

# Gzb water fails quality test

**DRINKING WATER** Out of the 1,000 samples collected by the authorities, 700 were found unfit for consumption

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**GAZIABAD:** A test carried out to judge the quality of drinking water in the city found 700 samples out of the 1,000 collected unfit for human consumption. The scheduled testing was conducted by a team from the Ghaziabad municipal corporation and the district health department.

A team comprising a junior engineer from the corporation and an advisor from the health department carried out the water sampling drive around the city. Many of the drinking water samples found unfit were taken from schools, hospitals, and restaurants.

Meanwhile, places like Indirapuram and Kaushambi successfully passed water sampling tests with almost 99% of the samples taken from these areas found to be chlorinated. The test deemed the water fit for human consumption if pres-

ence of chlorine was detected in the samples. Chlorine, a disinfectant, is commonly used in urban areas to kill germs in water.

"The tests are carried out to identify whether the drinking water is chlorinated or not. Overhead tanks need to be chlorinated every day as water starts getting contaminated after 24 hours without chlorination. However, some schools, hospitals and even restaurants have failed the test," said GR Mishra, district malaria officer of Ghaziabad.

Some private hospitals in Nehru Nagar and Kavi Nagar, two schools in Lohia Nagar, and some prominent restaurants in Raj Nagar and Naya Ganj areas have failed the test. According to Mishra, samples from a number of popular restaurants in the city were found to be unfit for consumption last year. However, the situation has improved after repeated notices.



Water samples from schools, hospitals and even some restaurants failed to make the cut.

REPRESENTATIVE PHOTO

The water sampling drive is carried out when the Ganga water supply is suspended as that is the time that people use borewells, increasing the chances of contaminated water making its way into their homes.

"The process involves checking of water samples from two places - the source and the end point. Even if the water in the corporation's overhead tank is found chlorinated and fit for drinking, the end point, that

is water from household taps, is also checked to eliminate any chances of contamination like sewage water leaking into drinking water in underground pipes," said Mishra.

The health department issues notices to places whose samples fail the test. According to officials from the water works department, a majority of the samples failing the test were taken from personal sources.

## THE PROCEDURE

- In urban areas, an Orthotolidine Test (OT) solution is used to check if a water sample is chlorinated
- The sample is taken in a test tube and a few drops of the solution are put in. If chlorinated, the sample turns pink in colour
- If found contaminated, a hydrogen sulphide strip is used to check the amount of biological oxygen demand (BOD) in the sample
- If the BOD is found to be less, it means that the water sample is infected with bacteria

"None of the samples taken from the corporation's overhead tank failed the test as proper chlorination is carried out there in the morning and evening. Moreover, the Ganga water supplied to residents is already chlorinated at the source point in Pratap Vihar water plant," said RK Yadav, executive engineer in water works department of the Ghaziabad municipal corporation.