

# 'For common thirst, share more water'

Sanchita Sharma  
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SAFE DRINKING water and clean toilets can save 20 lakh children from dying of sanitation-related diseases like diarrhoea each year, says the Human Development Report released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on Thursday. Titled "Beyond Scarcity: Power, poverty and the global water crisis", the report focuses on how water scarcity and poor sanitation impact development. India is ranked 126 — a notch up from 127 in 2005 — in the human development index, which ranks 177 nations on indices like life expectancy, literacy and per capita income. India's rank on human poverty index is 55 among 102 developing nations.



India is ranked 126 in the UNDP's human development index, a notch up from 127 last year. Norway, Sweden and Australia top the list while Burkina Faso, Niger and Sierra Leone are at the bottom.

On the bright side, the report says the spectre of water wars will remain just that, a ghost of a threat. "Ninety per cent of the world's population live in countries that share water supplies with other countries. India and Pakistan have for half a century jointly managed shared watershed through the Permanent Indus Water Commission," says Maxine Olson, UNDP resident representative in India. "With strong progress in high-population countries such as China and India, the world is on track for halving the share of people without access to water, but off track in sanitation," says the report. Globally, Norway, Sweden and Australia remain the top three performers in giving their citizens a good quality of life.