



Since 1959

# Affordable clean water using advanced materials

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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.



Associate Editor

ACS  
**Sustainable**  
Chemistry & Engineering

Professor-in-charge



International Centre for Clean Water





“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.

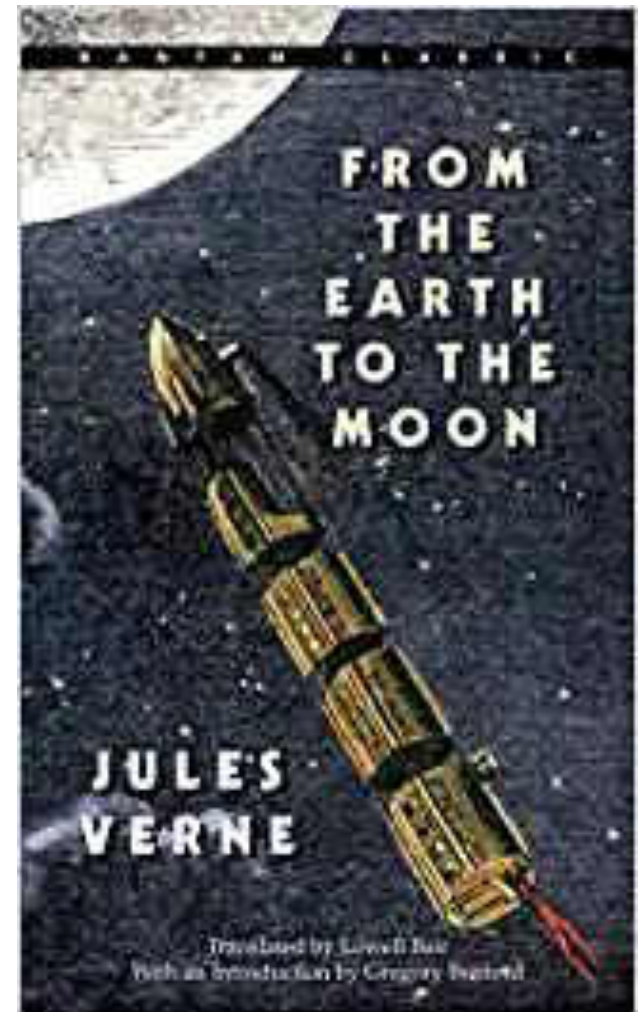


From S. Vishwanath

© Robert Szucs/Grasshopper Geography



Our dreams become reality with materials



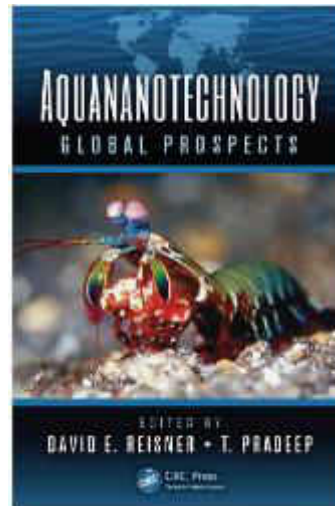
# Water purification, history

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).

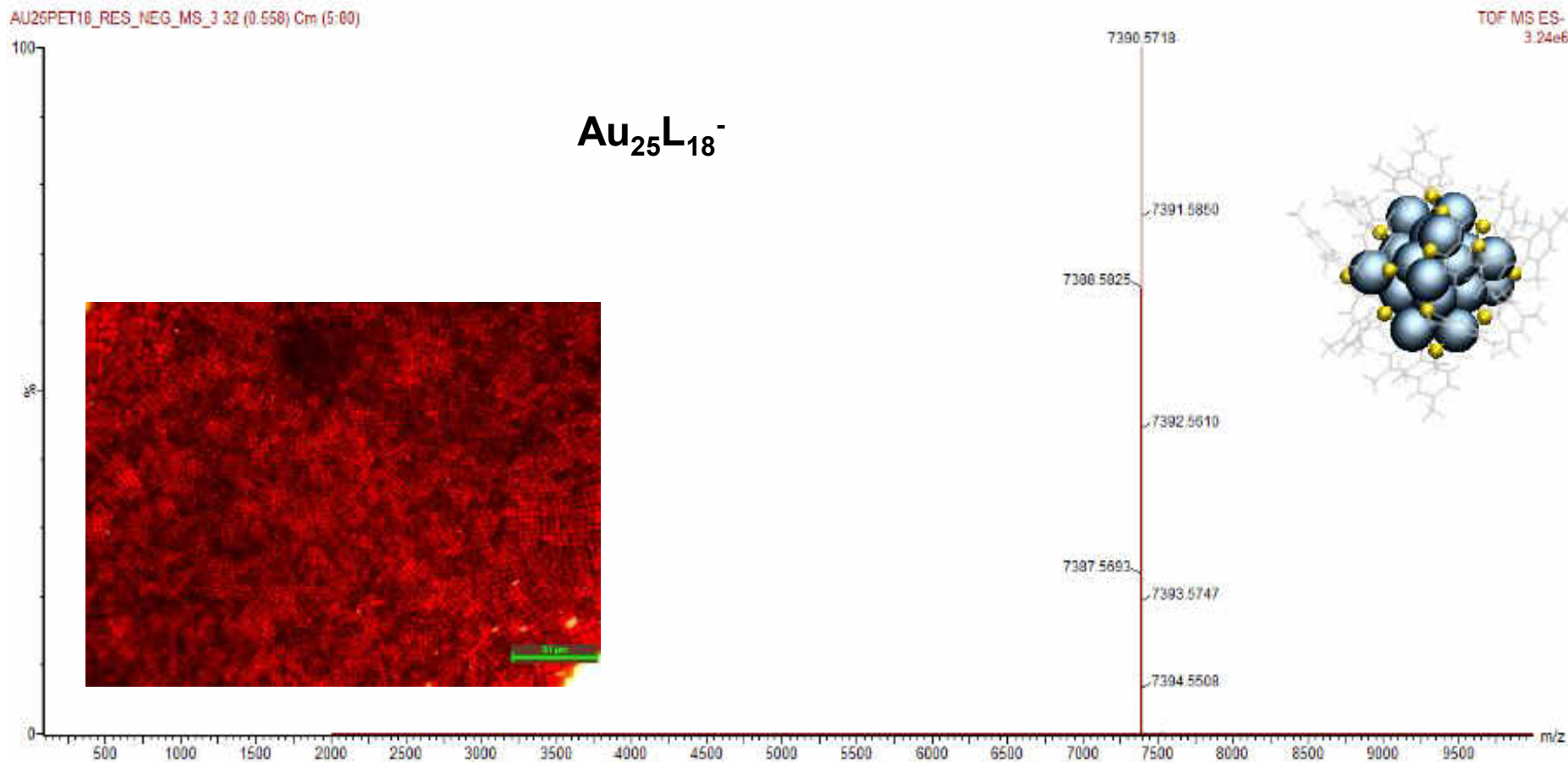
Year	Milestone
1804	Setup of world's first city-wide municipal water treatment plant (Scotland, sand-filter technology)
1810	Discovery of chlorine as a disinfectant (H. Davy)
1852	Formulation of Metropolis Water Act (England)
1879	Formulation of Germ Theory (L. Pasteur)
1902	Use of chlorine as a disinfectant 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



T. Pradeep et. al. *Acc. Chem. Res.* 2018; 2019.



# Clean water for everyone

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ACS Sustainable Chemistry & Engineering Editorial,  
December 2016

# Water positive materials

## 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. Malyekkal<sup>1</sup>, Amrita Chaudhary, Anshup, Avula Anil Kumar, Kamallesh 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 access to clean drinking water is one of the most promising ways to provide 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 biopolymers to provide an affordable, all-inclusive drinking water purifier without electricity. The critical problem in the synthesis of stable materials that can reliably function in the presence of complex species in drinking water that deposit and cause scale on surfaces. Here we show that such constant access to clean drinking water can be synthesized in a simple and effective fashion without the use of electrical power. The nanocomposite sand-like properties, such as higher shear strength, form. These materials have been used to develop a water purifier to deliver clean drinking water locally. The ability to prepare nanostructured composites at ambient temperature has wide relevance for water purification.



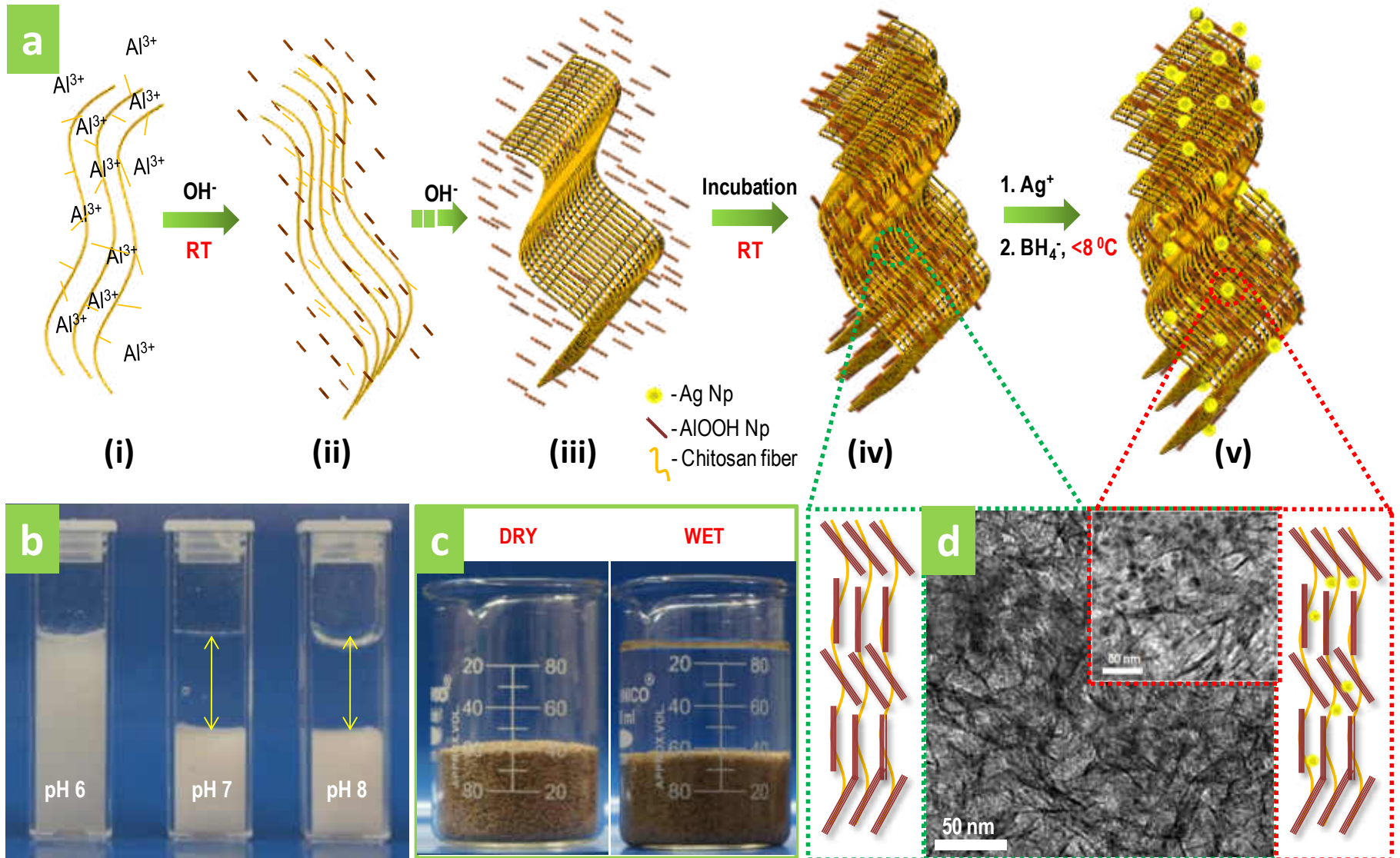
Chennai 600 036, India

Received for review November 21, 2012

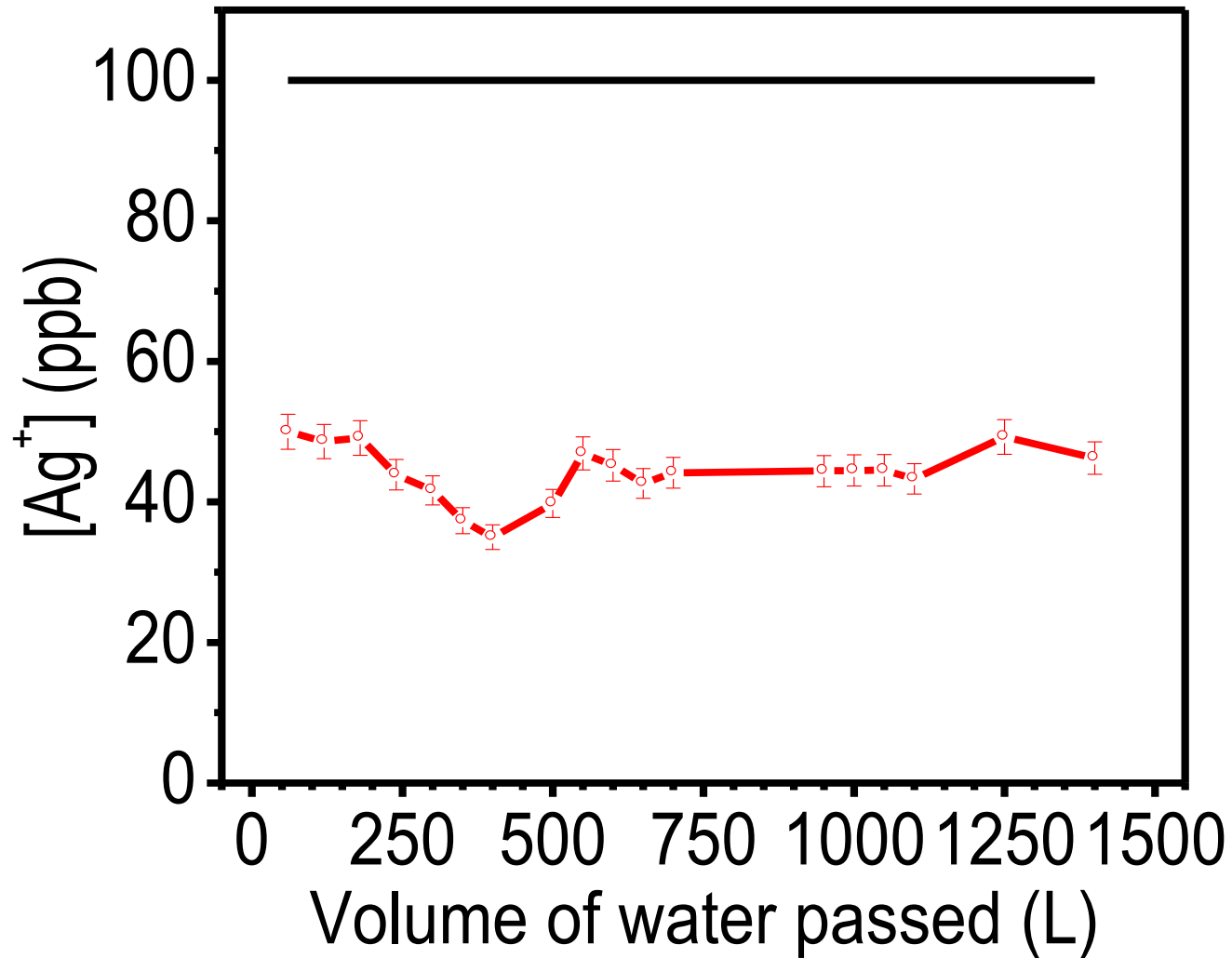
...le; and (c) continued retention of the material is difficult. A unique family of nanocrystalline granular composite materials prepared through an aqueous route. The retention is attributed to abundant -OH groups, which help in the crystallization and also ensure strong covalent bonding to the matrix.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

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

# How to make?



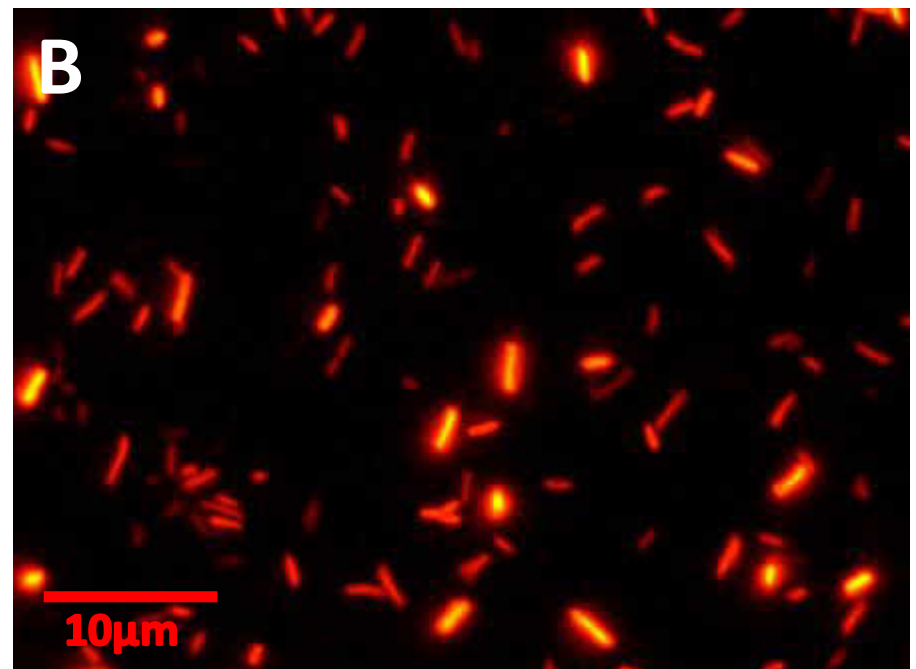
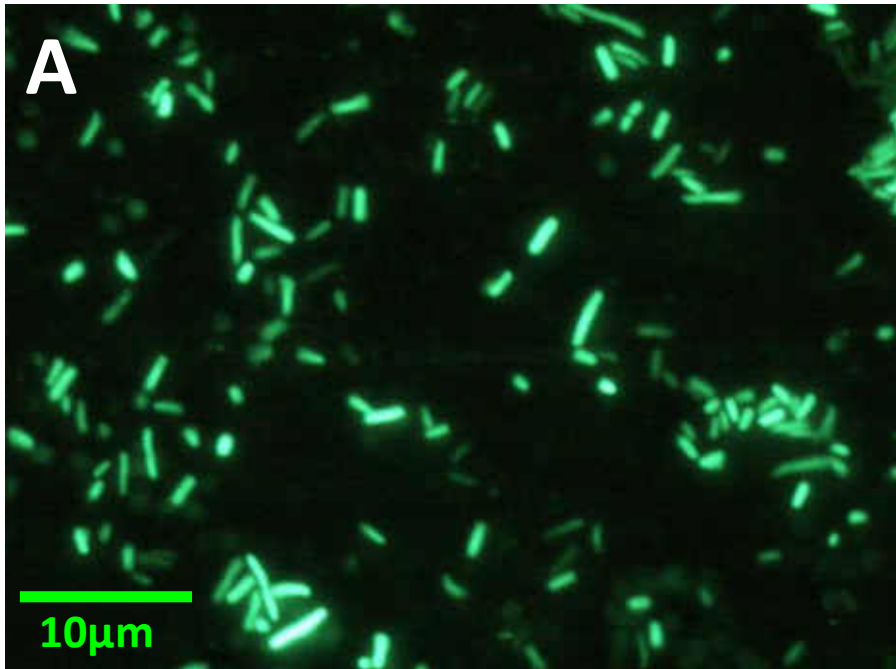
# What is special?





