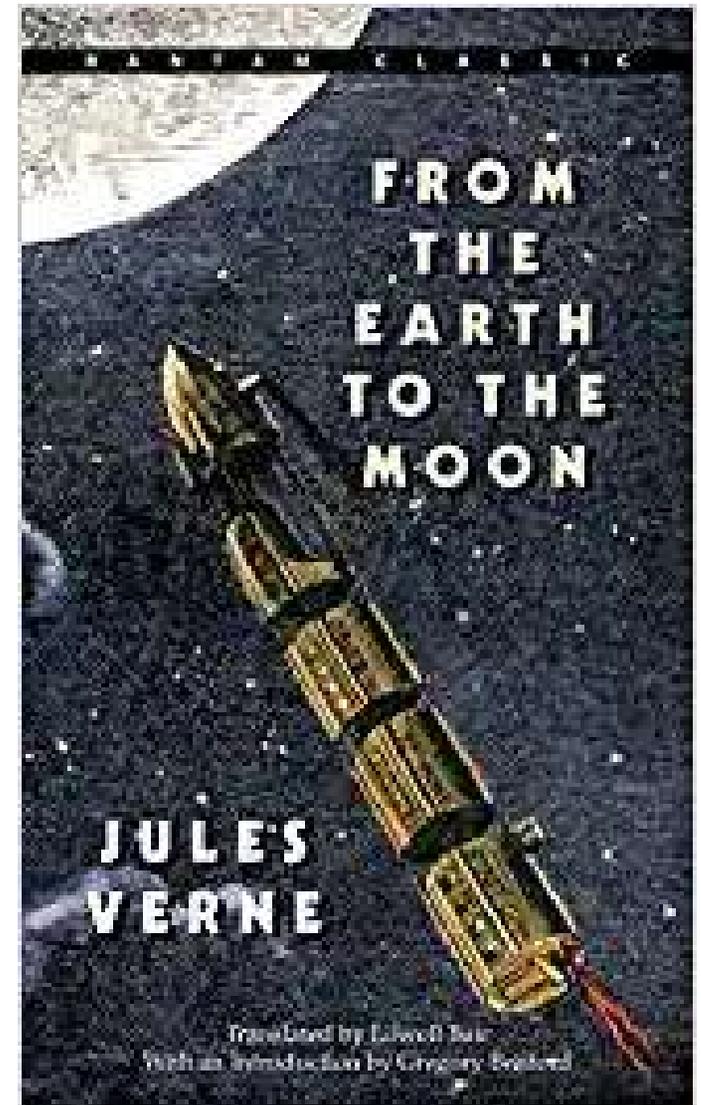
November 2002

November 2008



Data from NASA

Our dreams become reality with materials



# Water purification, history

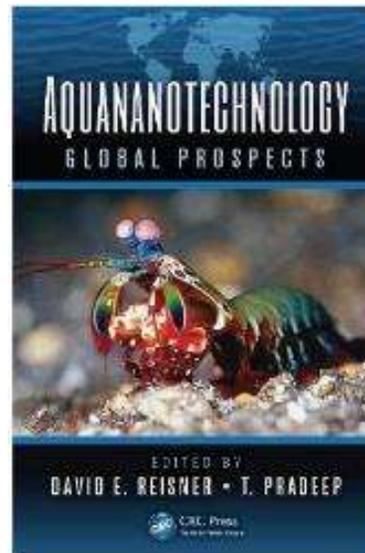
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Important milestones in the history of water purification (1800–2007) from the perspective of noble metal nanoparticles in water treatment (compiled from multiple sources on the World Wide Web).

Year	Milestone
1804	Setup of world's first city-wide municipal water treatment plant (Scotland, sand-filter technology)
1810	Discovery of chlorine as a disinfectant (H. Davy)
1852	Formulation of Metropolis Water Act (England)
1879	Formulation of Germ Theory (L. Pasteur)
1902	Use of chlorine as a disinfectant in drinking water supply (calcium hypochlorite, Belgium)
1906	Use of ozone as a disinfectant (France)
1908	Use of chlorine as a disinfectant in municipal supply, New Jersey
1914	Federal regulation of drinking water quality (USPHS)
1916	Use of UV treatment in municipal supplies
1935	Discovery of synthetic ion exchange resin (B. A. Adams, E. L. Holmes)
1948	Nobel Prize to Paul Hermann Muller (insecticidal properties of DDT)
1959	Discovery of synthetic reverse osmosis membrane (S. Yuster, S. Loeb, S. Sourirajan)
1962	<i>Silent Spring</i> published, first report on harmful effects of DDT (R. Carson)
1965	World's first commercial RO plant launched
1974	Reports on carcinogenic by-products of disinfection with chlorine Formulation of Safe Drinking Water Act (USEPA)
1975	Development of carbon block for drinking water purification
1994	Report on use of zerovalent iron for degradation of halogenated organics (R. W. Gillham, S. F. O'Hannesin)
1997	Report on use of zerovalent iron nanoparticles for degradation of halogenated organics (C-B. Wang, W.-X. Zhang)
1998	Drinking Water Directive applied in EU
2000	Adoption of Millennium Declaration during the UN Millennium Summit (UN Millennium Development Goals)
2003	Report on use of noble metal nanoparticles for the degradation of pesticides (A.S. Nair, R. T. Tom, T. Pradeep)
2004	Stockholm Convention, banning the use of persistent organic pollutants
2007	Launch of noble metal nanoparticle-based domestic water purifier (T. Pradeep, A. S. Nair, Eureka Forbes Limited)

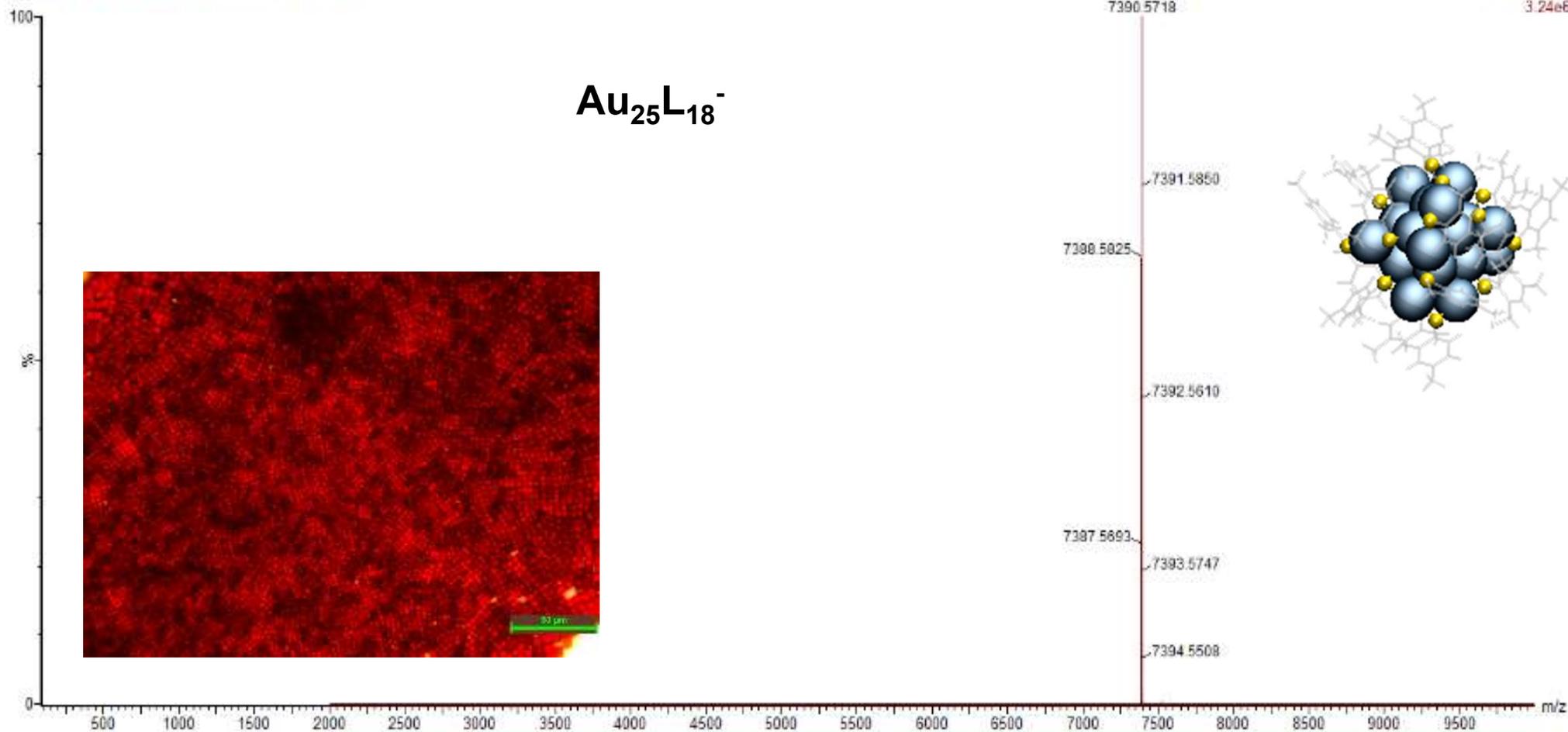
# Affordable clean water is a problem of advanced materials

- New adsorbents
- New sensors
- New catalysts
- Novel phenomena
- New devices



# Nanomaterials are now atomically precise

AU25PET16\_RES\_NEG\_MS\_3.32 (0.658) Cm (5:00)



# Clean water for everyone

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ACS Sustainable Chemistry & Engineering Editorial,  
December 2016

# Water positive materials

PNAS PNAS PNAS

## Biopolymer-reinforced synthetic granular nanocomposites for affordable point-of-use water purification

Mohan Udhaya Sankar<sup>1</sup>, Sahaja Aigal<sup>1</sup>, Shihabudheen M. Maliyekkal<sup>1</sup>, Amrita Chaudhary, Anshup, Avula Anil Kumar, Kamalesh Chaudhari, and Thalappil Pradeep<sup>2</sup>

Unit of Nanoscience and Thematic Unit of Excellence

Edited by Eric Hoek, University of California, Los Angeles

Creation of affordable materials for constant clean drinking water is one of the most promising ways to provide clean drinking water for all. Combining the capabilities of nanocomposites to scavenge toxic species such as heavy metals and other contaminants along with the above capabilities of the nanocomposites, we have developed an affordable, all-inclusive drinking water purifier without electricity. The critical problem in the synthesis of stable materials that can release clean water in the presence of complex species is the synthesis of stable materials that can release clean drinking water that deposit and cause scale on surfaces. Here we show that such constant clean water can be synthesized in a simple and effective fashion without the use of electrical power. The nanocomposites have sand-like properties, such as higher shear strength and stability. These materials have been used to develop a water purifier to deliver clean drinking water in rural areas. The ability to prepare nanostructured materials at ambient temperature has wide relevance for water purification.

hybrid | green | appropriate technology | frugal science | developing world



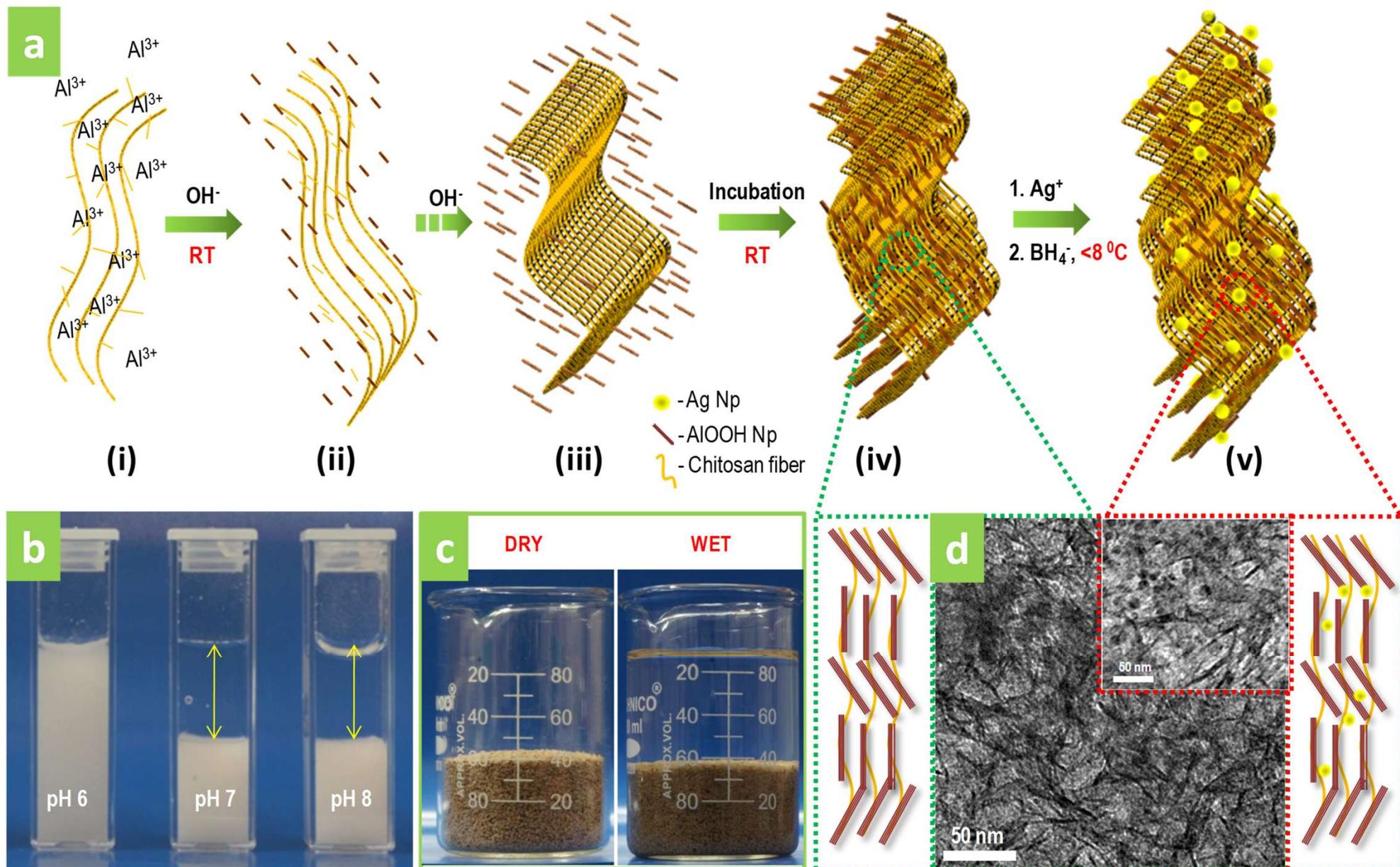
Indian Institute of Technology, Chennai 600 036, India

Received for review November 21, 2012

able; and (c) continued retention of clean water is difficult. The unique family of nanocrystalline granular composite materials prepared through an aqueous route. The purification is attributed to abundant -OH groups on chitosan, which help in the crystallization and also ensure strong covalent bonding to the matrix. X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy confirms that the composition is rich in silver. Using hyperspectral imaging, the presence of silver in the water was confirmed. The silver nanoparticles activate the silver nanoparticle antimicrobial activity in drinking water. We demonstrate an affordable water purifier that can be used in rural areas. We demonstrate an affordable water purifier based on such composites undergoing field trials in India, as well as eradication of the waterborne

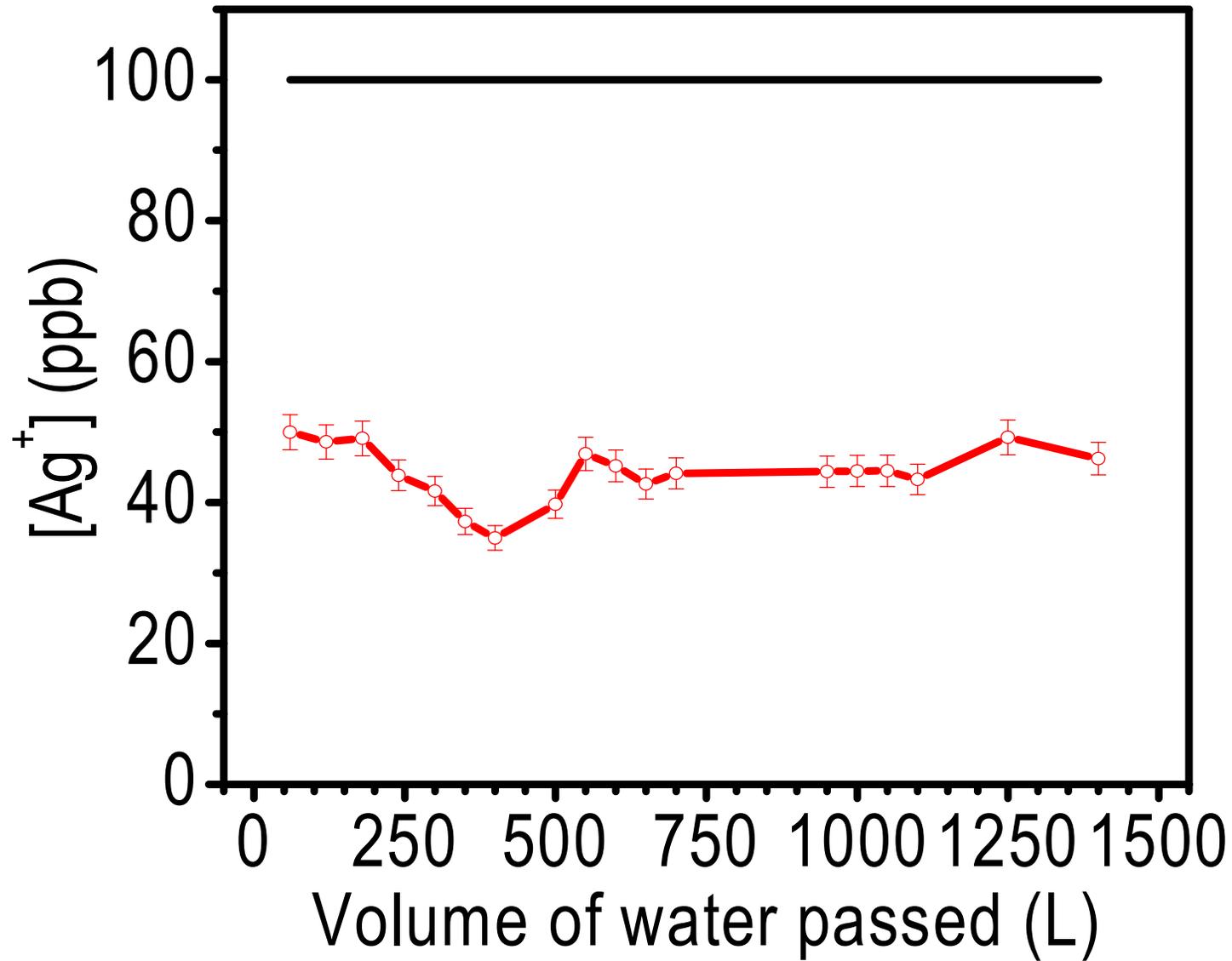
M. Udhaya Sankar, et. al. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.*, 110 (2013) 8459-8464.

