

# It's official: Water samples fail test

## UNSAFE Water supplied by authorities in twin cities lacks chlorine

Darpan Singh

darpan.singh@hindustantimes.com

**NOIDA:** Despite repeated complaints by citizens regarding poor quality of drinking water, the scene is going from bad to worse. Of the 26 latest water samples tested by the health department, 24 have failed.

The water supplied by the authorities in Noida and Greater Noida lacked chlorine. The health department has told the two authorities to ensure water supplied to households is mixed with chlorine.

Groundwater in Noida is hard because it contains calcium and magnesium, ranging from 100 mg per litre to 800 mg per litre, against the permissible limit of 300 mg per litre. Hardness causes scale and damages heaters, geysers, pipes, fabric and dishes.

And lack of chlorine leads to presence of bacteria. Health complications such as dry-skin, colitis, gastroenteritis are common. Residents say, in such a situation, RO systems or bottled water are the only solutions.

While chlorine is mixed with water to make sure it doesn't contain bacteria, Ganga water is mixed with water to cut down the hardness. But the amount of Ganga water mixed with the



■ The government has cleared the third phase of Ganga water project for Noida, which will add 90 MLD of Ganga water. HT PHOTO

water supplied has not increased since 2005.

Noida authority project engineer Samakant Srivastav said the quality of water was up to the mark and contained no toxins. He said, "The method to check presence of chlorine is wrong. Thirty minutes after chlorine is mixed, it does its work of killing bacteria and largely disappears. The sampling should have been done soon after the water is released."

"We clean and disinfect water. Presence of calcium and magnesium, which is reduced by mixing Ganga water, only means hardness. But the treated water is completely safe," he said. The authority has installed micro-filters at the source of supply, at the storage level and from where water goes to sectors and block lines. It has also put in place salt-based systems for chlorination in underground reservoirs and overhead tanks.

## More use of Ganga water only solution to problem

HT Correspondent

htreporters@hindustantimes.com

**NOIDA:** More and more use of Ganga water is the only solution to water woes in Noida. But the authority cannot go for a 100% Ganga water supply. This will render the existing water extraction installations defunct and in times when Ganga water supply is not on (it often happens due to pipeline cleaning, etc. for several days), the city will have to go waterless.

The state government has cleared the third phase of Ganga water project for Noida. So far, Ganga water is being brought to Noida by intercepting it from the Ganga canal at Masoori Dasna in Ghaziabad. It is treat-

### HARD TO DRINK

■ Groundwater in Noida is hard as it contains calcium and magnesium, ranging from 100 mg per litre (mpl) to 800mpl, against the permissible limit of 300mpl.

■ To bring down hardness, Ganga water is mixed with the water supplied. This initiative began in 2005 but the Ganga water supply remained the same ever since, despite the rise in water demand.

■ Water in some areas contains 2,000 parts per million (ppm) of total dissolved solids (TDS) against the permissible limit of 500 ppm.

Presence of calcium and magnesium, which is reduced by mixing Ganga water, only means hardness. But the treated water is completely safe.

SAMAKANT SRIVASTAV  
Noida authority project engineer

ed at a plant in Pratap Vihar in Ghaziabad. Now a new plant will come up at either Noida or Greater Noida.

As part of the first phase of Ganga water project, Noida gets 48 million litres per day (MLD) water. The second phase aims at supplying 240 MLD of Ganga water by 2013. The third phase will add 90 more MLD of Ganga water to the existing supply.

"That's the only way (using more and more Ganga water and then using the treated sewage for irrigation and other purposes) to improve groundwater quality. Dilution of better quality of water will improve things," Noida authority project engineer Samakant Srivastav said.