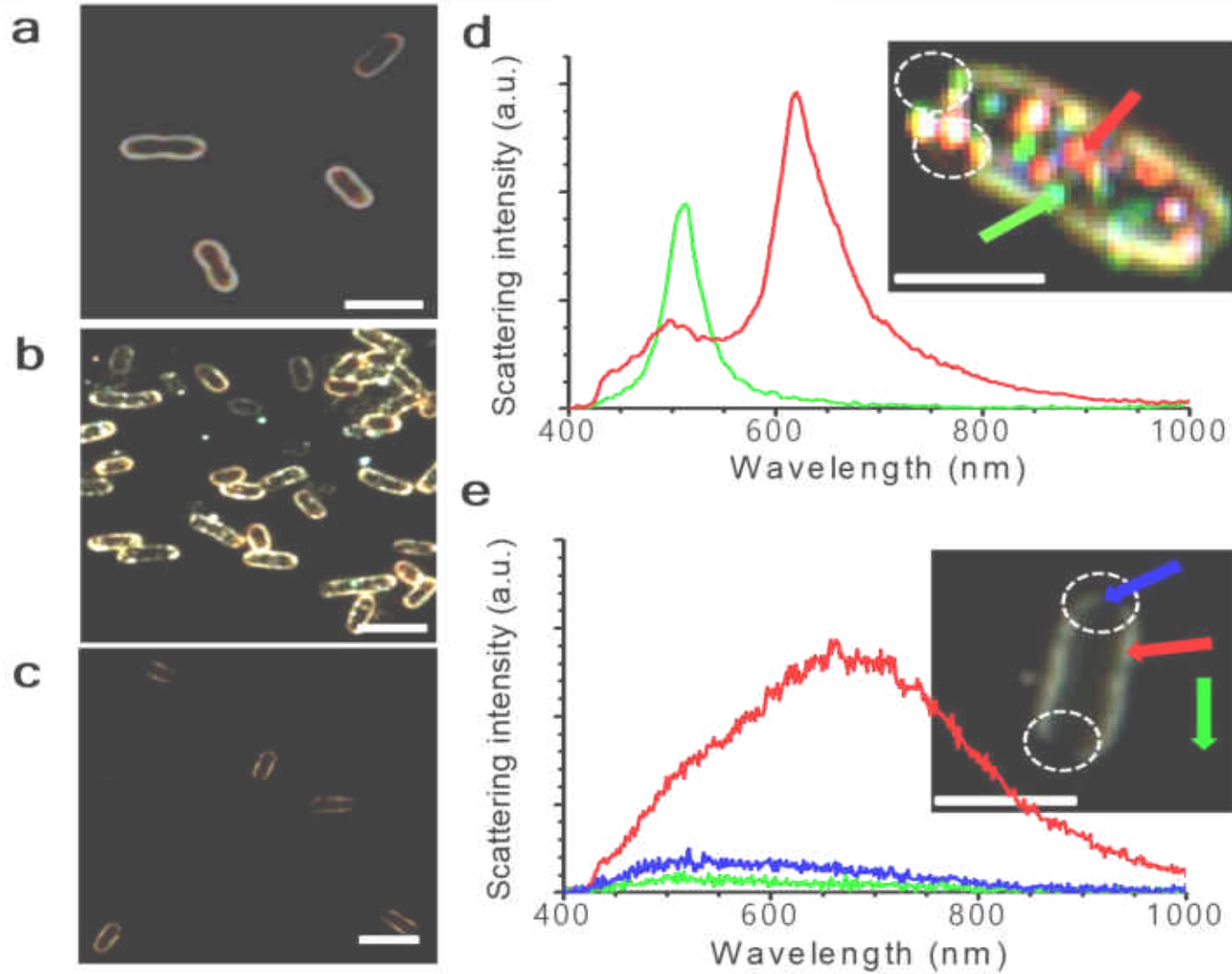
# Live/dead staining experiments

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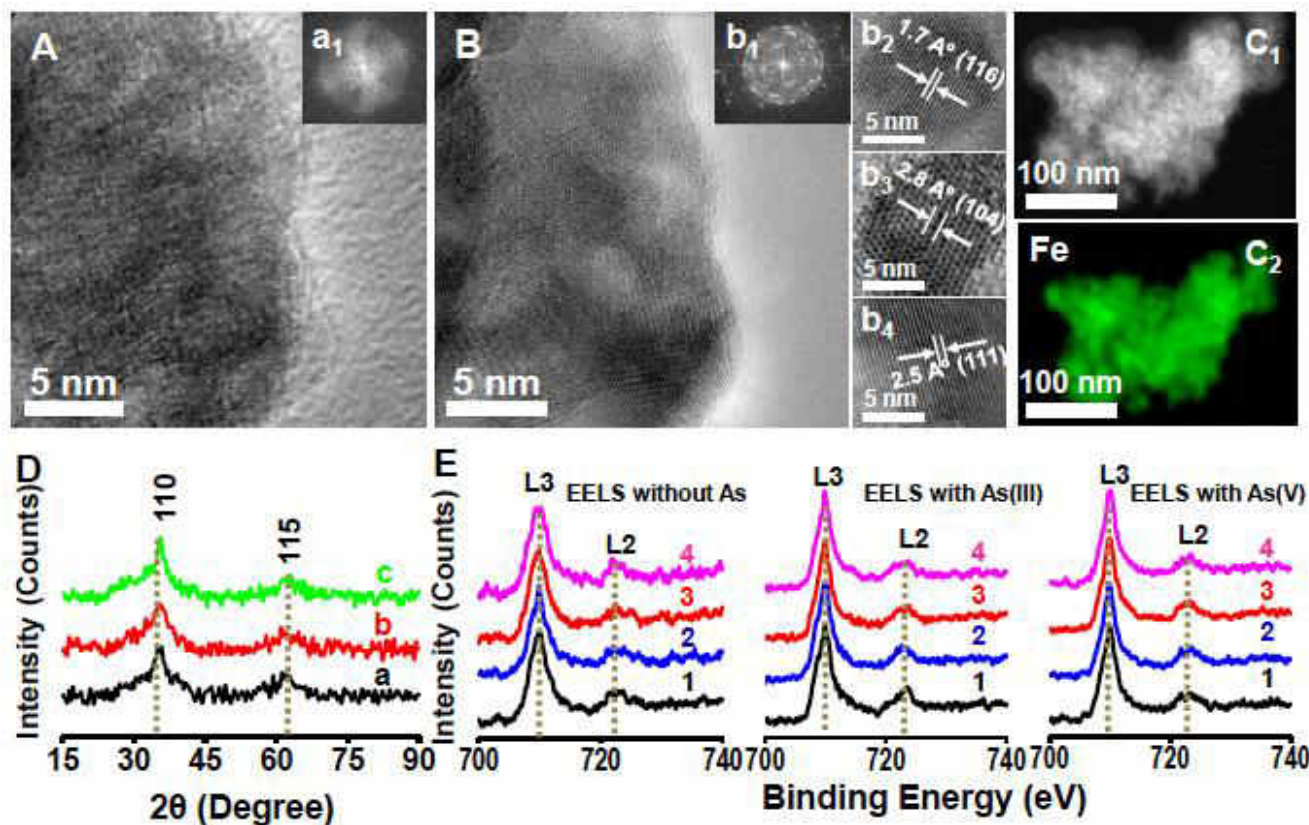




# No nanotoxicity



# Variety of materials



www.advmat.de

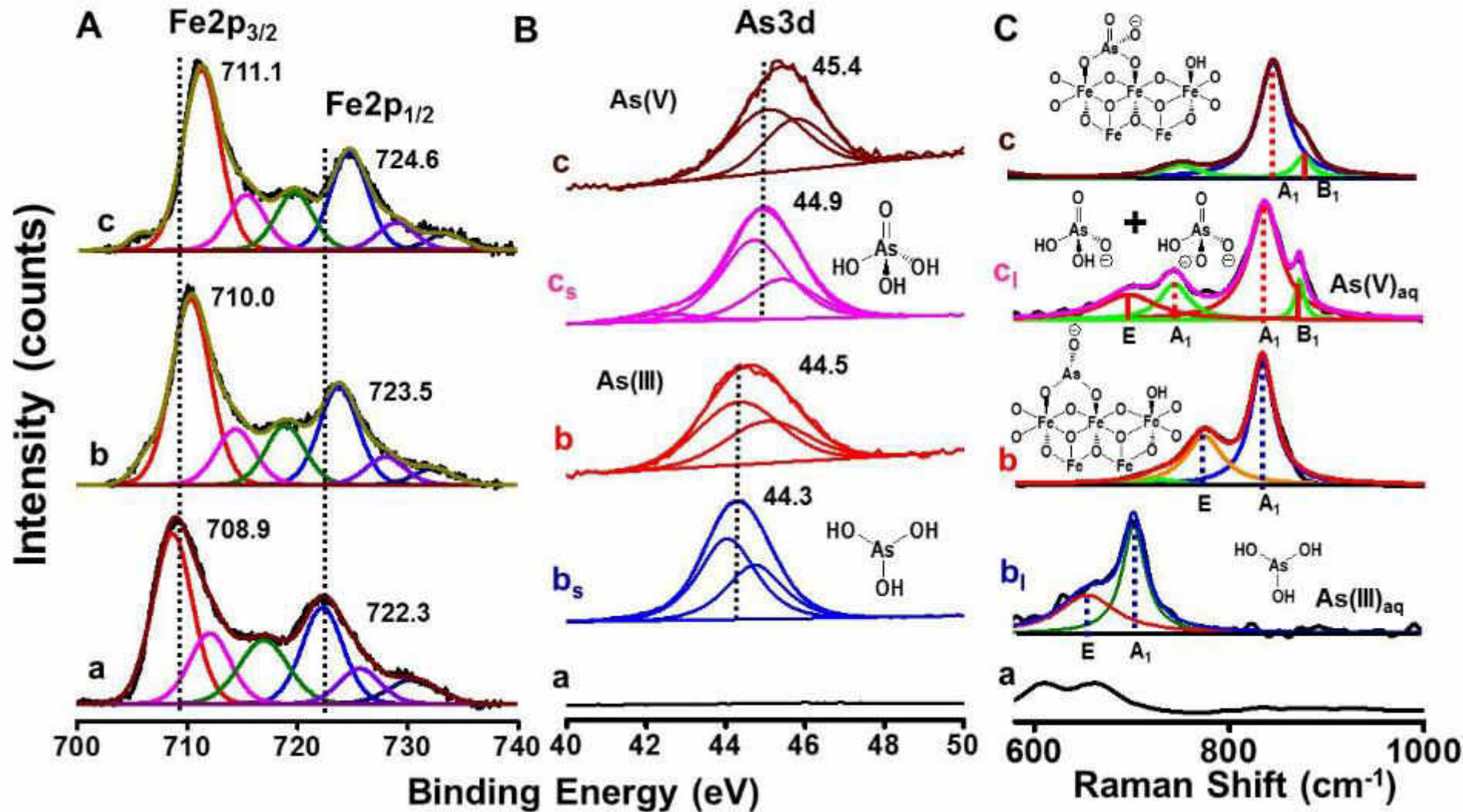
Author P ADVANCED MATERIALS

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 Bhui, Soujit Sen Gupta, Anshup, Mohan Udhaya Sankar, Amrita Chaudhary, Ramesh Kumar, and T. Pradeep\*