# How to make?



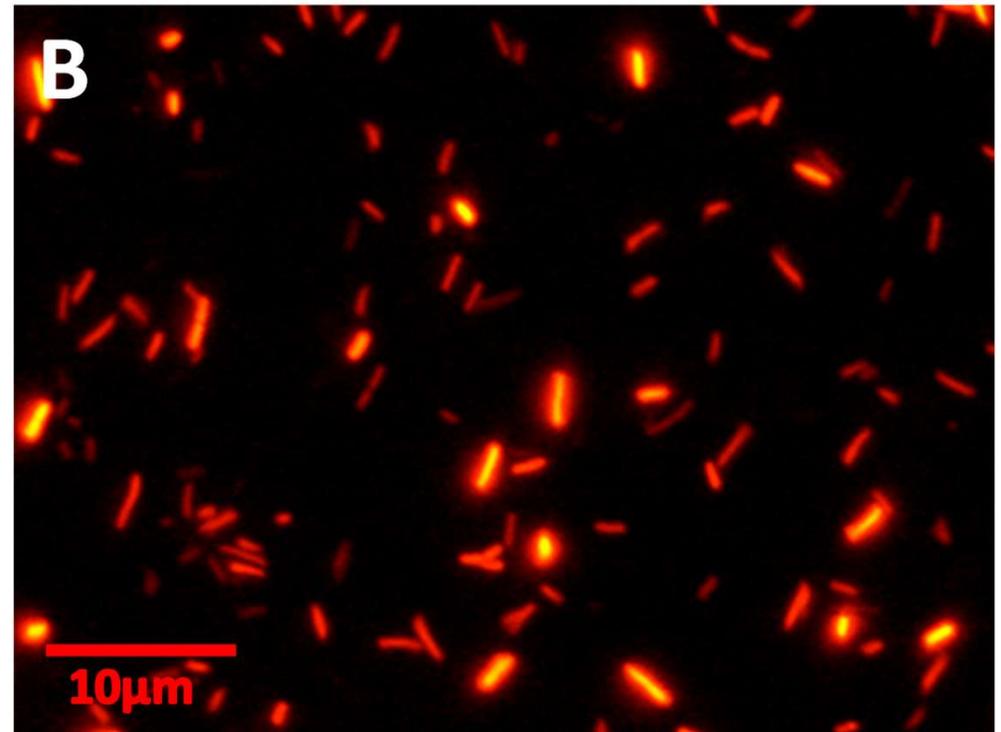
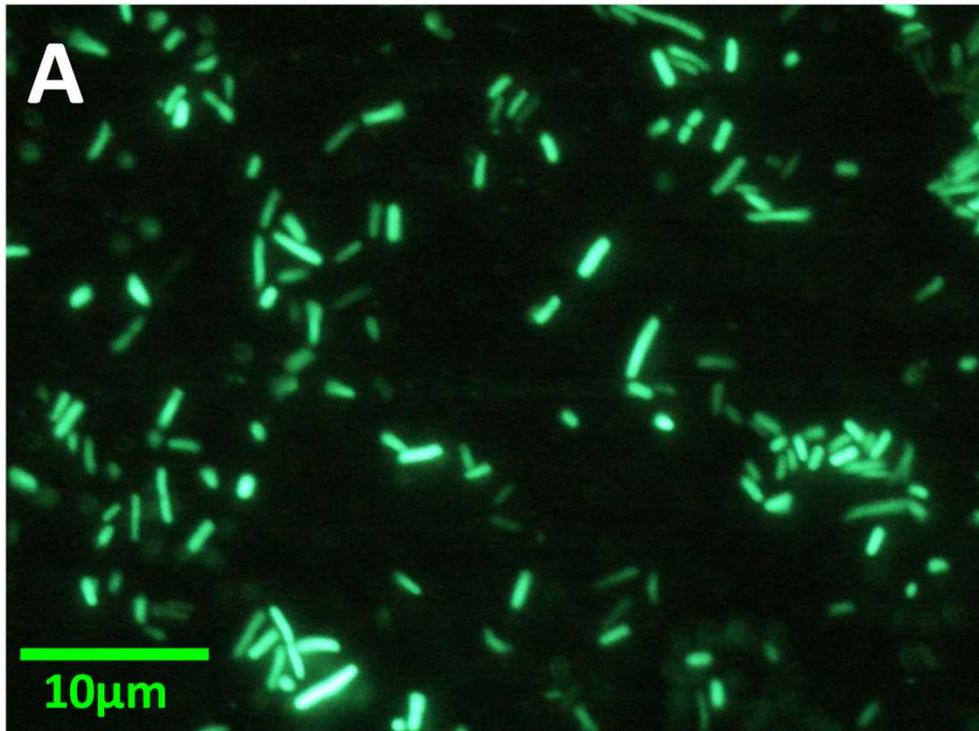
# What is special?

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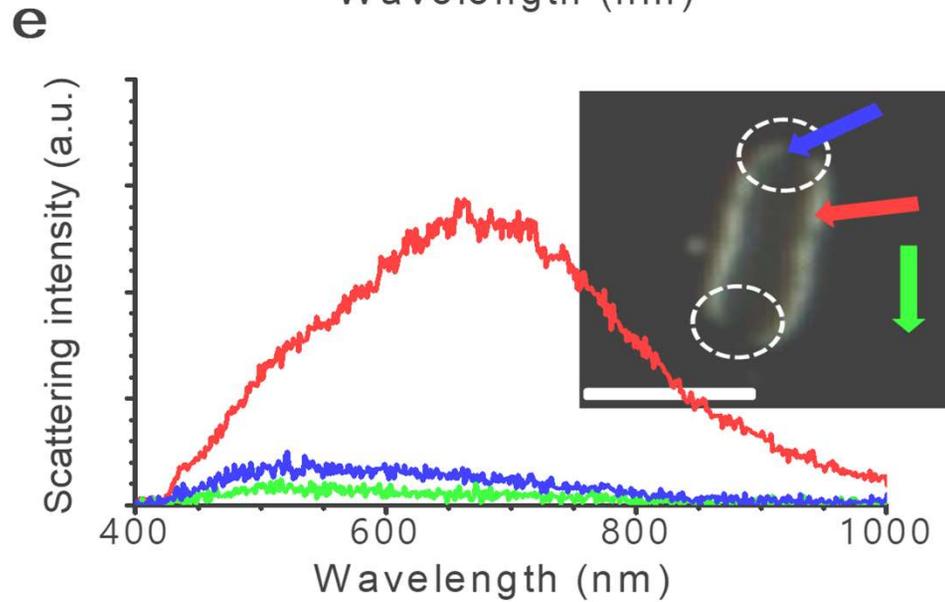
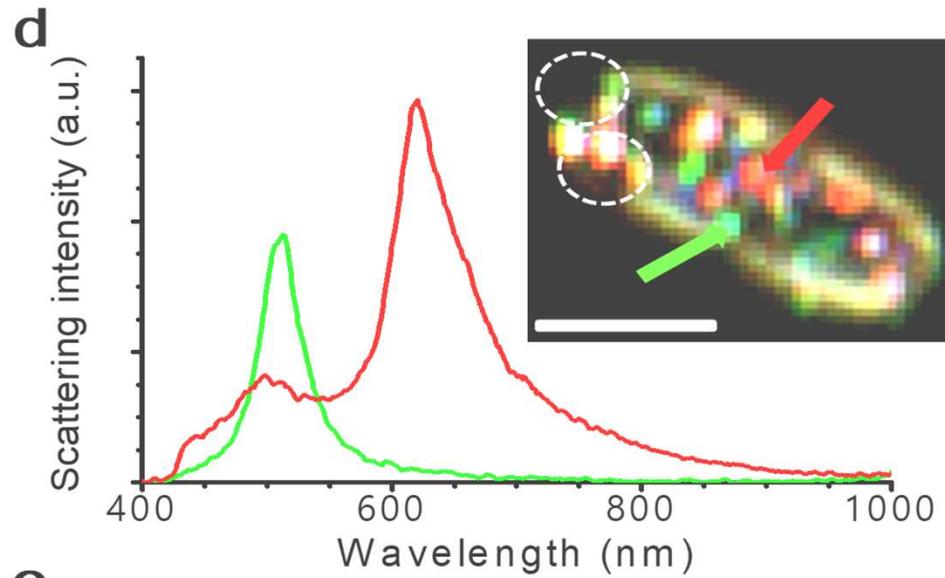
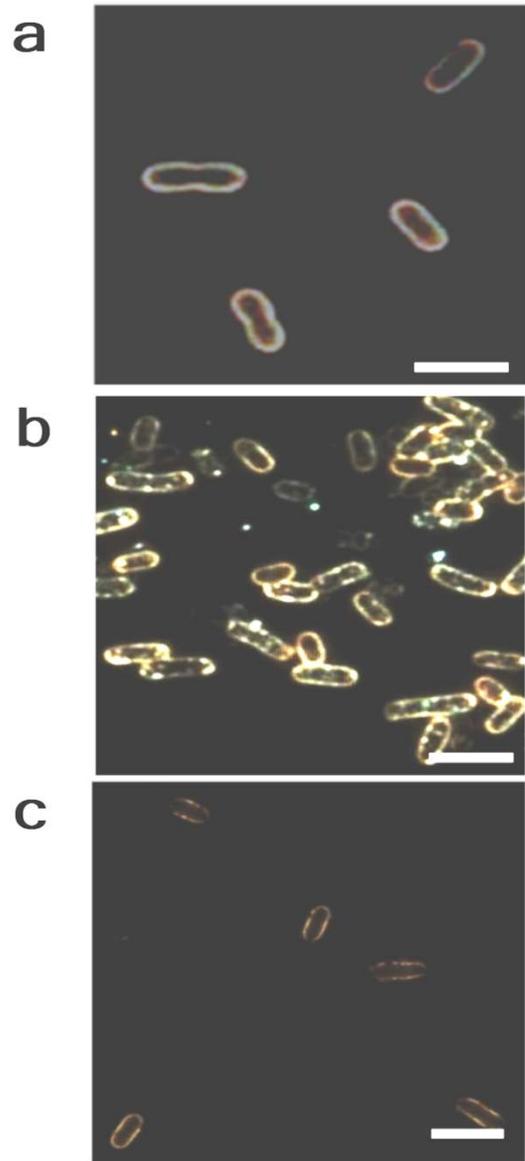


# Live/dead staining experiments

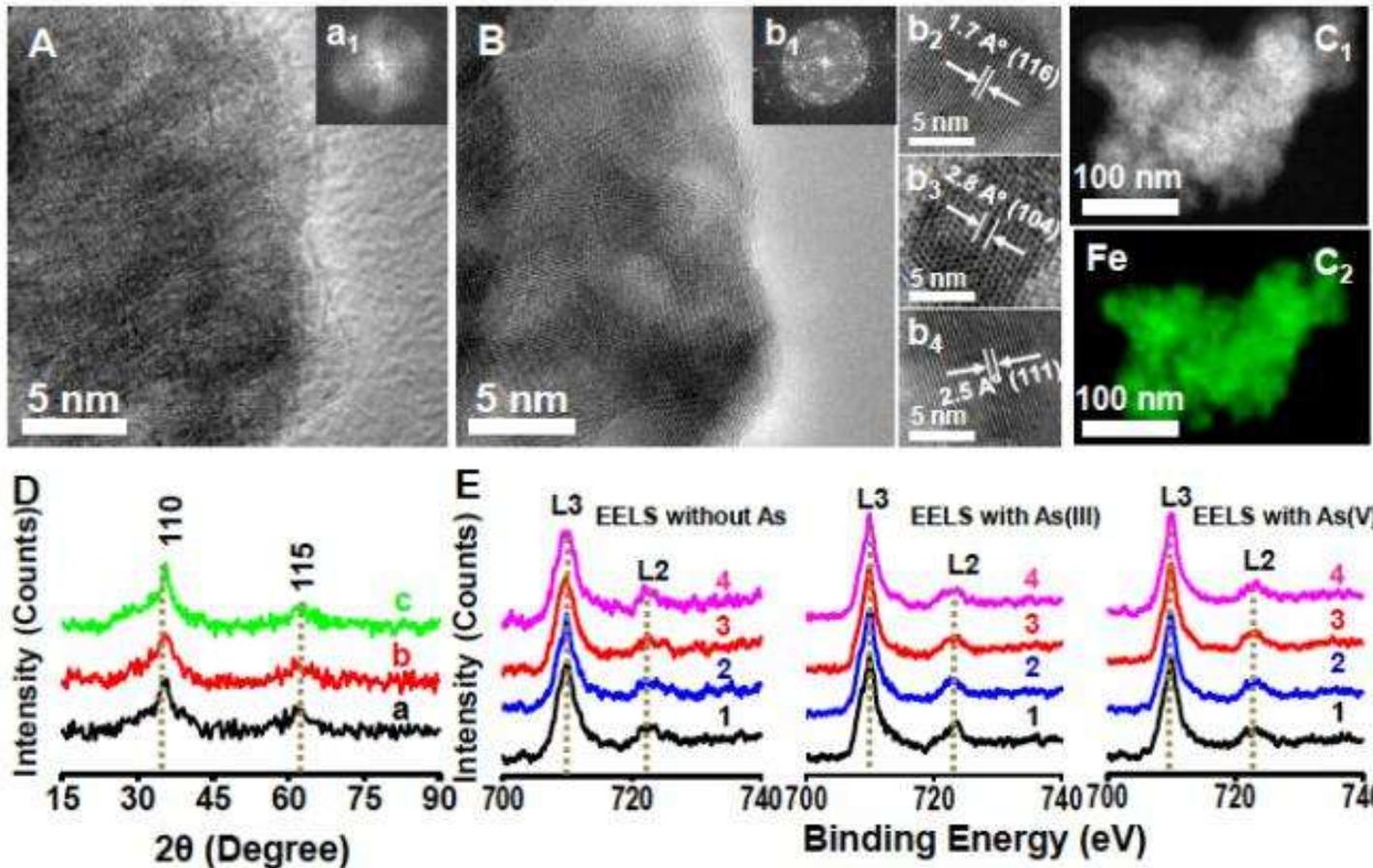
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# No nanotoxicity



# Variety of materials



www.advmat.de

Author Pr **ADVANCED MATERIALS**

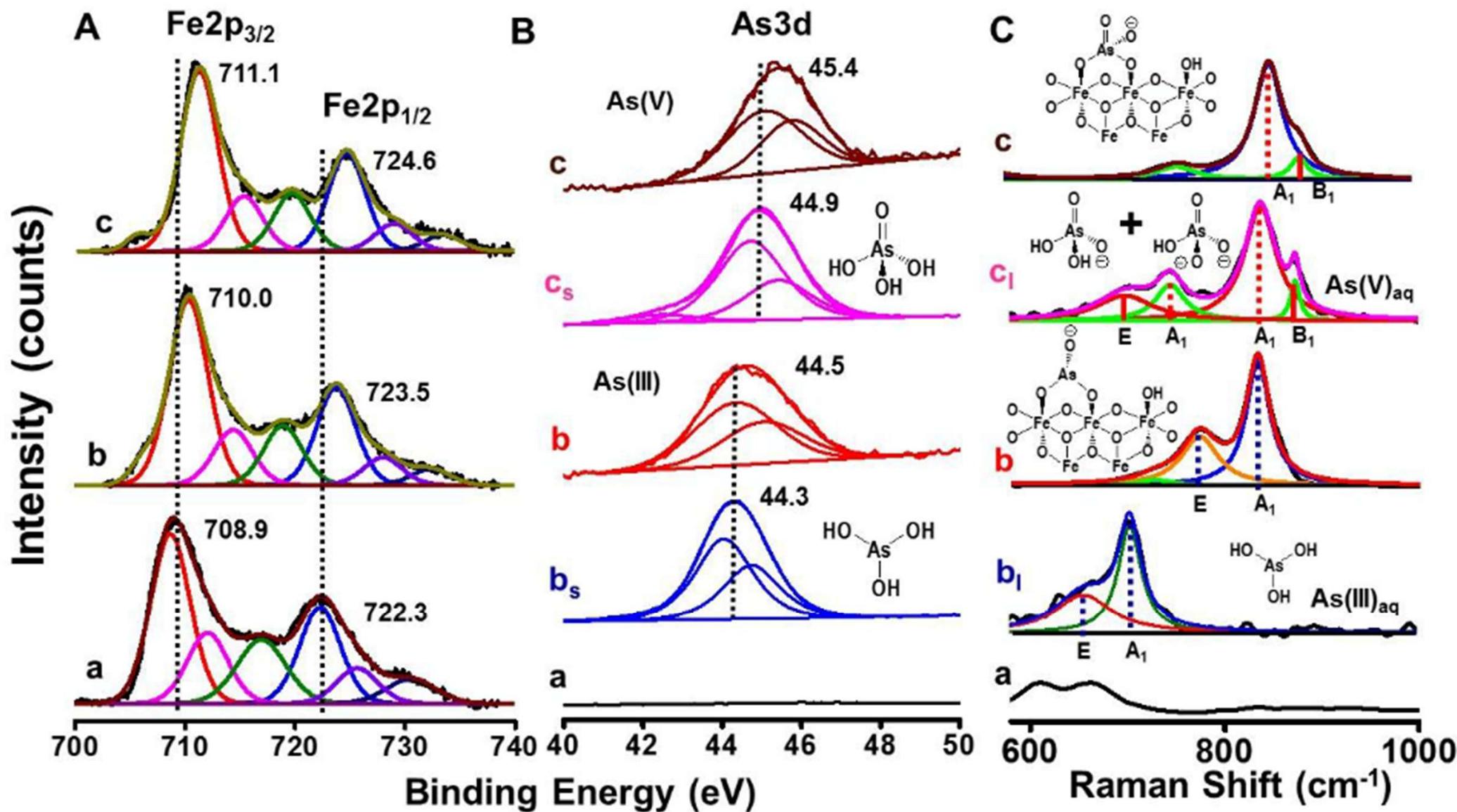
## Confined Metastable 2-Line Ferrihydrite for Affordable Point-of-Use Arsenic Free Drinking Water

By Avula Anil Kumar, Anirban Som, Paolo Longo, Chennu Sudhakar, Radha Gobinda Bhuin, Soujit Sen Gupta, Anshup, Mohan Udhaya Sankar, Amrita Chaudhary, Ramesh Kumar, and T. Pradeep\*

