

NEWSREEL WORLD

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Alanna Leslie: Hi, I'm Alanna Leslie and welcome to Newsreel World. Today we're talking about Australia, the United States and Nigeria. But first...

Alanna: In India's tech hub of Bengaluru, a growing water crisis has left many homes running dry. After experiencing these shortages herself, high school student Aadya Kanchan invented a small device that tracks and limits water use from everyday taps. Now being used in schools and public spaces, her project aims to make conservation a daily habit. Mrigakshi Shukla has more on the story.

FEATURE 1: Teen using tech to combat India's water crisis

Mrigakshi Shukla: Bengaluru, India's Silicon Valley of 13 million. High-paying jobs, tech wealth—but the city's taps run dry. Nearly a quarter of the residents buy water daily.

Aadya: So it was the summer of 2023 during Bengaluru's water crisis when I was in 8th grade, and I remember waking up one morning, going to brush my teeth, and no water coming out. Not even a single drop, and that moment felt so strange, because until then I had never considered water to be a privilege.

Mrigakshi: That's Aadya Kanchan, a high school student from Bengaluru. Amid the crisis, she watched water tankers roll in one after another. Everyone around her debated what the government and local administration should be doing.

SFX: *Running water*

Aadya: I kept asking myself, why is water conservation something we think only about in crisis? Why can't it be a daily habit? And that's when I decided, I didn't want to just discuss the problem. I wanted to build a solution, and that's how I launched Project NIRI.



Mrigakshi: A simple, yet effective, water management device. Created in her bedroom, NIRI is a white palm-sized plastic box that straps onto a water faucet. A small colourful digital display glows with real-time water flow numbers.

Aadya: The 1st step is the normal mode, which gives you the real time measurement of water flow, and is displayed to you so that you can see the average consumption at each point. The 2nd mode is the alert mode, where you get a buzzer warning before reaching a set limit based on your average consumption.

SFX: *NIRI beeps*

Aadya: The 3rd mode is the regulate mode that reduces flow speed after a threshold is crossed, urging you to complete your action quickly. The 4th mode is the eco mode, which temporarily blocks water after the certain set limit. And the last mode, the most interesting is the vacation mode, which not only detects leaks, but also blocks it in real time during absences.

Mrigakshi: At school one of Aadya's friends Neeraj recalls something she told him that had an impact.

Neeraj: She had a go-to line: an individual while showering for 20 to 30 mins uses up to 80 to 90 litres of water and that statement stuck with me for a while.

Mrigakshi: NIRI is now installed in Aadya's school canteen and a city hospital cafeteria, constantly nudging users to save.

Aadya: People weren't aware of their very own consumption. And that's when it became very clear - the solution had to be simple. It had to work daily and technology had to blend with psychology.

Mrigakshi: Aadya's local solution has now been to many global platforms.



Aadya: Presenting at Stockholm Junior Water price led me to build the leak blocking feature, making the device the first of its kind. People need to be part of the equation so I built the advocacy side too. Through the water warrior campaign, I've engaged over 100,000 people.

Madhu Malik: It is actually very overwhelming thing you know...we...give me a minute...

Mrigakshi: Aadya's mother, Madhu Malik, holds back tears as she talks about her daughter.

Madhu Malik: Very proud feeling, I would say. For sure. Let's hope she does really go to the world and, you know, make a difference with her presence.

Mrigakshi: And what ultimately makes a huge difference to conservation is participation.

Aadya: Sweden is often seen as a leader in sustainability and circularity, and I truly admire that, but we live in a connected world. And instead of asking, what are they doing about this, always ask, what can I change? What can I do? Because those questions changed everything for me.

Mrigakshi: From Bengaluru's taps to global stages. Simple. Real. Change. This is Mrigakshi Shukla, reporting from Bengaluru for Newsreel World.

Alanna: Thanks Mrigakshi.

Alanna: Australia's wildlife is facing growing danger from bushfires, floods and a warming climate, and the people rescuing injured animals say they're struggling to keep up. Many rescue groups rely on donations and unpaid carers, but experts warn the system is reaching its limits. Campaigners are now urging the federal government to provide funding and a coordinated national plan to help ensure Australia's unique wildlife doesn't slip further into decline.

Alanna: In the United States, the government has released new dietary guidelines - but they're facing criticism from some health experts. Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. says Americans should eat more protein, while cutting back on ultra-processed snacks and sugar. While some health experts welcomed the focus on reducing consumption of processed foods, others raised concerns - about the



emphasis on red meat and full-fat dairy. Marion Nestle, a former New York University nutrition professor, said “these guidelines take us back to the diets of the 1950s, when everyone was eating lots of meat and dairy and not worrying much about vegetables, and heart disease was rampant”.

MUSIC: *“House With A Pool” by Joy Crookes*

Alanna: That was “House With A Pool” by singer-songwriter Joy Crookes. Raised in South London, Joy is of Bangladeshi-Irish descent, and often highlights the experiences of being a South Asian woman in the entertainment industry. Known for her rich vocals and deeply personal lyrics, the track from her second album, *Juniper*, reflects on ambition, identity and the pressures of success.

Alanna: In Nigeria, hepatitis B is often called a silent killer, a virus that can damage the liver for years before symptoms appear. One doctor is tackling the problem by taking free screening, vaccination and education into local communities. With one in ten Nigerians living with the virus, his team is trying to raise awareness before it’s too late. Nelly Kalu reports.

FEATURE 2: Hepatitis B screening in Nigeria

Nelly Kalu: Today, we take you into the fight against one of Nigeria’s deadliest but least talked-about diseases — hepatitis B. It’s a virus that attacks the liver, spreads quietly, and often shows no symptoms until it’s too late. For medical doctor and infectious disease epidemiologist Adewunmi Akingbola, this fight became personal while he was still a student.

Adewunmi: I was at the accident and emergency unit. Out of the eight patients, six of them had liver failure due to hepatitis B infection. That night, I left the accident and emergency ward at 11pm when I got back the following day, all six of them had passed on.

Nelly: Hepatitis B causes inflammation of the liver. It spreads through contact with infected blood or body fluids — including sexual contact and shared sharp objects. And once it becomes chronic, it can silently damage the liver for years.



Adewunmi: Nigeria is one of the countries that actually have the highest prevalence of hepatitis B, of viral hepatitis in the world, right. Annually, we lose about 300,000 people, and then one in 10 people are carriers of the virus so it is a very huge problem.

Nelly: While still a medical student, he decided to act. Instead of waiting for patients to come to hospitals, the team began taking healthcare directly to low-income communities. Before every outreach, the team meets community leaders. They explain hepatitis B, answer questions, and set up free screening points — often alongside other basic health services.

Adewunmi: Community members and residents have usually been very appreciative. Before the screening, they don't really see the point of the screening. But after the screening, and then when we tell them about the virus, they are usually surprised and then happy that they did the screening. And then on several occasions, they've gone back to call their neighbours and their families and their children and all of that.

Nelly: Hepatitis B thrives in silence. But across communities in Nigeria, one doctor and his team are proving that knowledge, access, and persistence can save lives. This is Nelly Kalu, reporting for Newsreel World from Nigeria.

Alanna: Thanks Nelly. That's all from me today. Speak to you soon, bye!