Communication

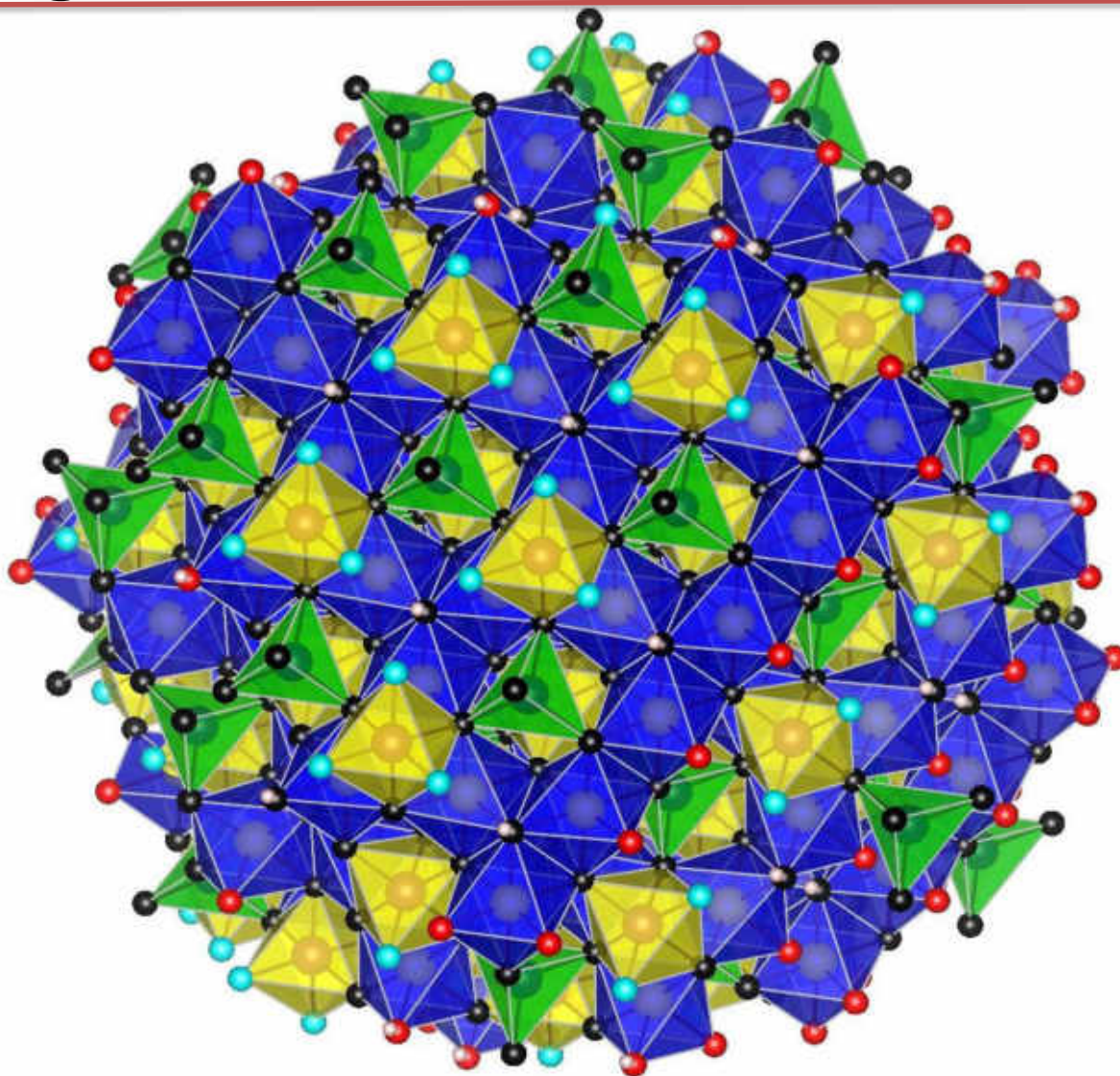
# Mechanism



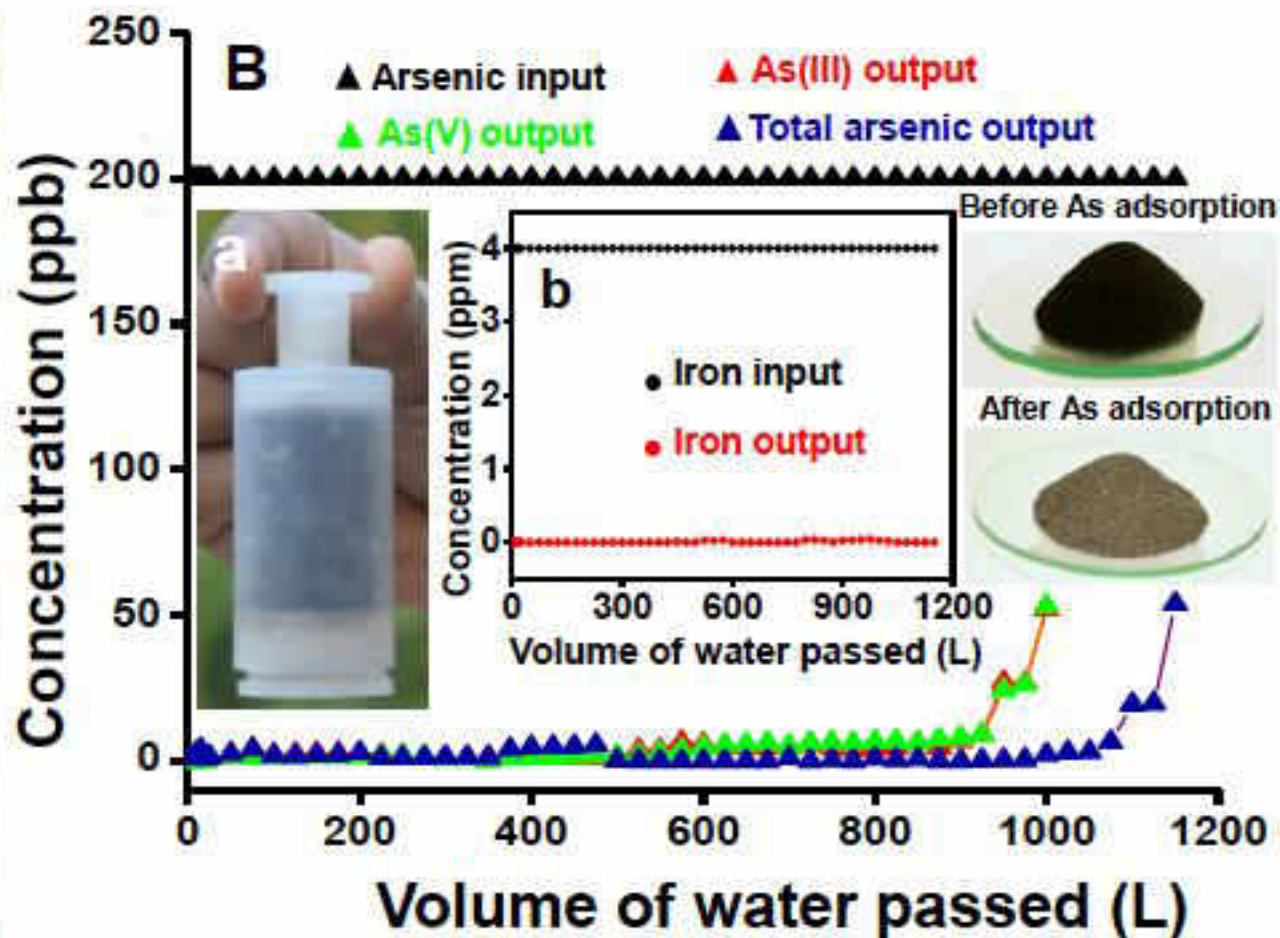


# Modeling surfaces

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# Lab studies





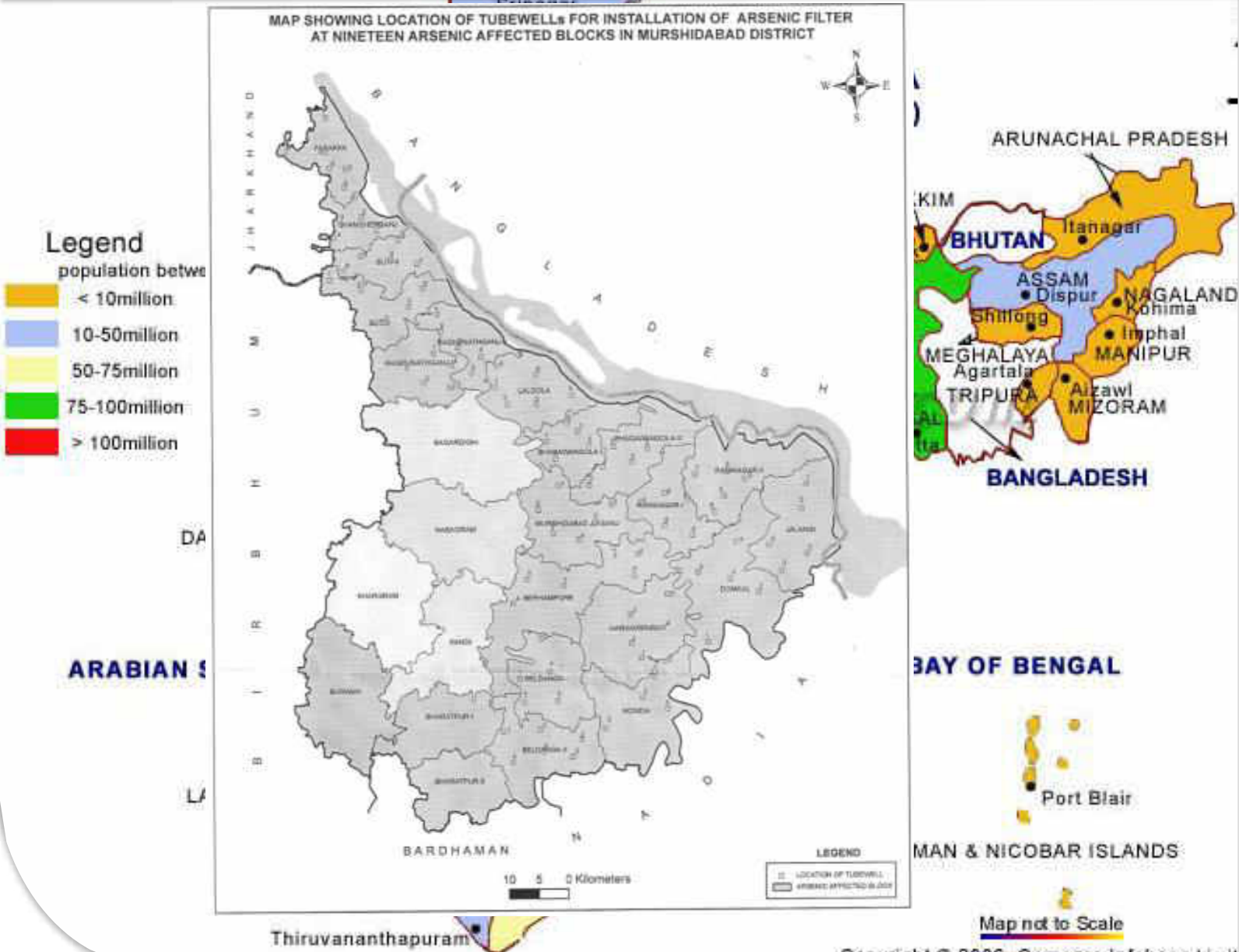
# Initial pilot studies

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# Larger pilot studies

## Population Map Of India-2001



# Changing the dynamics in the field

A photograph of an existing water treatment plant. It features two large, dark blue cylindrical tanks mounted on a metal frame. The plant is situated outdoors on a dirt and grass area, with trees in the background. A sign is visible in the background.

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)

A photograph of a new water treatment plant. It features several blue cylindrical tanks connected by a complex network of white pipes and valves. The plant is enclosed in a metal fence.

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



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**

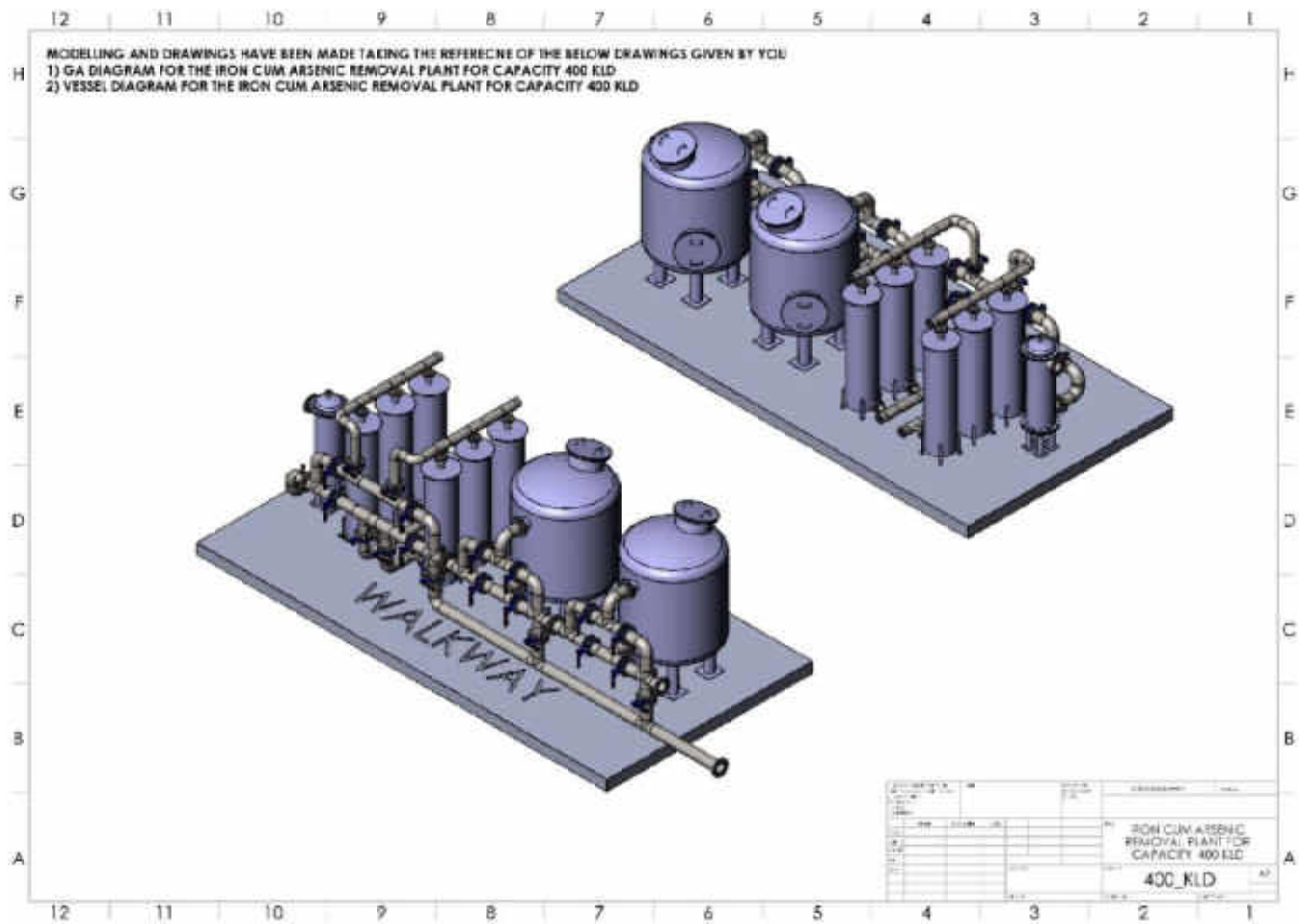
**5 schemes in use across India**



**Retrofitted Water Purification Plant**  
**Capacity: 0.1-1 MLD**

**Over 180 units in use across India**





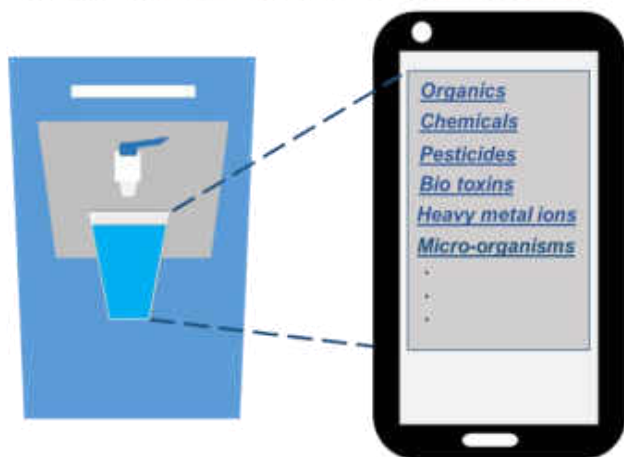
# Cleanwater at 2.1 paise per litre!

## 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	0.025 cents
9	Cost of replacement of media	1.36	Rs. per head per day =Media replacement cost per year/365/Design population
		<u>40.80</u>	per head per month for 70 LPCD water

# Smart water purifiers and big data

Smart Water Purifiers linked to IoT



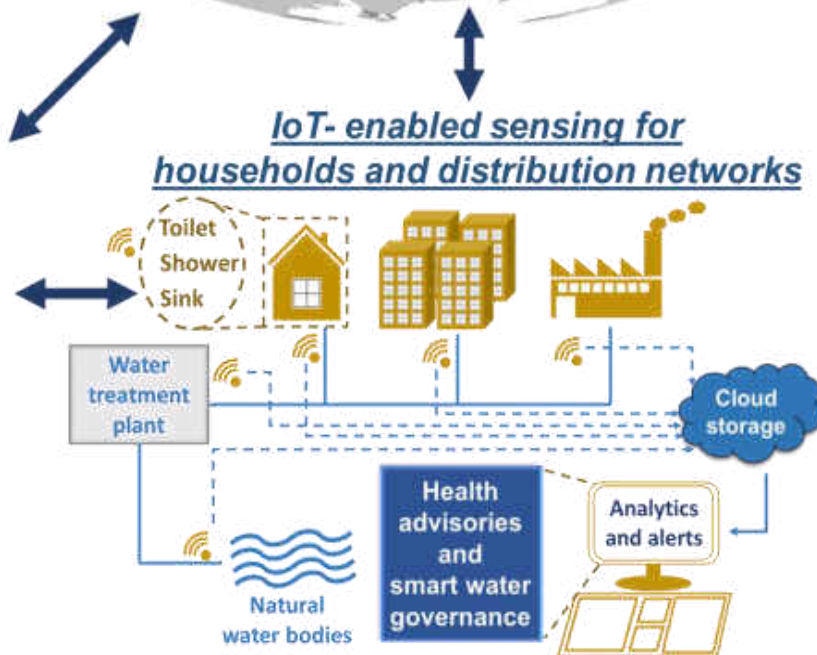
Cost-effective sensor accessory for point-of-use applications



Global Map of Water Health



IoT-enabled sensing for households and distribution networks



# Waste management

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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

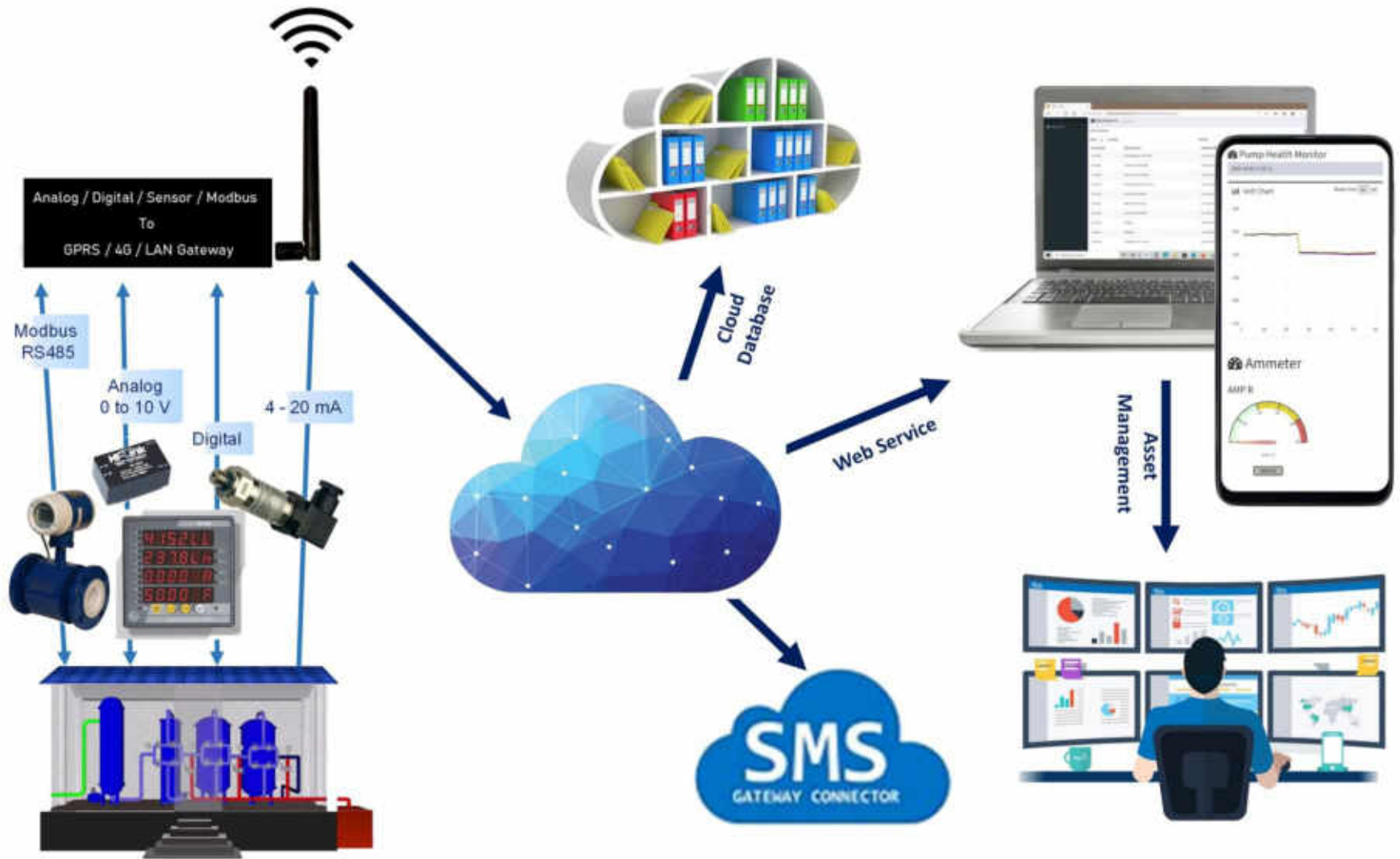


# Across the country

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## Components of IoT architecture implemented by DWSS, GoP

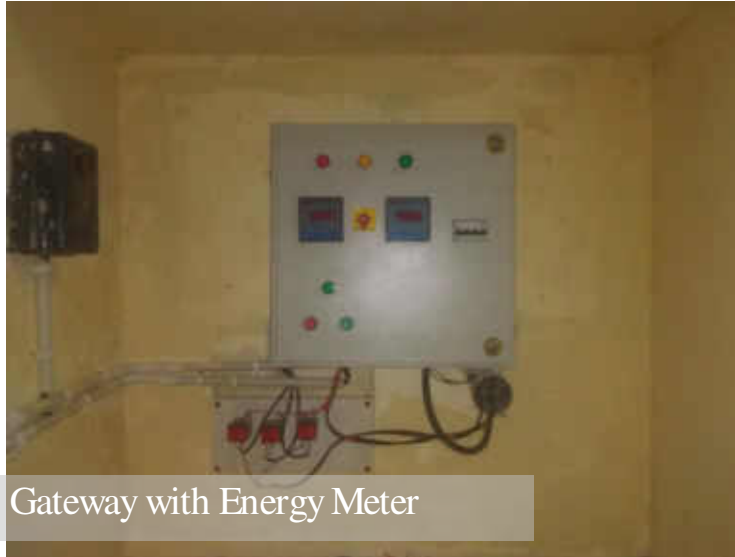


Typical IoT architecture comprises various sensors and meters, communication gateway, Cloud Server, SMS gateway, Webservices and mobile phone application for operator





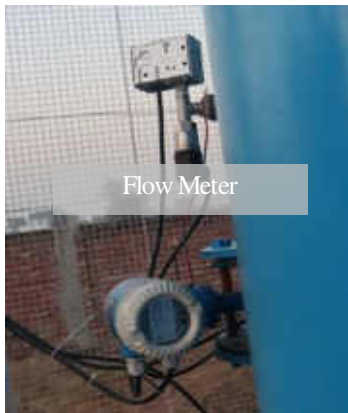
## View of physical assets of IoT Platform



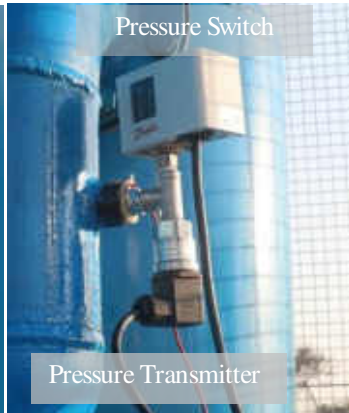
IoT Gateway with Energy Meter

- IoT Gateway
- MFM Energy Meter
- Electromagnetic Flow meter
- Pressure transmitter
- Pressure Switch
- Pump Automation PLC Relay

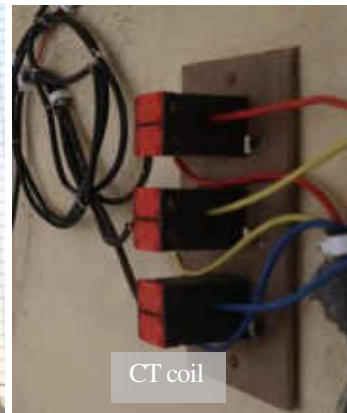
All components run on 12VDC. Hence the infrastructure can be deployed with Solar panel anywhere



