



Water for the body and the soul

MA. My Anchor Foundation | Water Museum of Udaipur, Rajasthan, India

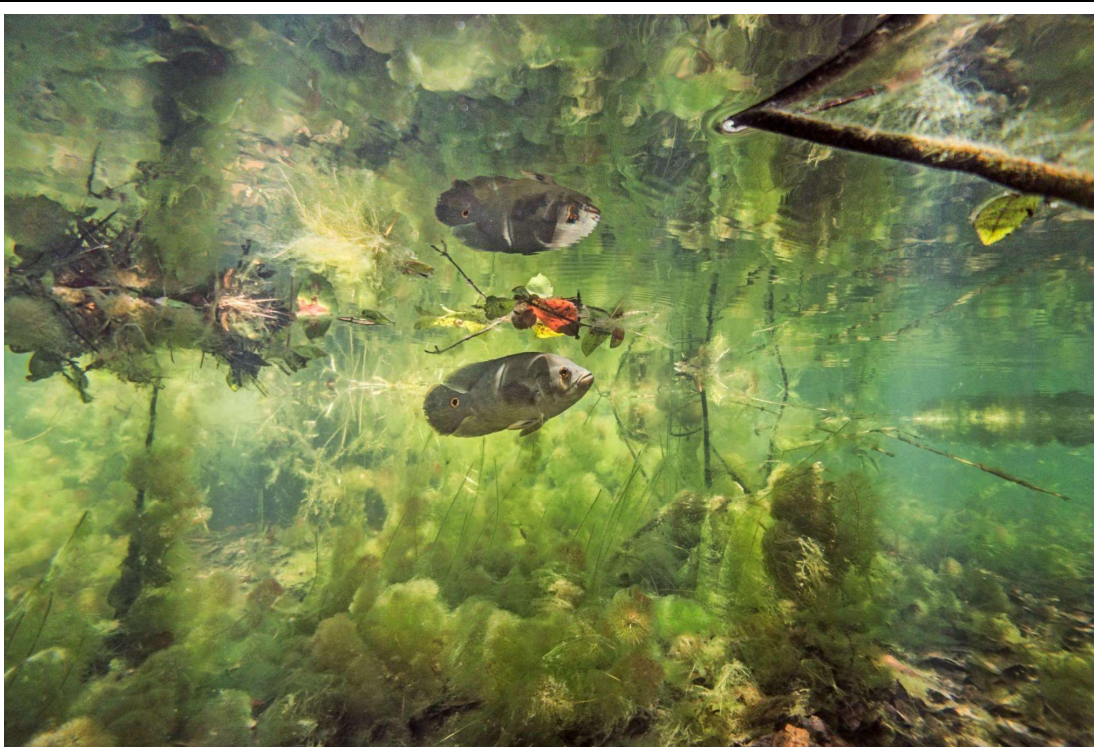
Drinking water is not available to millions of people in India. Two women construction labourers in the arid state of Rajasthan work in scorching heat.
This is their 'water break'.



Fishermen on Lake Victoria take action on climate change

Tony Wild | IHE DELFT Institute for Water Education

Odongo Eric, a fisherman from Rusinga Island on Lake Victoria, in Kenya, uses a solar-powered light to capture silver cyprinid fish one night in May. Odongo has been fishing for five years. He recently switched to fishing with solar lamps instead of kerosene in an attempt to reduce his carbon footprint and be part of the global climate change mitigation movement.



Oscar fish family: underwater reflection

Ivan Mikolji | Green Earth Alliance

“Since 2006 I have been going to a very special spot in the Venezuelan flooded savannas. This spot has clear water for a very short period of time in the rainy season. When I get there and start putting on my gear, I begin to get very impatient. I start to hurry, I dive in the water and start looking for some old friends, hoping they were not eaten by piranhas, crocs, or people since my last visit. I swim around, looking from side to side hoping they are still among the living. Once I spot them and recognize them by distinctive traits, I am happy and feel a sense of relief so I can relax. It is like visiting family, my Oscar fish family; and they are so wild!” Picture taken in 2011.



