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## **TECH BRINGS RELIEF - Easy-to-use arsenic filter now a reality**

***Kolkata: TIMES NEWS NETWORK***

A workable and userfriendly technology to check arsenic pollution could finally be in the offing.

The result of a collaboration between scientists at the University of Berkeley , California, and Jadavpur University , the arsenic filter is already in use at a school in Dhapdhapi, South 24Parganas an area affected by arsenic contamination. Developed over nine years, the filter has apparently succeeded in reducing arsenic content in water to less than 5 micrograms per litre, which is well below the permissible limit.

Scientist Ashok Gadgil, leader of the team of scientists at Berkeley, said the technology has the potential to be effective in rural Bengal where several filters have failed to work. "This technology is not only effective, but less complicated and easier to operate. We are carrying out the final tests now," said Gadgil, speaking at a book release in Kolkata on Monday .

Such sustainable models were necessary to check arsenic contamination in Bengal, felt Joyashree Roy, teacher at Jadavpur University and co-author of the book "Jole Arsenic: Context West Bengal" that was released on Monday. The book traces the history of arsenic contamination in the state and assesses its social, health and economic impact. "Marginalization of the affected population, divorce, loss of labour, debt, migration, school dropout and suicides have been triggered by arsenic," added co-author Abhijit Das.