Flow Meter



Pressure Transmitter

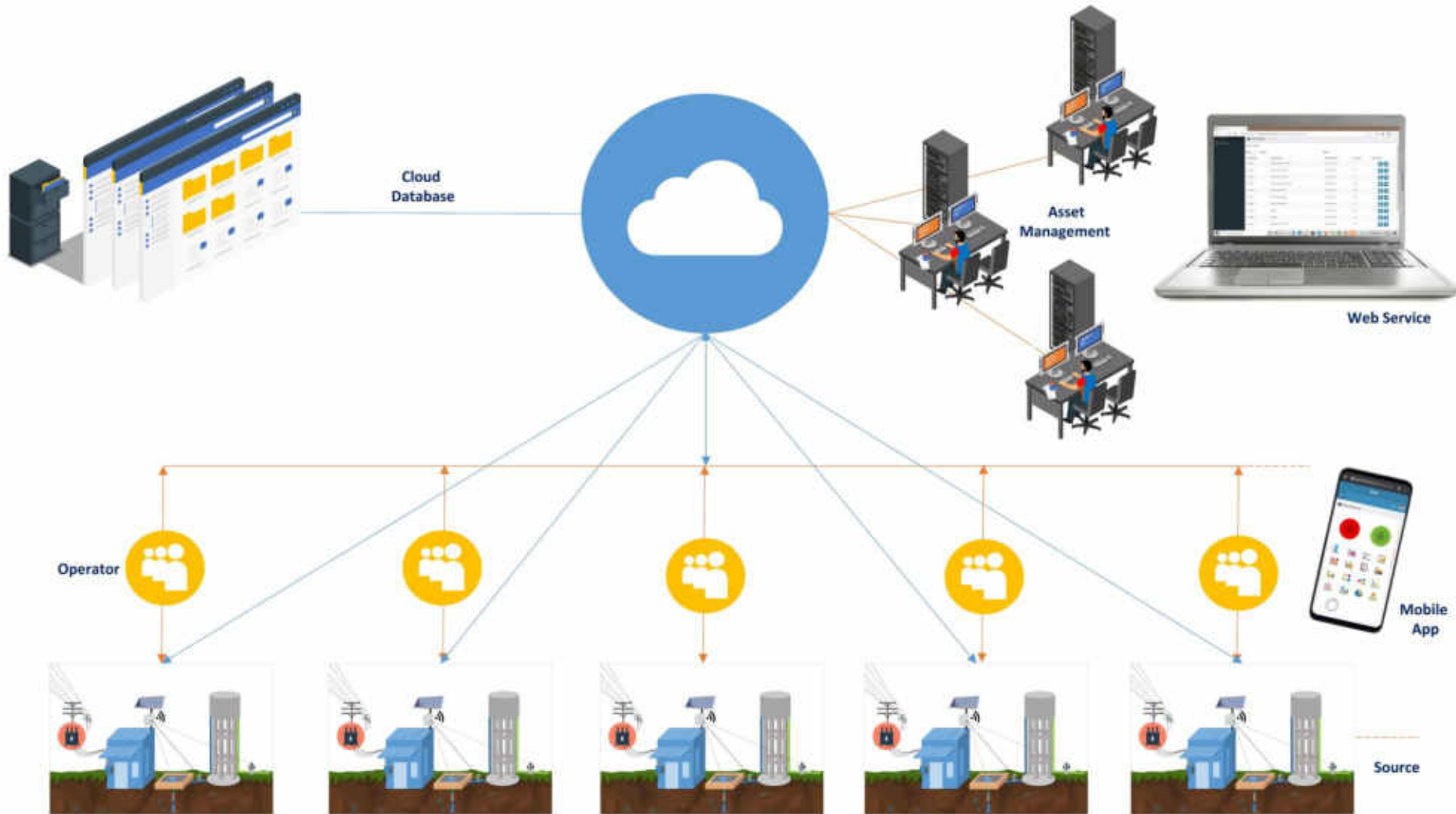


CT coil

The installed IoT platform is not merely limited to the above mentioned sensor and meter. The infrastructure is expandable. Various water quality sensors and Server side semi-automation can be implemented as and when needed.



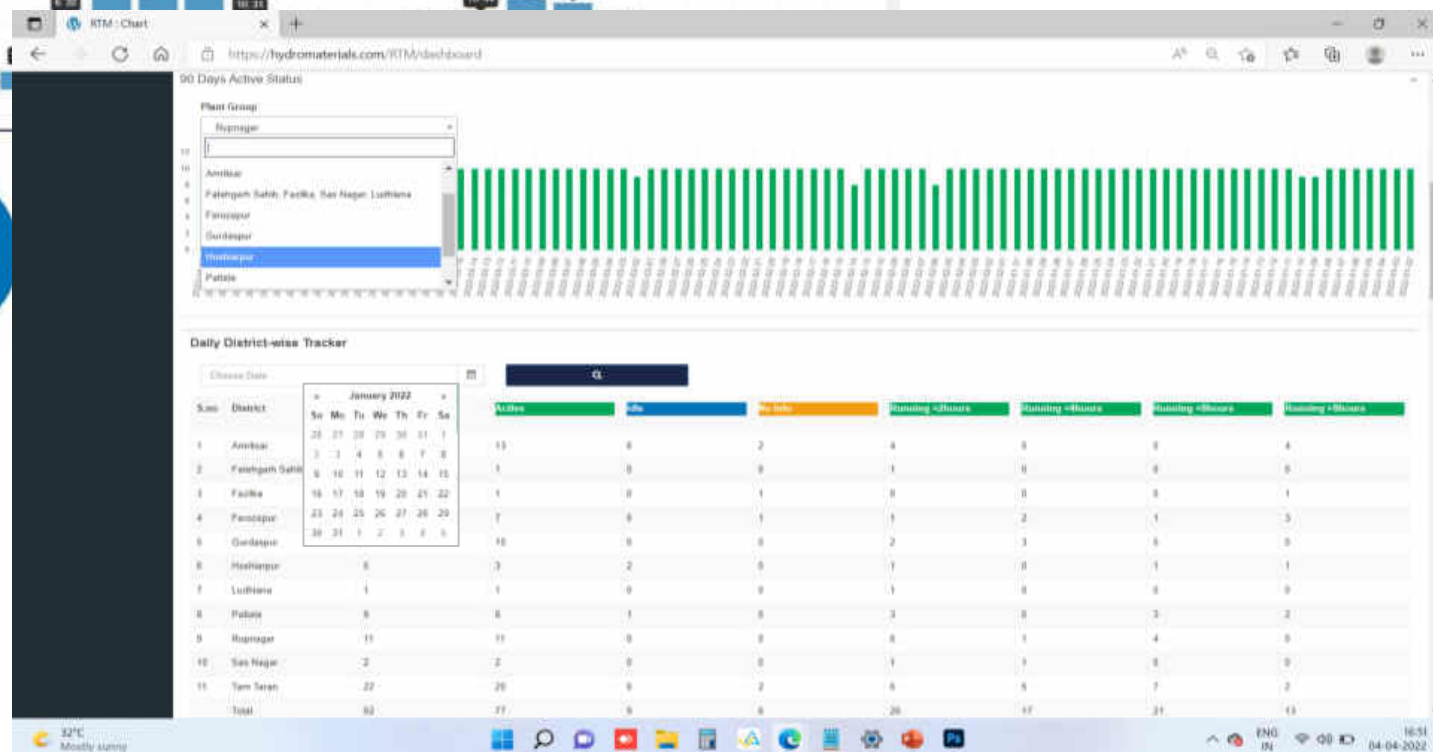
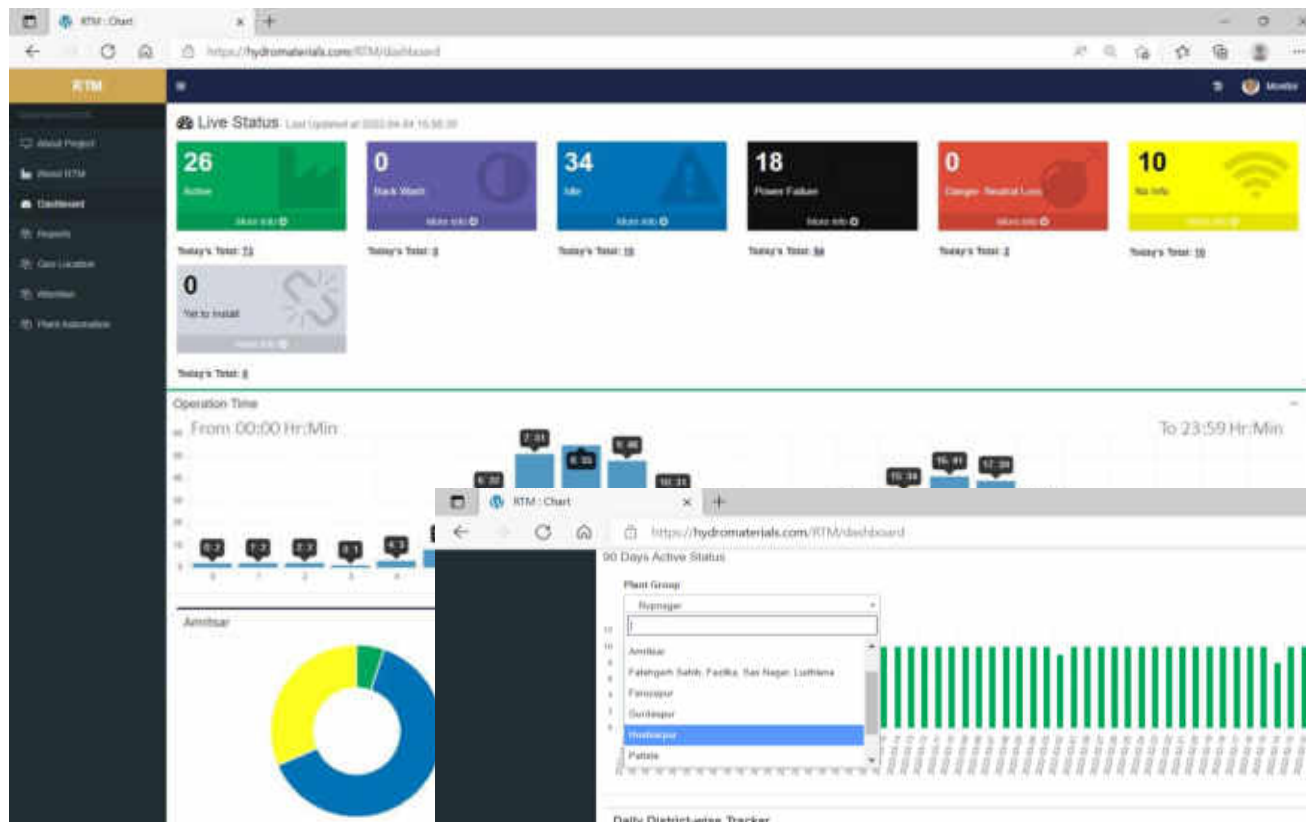
## Phase 2: Server-side Automation of water supply scheme retrofitted with AIRP



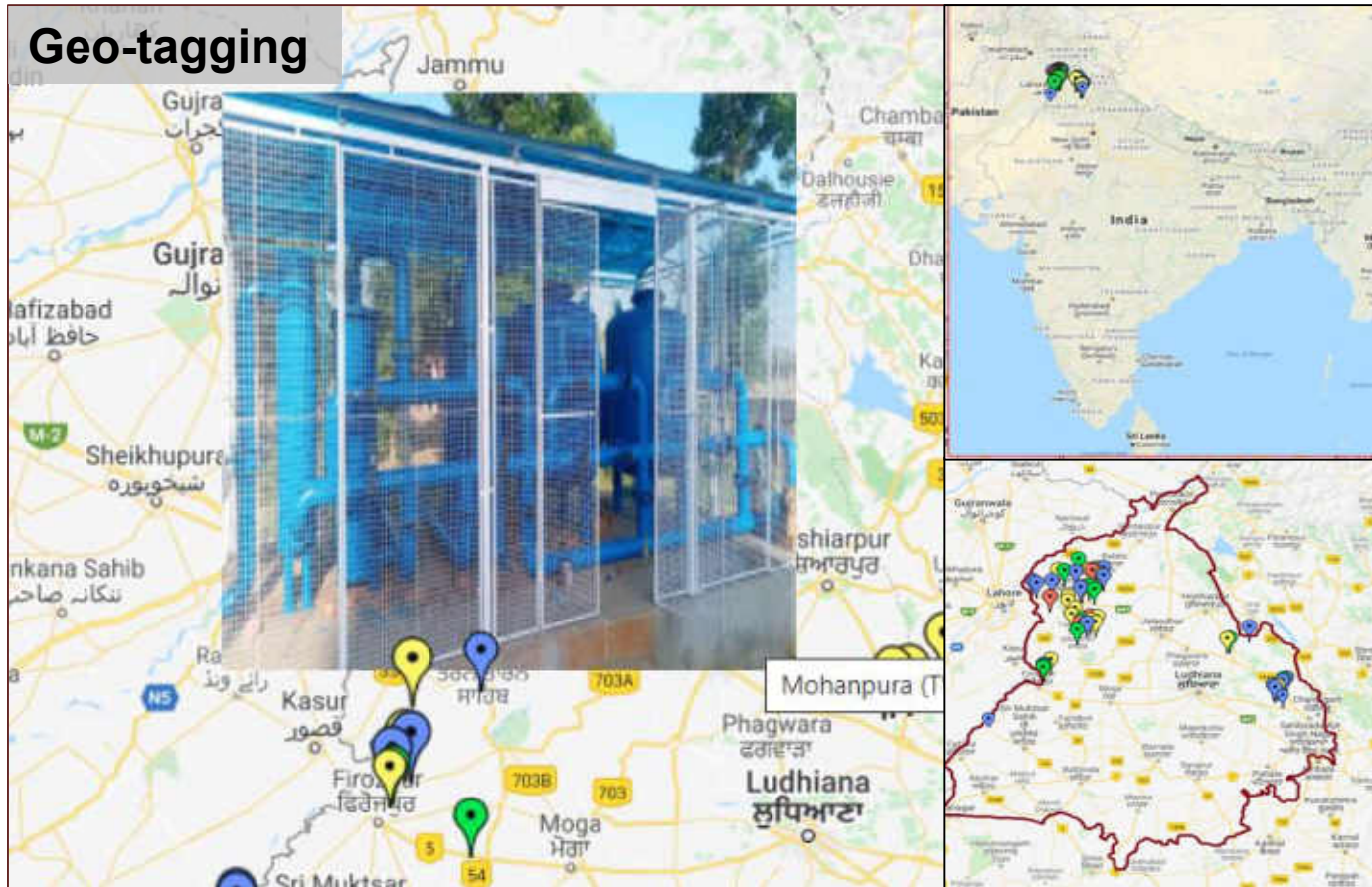
Server-side automation of Retrofitted AIRP with water supply scheme is being implemented at all sites. This includes manual and via mobile phone app operation by operator, webpage based control and scheduled operation from server-side. This is being implemented to ensure that neither supply is short nor it is over exploited.







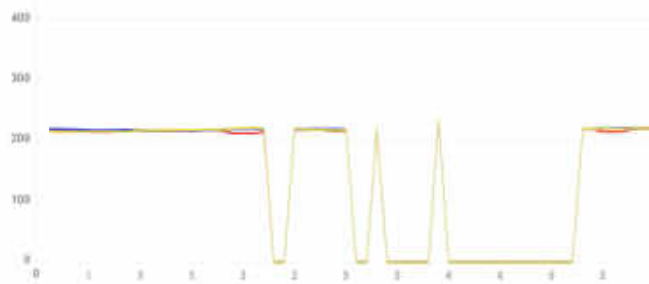
## Geo-tagging





Volt Chart

Real time ☒ On ☐ Off



Minimum Volt : 214.35 Maximum Volt : 242.18

Flow Meter



Total Flow : 54032 Cu.m

Last Run : 18.432 Cu.m on



015.02

Last Run : 15.02 amps on 2022-04-04 16:54:16



015.35

Last Run : 15.35 amps on 2022-04-04 16:54:16



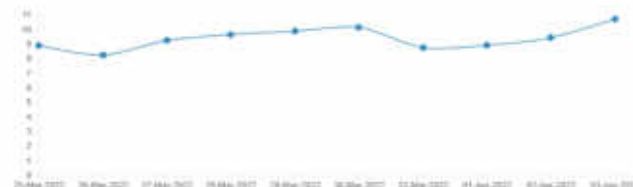
015.85

Last Run : 15.85 amps on 2022-04-04 16:54:16

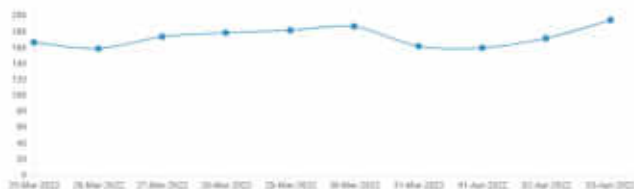
Day-wise Average Current of Pump(Ampere)



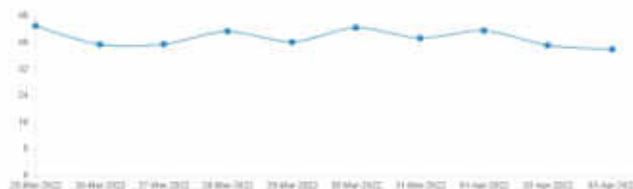
Day-wise Total Pump Running Time(hours-day)



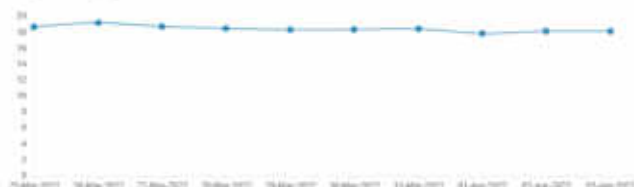
Day-wise Total treated water quantity(Cu.m/day)



Day-Wise Average Inlet Pressure (psi)



Day-wise Average Flow Rate



Today Running Hour

#	Task	Start Time	End Time	Minutes
1	Run 1	2022-04-04 03:37:28	2022-04-04 03:46:28	9
2	Run 2	2022-04-04 05:17:55	2022-04-04 05:31:52	276.12
3	Run 3	2022-04-04 16:39:16	2022-04-04 16:54:17	75.00
	Total			362.14

