

PROJECT  
ON  
EVS

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## Introduction

Fresh water is the most vital natural resource. Most of our drinking water comes from rivers, lakes and surface water from other sources. The water obtained is filtered, stored and treated before it is made available for drinking, cleaning and other purposes. Clean and unpolluted rivers and lakes make it possible to have clean, healthy and easily available water for drinking.

## What does ECA do?

One age old habit of dumping waste in rivers and lakes and other water bodies needs to change through awareness programs and monitoring. A few examples of this problem is depicted through the pictures taken by ECA members.

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# 2023 SIKKIM FLASH FLOODS

On 4 October 2023, heavy rains caused the glacial South Lhonak lake in Sikkim, a state in northeastern India, to breach its banks, causing a glacial lake outburst flood. The flood reached the Teesta III Dam at Chungthang at midnight, before its gates could be opened, destroying the dam in minutes. Water levels downstream in the River Teesta rose up by up to 20 feet (6.1m) causing widespread damage. It is the deadliest flood in the area after the 1968 Sikkim floods when around 1000 people were killed.

At least 40 people were killed and 22 injured, while 75 were reported missing as of 6 October. Among the missing were 25 Indian Army personnel, of whom seven were subsequently found dead and one rescued alive.

One child was killed and six injured in the neighbouring state of India when a mortar shell carried downstream from Sikkim exploded after

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