A long sail for drinking water

Mohammadur Rahman (Mahmud) | Water Museum of Kalapara

With floods in Kurigram, Bangladesh's problems are getting worse with each passing year, and people's access to safe drinking water is getting more difficult. Floodwaters inundate and contaminate tube wells and freshwater sources in the low-lying areas leading to massive drinking water shortages. People, mostly women, struggle to fetch safe drinking water from remote places. With many areas becoming waterlogged, boats become the only mode of transport; but most people do not have a boat. An alternative solution is a raft made with banana trees. The woman and her son in the picture navigated miles in search of water on their raft. They used every possible water pot (bucket, pitcher, and jug) in their possession to collect and store water till the next day. But on the way back home, the son became very thirsty from their long journey and drank some water from the bucket that contained the water for the next day. And so, the next day they would again set sail to collect water. Though water is life, floodwaters are a curse for people to sustain their lives.



Saving crops with water ponds

Pablo Herrerías | Museo del Agua “Agua para Siempre”, Tehuacan

At the top of the campesino family farming plot, the water museum ‘Agua para Siempre’ builds small water retention tanks that store the precious water. This is not a significant quantity of water; nevertheless, it’s enough for saving crops in the milpa when rainwater is delayed. Location: Tehuacan-Mixteca Popoloca region (Mexico).



Water for irrigation: a project to divert the Yellow River

CHINA | National Water Museum of China

Since the Qin and Han dynasties (221 BC-220 AD), local communities living along the Yellow River in Ningxia (northwest China) started to divert water from the river to irrigate the land. They built canals and aqueducts which supplied for centuries the entire region and also created an oasis in a very arid area. Today, the irrigation area spreads over 12,900 square/km.



The Jochenstein run-of-river power plant

Weidlinger | Danube Water-Adventure, Marktgemeinde Engelhartzell

Verbund's power plant at Jochenstein was constructed from 1952 to 1956 by Donaukraftwerk Jochenstein AG. It's a run-of-river power plant located on the Danube river between the municipality of Untergriesbach near Passau, in Bavaria, and the municipality of Engelhartzell, in Upper Austria. Jochenstein's power plant serves as a border crossing between Upper Austria and Bavaria, and today it's open to cyclists and pedestrians from 6 am to 10 pm. The power plant, which has a bottleneck capacity of 132 MW, is the most powerful power plant of the 'border power plants' group; it's capable of supplying around 221,000 households with electricity generated entirely from hydropower. Anyone can discover the secrets of electricity generation with the free app "Jochenstein Energy Adventure" that transforms your smartphone into 3D glasses to enjoy the visit to this power plant on the Danube.



A mother's faith in water therapy

Mohammadur Rahman (Mahmud) | Water Museum of Kalapara

Moriam and her two sons live on an island at Gaibandha. Her elder son was suffering from cough and fever and Covid-19 was a suspected cause. With no hospital close by and inadequate local health facilities, Moriam took it upon herself to nurse her son back to health. In the picture we can see Morium administering water to her son's forehead. The only hope for this desolate mother was the traditional water therapy, to lower his body temperature. With the belief that her ailing son will recover from this adversity, Morium puts faith in water, to save her son. A powerful faith (in water) seen as a saviour for a mother's woes.



The gateway to heaven

Sukrit Sen | Living Waters Museum

Pages from a Ghats Diary: PK Tagore Ghat, 15th April, 2022. I don't really remember how old I am today, but it seems like just yesterday when Prasanna Tagore ordered my construction. I have seen the wonderful people of Kolkata walk up and down my beautiful iron gateways to wash their sins in the holy river every day, at all times of the year. I have become a playground for ghosts as many come to me to pay their last respects to the dead, but what amuses me most is to see the ghosts celebrating life on the very same steps.