## Pressure Status



032.00

032.00

Last Run : 32.00 psi on 2022-04-04 16:54:16

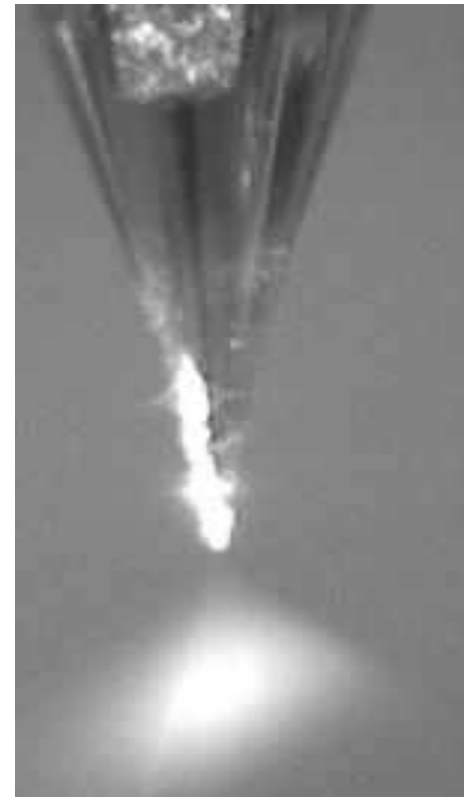
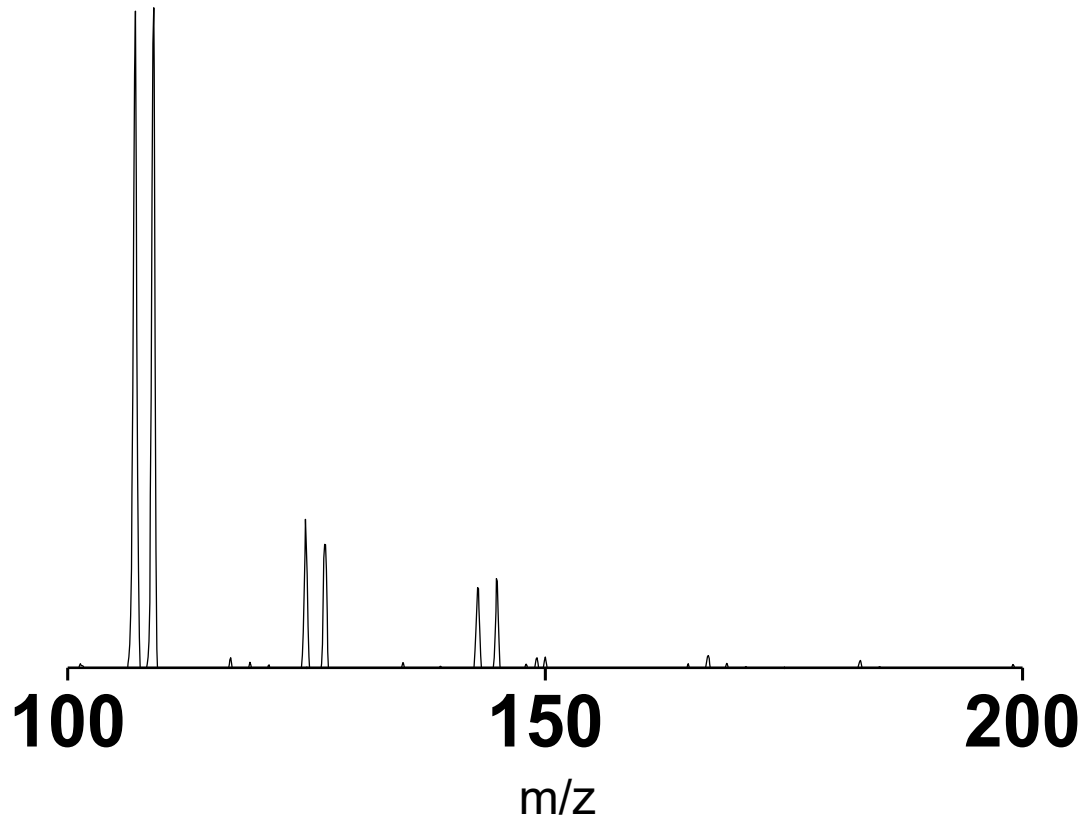


032.00

Last Run : 32.00 psi on 2022-04-04 16:54:16

# Atmospheric water harvesting

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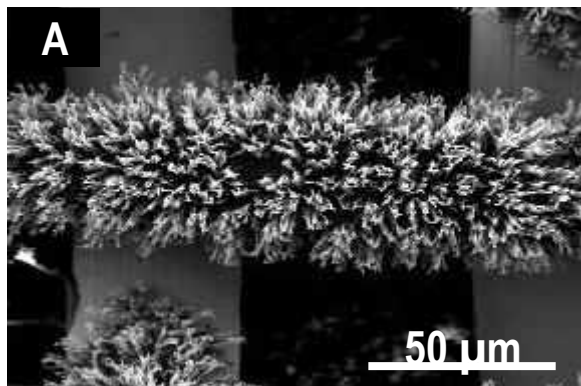




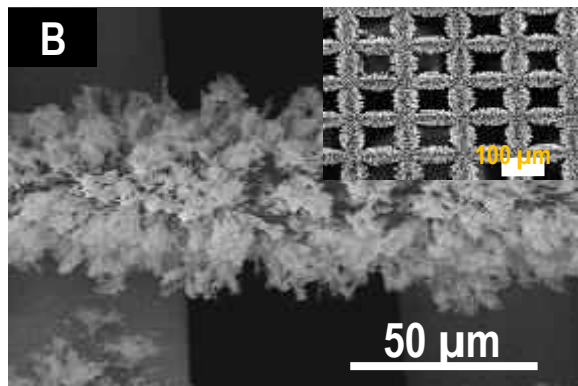
# New harvesters



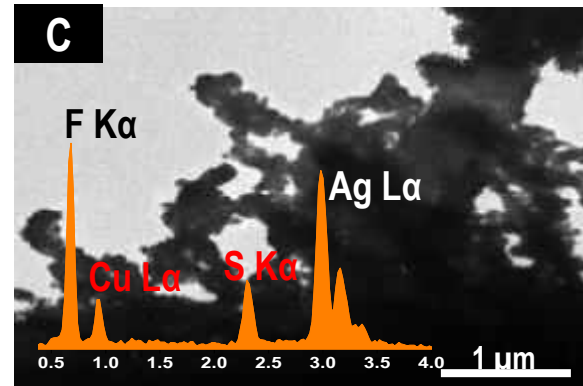
Depanjan Sarkar, et. al. *Advanced Materials*, 28 (11), 2016.



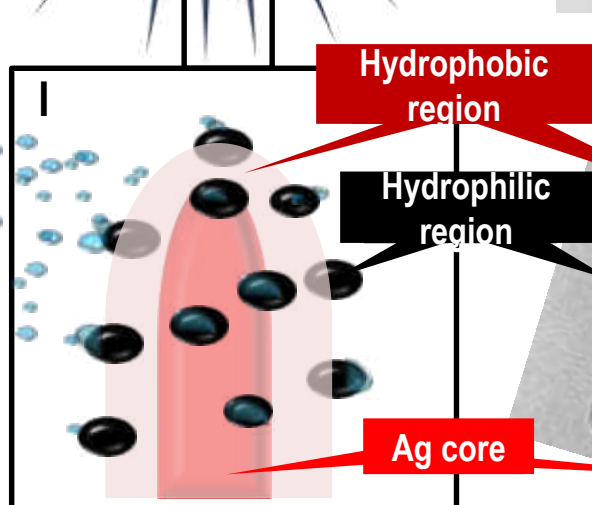
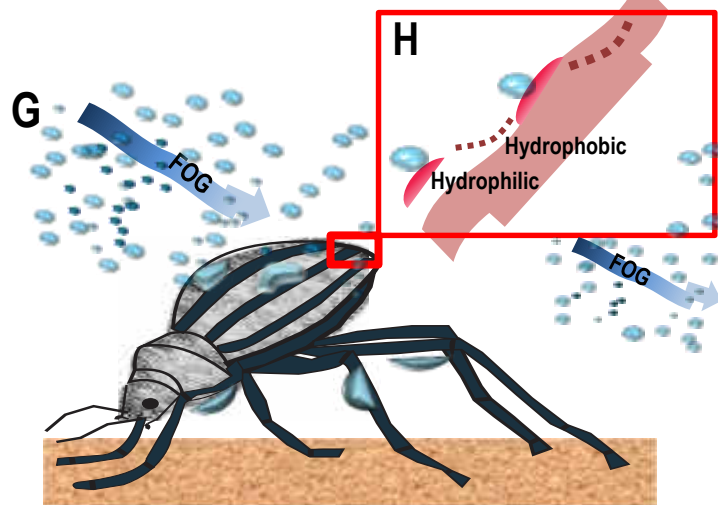
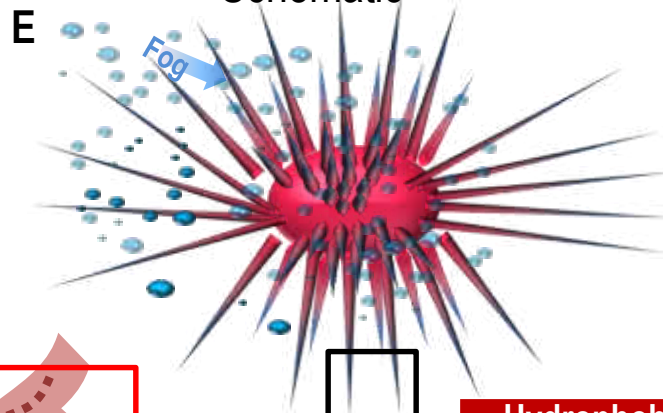
Nature



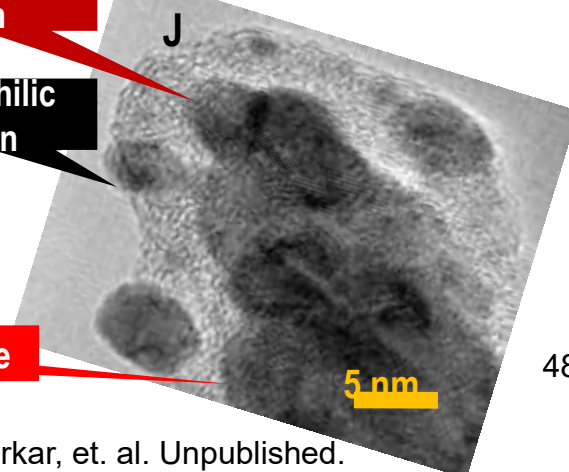
Schematic

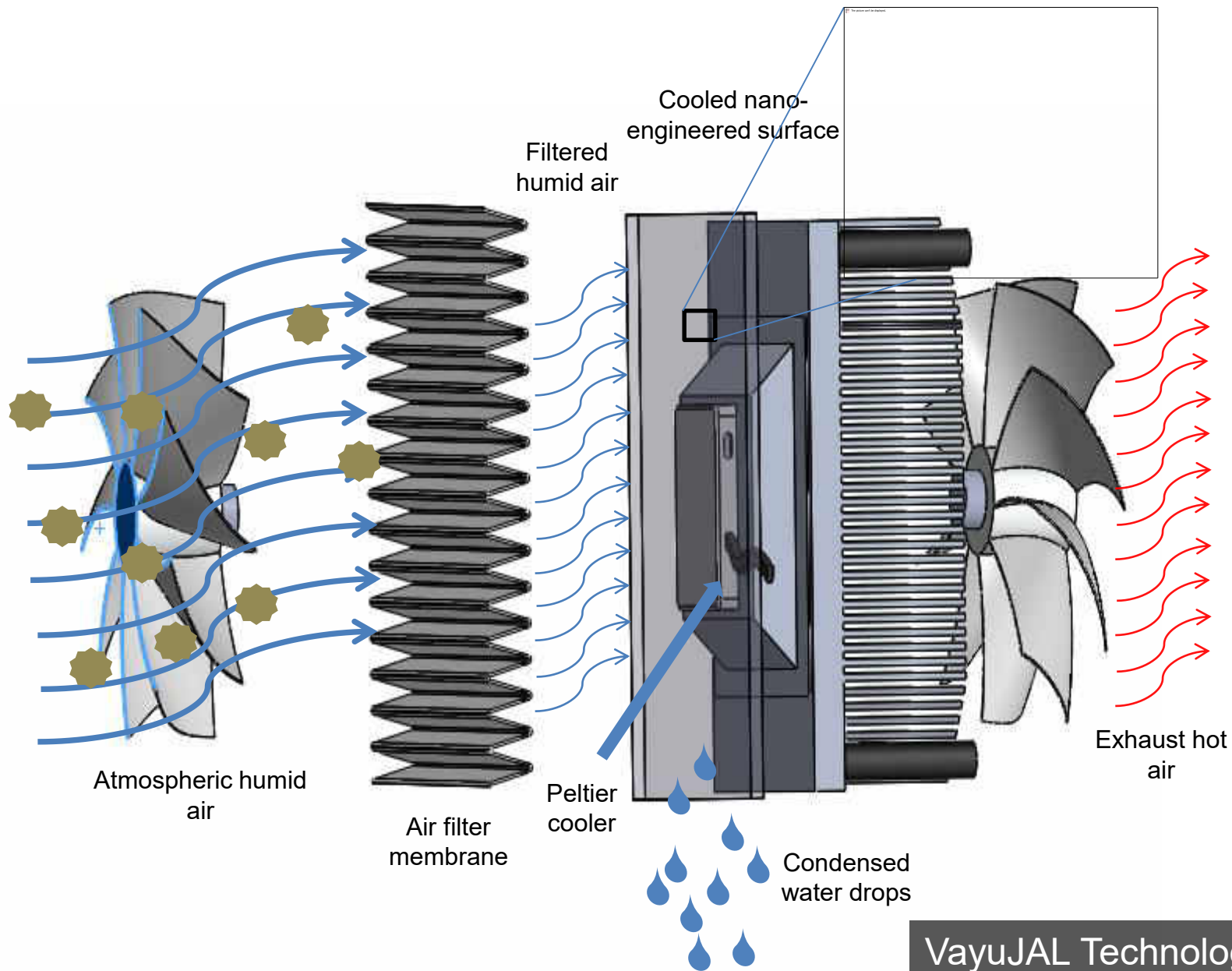


Our material



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)

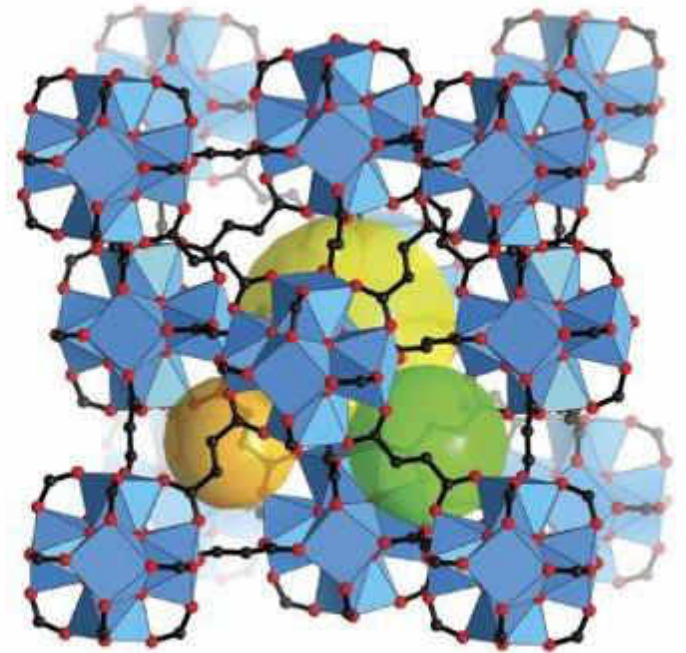
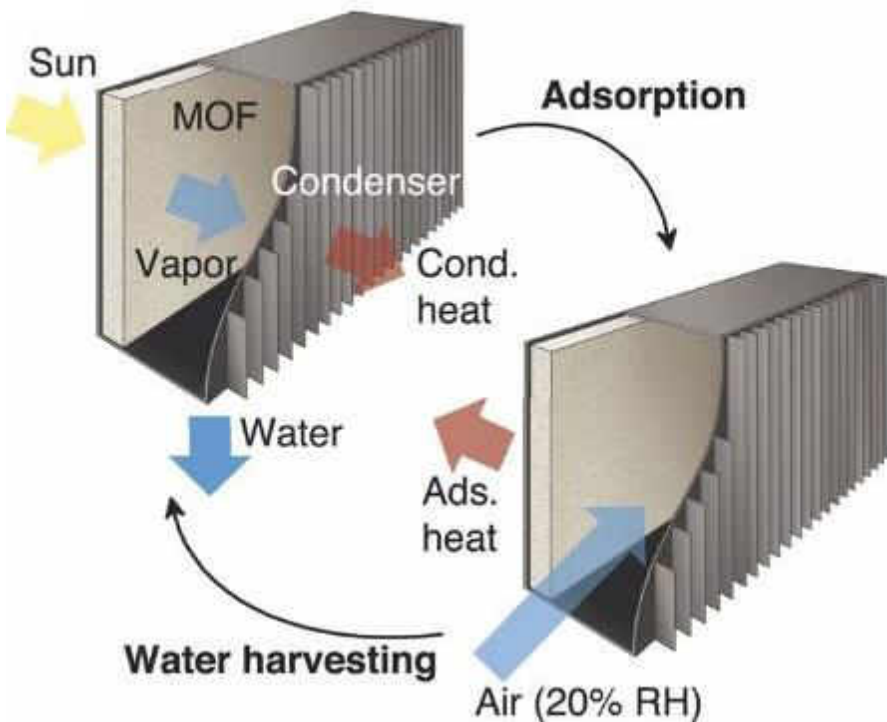


July 2023



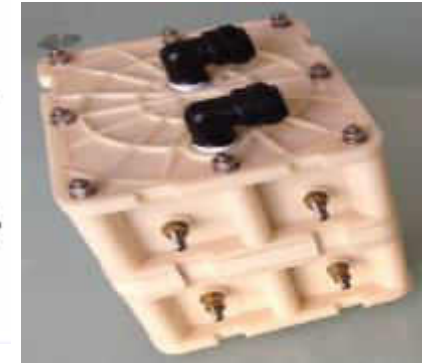
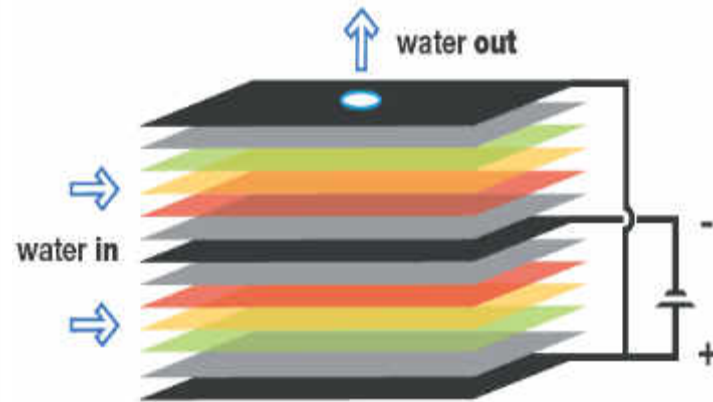
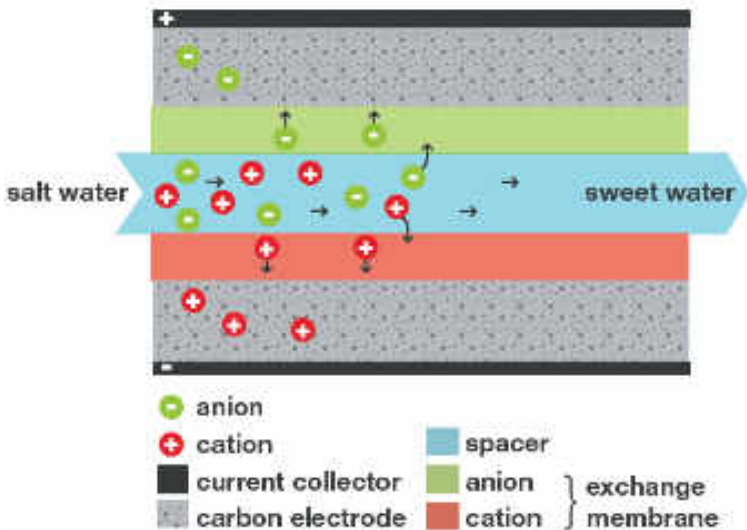
# Sustainable atmospheric water harvesting

