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DELHI-NCR

DJB taps toilet water for reuse

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Mallica Joshi

NEW DELHI: Hoping to tap all possible water sources, the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) and not-for-profit organisations are looking at the most unlikely of places – your toilet.

Inaugurating its first toilet to tap Sewage Treatment Plant at Keshopur on Thursday, the utility is following in the footsteps of Singapore and American cities of Dallas, Orange County (California) and Wichita Falls which have also been treating sewage water to convert it to drinking water.

According to Sanchaita Gajapati Raju, whose organisation Social Awareness Newer Alternatives (SANA) is behind the project, reusing and recycling sewer water is the only meaningful way to ensure water security.

"For a city like Delhi, reusing waste water is crucial. We are using absolute untreated waste and converting it into drinking water. All laboratory reports - from the Delhi Jal Board's labs as well as from third party labs are available. The water is of drinking quality," said Raju. The pilot project runs on solar power and can function 24 hours a day.

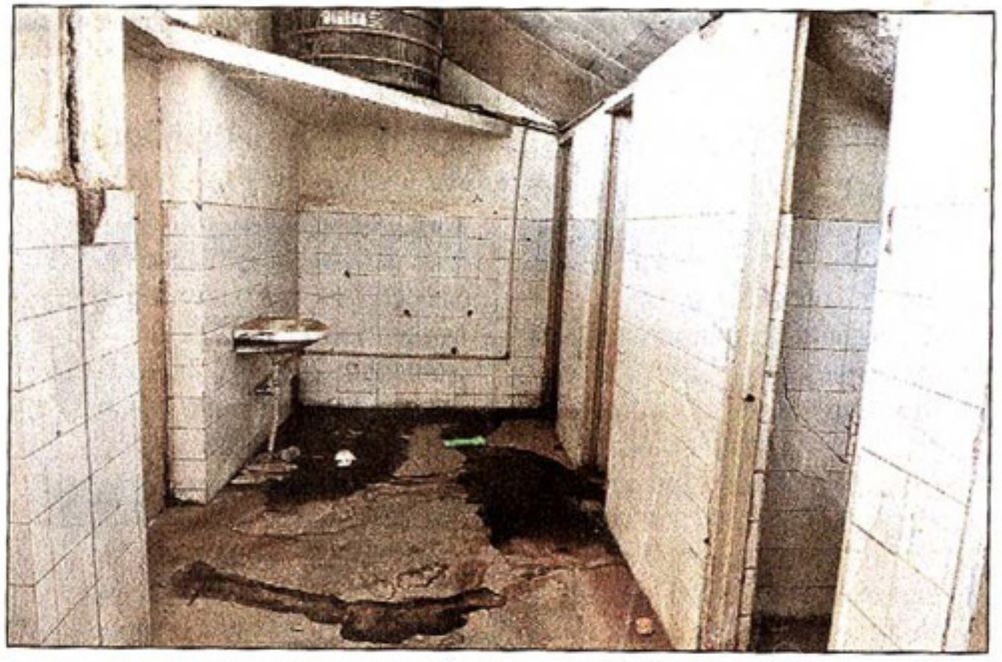
According to senior DJB officials, the one big roadblock they are anticipating is what experts across the world call the 'yuck factor'. The idea of drinking water filtered from sewage will be unpalatable to many.

"It is a concern for sure but this mindset has to change. Without any more water sources, we will have to think out of the box and many countries are already doing it," said a senior official.

The mindset, Raju also feels, will be a problem.

"For a lot of people I come across, the idea creates a mental block, but, if the water is clean, that is all that should matter. This needs to be broke through awareness campaigns. I hope everyone will come forward and accept this," she said.

DJB officials have assured that the water will meet all criteria set for drinking water. The plant will be inaugurated by Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.



The toilet-to-tap plant will convert sewage water to drinking water. The roadblock though will be getting over the 'yuck' factor. HT