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Health

Posted at: Feb 15 2015 3:51PM

## Wastewater treatment linked to antibiotic resistance



### London

Improving the process of wastewater treatment and discharge is a key to arrest the rise of antibiotic resistance, shows a new research.

Greater numbers of resistant bacteria exist close to some wastewater treatment works, and that these plants are likely to be responsible for at least half of the increase in antibiotic resistance observed, the findings showed.

"We have found that waste water discharges effect resistance levels and that improvements in our treatment processes could hold the key to reduce the prevalence of resistant bacteria in the environment," said co-lead on the research Elizabeth Wellington from University of Warwick in Britain.

Antimicrobial resistance is one of the largest threats to human health for a century, the researchers noted.

Increasingly large amounts of antibiotics are released into the environment through both human and agricultural use.

The researchers analysed water and sediment samples from 13 sites across the Thames river catchment and developed detailed models to predict the distribution of antibiotic resistant bacteria.

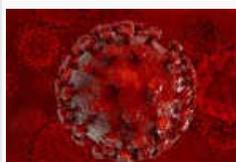
"Our research has shed further light on links between environmental pollutants and antibiotic resistance," study co-lead author William Gaze from University of Exeter Medical School pointed out.

"It has allowed us to uncover an association between a number of compounds — such as zinc, phosphorous and silicon — and antibiotic resistance," Gaze added.

"We think those bacteria that have developed to survive in environments rich in metals may also possess antibiotic resistance mechanism," Gaze said.

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A new aggressive form of HIV can progress to AIDS in just three years — so rapidly that patients may not even realise they were infected, scientists say.

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Success trumps popularity in persuading others to eat right, exercise

Beaver enamel holds clues to treating human tooth decay

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- Yuvraj bought for record Rs 16 crore
- Salem, two others convicted in 1995 Pradeep Jain murder case
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- Flying start, Men in Blue crush Pak

### CITY FOCUS

Chandigarh

## Woman hit by car, dies

16 Feb 2015 | 1:51 AM

CHANDIGARH: 26-year-old woman, a head constable with the CRPF, died while her mother and three others were injured after a recklessly driven car hit them at the Hallo Majra light point on Sunday afternoon.

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The team also found that several other factors affected the prevalence of antibiotic resistance, such as changes in rainfall and land cover.

The study appeared in The ISME Journal. — IANS

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### HEALTH



Wastewater treatment linked to antibiotic resistance

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