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



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

# Capacitive Desalination (CDI)

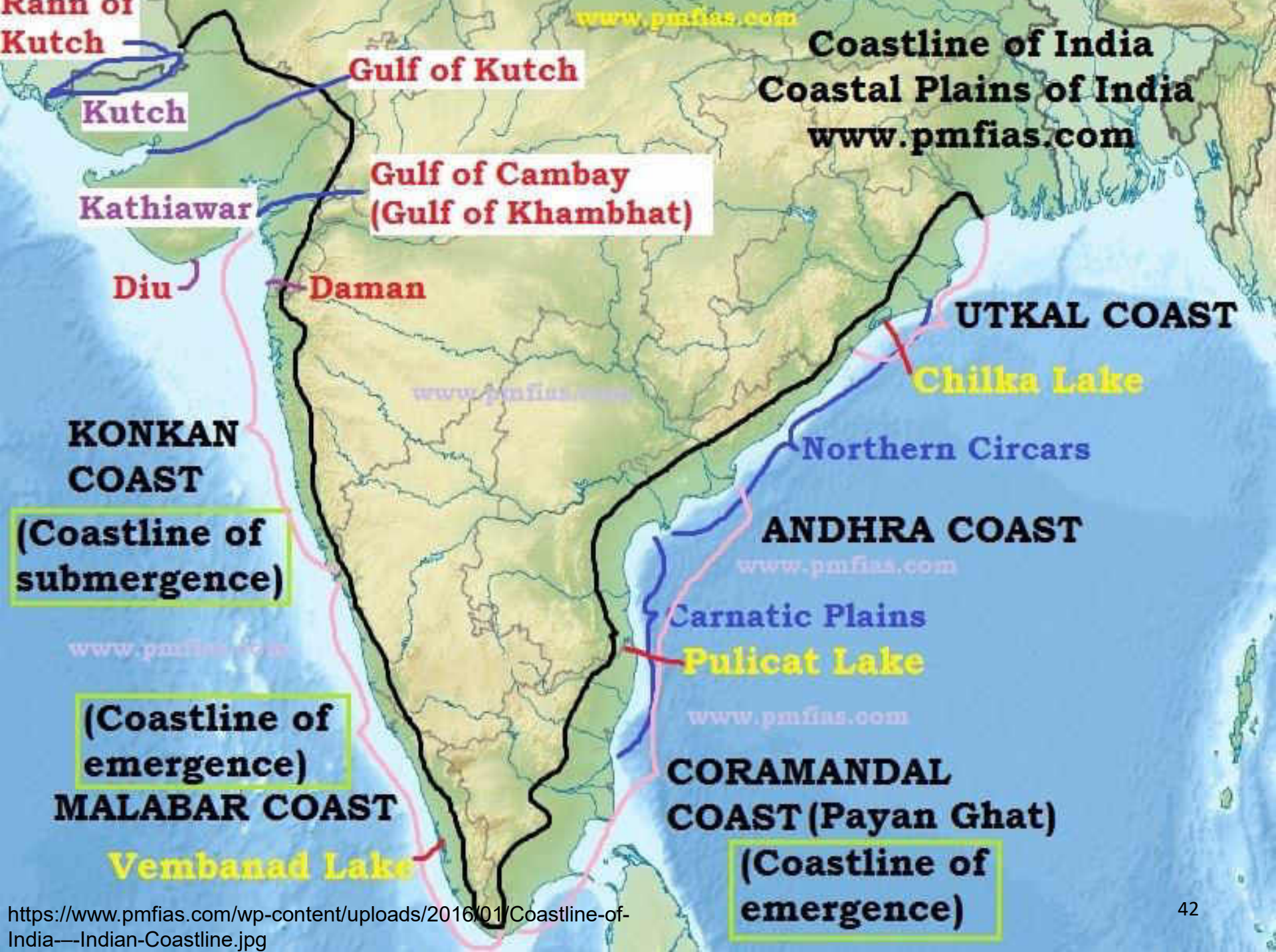


**imODI**

Our new company

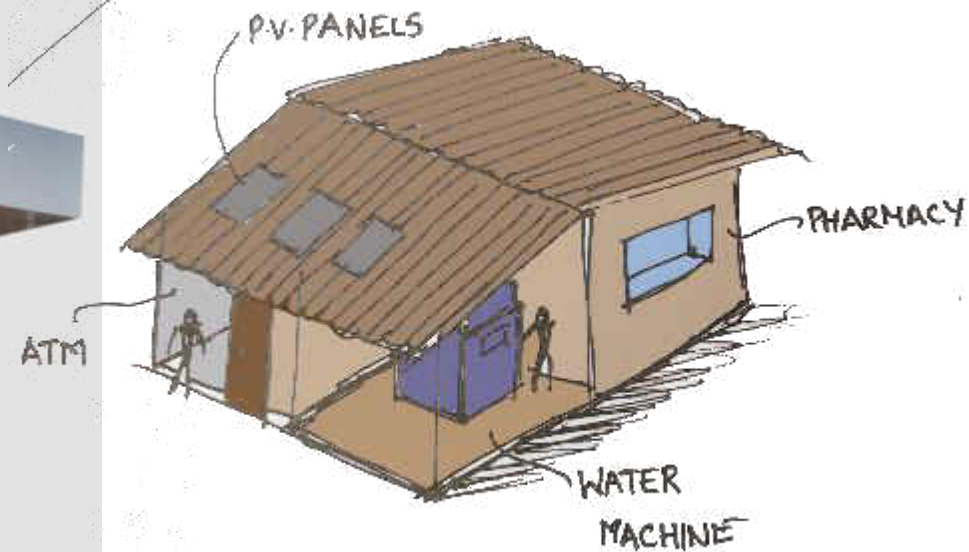
Soujit Sengupta, Rabiul Islam and others





# DIGITAL WATER KIOSK

for community drinking using CDI Technology

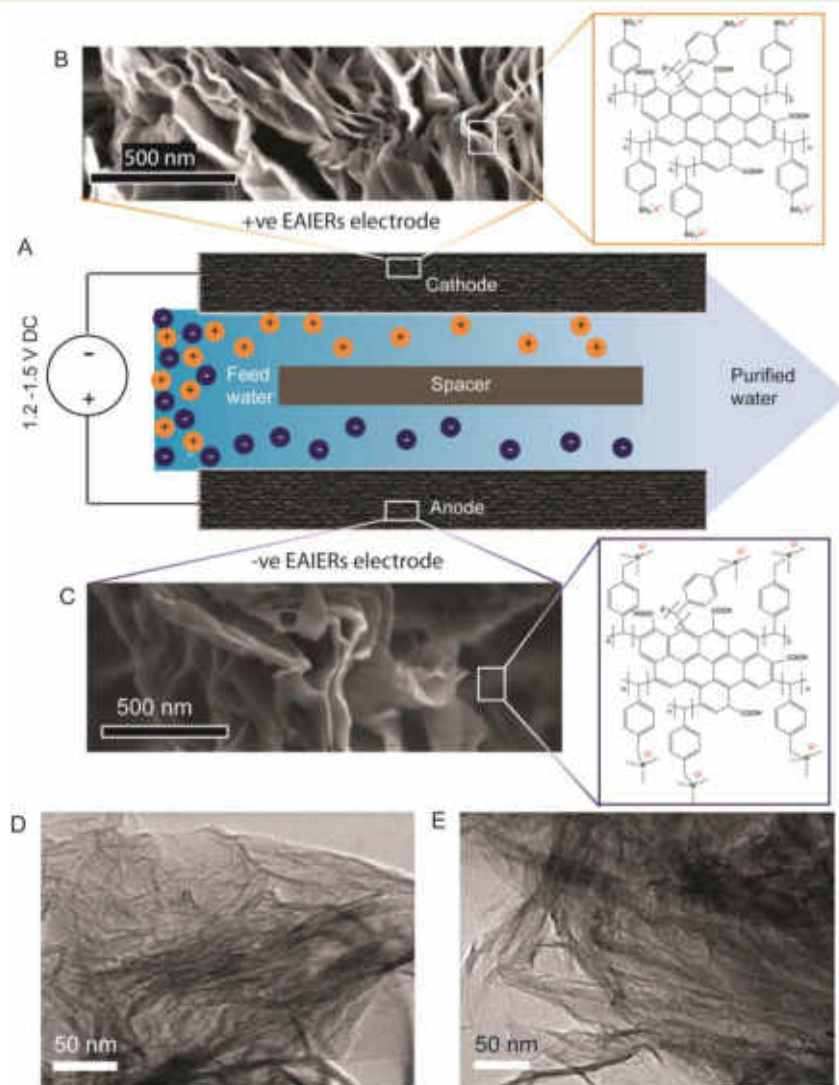


Products under implementation

Vijay Sampath and Tullio Servida

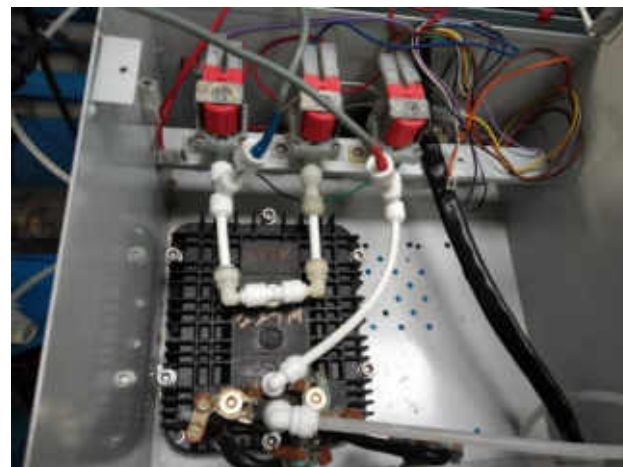
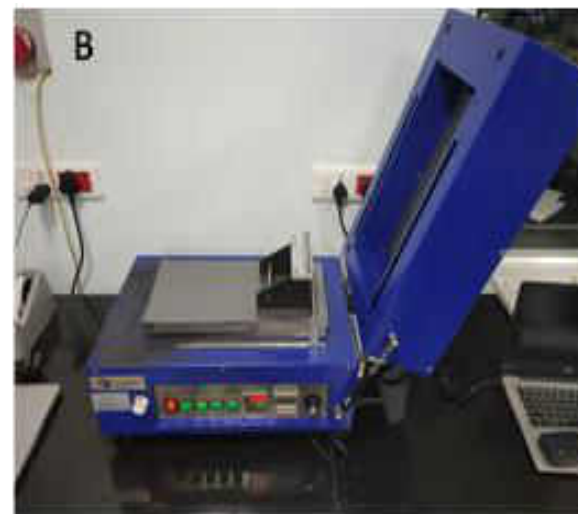


# A Covalently Integrated Reduced Graphene Oxide -Ion Exchange Resin Electrode for Efficient CDI

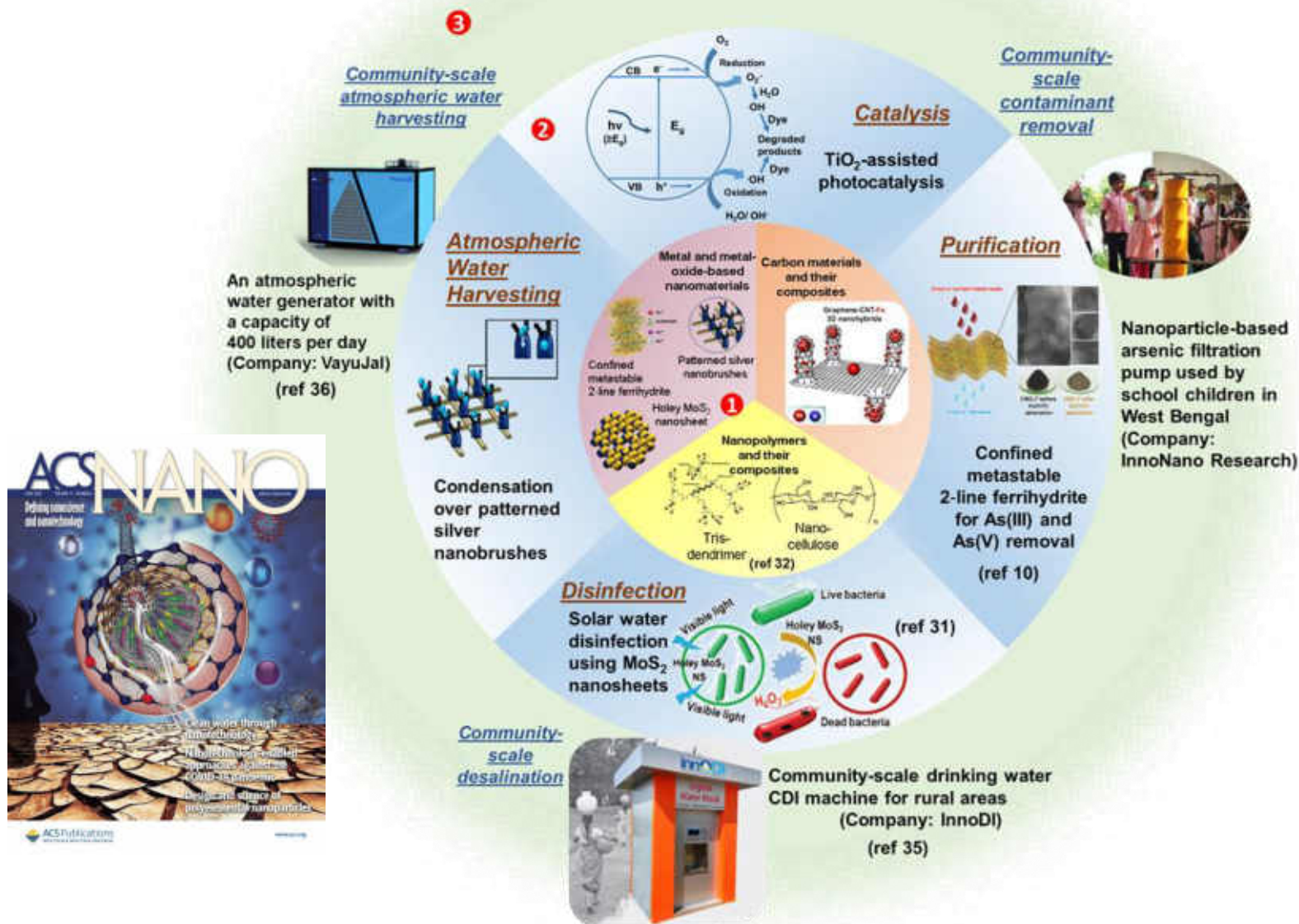


Rabiul et al., *Adv. Mater. Interfaces* **2021**, 8, 2001998

# Various stages of electrode preparation



# Evolution of materials to products



# 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 )

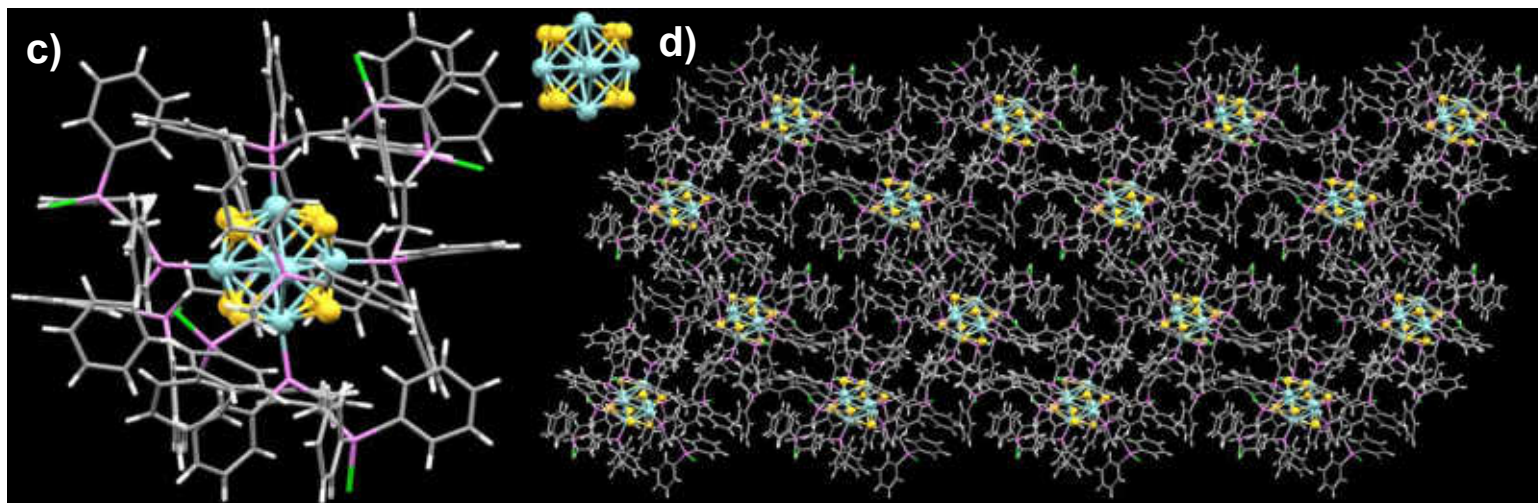
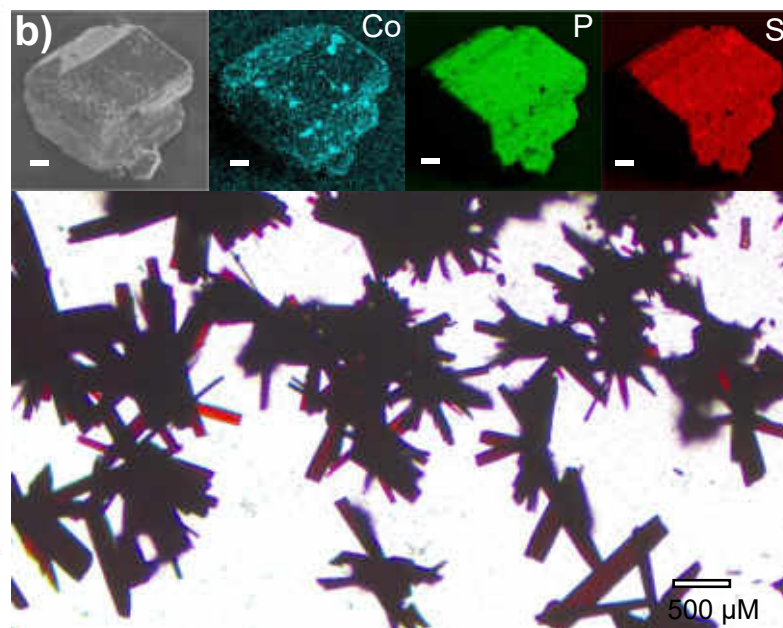
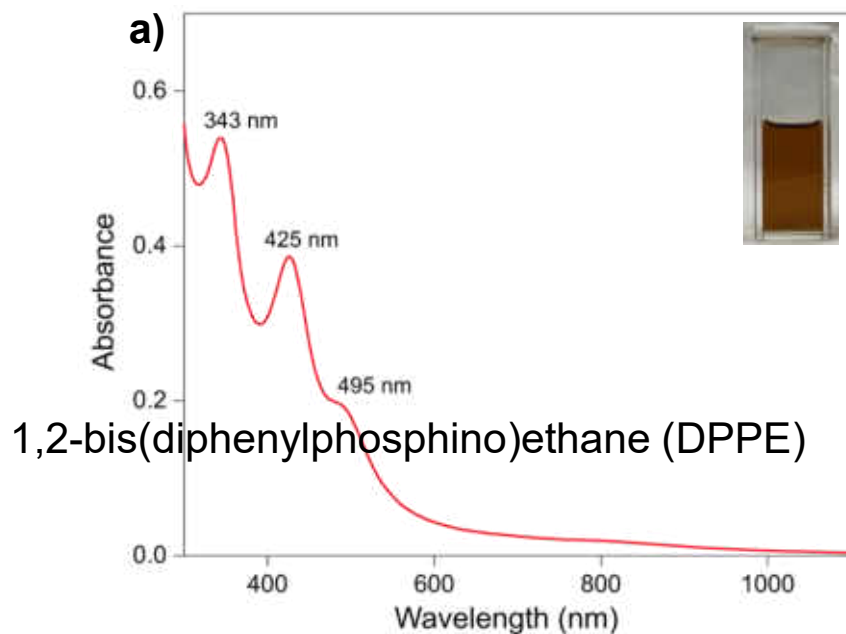