A. Anil Kumar, et. al. *Adv. Mater.*, 29 (2016) 1604260.

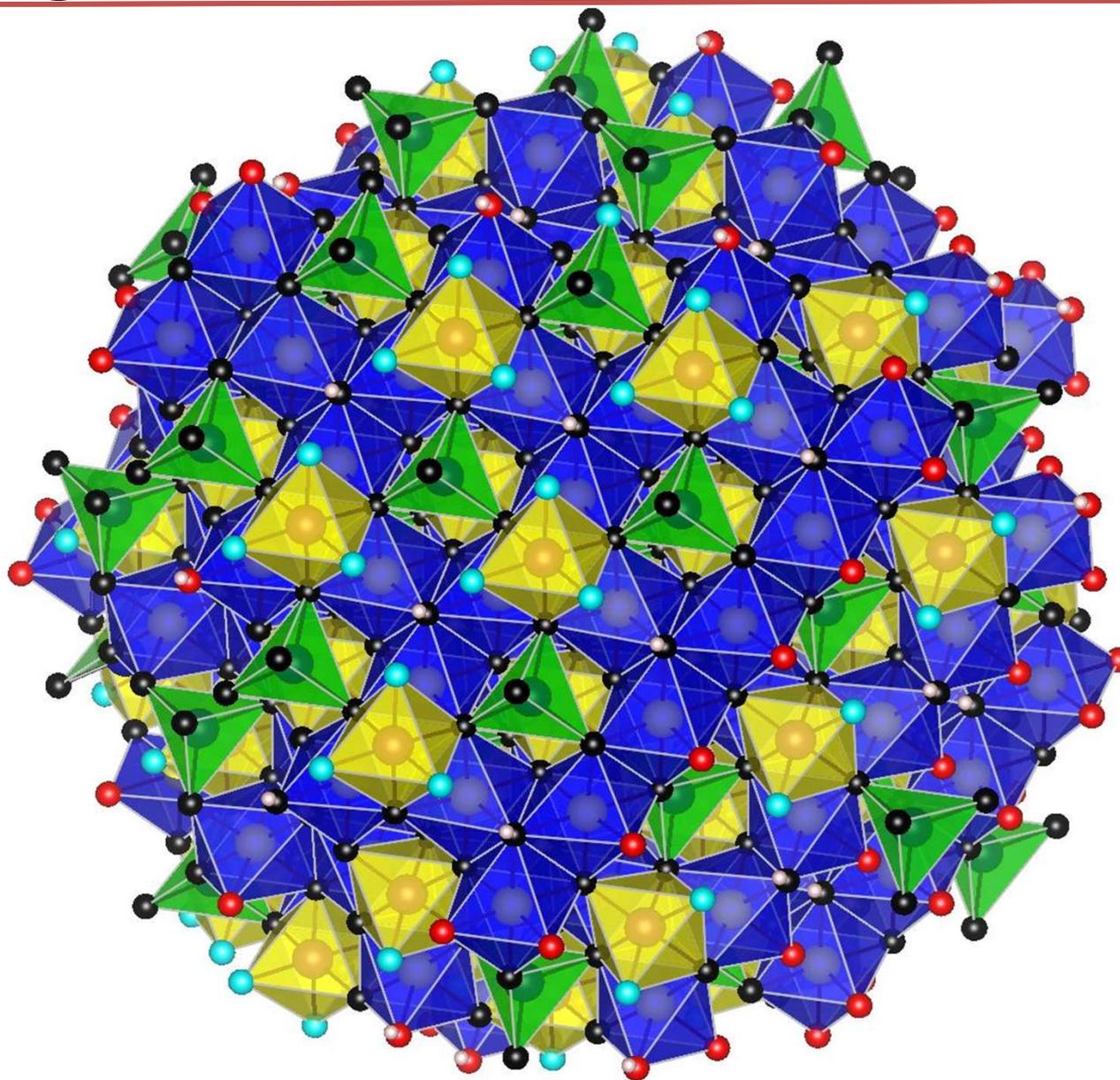
Communication

# Mechanism

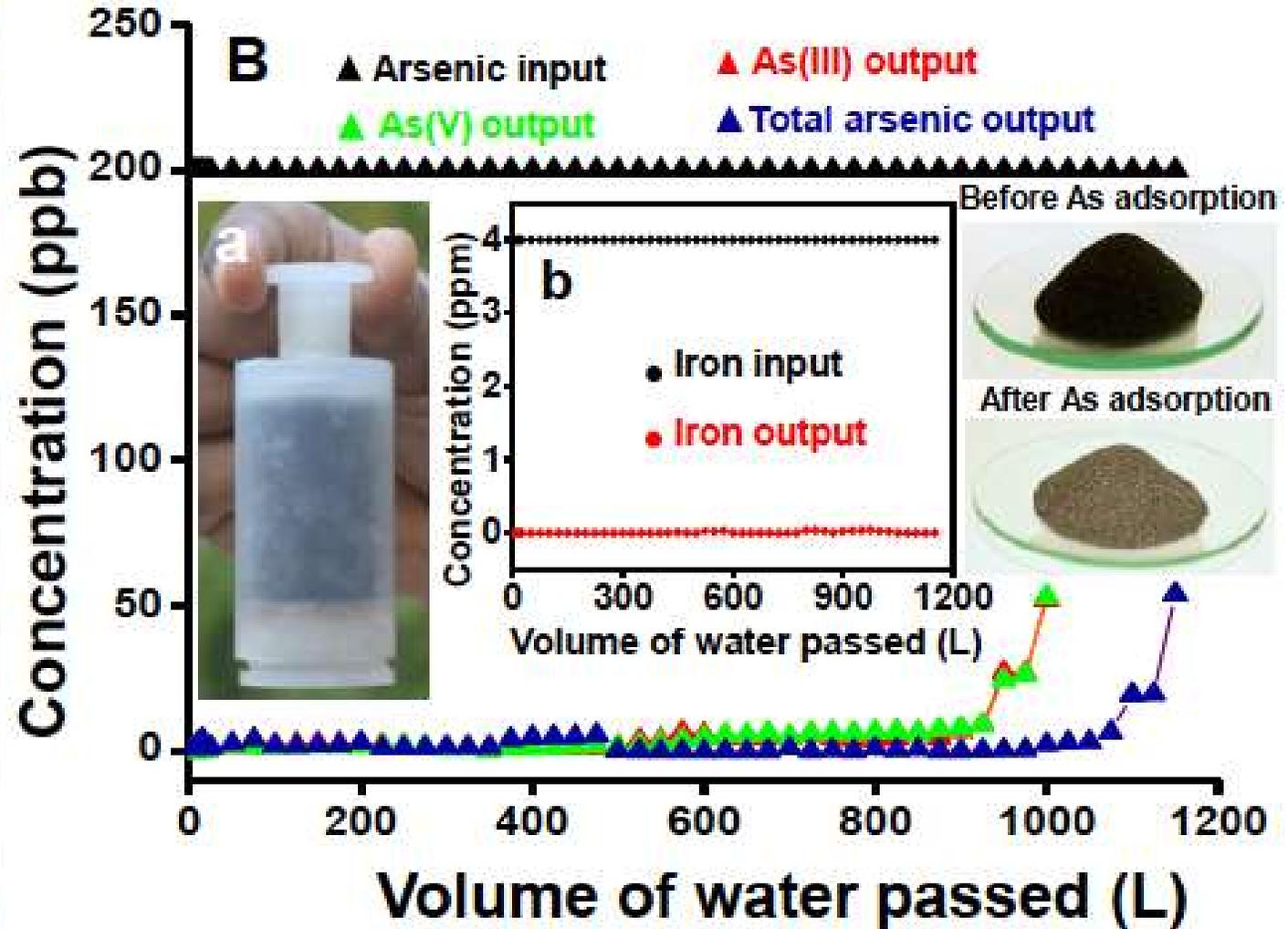


# Modeling surfaces

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# Lab studies



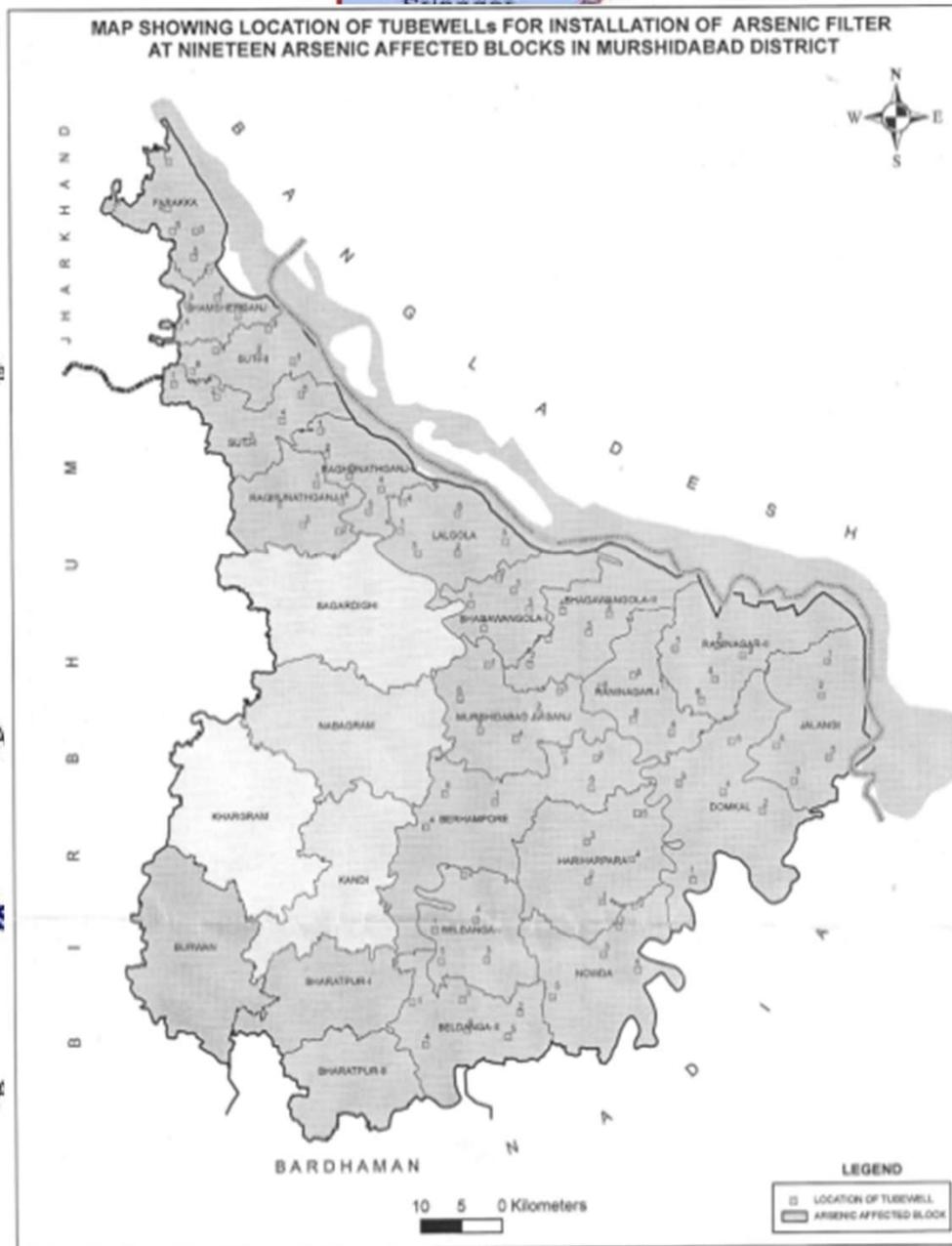
# Initial pilot studies

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# Larger pilot studies

## Population Map Of India-2001



Map not to Scale

# Changing the dynamics in the field



Existing plant in 40 cents

- Existing unit for iron and arsenic removal – 20 m<sup>3</sup>/h
- Uses activated alumina and iron oxide (old generation of adsorbents)



New plant in 3 cents

- Existing unit for iron and arsenic removal – 18 m<sup>3</sup>/h
- Uses iron oxyhydroxide (new generation of adsorbents)
- Input arsenic concentration: 168 ppb
- Output arsenic concentration: 2 ppb

Completed 3 years maintenance (stipulated: 2 years)  
for 330 bamboo unit project in Nadia, WB



স্বল্পলারিত  
= 03471-250221  
ফোন-03471-  
লক্স-03471-

Minimum uptime: 91%, Maximum: 98%  
Only 4/330 have reported arsenic above 10 ppb  
Benefiting over 100,000 children and villagers

Glimpse of Installed units (330 nos)

# Implementation - From 25 KLD to 1 MLD



Large water supply schemes  
Capacity: above 1 MLD

5 schemes in use across India



Retrofitted Water Purification Plant  
Capacity: 0.1-1 MLD

Over 180 units in use across India

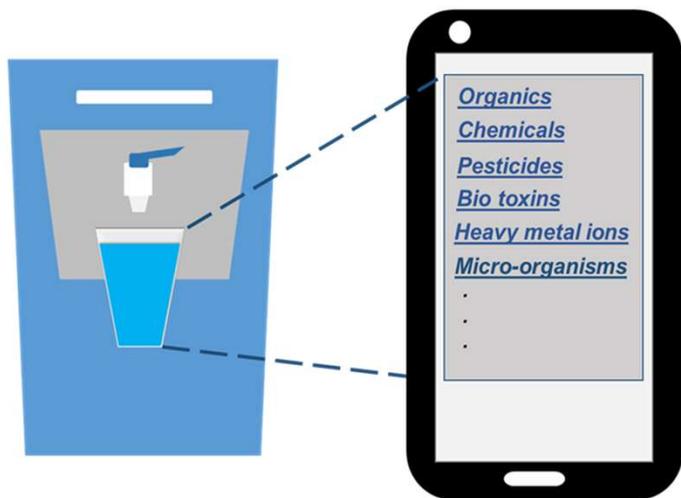
# Cleanwater at 2.1 paise per litre!

## Calculation for the Tariff to be collected for treated water (Revision if Required)

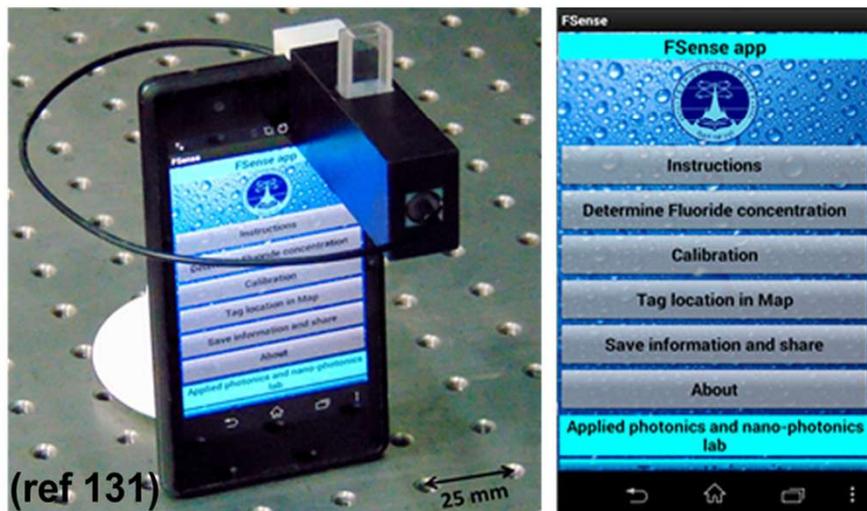
Sr.No	Design population	1,071	Plant capacity/70 LPCD
	Item/Description	Cost / Quantity	Remarks
1	Cost of Replacement of Iron removal media	56400	After minimum two years if Iron concentration is more than 5 ppm. But iron concentration is more than 5 ppm at only two to three places. Therefore media may work for 3 years also.
2	Cost of Replacement of Arsenic removal media	978660	After minimum two years if Arsenic concentration is more than 100 ppb. But arsenic concentration is more than 100 ppb at only two to three places. Therefore media may work for 3 years also.
3	Cost of replacement of Activated Carbon	28560	
4	Total cost of Replacement of media	1063620	After minimum two years.
5	Total cost of Replacement of media for one year	531810	
6	Plant capacity	75000	ltr per day
7	Design population	1,071	Plant capacity/70 LPCD
8	Cost per liter of water	2.1 Paise per ltr	<b>0.025 cents</b>
9	Cost of replacement of media	<b>1.36</b>	Rs. per head per day =Media replacement cost per year/365/Design population
		<b><u>40.80</u></b>	per head per month for 70 LPCD water

# Smart water purifiers and big data

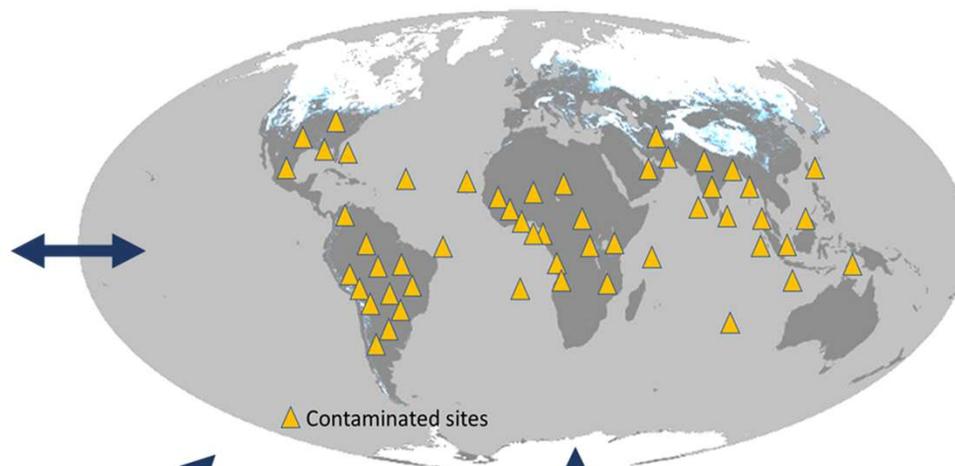
## Smart Water Purifiers linked to IoT



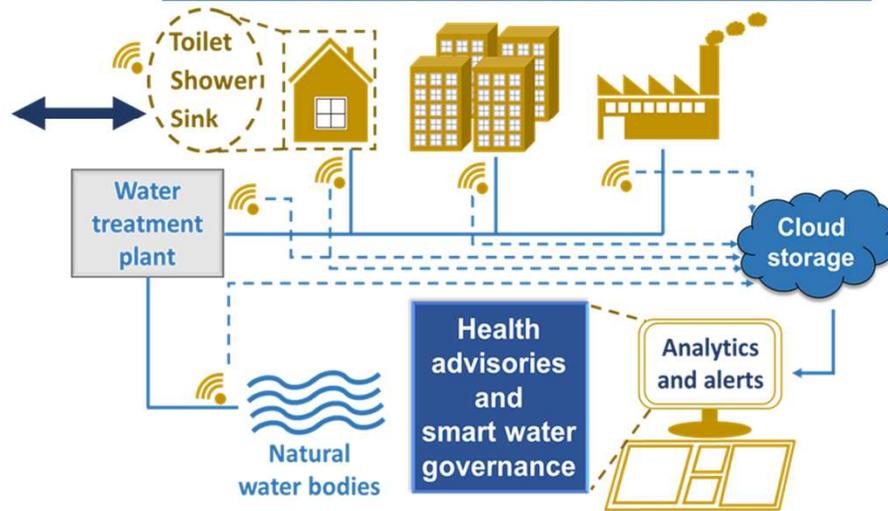
## Cost-effective sensor accessory for point-of-use applications