The 23rd generation of Zoroastrian priest prays at the well of the Cama Baug Fire Temple, Greater Mumbai

Berjis Driver | INDIALiving Waters Museum

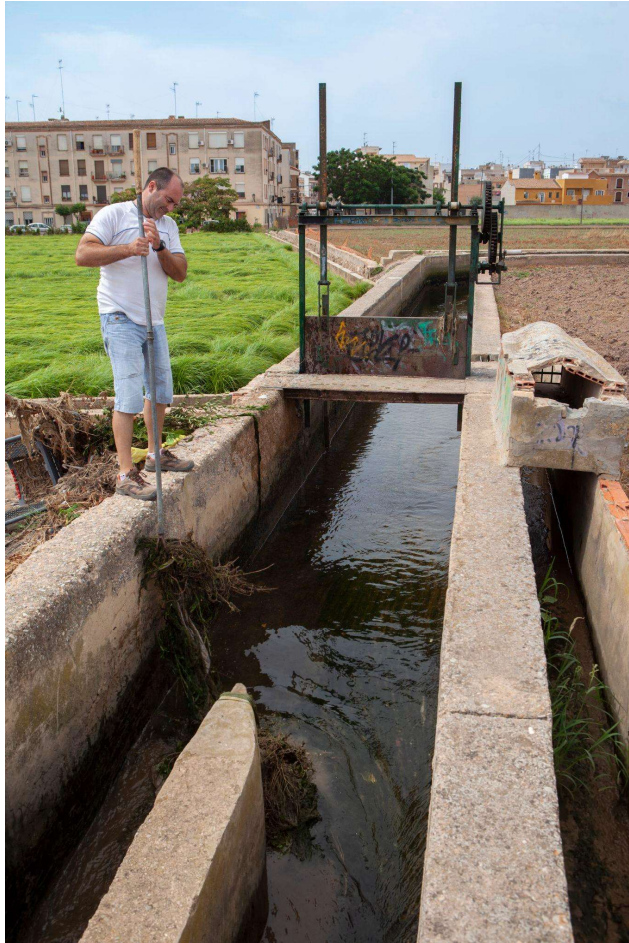
Water implies important values and virtues for Zoroastrians priests and includes striving towards a state of perfection and completeness in the physical world. Zoroastrian fire temples can only be consecrated after the initial creation of a well. During the performance of high-level Zoroastrian rituals, the water of the temple well has to be 'awoken'. This is because the period of night is considered to be a time where the forces of evil are active. Water is accorded with respect in this period, as it is considered to be brimming with life, consciousness and positive spiritual energies and hence is left to rest undisturbed. Early in the morning - a priest draws and discards water thrice from the well, with each draw signifying the expulsion of bad thoughts, bad words and bad deeds. Water for use is to be drawn from the fourth pull. A traditional belief that water must be continuously flowing resonates with wells because of groundwater dynamics. As seen in the picture, while facing wells Zoroastrians often pray to the Yazata Aredvi Sura Anahita, the daughter of Ahura Mazda - entrusted with looking after all the waters and liquids of the planet, even those within creations.



By canoe on the Casalecchio dam

Paolo Cortesi | Opificio delle Acque - Water Factory of Bologna

The Casalecchio dam is an artificial barrier built in the middle of the 14th century along the course of the Reno River, which allows part of the river's water to be diverted artificially into a canal with the same name (the Reno Canal). In the picture the grandeur of the slide of the barrier crossed by the water stands out in comparison with the small figures in a canoe. The force of the water sliding over the ancient barrier inspires respect and deep emotion.



Cleaning the irrigation canal, Valencia

Amado Bimbo | Tribunal de les Aigües de la Vega de Valencia

The guard is responsible for keeping the water partition clean. The partition divides the flow into two. The water necessary for the irrigation of each side is fixed and the distribution of water through the channels is highly accurate. This construction of hydraulic engineering is believed to have its origin in the Roman era and developed later. The channels must be clean for proper water distribution. The guard contracted by the Community of Irrigators is responsible for making the condition of the ditches adequate for its proper functioning. Not to clean the irrigation canal from the section of your field is a matter of complaint to the Water Court.