

FLOODING MISERIES Hard water supplied here poses health hazards such as diarrhoea, hair loss, gastroenteritis

Astha Saxena

astha.saxena@hindustantimes.com

NOIDA: The bitter truth about living in Noida is its hard water. The water supplied is posing serious health hazards to residents. Even doctors are alarmed with the increasing number of people flocking to hospitals with water-borne problems.

According to city doctors, the water supplied to residents in Noida is hard and prolonged exposure to it can lead to serious health problems such as skin disease, eczema and loss of hair.

"Water has minerals and some amount of bacteria in it. The level of bacteria goes up in case the water is contaminated leading to multiple diseases such as gastroenteritis, jaundice and viral infections," said Dr AK Shukla, senior consultant, Internal Medicine, Kailash hospital, Sector 27, Noida.

"The level of minerals in Noida is high. Cases of diarrhoea, tooth decay, ulcers, and pain in bones (due to excess of magnesium) are on rise throughout the year. All these are not seasonal problems," he added.

Hard water can cause bigger problems to people those who already suffer from skin conditions like dermatitis.

Such people need to take extra care and treat the water before using it.

"Before treating patients, we generally ask their address as quality of water plays a vital role in diagnosing a disease.

Water in different sectors has become a standard to establish a disease easily," said Dr Rajiv Sekhri, senior consultant, dermatology, Fortis healthcare, Sector 63, Noida.

The only way to stay protected from the harmful effects of hard water is through boiling it before using it for drinking purposes. And for skin related issues, doctors suggest to apply moisturiser after bath or cleaning ones face or hands with water.

"The situation is extremely bad during the monsoon season. The water turns muddy and there have been instances when insects have been spotted in the tap water. RO is a must in most houses as the water is unfit for drinking," said Manoj Arora, a resident of Sector 51, Noida.

"The water sometimes is very smelly and is not worth using at all. Last month, all my family members fell ill after drinking the contaminated water," said Vikas Khanna, a resident of Sector 40, Noida.

"Drying of skin expose a person to various kinds of infection. It is advisable to apply moisturiser on skin soon after one uses water," added Dr Sekhri.

The health department in Noida conducts periodic tests to check the level of chlorine in water. Water samples collected from various parts of the city often lack chlorine.

This shows how people are exposed to diseases here because the water they get is not clean enough.

According to the officials, chlorination of water done by the Noida authority is not sufficient. It still causes epidemics in the city.

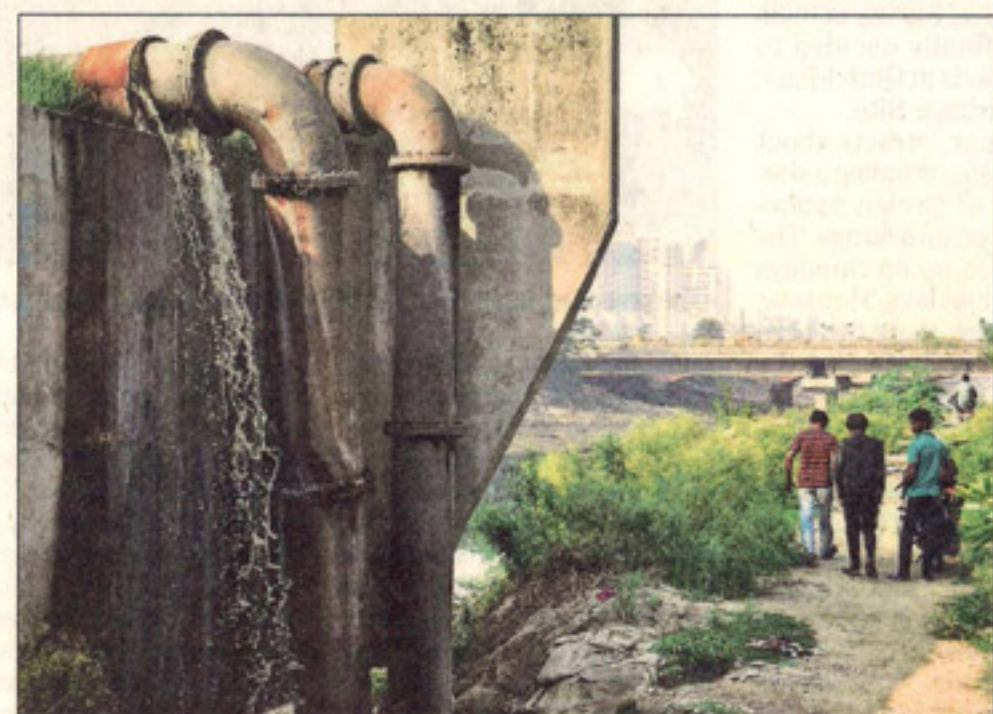
"Lack of proper chlorination in the city has led to water becoming an ideal breeding ground for mosquitoes caus-



(Clockwise) Noida supplies hard water in many localities. Prolonged use of hard water can cause health problems. Even Reverse Osmosis (RO) device fail to reduce the hardness of the water. Water goes down the drain a leakage in a water pipeline goes unchecked.



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