

India-UK Joint Team wins Newton-Bhabha Fund for Groundwater Arsenic Research project.

What in news:

- An India-UK Joint Team has won the Newton-Bhabha Fund for a project on Groundwater Arsenic Research in Ganga River Basin

About News:

- The Department of Science and Technology has undertaken the project with the Natural Environment Research Council, UK,
- To find solutions to the water challenges faced in the pervasively arsenic-affected Ganga River Basin.
- The Indian team comprises representatives of the IIT Kharagpur, the National Institute of Hydrology, the IIT Roorkee and the Mahavir Cancer Sansthan and Research Centre of Patna.
- The UK team consists of representatives of the University of Manchester, the British Geological Survey, the University of Salford and the University of Birmingham.
- The team members involved with the project will try to assess how the problem of arsenic poisoning can get aggravated in the next 25 to 30 years and influence groundwater management practices and suggest water remedial technologies accordingly.
- The project will be conducted from three sites - Bijnor and Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh and Nadia in West Bengal.
- The IIT-KGP had previously worked in assessing groundwater quality and the exploration of suitable and sustainable drinking water sources in different parts of India.

About Newton Bhabha Fund:

- The Newton Bhabha Fund, provided by the British Council, aims to bring together the UK and Indian scientific research and innovation

sectors to find joint solutions to the challenges facing India in economic development and social welfare.

About Arsenic:

- It is a natural component of the Earth's crust, generally found in trace quantities in all rock, soil, water and air.
- However, concentrations may be higher in certain areas due to either natural conditions or human activities.
- Arsenic contaminated water used for drinking, irrigation of food crops and food preparation poses the greatest threat to public health from arsenic.

Expected prelims question

Consider the following statements.

1. recently India-UK Joint Team has won the Newton-Bhabha Fund for a project on Groundwater Arsenic Research in Ganga River Basin.
2. Newton -Bhabha fund aims to bring together the UK and Indian scientific research and innovation sectors to find joint solutions.

Which of the given above statements are/is correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of above

Ans - c

Expected mains question

Q) Arsenic Contamination is a high-profile problem in the Ganges Delta. Discuss the initiatives take by central Government of India to make Ganga arsenic free.