## Global Map of Water Health



## IoT-enabled sensing for households and distribution networks



# Waste management

---

Adsorbents conform to toxicity characteristic leaching procedure

Elemental waste goes back to local environment

Safe disposal of arsenic (or any other) laden waste

Additional protection could be considered, if necessary

Exploring viable uses

# A sample of new installations

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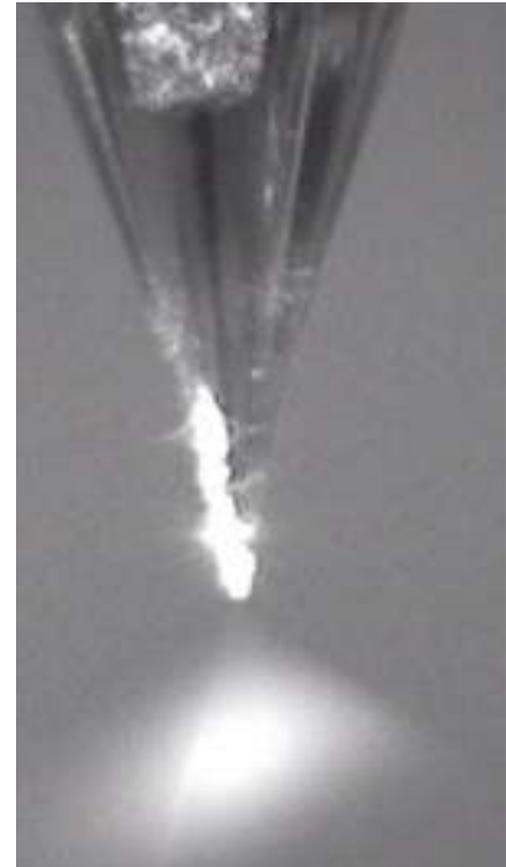
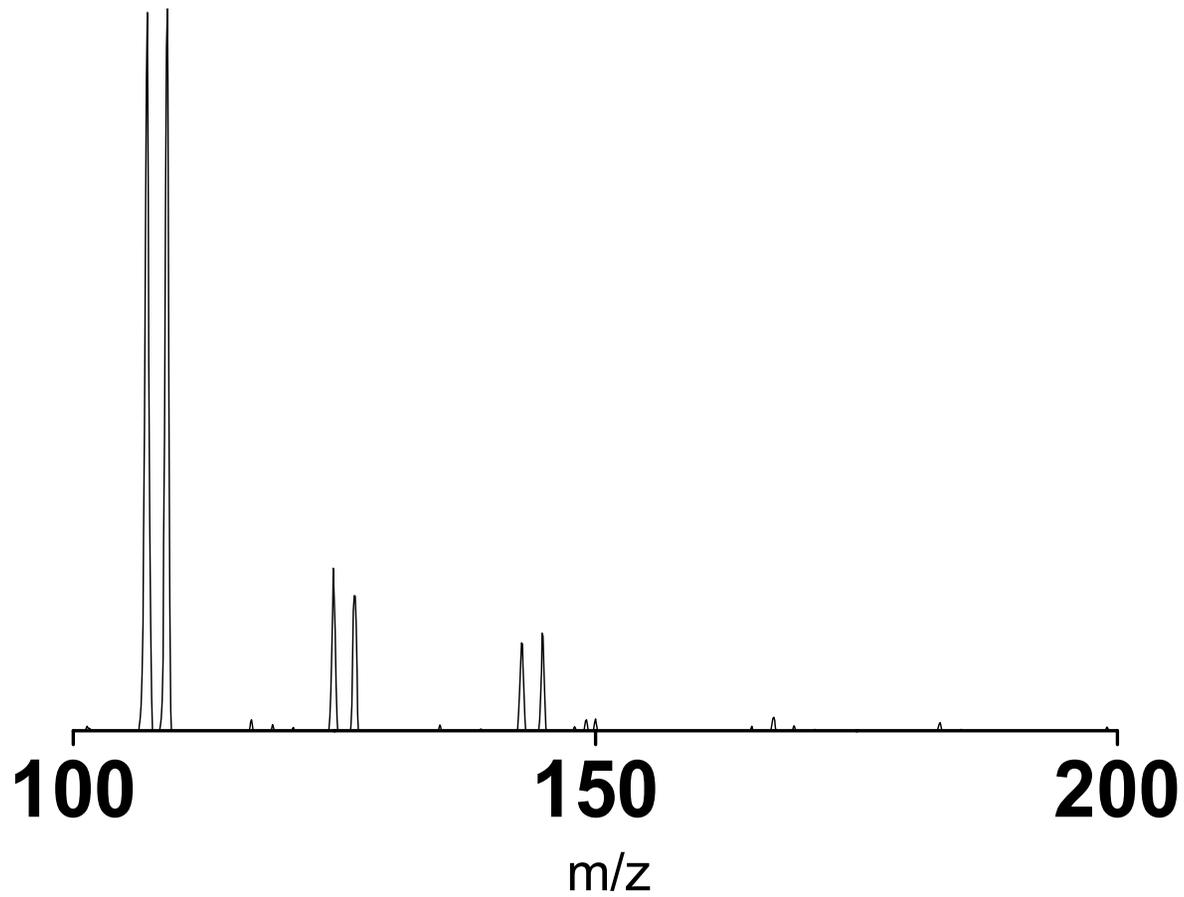
# Across the country

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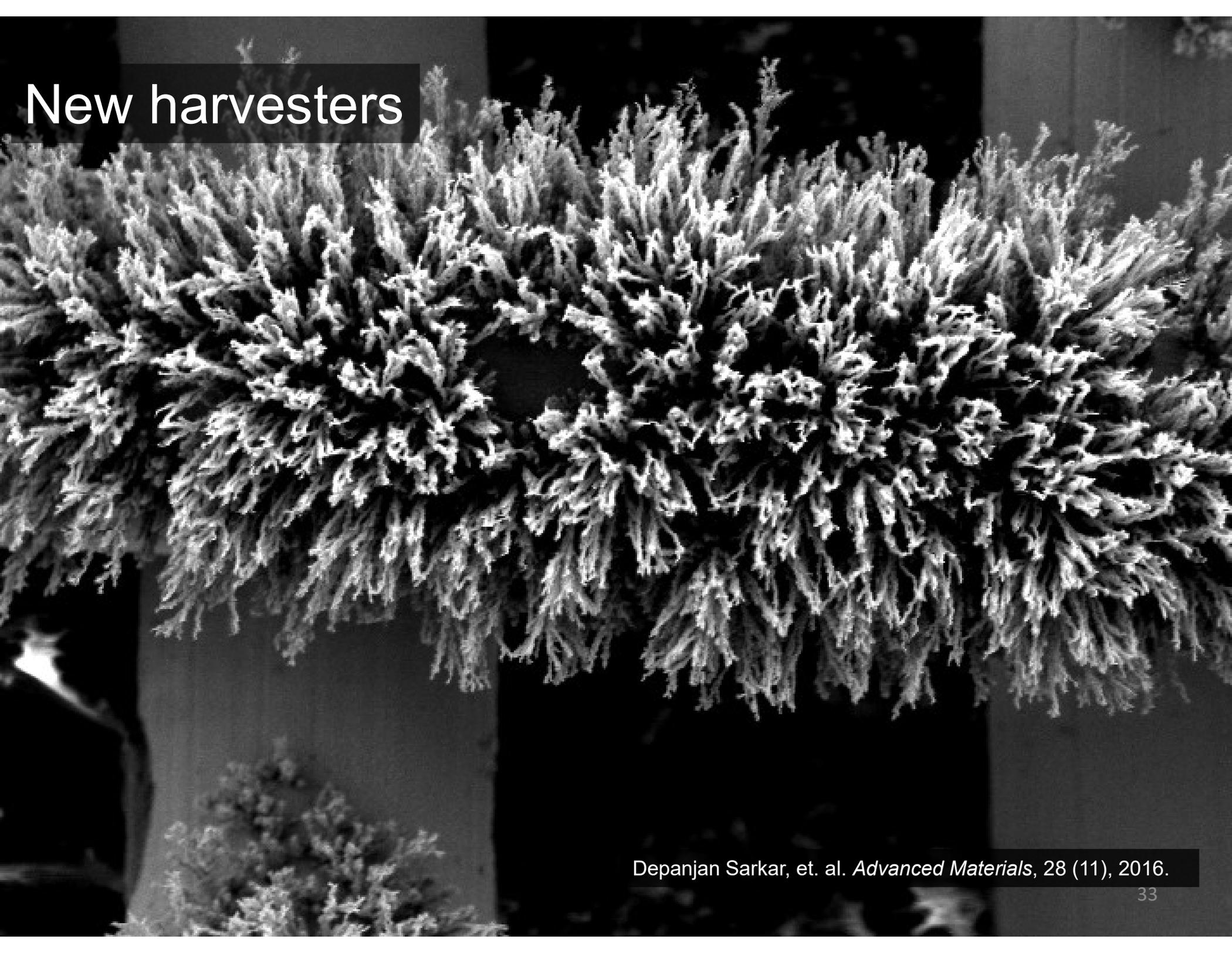


# Atmospheric water harvesting

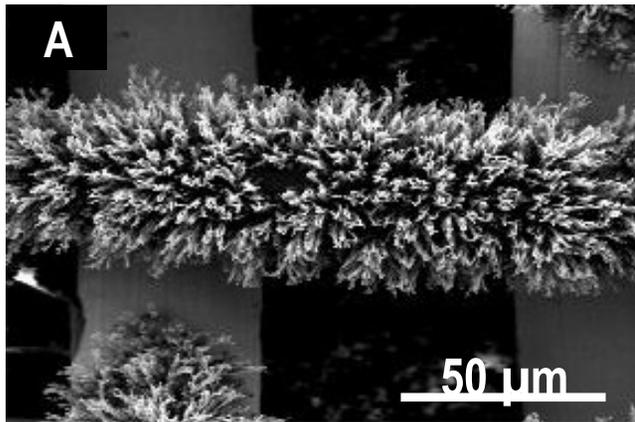
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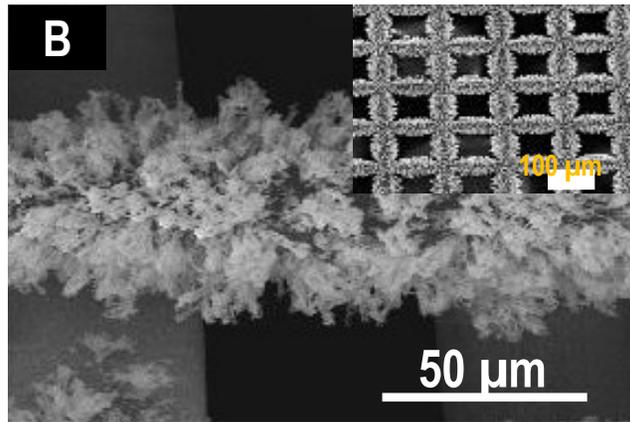
# New harvesters



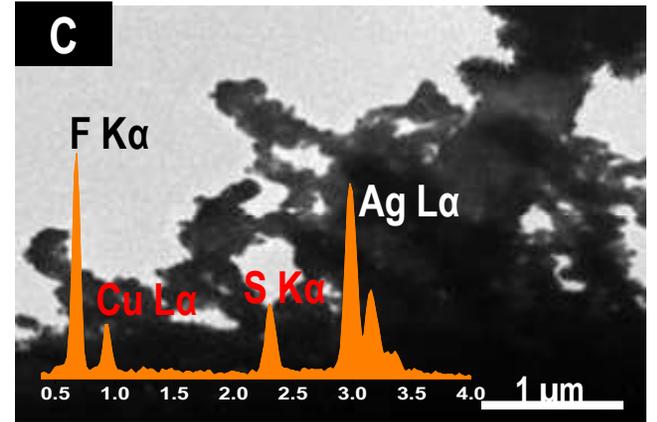
Depanjan Sarkar, et. al. *Advanced Materials*, 28 (11), 2016.



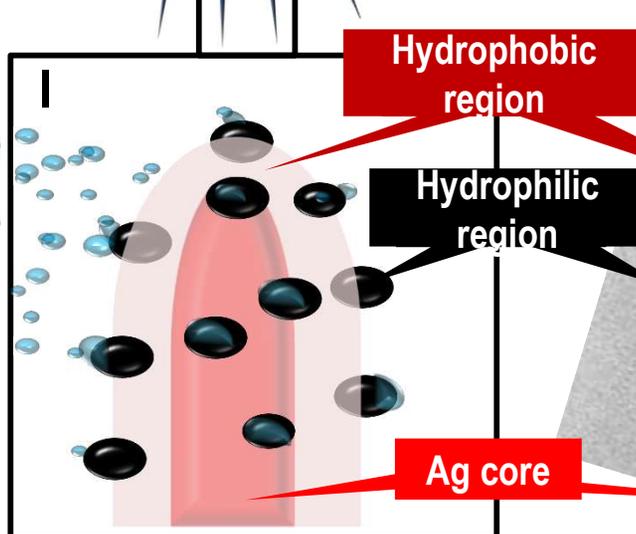
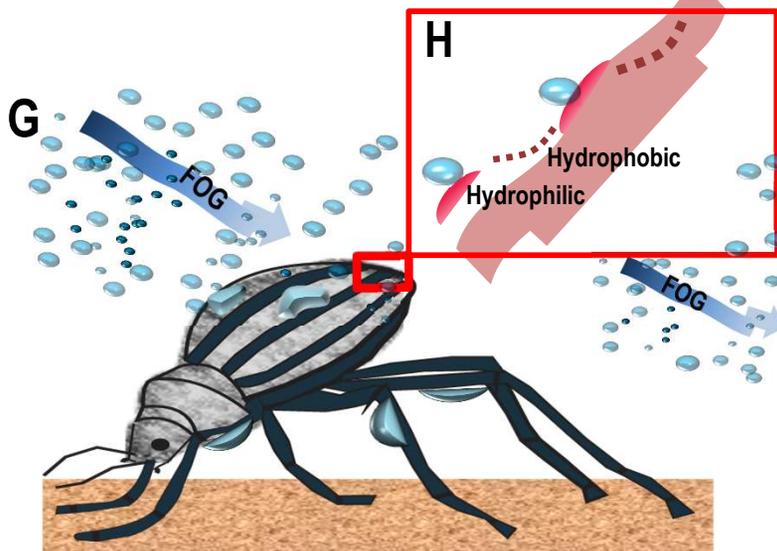
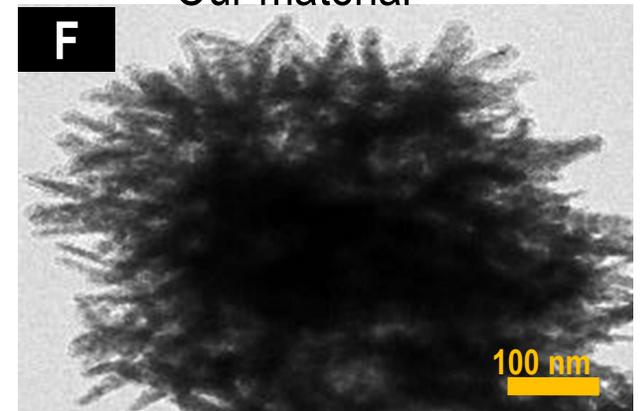
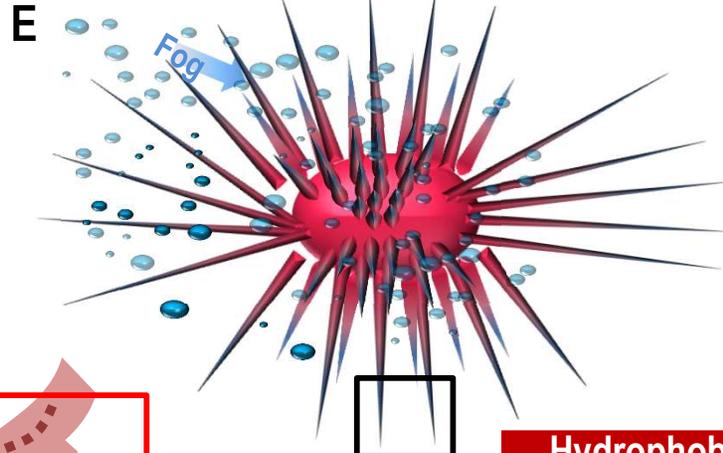
Nature



