

ImpactIndia

Features

Troubled Water

Photographs by Michael McElroy

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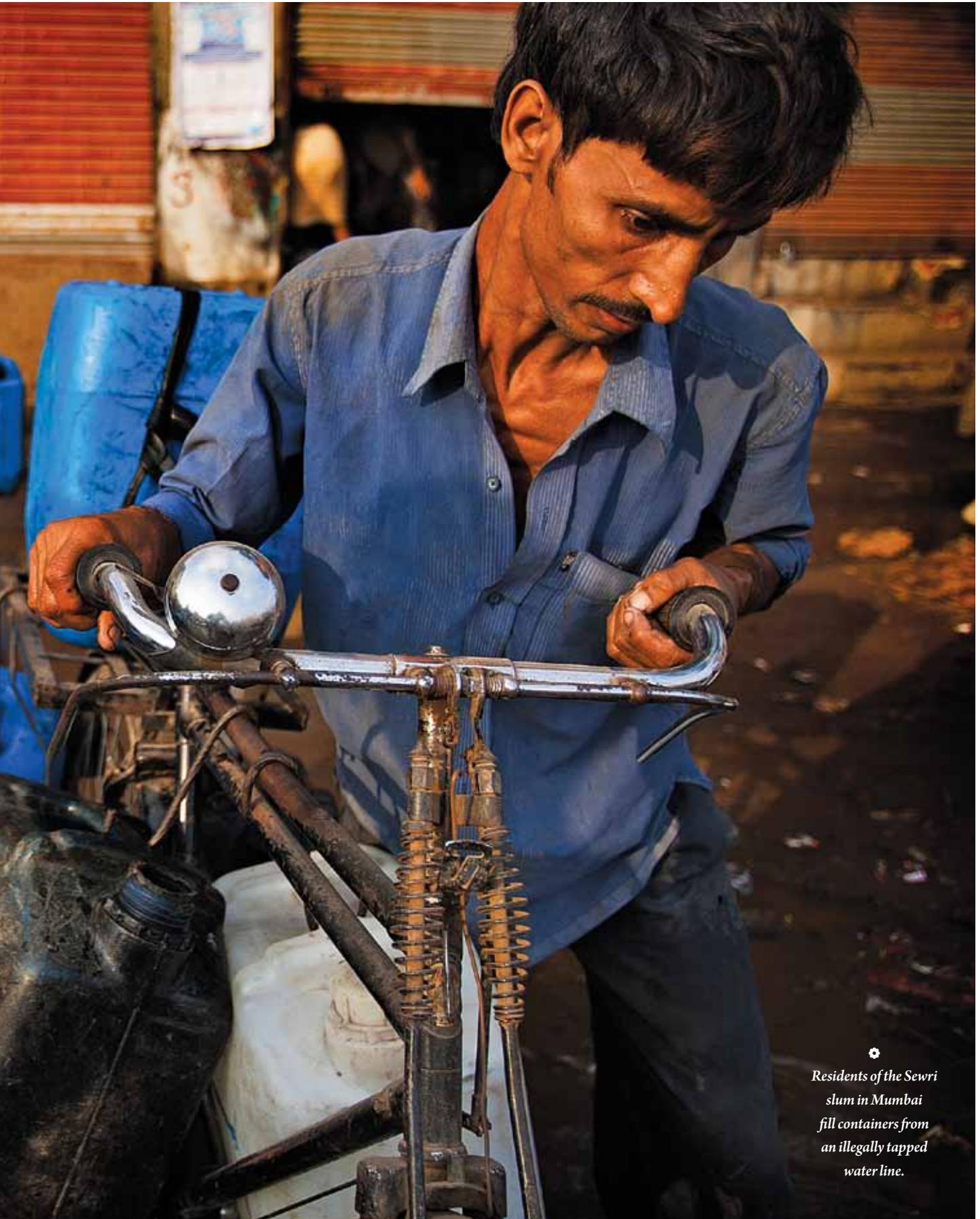
Water

plays an important role in Indian culture. Nevertheless, many of the country's most sacred rivers—such as the Ganges, Yamuna, and Godavari—are heavily polluted from factory waste, agricultural runoff, and untreated sewage. Much of India lacks basic water and sanitation infrastructure, forcing tens of millions of Indians to forage daily for water and toilets. NGOs, the government, and business are making progress, but much remains to be done. Cleveland, Ohio-based Michael McElroy became interested in the issue after traveling to the country in 2010 on a photo assignment. “My attention quickly shifted when I saw water sources drying up, water pollution, and the struggle people went through every day to get clean water,” says McElroy. He returned to India in 2011 and 2012 to take these photographs. McElroy's work has been published in *The New York Times*, *Stern*, *Mother Jones*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *Time*. —ERIC NEE



Troubled Water

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MICHAEL MCELROY



❁
*Residents of the Sewri
slum in Mumbai
fill containers from
an illegally tapped
water line.*

A man takes a bath from a water pipe at a park bordering the Yamuna River in Delhi.

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A woman from the Vidarbha region carries containers to collect and transport water.





A farmer outside Kanpur suffers from hypopigmentation, a result of high levels of arsenic in the water.



A vendor for the Bhai Daya Singh Charitable Trust provides water to people living on the streets of Delhi.



A man uses water left over from a tanker truck to take a bath on the streets of Mumbai.



A woman from the Vidarbha region shares her well water with villagers whose wells have run dry.





*A fire glows on a ghat
beside the Ganges
River in Varanasi,
one of the world's
oldest cities.*



*An ice vendor makes
deliveries to waiting
shop owners in the
crowded Dharavi
slum in Mumbai.*

