



Fluoride Poisoning in Sonbhadra

Why in News?

High levels of [fluoride pollution](#) have been found in **Sonbhadra district** of Uttar Pradesh.

Key Points

- **About:**
 - More than two lakh people of 276 villages of Sonbhadra district are affected by drinking **fluoride-contaminated water**.
 - The **fluoride level** in groundwater of villages in **Kon, Bhabni, Myorpur** and **Duddhi blocks** has been found to be **5-6 times more** than the prescribed standard.
- **Adverse effects on health:**
 - Due to fluoride contamination, people's **bones are becoming weak and crooked**, children are being born **disabled** and a large number of elderly people are becoming **unable to walk**.
- **Order of NGT:**
 - Despite the order of the [National Green Tribunal \(NGT\)](#), people are forced to drink fluoride-contaminated water.
 - It was not implemented effectively by **the local administration and concerned departments**.

Fluoride

- **About**
 - Fluoride is a widely occurring, [non-biodegradable](#) and long-term pollutant. It is produced by **burning coal bricks**. Fluoride is **naturally** found in minerals as well as **in soil, water and air**.
- **Toxicity:**
 - It is highly **toxic**. [The World Health Organization](#) recommends an upper limit of fluoride in drinking water of **1.5 mg/liter**.
- **Effects of Fluoride:**
 - When consumed in adequate amounts, **fluoride prevents tooth decay**, aids in the formation of tooth enamel, and prevents the loss of bone mineralization but in high amounts it has a **negative effect on bones and joints, and also causes [fluorosis in teeth](#)**.
 - Fluoride pollution also has negative effects on wildlife.