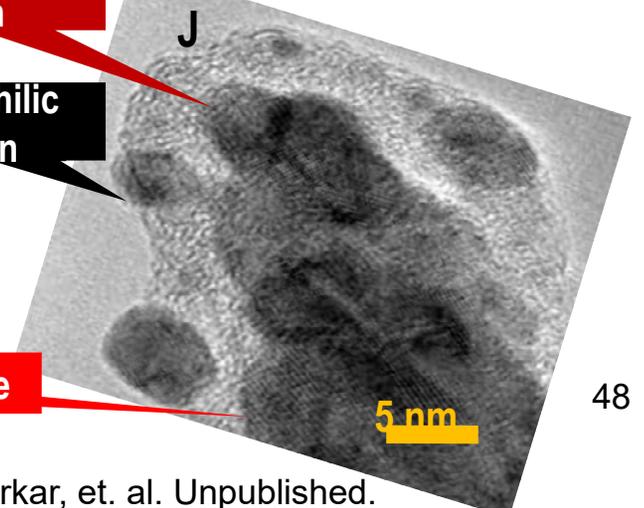
Schematic

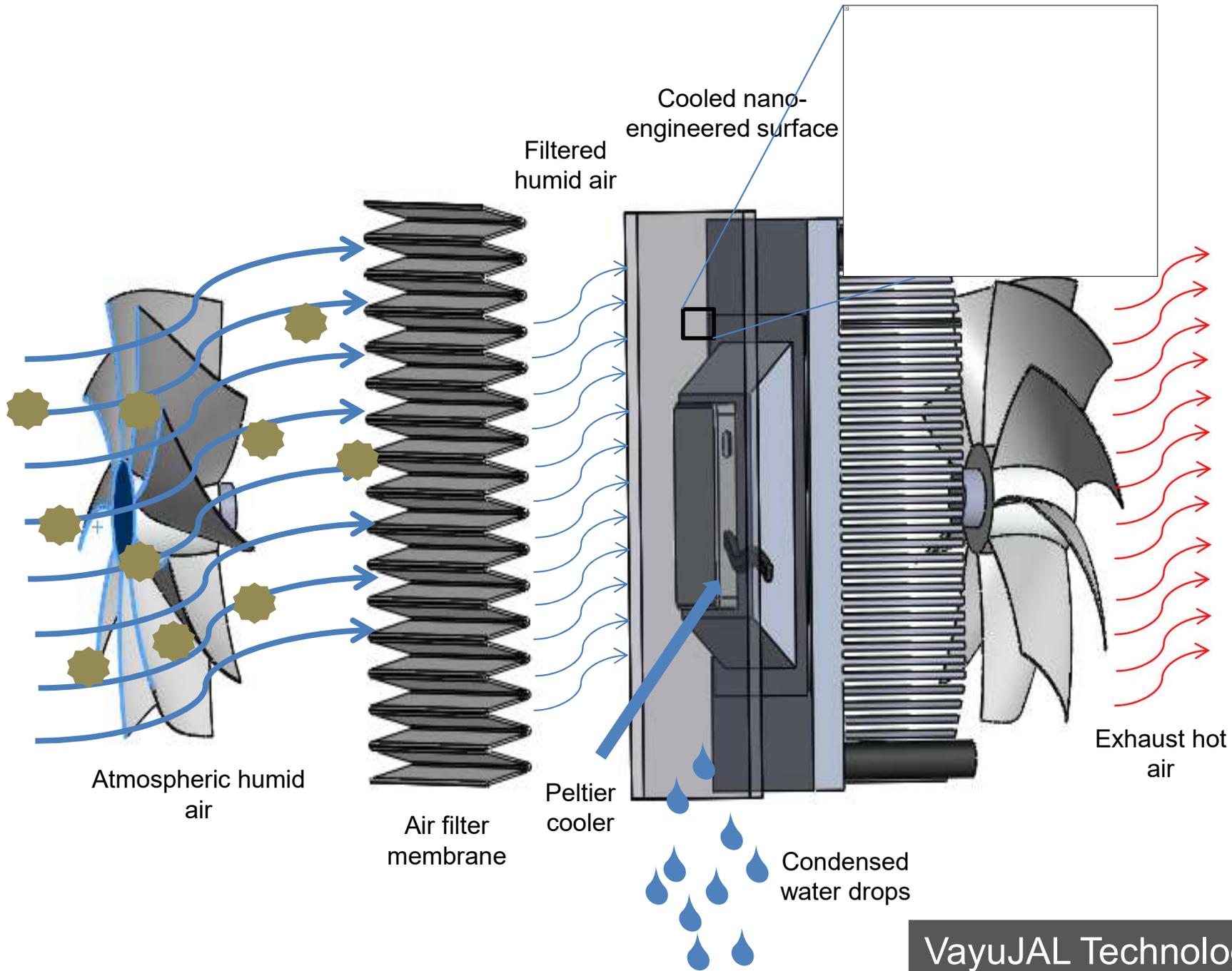


Our material



Combination of cactus and Namib desert beetle effect





VayuJAL Technologies Pvt. Ltd.  
Ramesh Kumar Soni and Ankit Nagar

# Products in the field

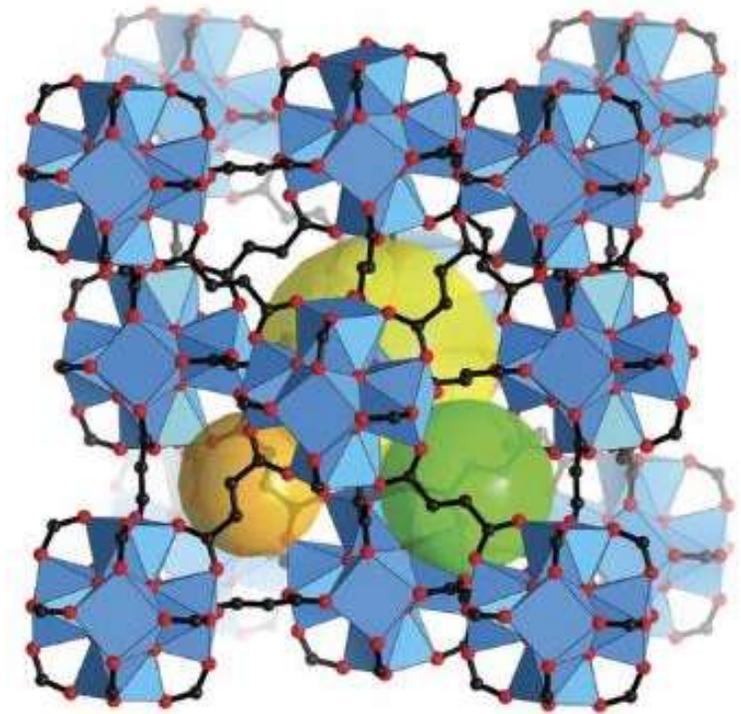
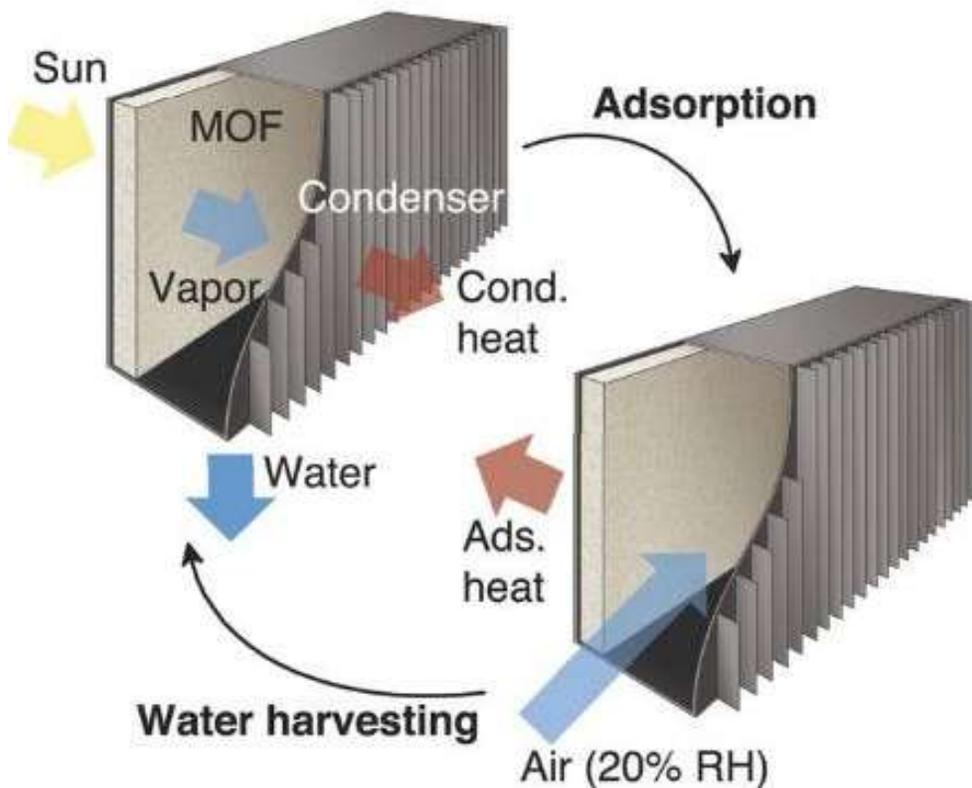
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(LPD: Litres per day)

# Sustainable atmospheric water harvesting

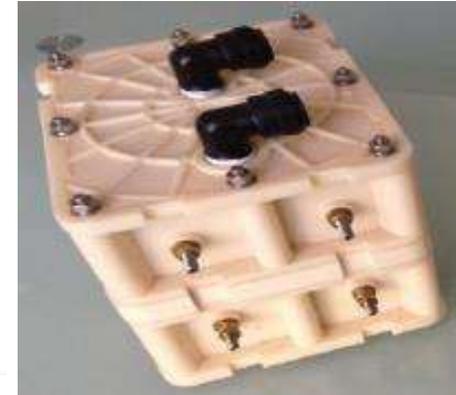
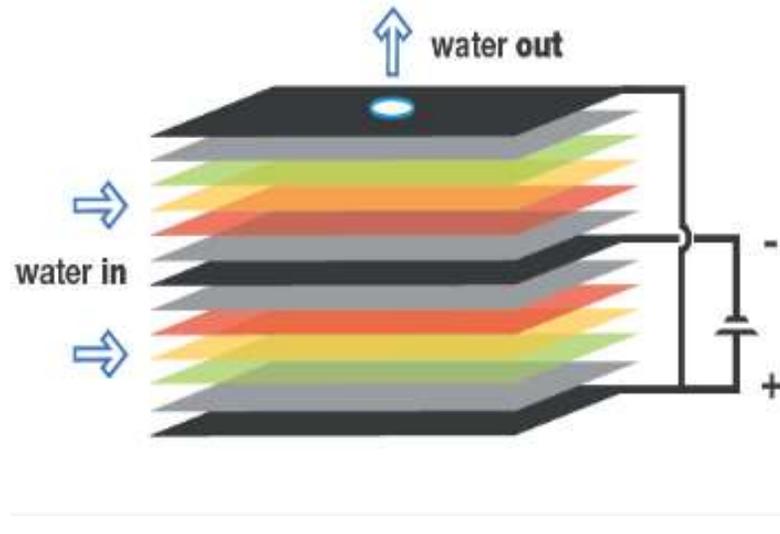
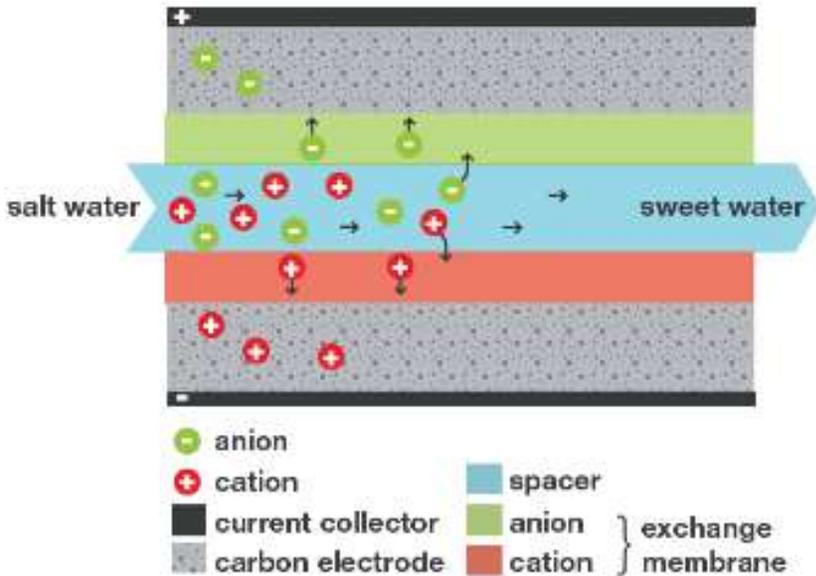
Solar- heat-enabled atmospheric water capture at a relative humidity as low as 20%



Porous metal-organic framework (MOF-801,  $Zr_6O_4(OH)_4(\text{fumarate})_6$ )

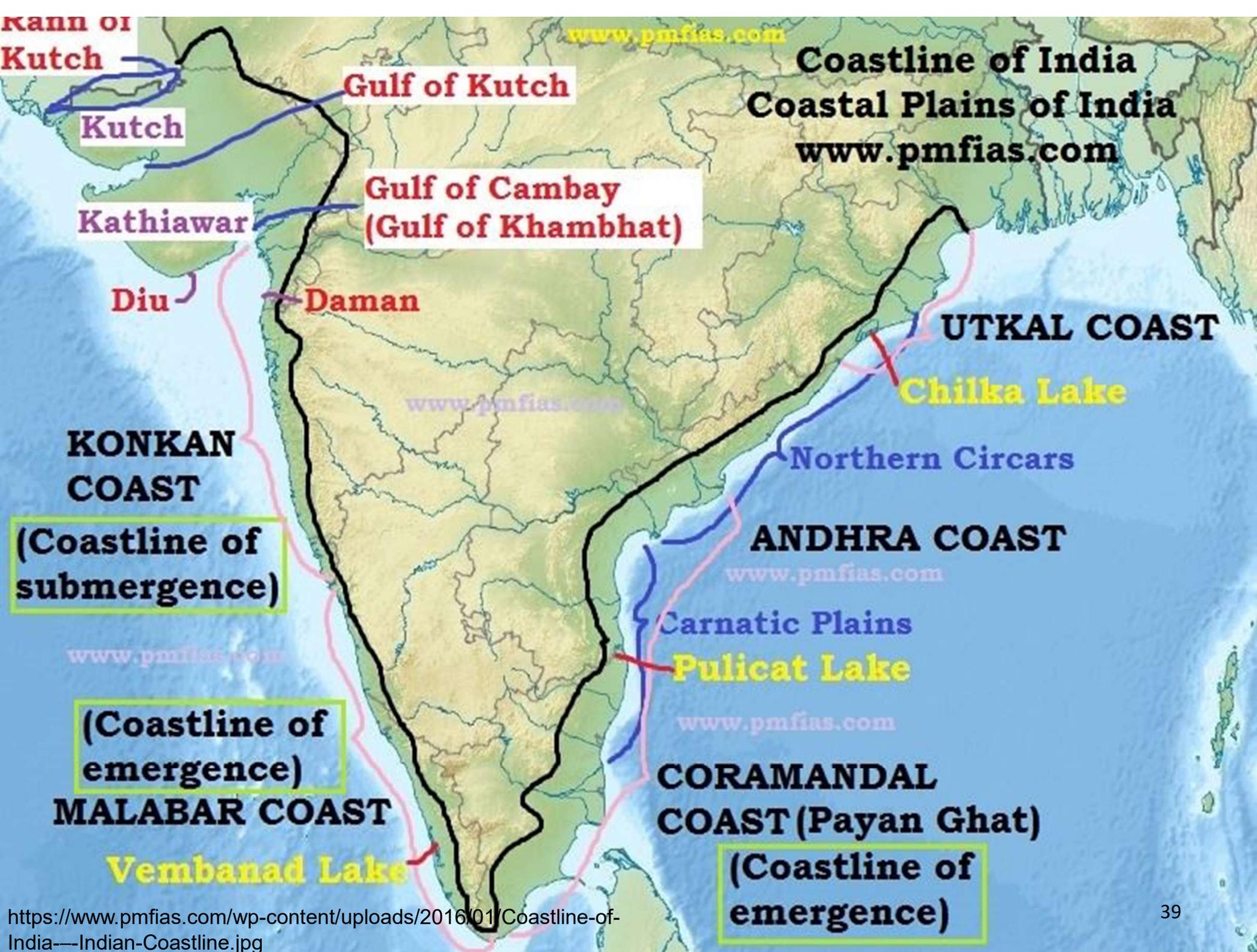
Kim Hyunho, et al. *Science*, 356 (6336) 2017

# Capacitive Desalination (CDI)



Our new company

Soujit Sengupta, Rabiul Islam and others



**Kutch**

**Gulf of Kutch**

**Kutch**

**Coastline of India**  
**Coastal Plains of India**  
[www.pmfias.com](http://www.pmfias.com)

**Kathiawar**

**Gulf of Cambay  
(Gulf of Khambhat)**

**Diu**

**Daman**

**UTKAL COAST**

**Chilka Lake**

**KONKAN  
COAST**

**Northern Circars**

**(Coastline of  
submergence)**

**ANDHRA COAST**

[www.pmfias.com](http://www.pmfias.com)

**Carnatic Plains**

[www.pmfias.com](http://www.pmfias.com)

**Pulicat Lake**

[www.pmfias.com](http://www.pmfias.com)

**(Coastline of  
emergence)**

**MALABAR COAST**

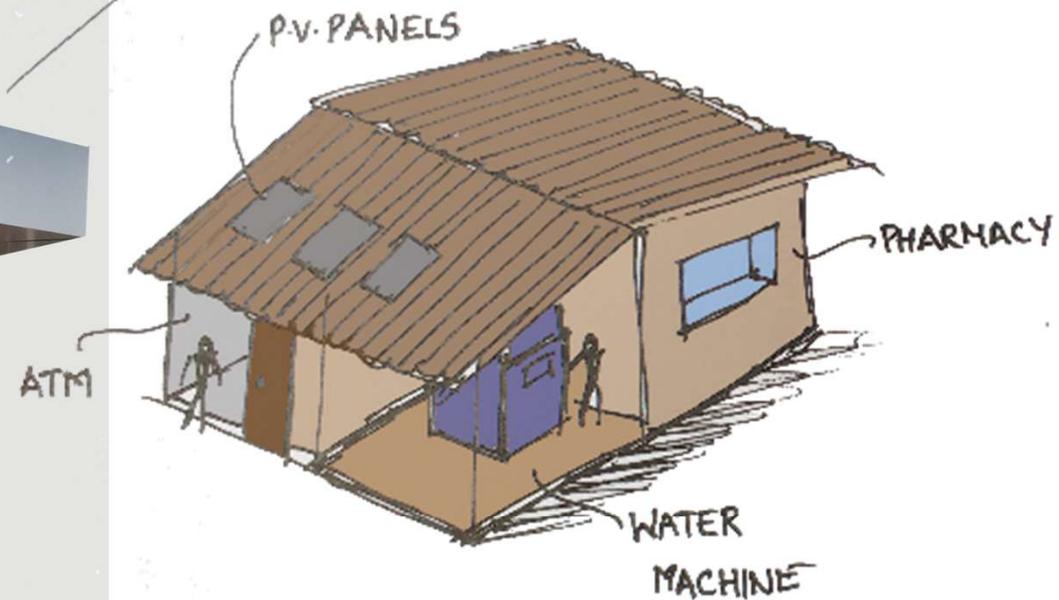
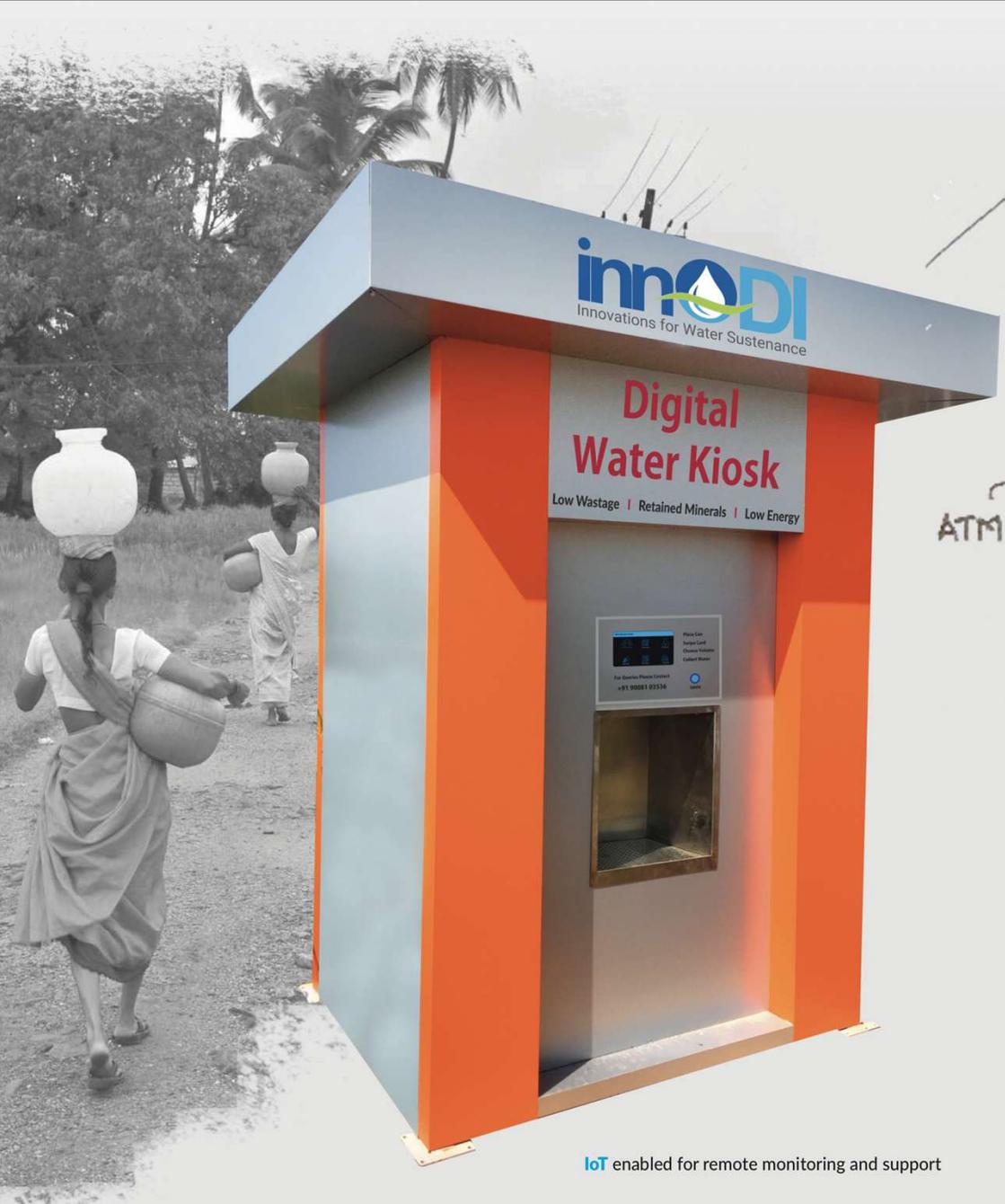
**CORAMANDAL  
COAST (Payan Ghat)**