Water quality measurement – In the pipeline

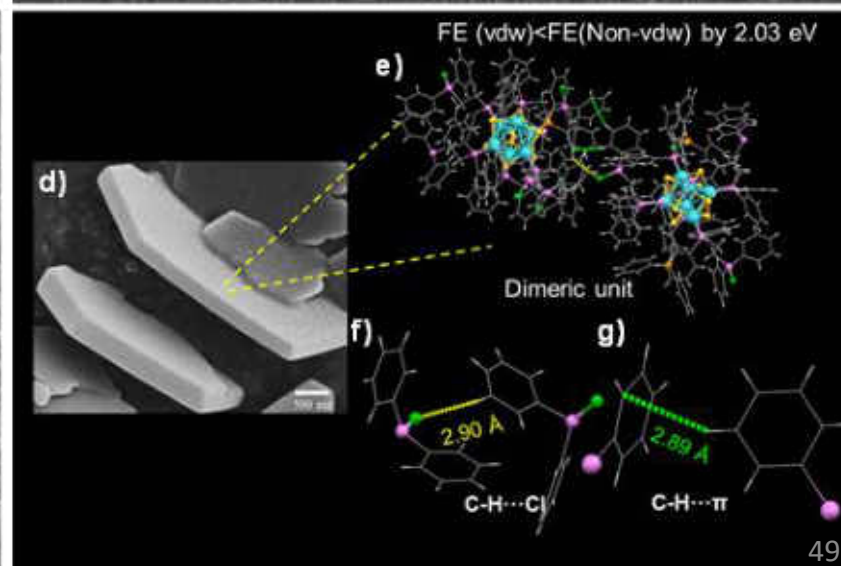
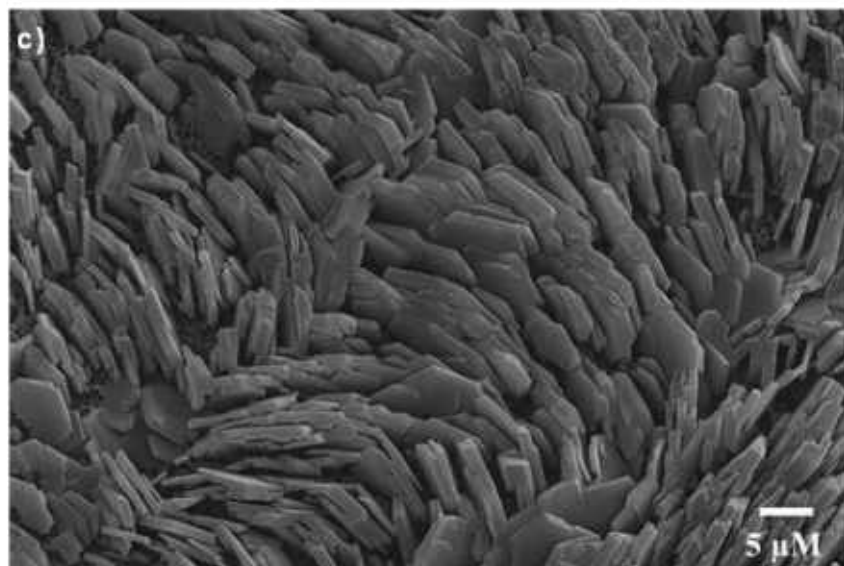
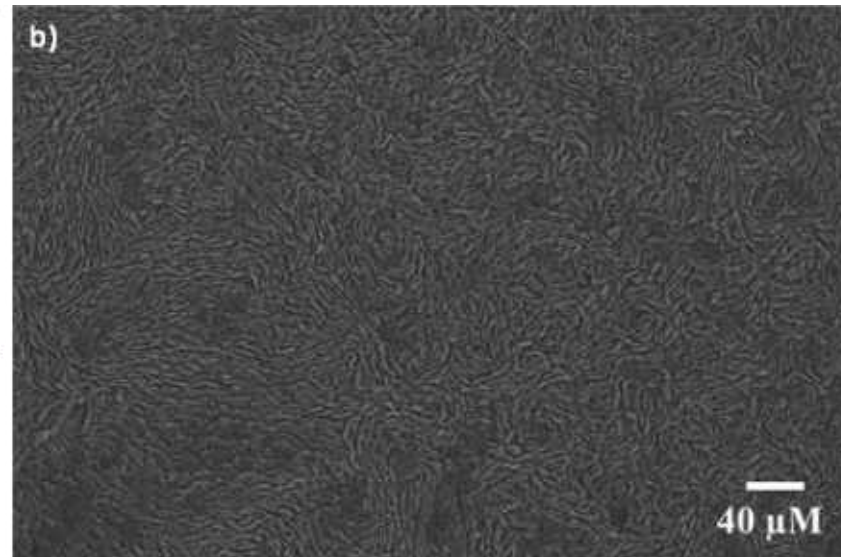
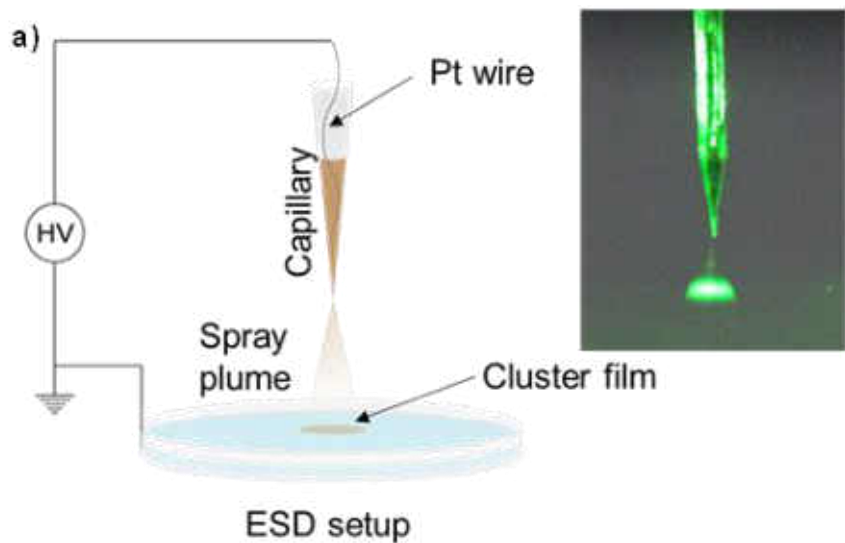
nano $\lambda$



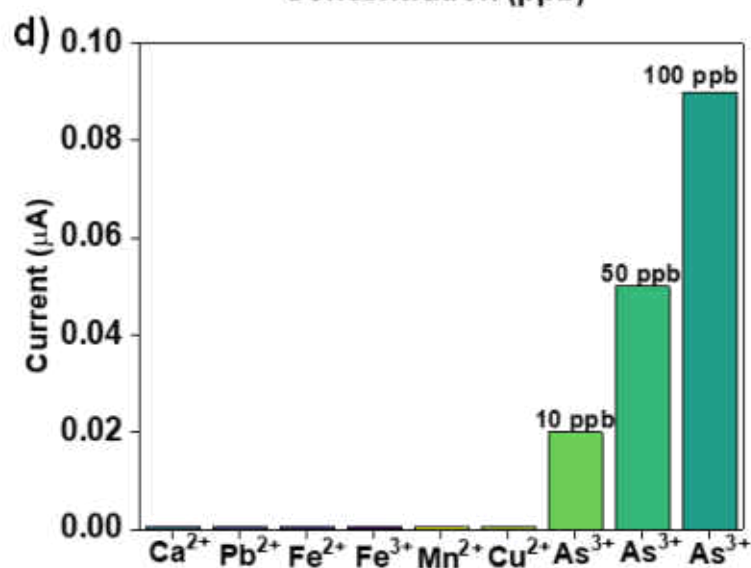
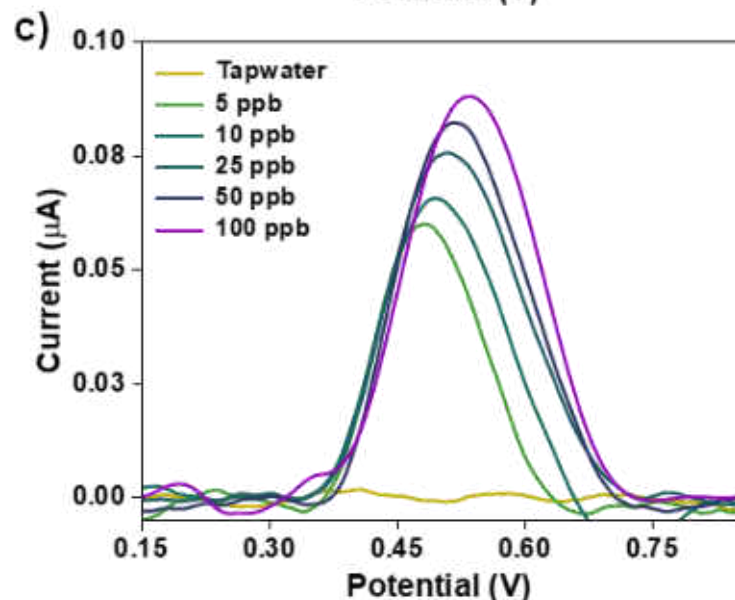
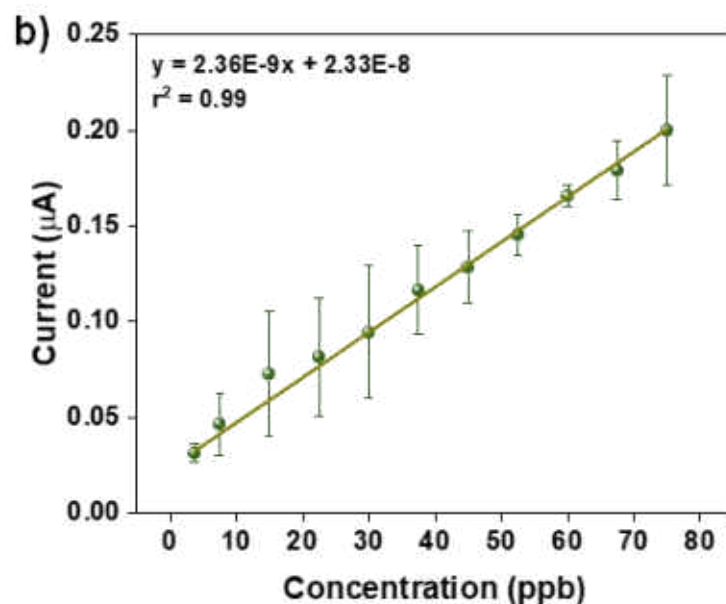
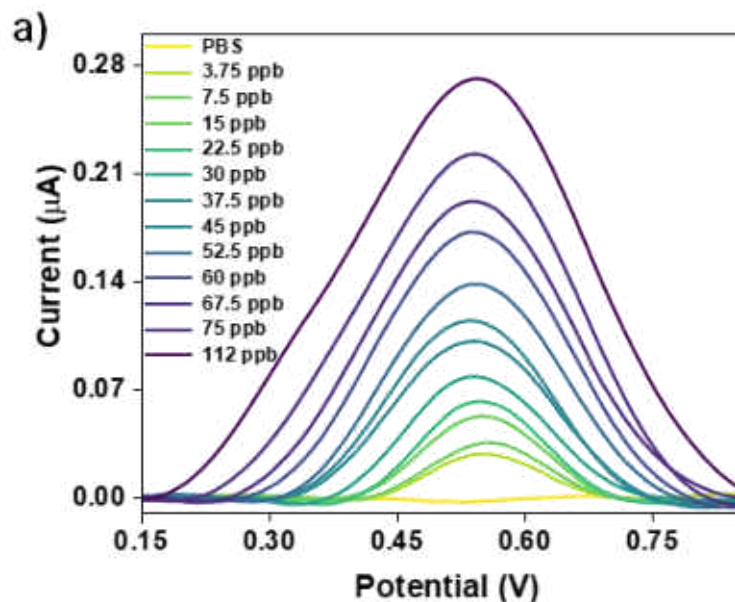
# New electrodes - Aligned nanoplates of $\text{Co}_6\text{S}_8$