**Vembanad Lake**

**(Coastline of  
emergence)**

# DIGITAL WATER KIOSK

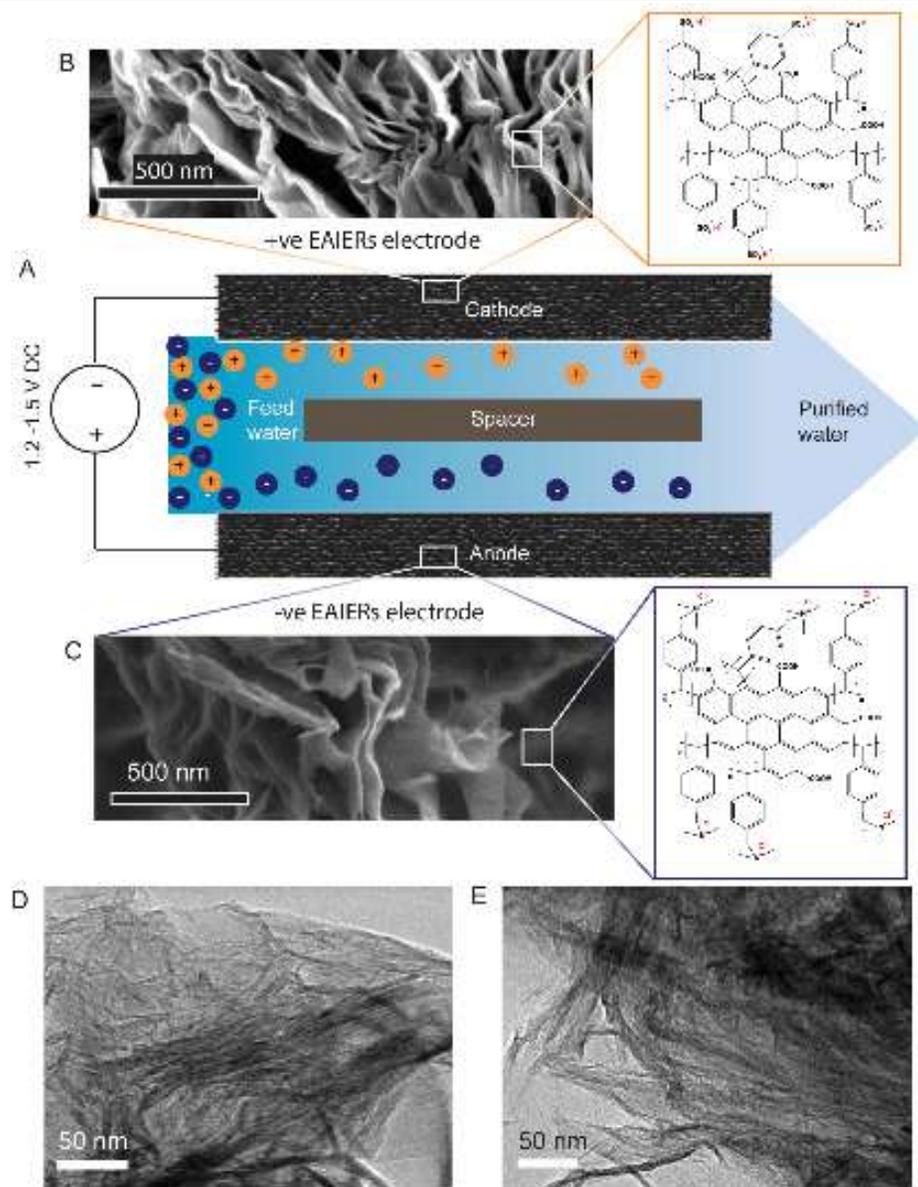
for community drinking using CDI Technology



Products under implementation

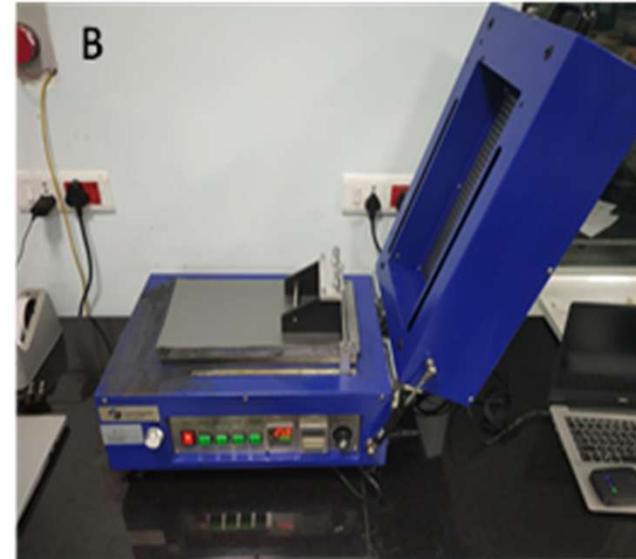
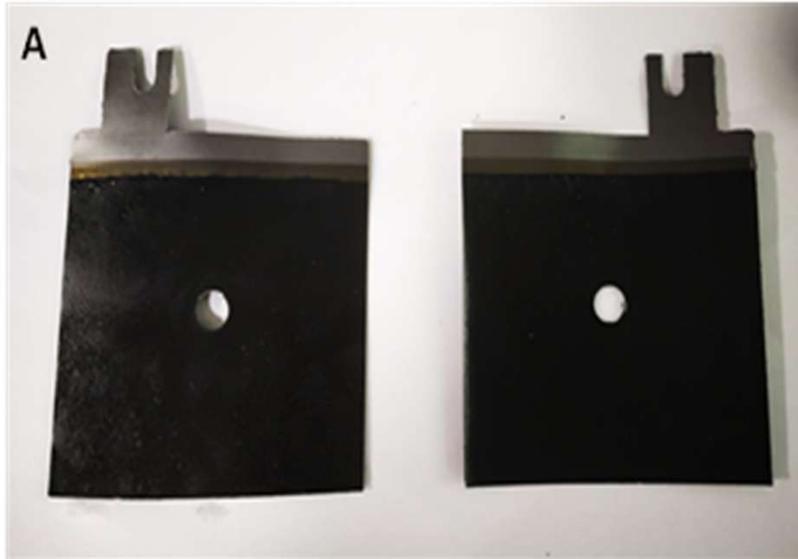
Vijay Sampath and Tullio Servida

# A Covalently Integrated Reduced Graphene Oxide -Ion Exchange Resin Electrode for Efficient CDI



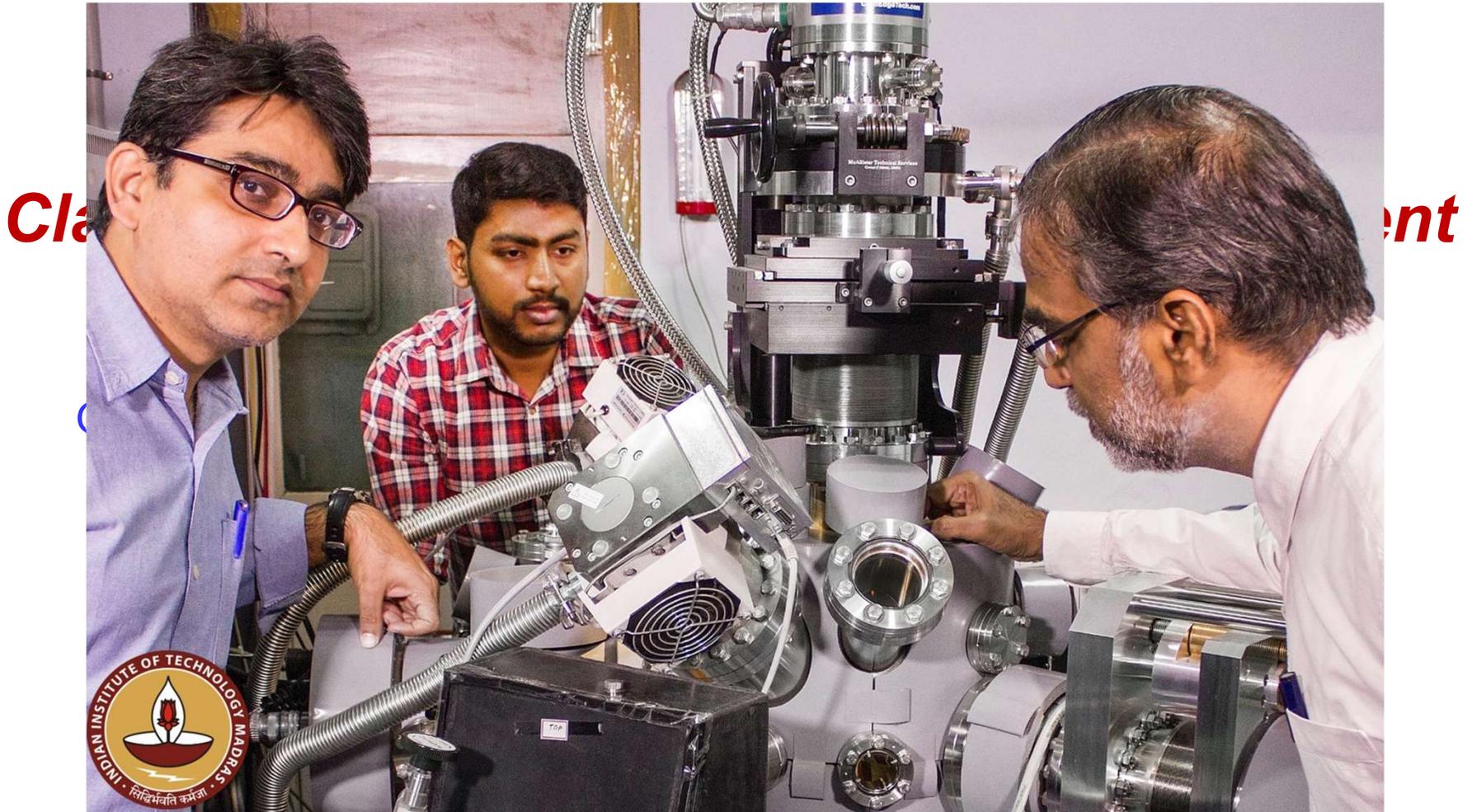
Rabiul *et al.*, *Adv. Mater. Interfaces* **2021**, *8*, 2001998

# Various stages of electrode preparation



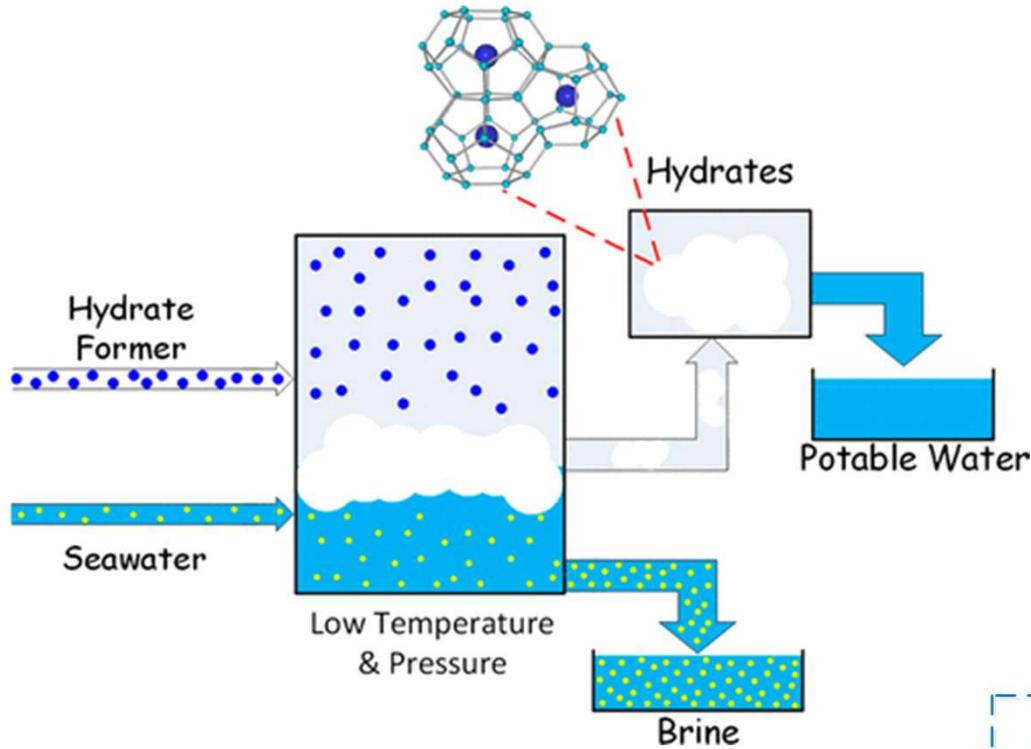


# New phenomena



With Rajnish Kumar

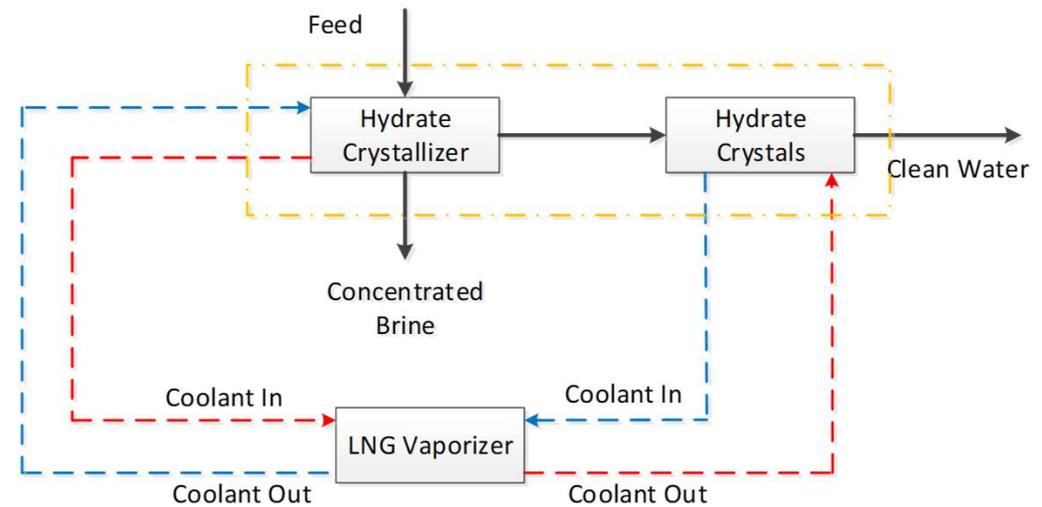
# Hydrate-based desalination (HyDesal)



Water dissociated from hydrate is pure

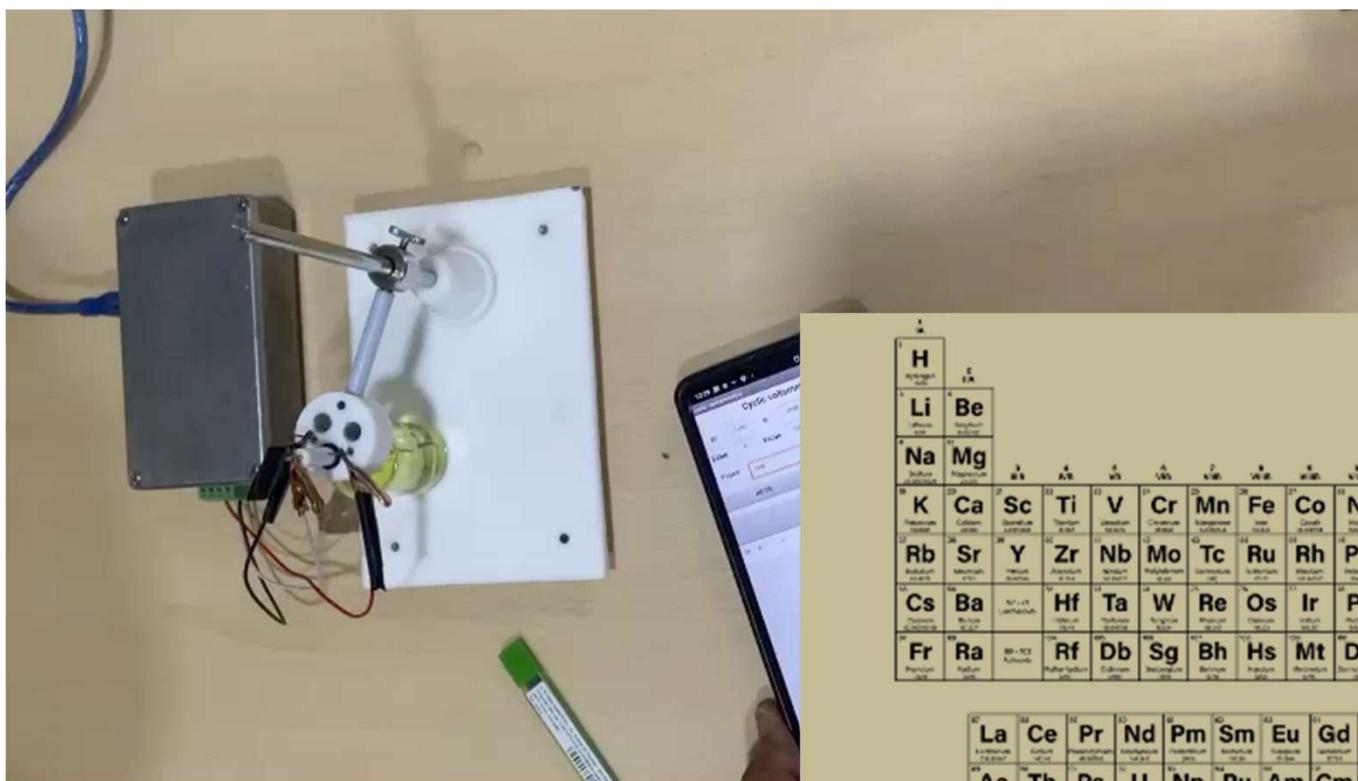
## HyDesal process advantages

- ✓ Salts get occluded
- ✓ No chemical reaction, recovery of water is very easy
- ✓ Hydrates consist of 85% water and rest guest gas
- ✓ Not sensitive to impurities or salt concentration



Cold Energy in LNG terminals can be harvested to produce water

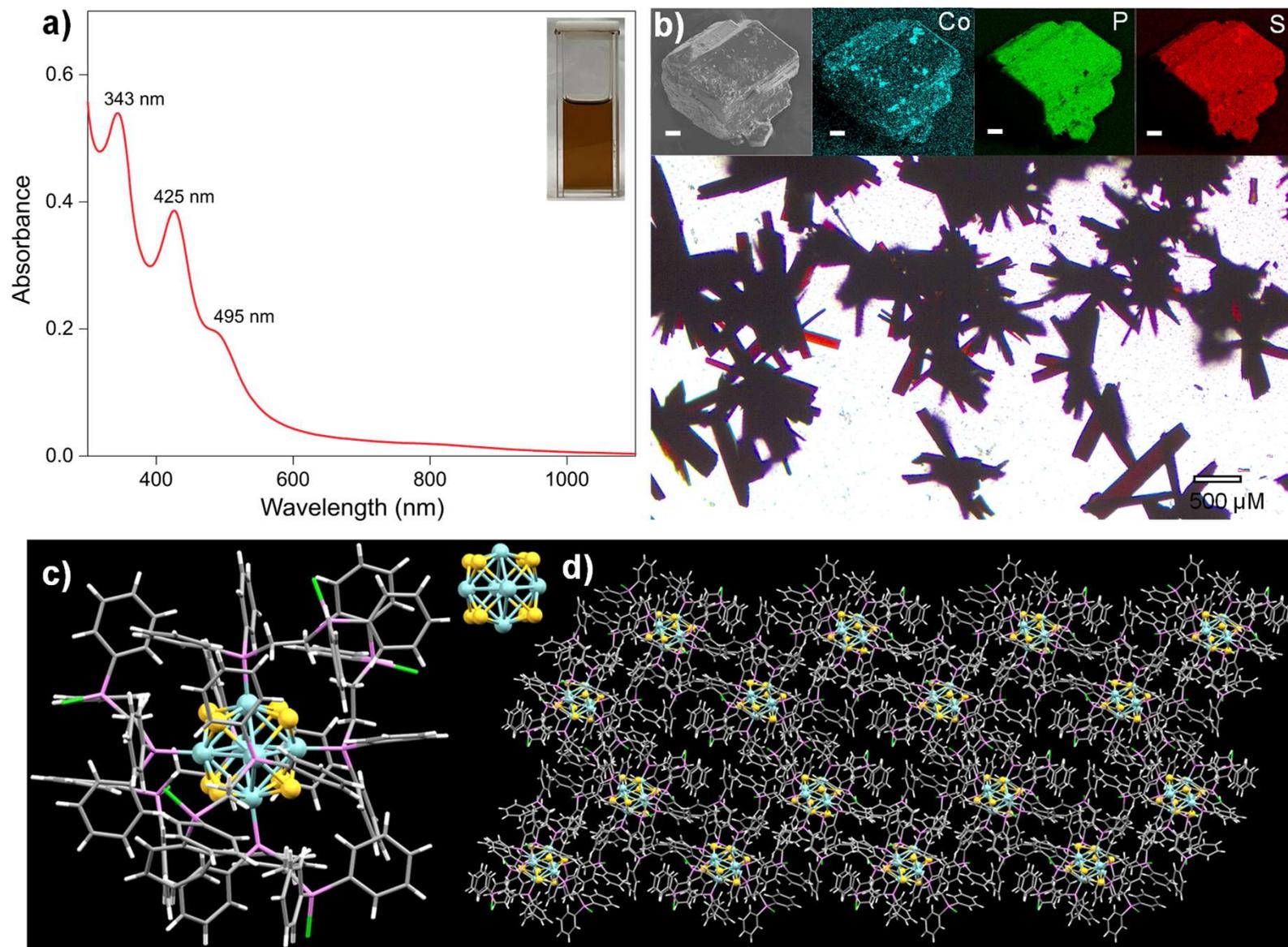
# Sensors and analytical devices



1	2											10																							
1	H	2											18	He																					
3	Li	4	Be											12	B	13	C	14	N	15	O	16	F	17	Ne										
11	Na	12	Mg											13	Al	14	Si	15	P	16	S	17	Cl	18	Ar										
19	K	20	Ca	21	Sc	22	Ti	23	V	24	Cr	25	Mn	26	Fe	27	Co	28	Ni	29	Cu	30	Zn	31	Ga	32	Ge	33	As	34	Se	35	Br	36	Kr
37	Rb	38	Sr	39	Y	40	Zr	41	Nb	42	Mo	43	Tc	44	Ru	45	Rh	46	Pd	47	Ag	48	Cd	49	In	50	Sn	51	Sb	52	Te	53	I	54	Xe
55	Cs	56	Ba	57	La	58	Hf	59	Ta	60	W	61	Re	62	Os	63	Ir	64	Pt	65	Au	66	Hg	67	Tl	68	Pb	69	Bi	70	Po	71	At	72	Rn
87	Fr	88	Ra	89-103	Rf	104	Db	105	Sg	106	Bh	107	Hs	108	Mt	109	Ds	110	Rg	111	Cn	112	Nh	113	Fl	114	Mc	115	Lv	116	Ts	117	Og		
		71	La	72	Ce	73	Pr	74	Nd	75	Pm	76	Sm	77	Eu	78	Gd	79	Tb	80	Dy	81	Ho	82	Er	83	Tm	84	Yb	85	Lu				
		89	Ac	90	Th	91	Pa	92	U	93	Np	94	Pu	95	Am	96	Cm	97	Bk	98	Cf	99	Es	100	Fm	101	Md	102	No	103	Lr				

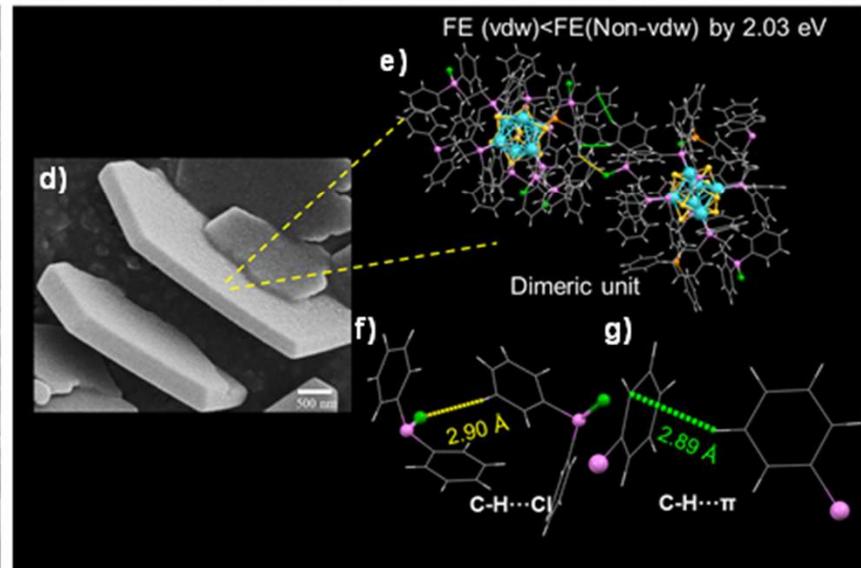
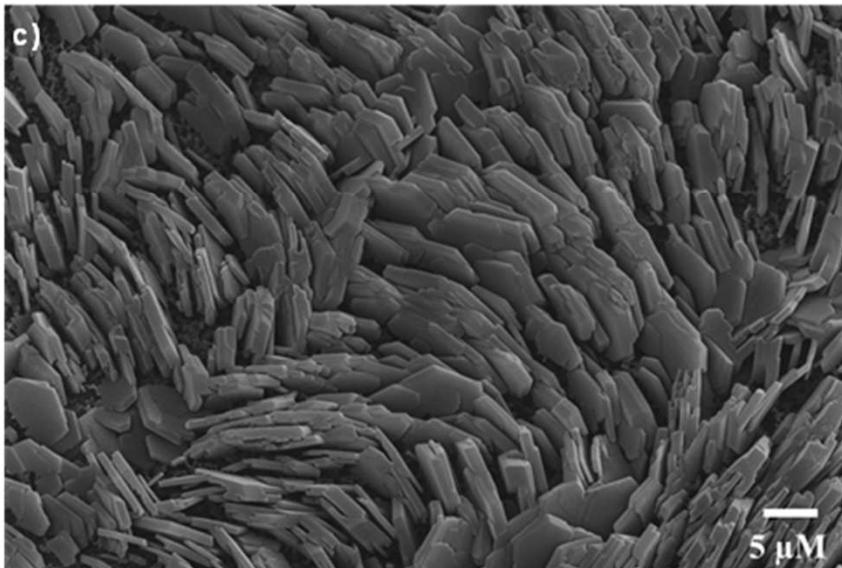
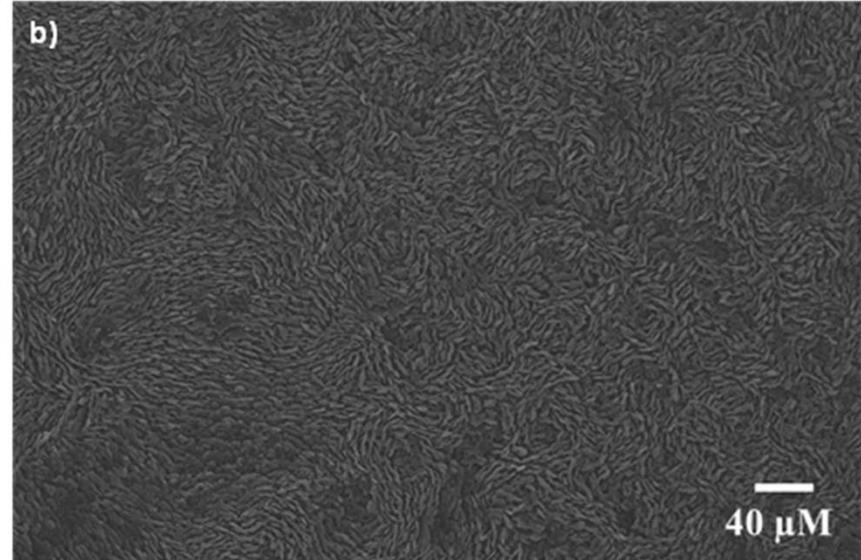
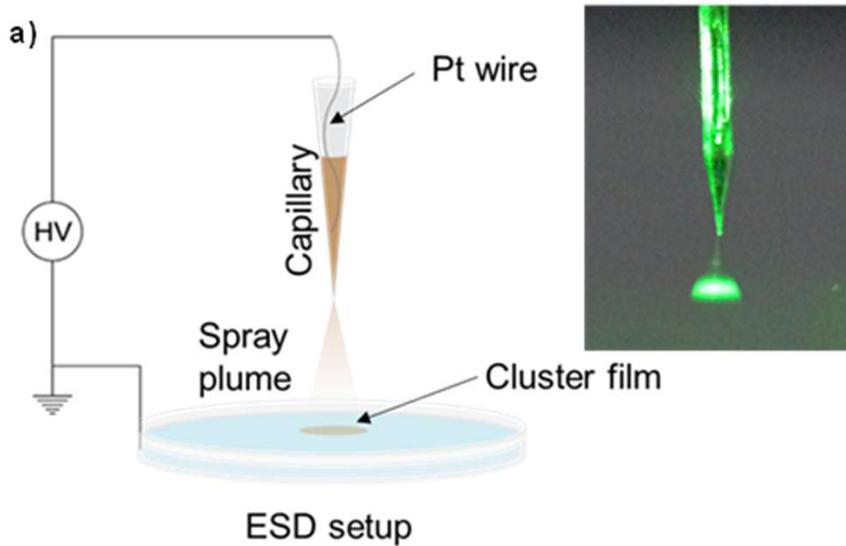
Sourav Kanti Jana

# New electrodes - Aligned nanoplates

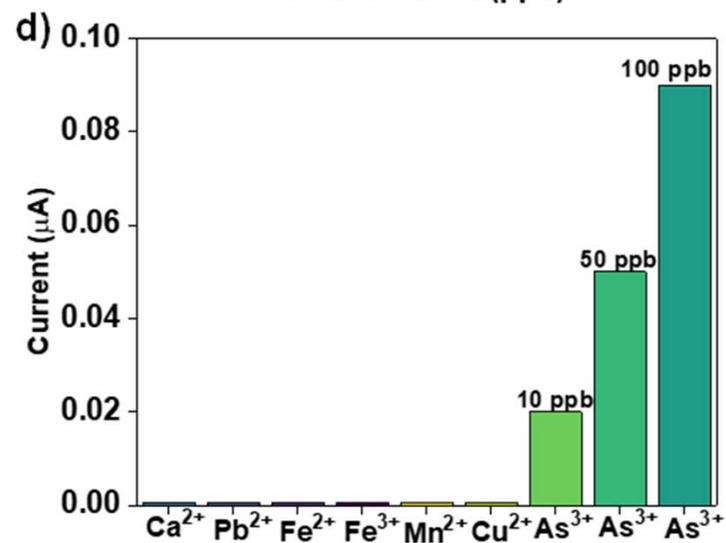
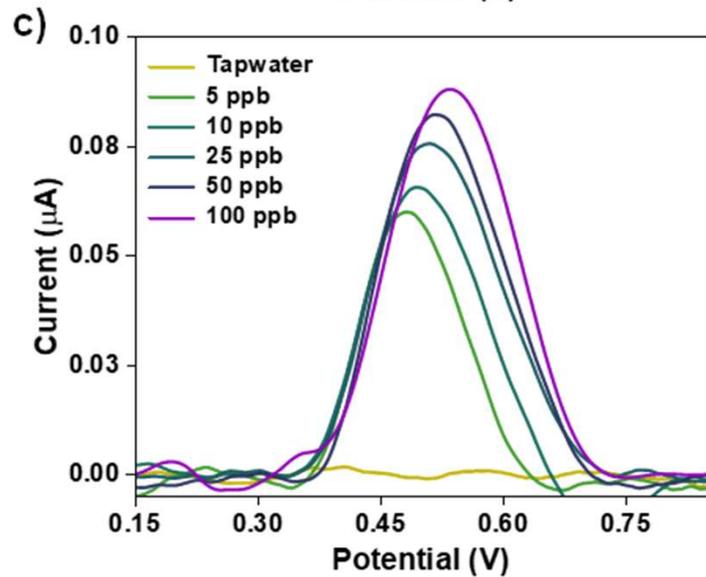
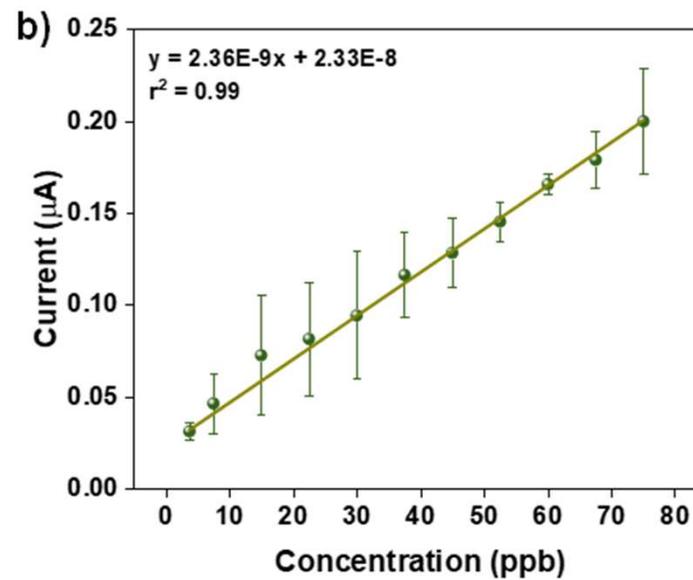
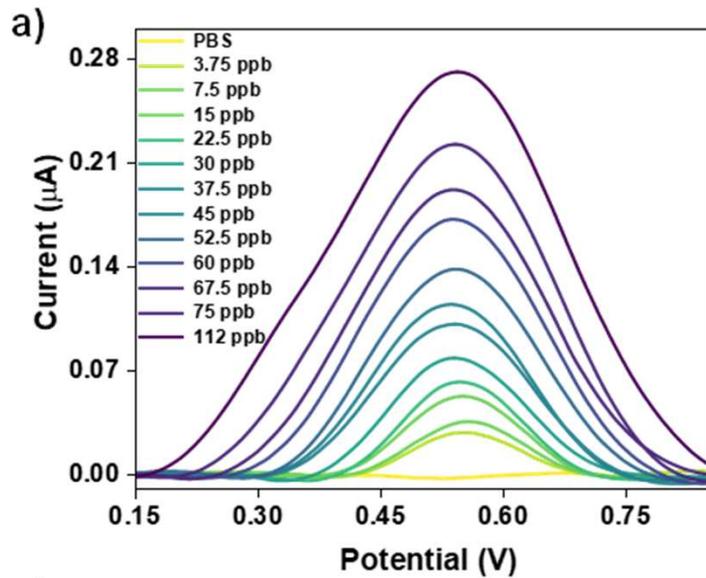


Anagha Jose et al, 2022 (unpublished)

# Electrospray deposition



# Sensing



Anagha Jose et al, 2022 Patent filed

# Sensors and new opportunities

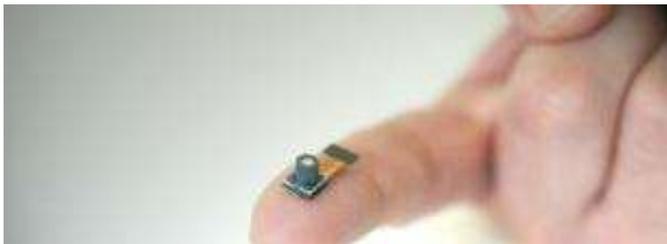
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Analog/Grating  
Equipment  
\$ 5~6 Billion (2017)  
a few **100k units (2017)**



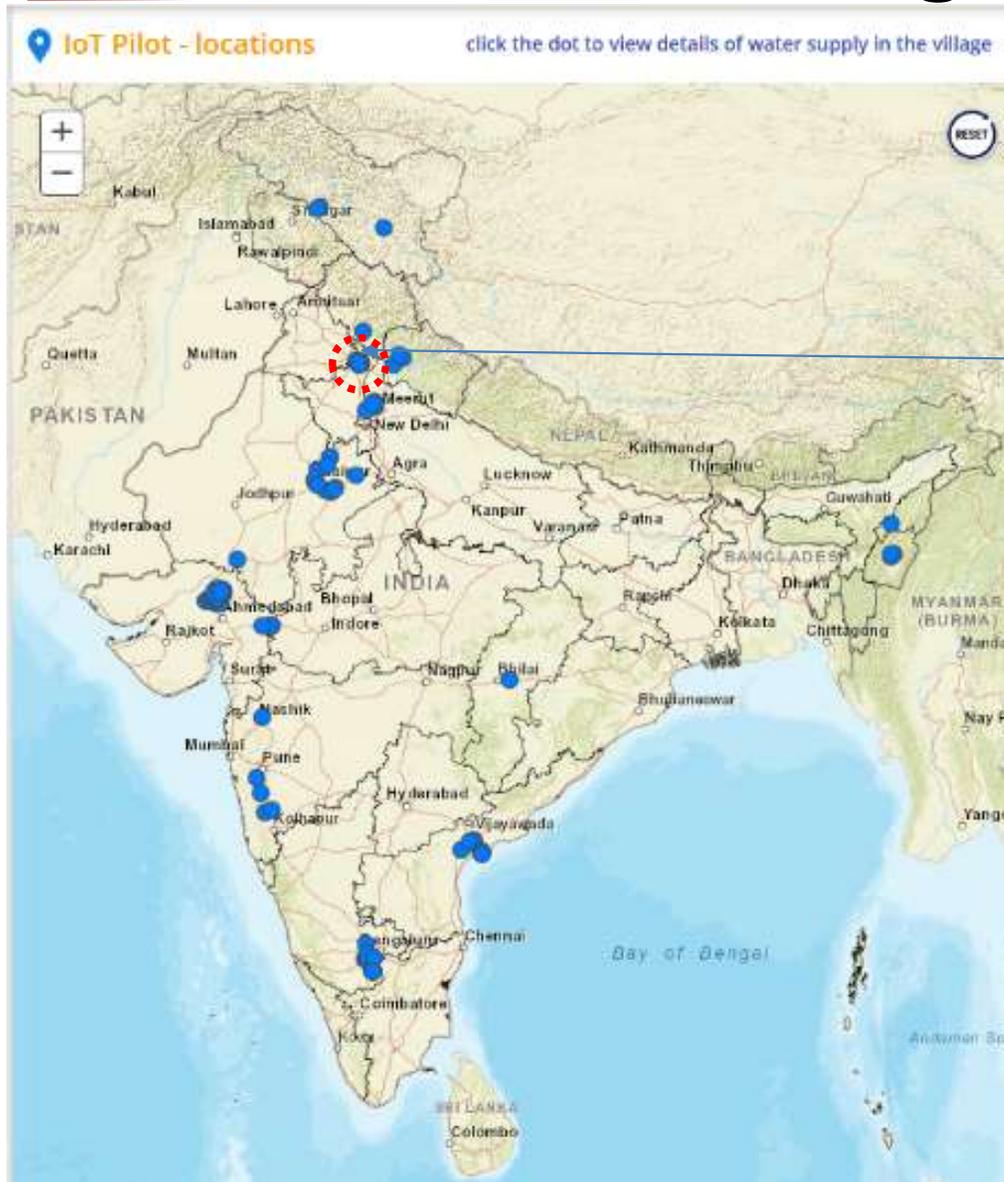
**Ultra compact Low Cost  
Spectral Sensor Module**  
~ **Billions units ( ? 2027 )**