# Electrospray deposition

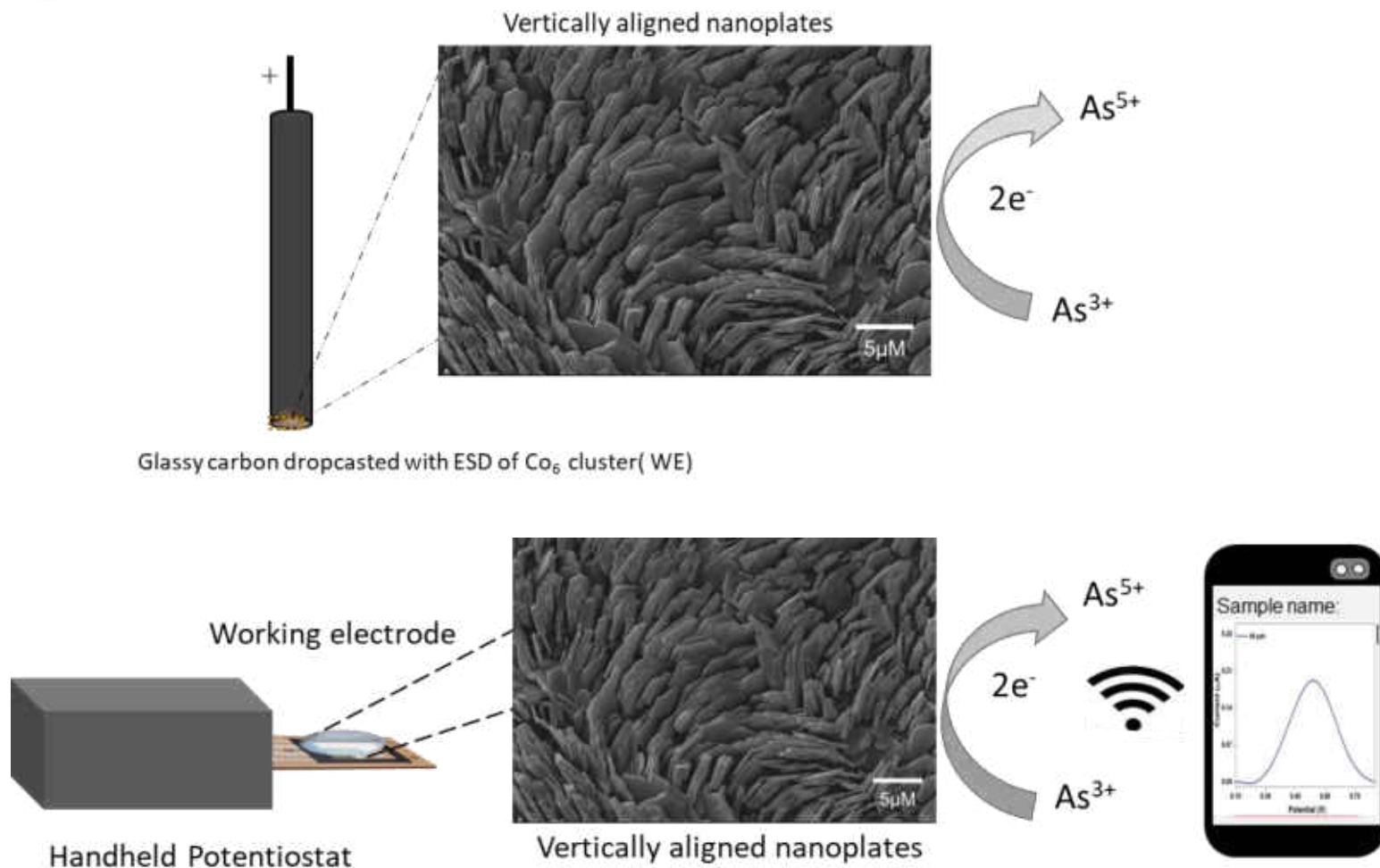


# Sensing



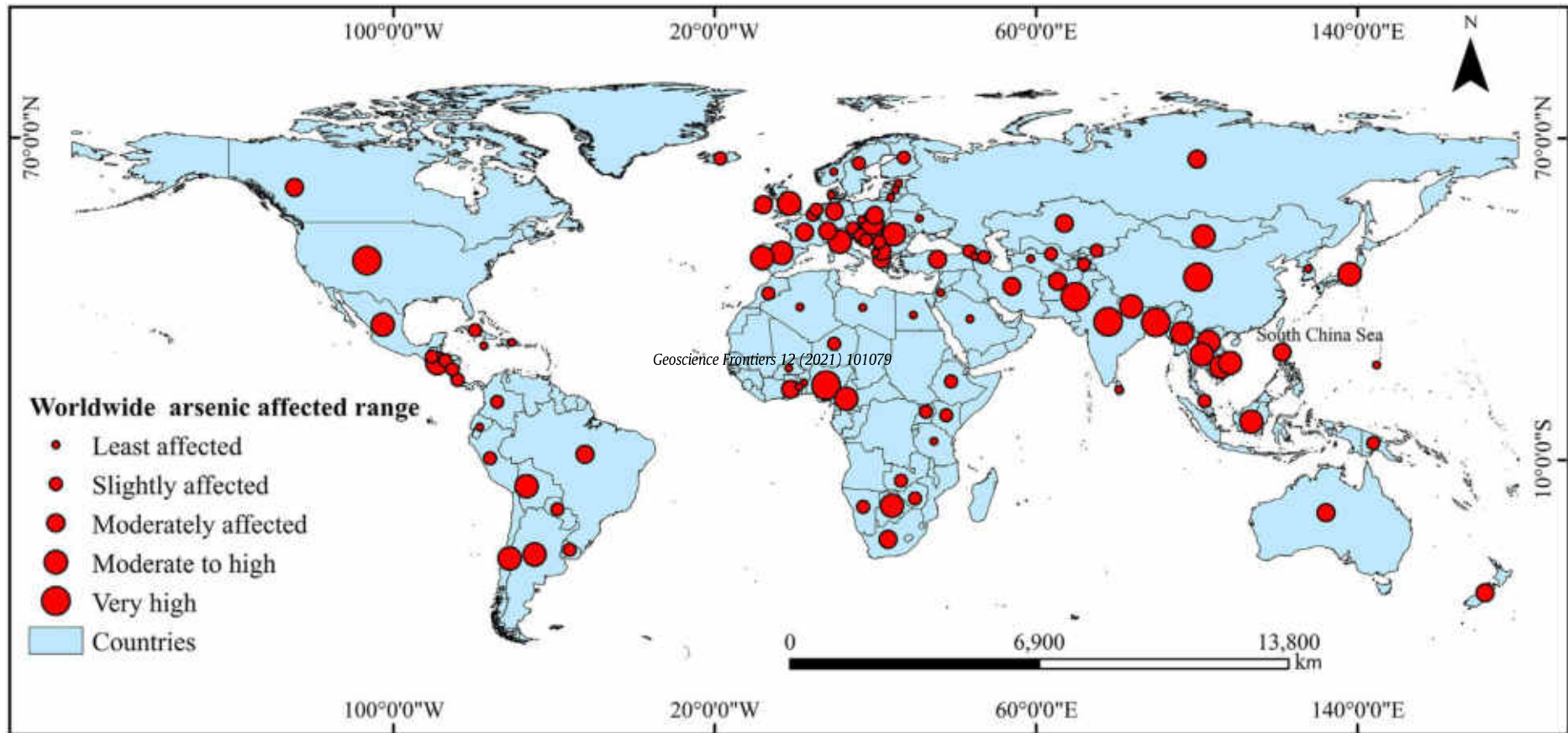


# Working electrode





# Arsenic poisoning across the world

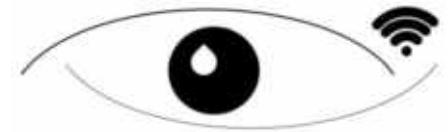


# Monitoring in the field

**EyeNetAqua Solutions Pvt.  
Ltd.**

An ICCW incubated company

Eye of internet on quality, quantity and compliance  
for all



EyeNetAqua Solutions Private Limited

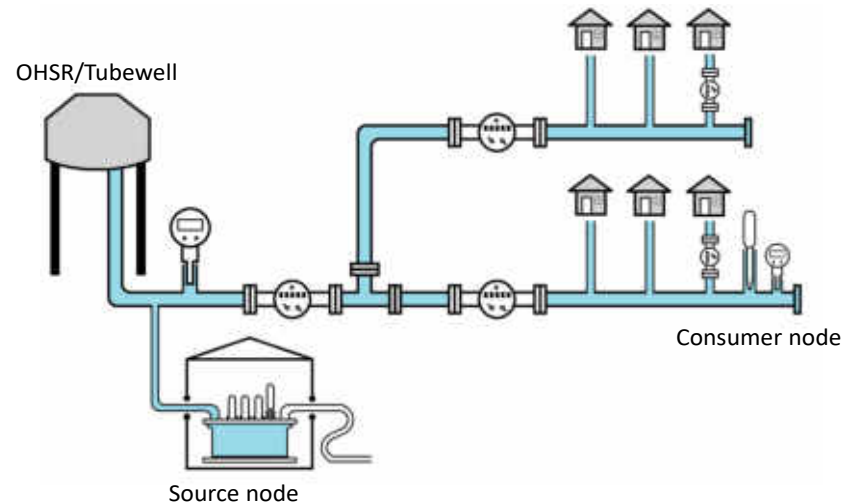
Installation model as per NJJM specifications

**Tubewell/OHSR (Source node) :**

- 1. Flow meter (80-150mm) x 1
- 2. Pressure sensor x 1
- 3. pH sensor x 1
- 4. TDS sensor x 1
- 5. Residual Chlorine sensor x 1
- 6. In-house MVP of Free Residual Chlorine sensor x 1

**Consumer tap (End tail node) :**

- 1. Flow meter (15-20mm) x 1
- 2. Pressure sensor x 1
- 3. Residual Chlorine sensor x 1
- 4. In-house MVP of Free Residual Chlorine sensor x 1

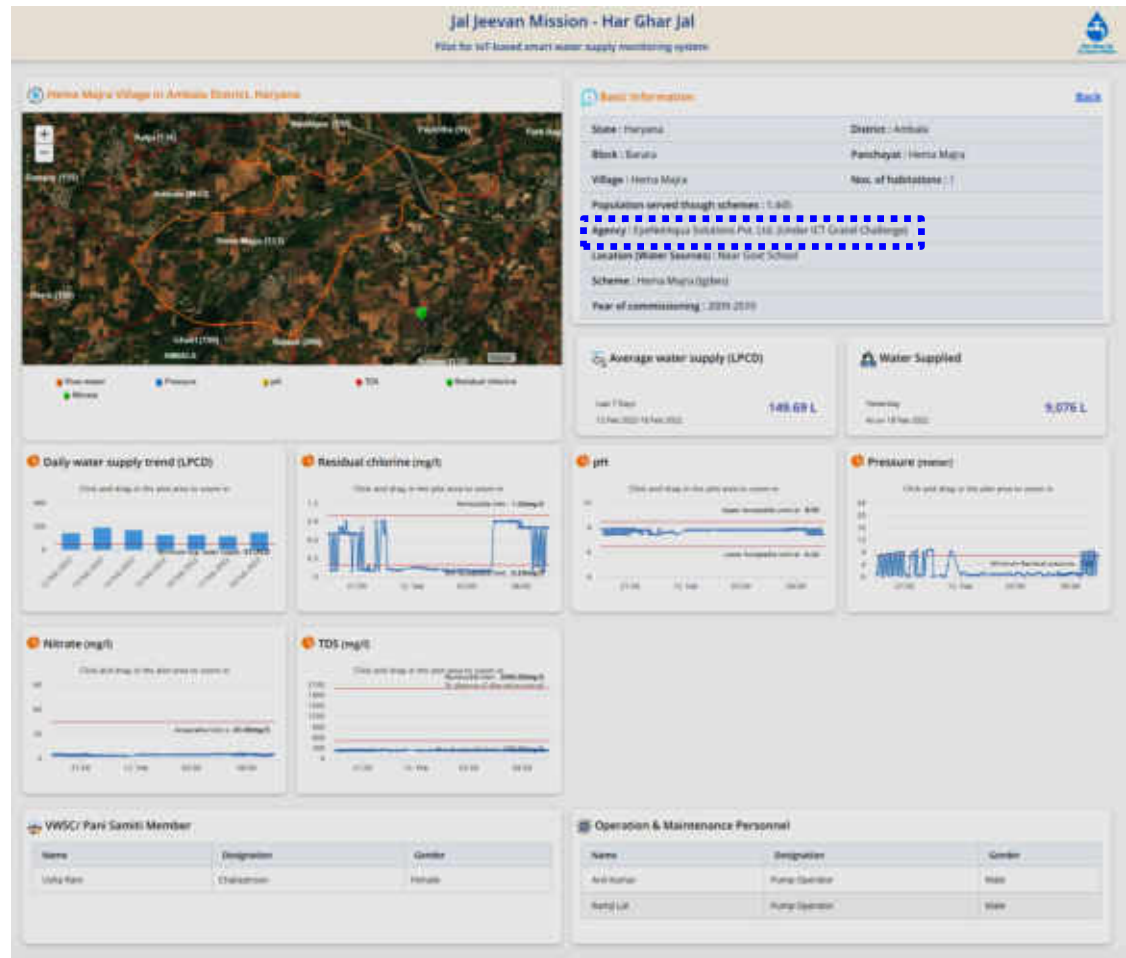


# EyeNetAqua Solutions Pvt. Ltd.

An ICCW incubated company

Eye of internet on quality, quantity and compliance for all

Real time  
water  
quality



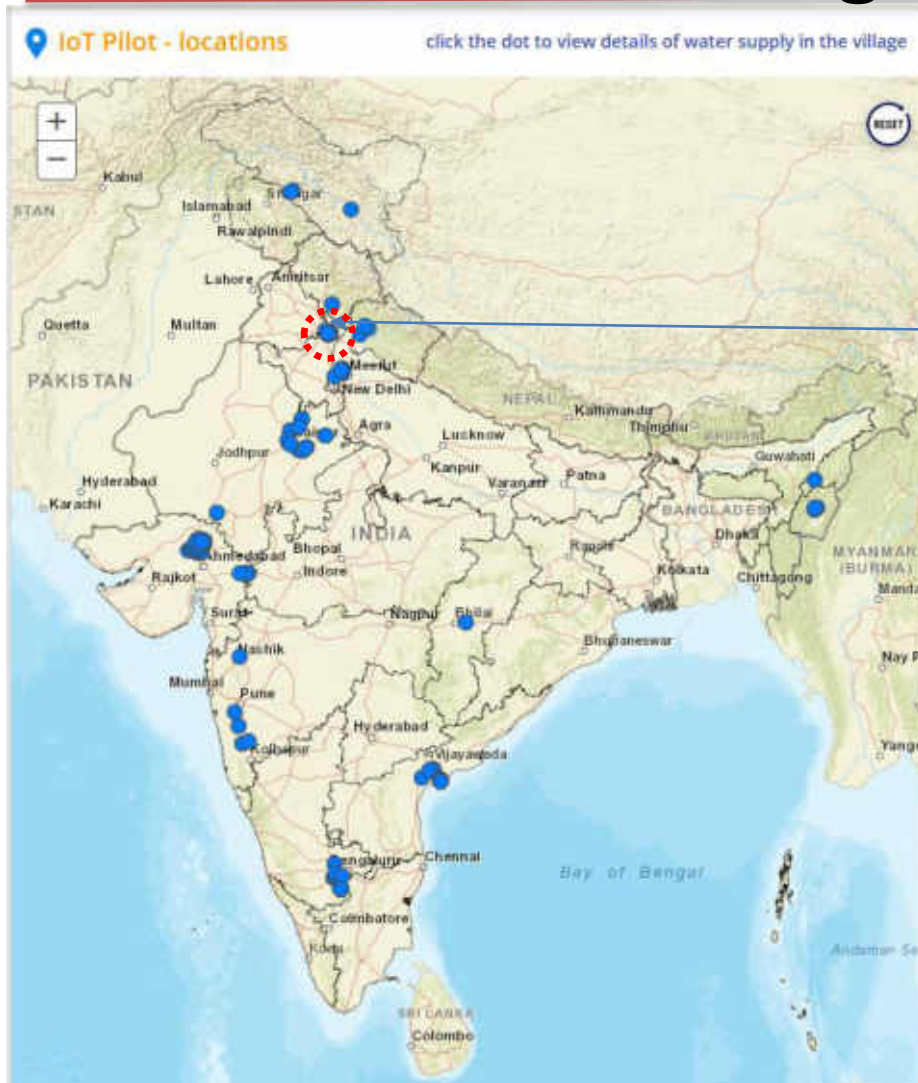
# Snapshot of water quality analysers





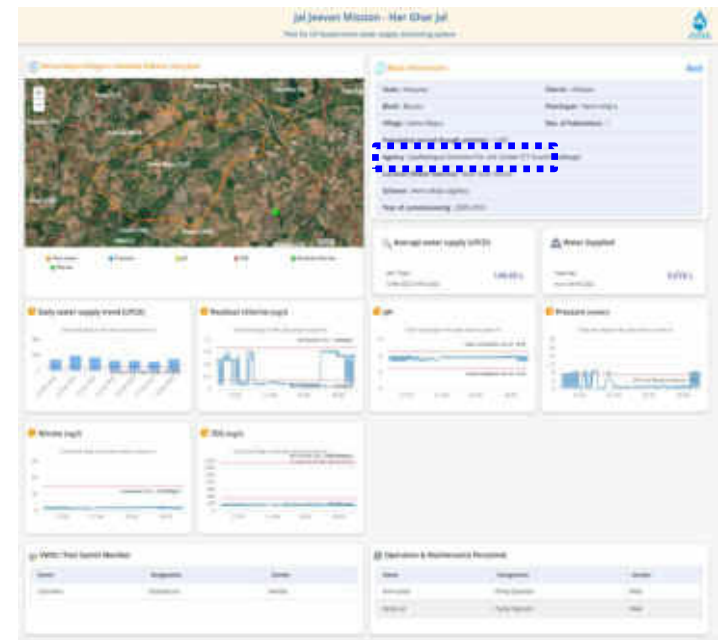


# India's water is being monitored



IITM/IISc

Installations made by four companies





# Mobile unit - A reagent free mobile water quality analyser

---

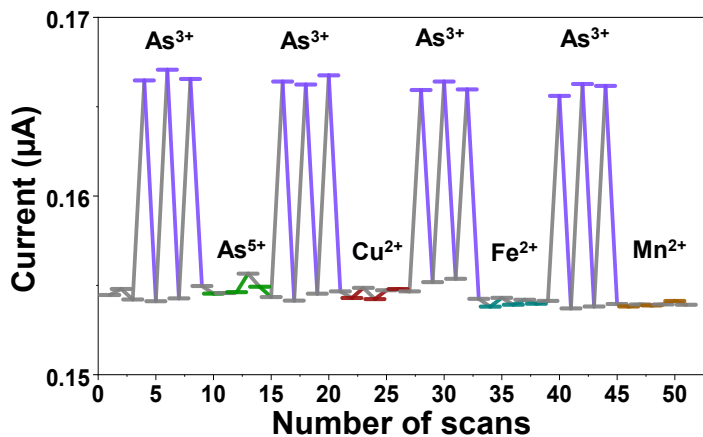


# A drop-and-sense reagent free arsenic sensing test strips



IIT Madras patented  
Arsenic sensing technology

Reagent free, Reusable test strip with selective arsenic sensing  
Drop-and-sense technology with no pretreatment of samples



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Article

## Selective and Practical Graphene-Based Arsenite Sensor at 10 ppb

Sourav Kanti Jana,<sup>1</sup> Kamallesh Chaudhari,<sup>2</sup> Md Rabiul Islam, Ganapati Natarajan, Tripti Ahuja, Anirban Som, Ganesan Paramasivam, Addanki Raghavendra, Chennu Sudhakar, and Thalappil Pradeep<sup>3\*</sup>

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(54) **A POINT-OF-CARE (POC) AMPEROMETRIC  
DEVICE FOR SELECTIVE ARSENIC  
SENSING**

Publication Classification

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(IN); Md Rabiul ISLAM, Chennai (IN)**

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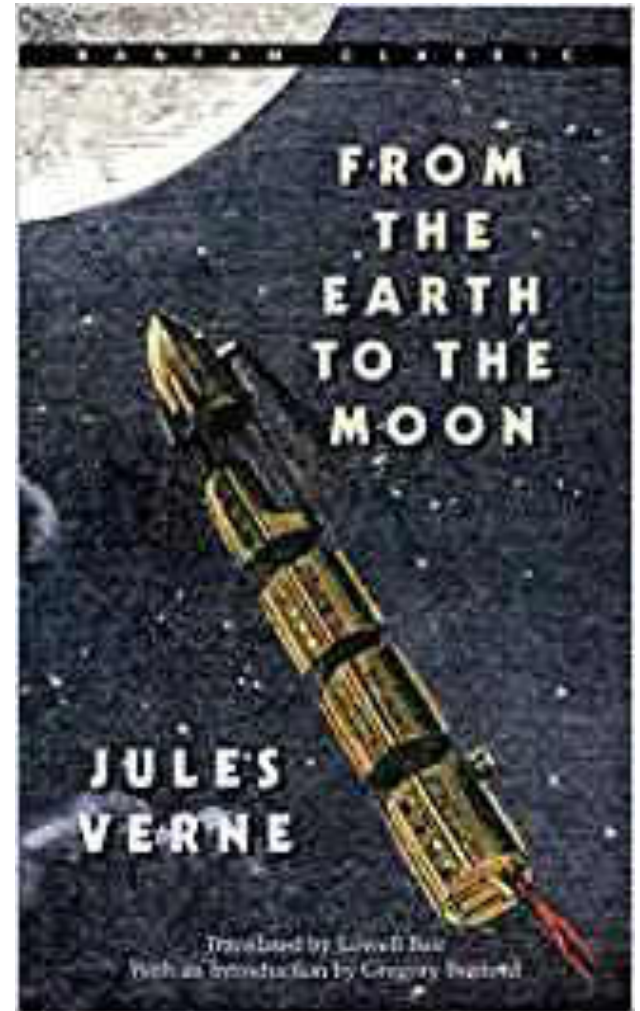
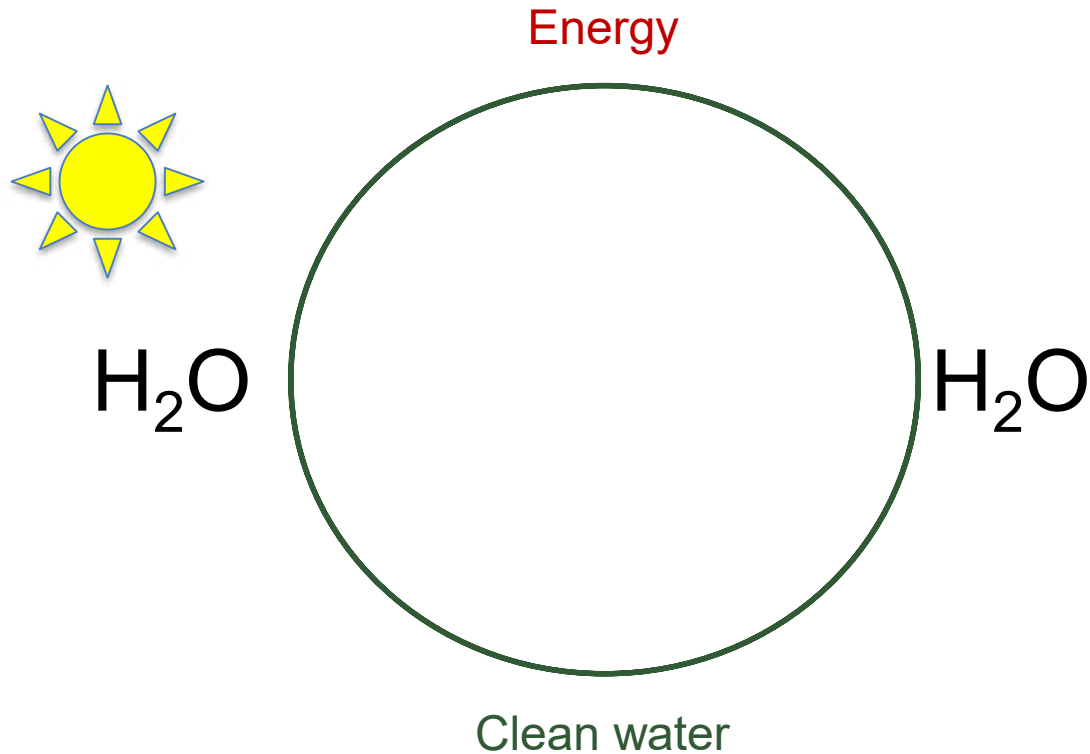
(57) **ABSTRACT**



A wide-angle photograph of a large, green, grassy field under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. In the background, there is a tall, grey, cylindrical water tower with a spiral staircase. To the right, a blue and red slide is visible. In the distance, there are trees, a fence, and a small building. A black oval is drawn over the lower-left portion of the field.

Policy

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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**

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**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 Bhuin, 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, Esma 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











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## Thank you all