Water quality measurement – In the pipeline

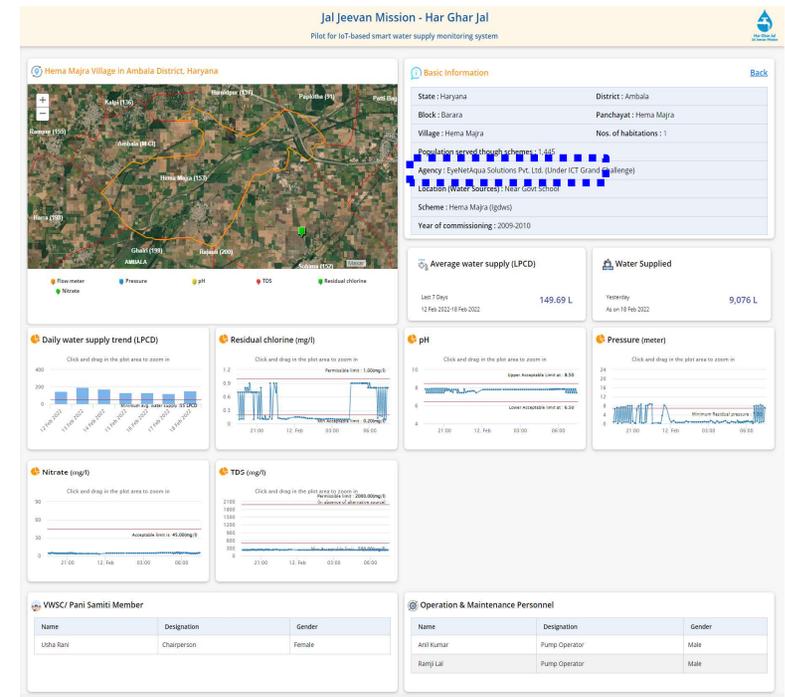
nano $\lambda$

# India's water is being monitored



IITM/IISc

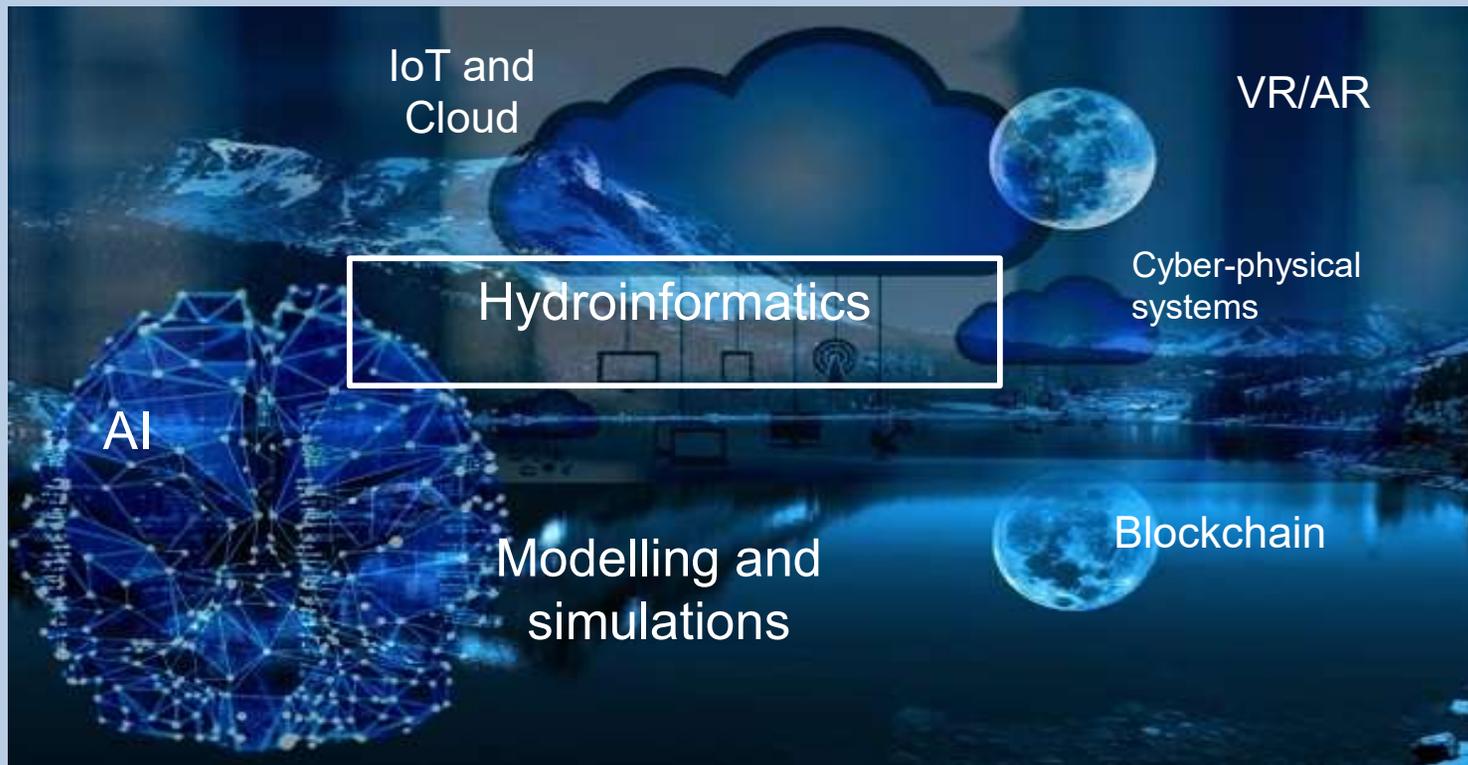
Installations made by four companies



# Hydroinformatics

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Application of computing technologies for efficient, sustainable and equitable water management.

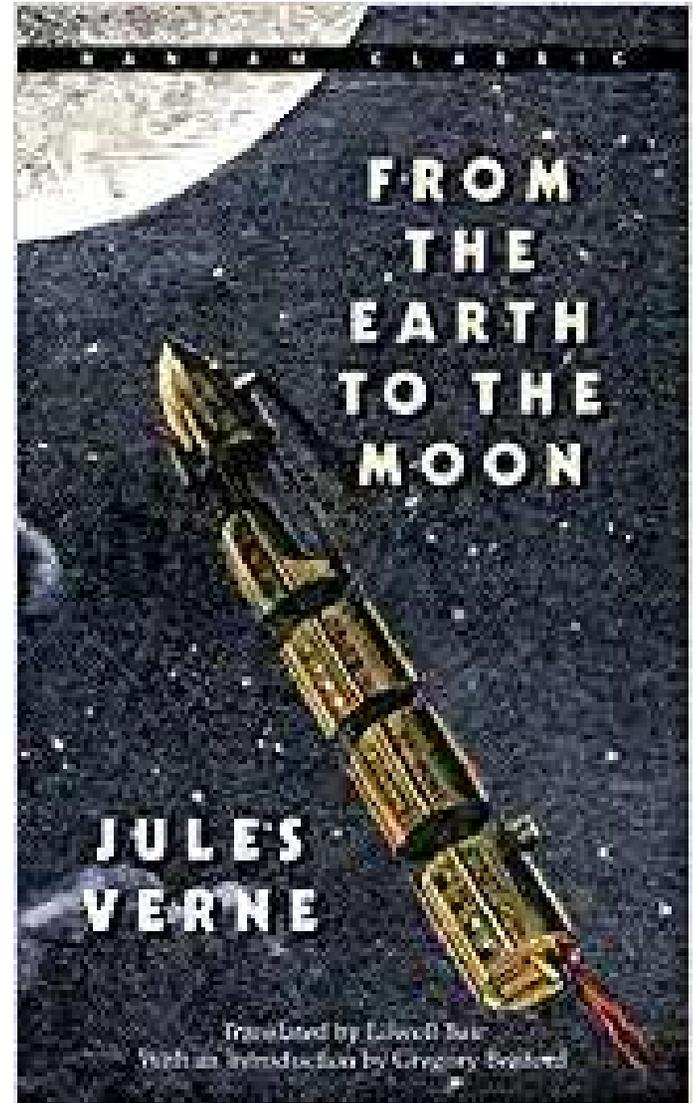
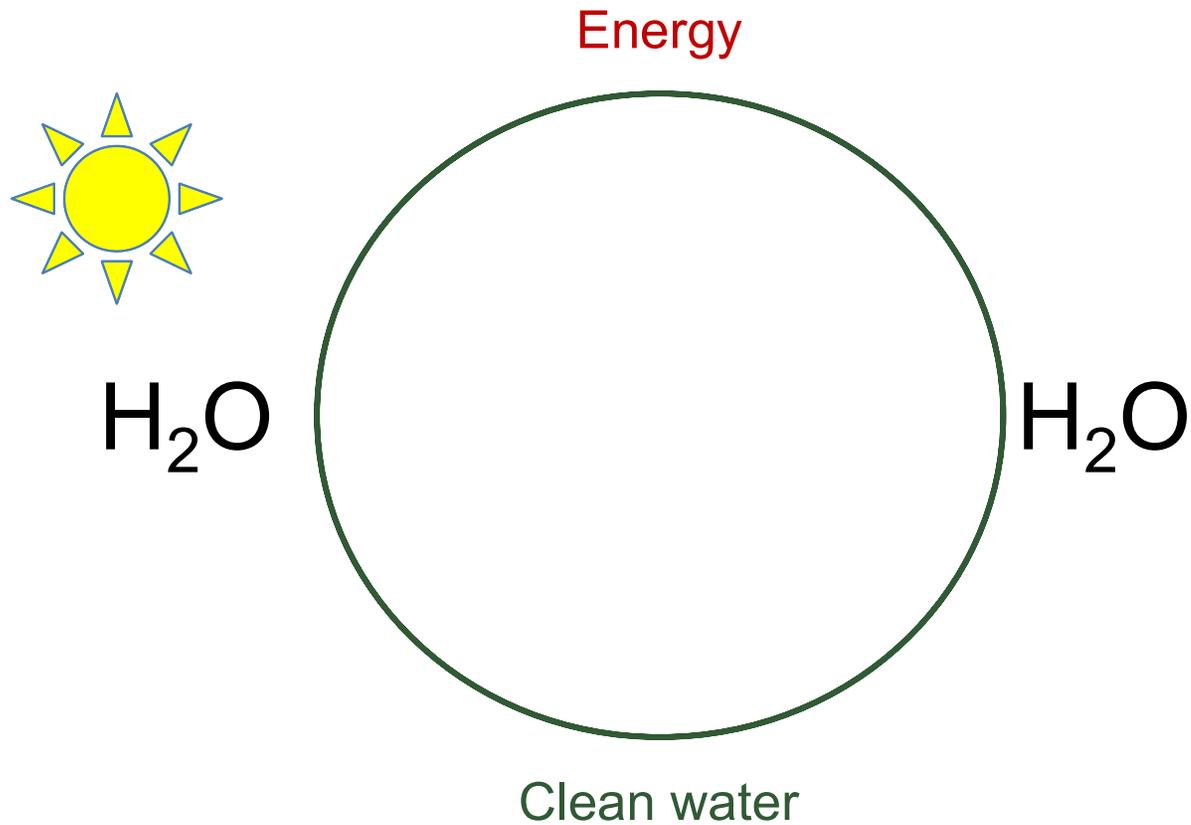


Digital water or water 4.0 will revolutionize water management.



Policy

Our dreams become reality with materials



Affordable, inclusive, sustainable and contextual excellence

## Some simple calculations

Hydrogen + Oxygen → Water + 286,000 joules of energy per mole

1 kg of solar hydrogen is now at Rs. XX and could be Rs. 150 soon.

It can make 143 million J of energy.

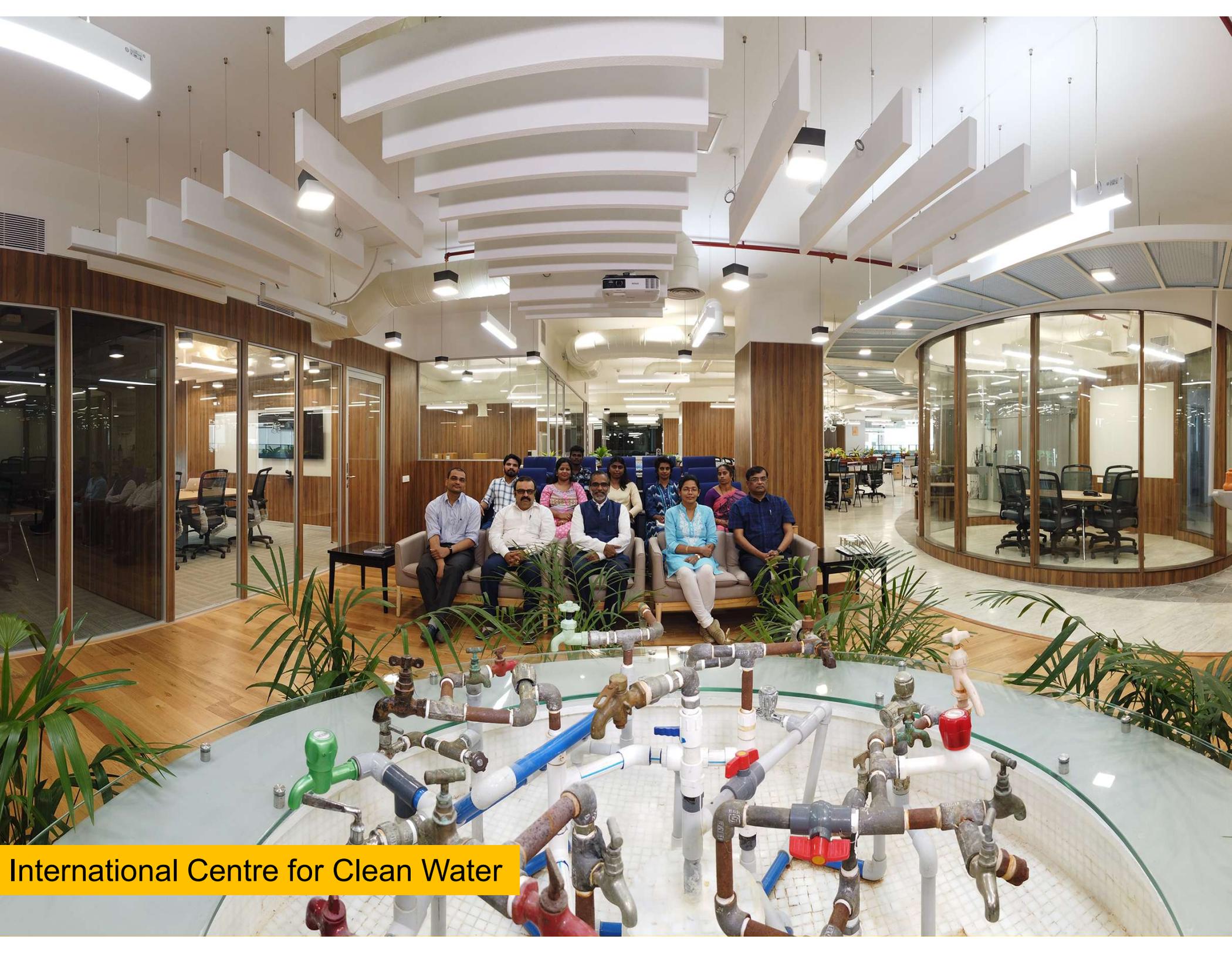
Desalination needs 2.4 kWh or 8.84 million joules for 1 CM of water.

1 kg of hydrogen can therefore make 16.56 CM of water.

Or Rs. 9.06 (\$0.009) per cubic meter, 0.9 paise (0.0001 cents) per litre!

Well, add efficiency, other costs of plant, transportation, etc.

That world will need water literacy



International Centre for Clean Water



# IIT Madras Research Park



The AMRIT Team, 2013

**Water team at IIT:** A. Sreekumaran Nair, Anshup, M. Udhaya Sankar, Amrita Chaudhary, Renjis T. Tom, T. S. Sreeprasad, Udayabhaskararao Thumu, M. S. Bootharaju, K. R. Krishnadas, Kalamesh Chaudhari, Soujit Sengupta, Depanjan Sarkar, Avijit Baidya, Swathy Jakka Ravindran, Abhijit Nag, S. Vidhya, Biswajit Mondal, Krishnan Swaminathan, Azhardin Gnayee, Sudhakar Chennu, A. Suganya, Rabiul Islam, Sritama Mukherjee, Tanvi Gupte, Jenifer Shantha Kumar, A. Anil Kumar, Ankit Nagar, Ramesh Kumar Soni, Tanmayaa Nayak, Sonali Seth, Shihabudheen M. Maliyekkal, G. Velmurugan, Wakeel Ahmed Dar, Ganapati Natarajan, N. Pugazhenthiran, A. Leelavathi, Sahaja Aigal, S.Gayathri, Bibhuti Bhusan Rath, Ananthu Mahendranath, Harsh Dave, Erik Mobegi, Egor Moses, Hemanta R. Naik, Sourav Kanti Jana,...

**Avula Anil Kumar, Chennu Sudhakar, Sritama Mukherjee, Anshup, and Mohan Udhaya Sankar**

**Funding:** Department of Science and Technology, Government of India

**Start-ups and partners:**

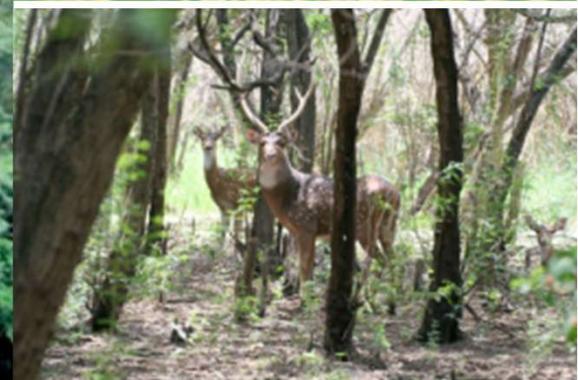
**PhD Theses:** Bindhu Varughese, M. R. Resmi, M. Venkataramanan, N. Sandhyarani, R. Selvan, A. Sreekumaran Nair, M. J. Rosemary, Renjis T. Tom, C. Subramaniam, Jobin Cyriac, V. R. Rajeev Kumar, D. M. David Jeba Singh, Akshaya Kumar Samal, E. S. Shibu, M. A. Habeeb Muhammed, P. R. Sajanlal, T. S. Sreeprasad, J. Purushothaman, T. Udayabhaskararao, M. S. Bootharaju, Soumabha Bag, Robin John, Kamalesh Chaudhari, Ammu Mathew, Indranath Chakraborty, Radha Gobinda Bhui, Ananya Baksi, Amitava Srimony, Anirban Som, Rabin Rajan Methikkalam, K. R. Krishnadas, Soujit Sengupta, Depanjan Sarkar, Atanu Ghosh, Rahul Narayanan, Avijit Baidya, Shridevi Bhat, Papri Chakraborty, Swathy Jakka Ravindran, C. K. Manju, Abhijit Nag, S. Vidhya, Jyoti Sarita Mohanty, Debasmita Ghosh, Jyotirmoy Ghosh, Md. Bodiuzzaman, Biswajit Mondal, Tripti Ahuja, Esmā Khatun, Krishnan Swaminathan, K. S. Sugi, Amrita Chakraborty, Sudhakar Chennu, Sritama Mukherjee, Madhuri Jash, Sandeep Bose, Md. Rabiul Islam, Pallab Basuri, Mohd Azhardin Ganayee, Tanvi Gupte

>25 Post-doctoral fellows, >130 masters students and visitors





# Indian Institute of Technology Madras



Associate Editor

ACS  
Sustainable  
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Bhaskar Ramamurthi/V. Kamakoti

# Thank you all



