# Bacterial Pollution

## Why in news?

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European study finds, the pharmacy industry in Hyderabad is polluting the environment with antimicrobials.

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## What are the key findings of the study?

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- The pollution contributes to a rise in drug-resistant infections, a new study published in the journal Infection alleges.
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- Drug resistance in India is the sheer number of neonatal deaths attributed to it, an estimated 58,000 every year, followed by hospital-acquired infections that fail to respond to last-resort treatment.
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- The crisis of drug resistance is exemplified by the spread of drug-resistant tuberculosis in India and the disease could spread to the international community.
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- More significantly, the study claims that all samples contained antimicrobials in concentrations far exceeding maximum permissible environmental concentrations of these drugs.
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- For long now low-level exposure to antimicrobial drugs in the environment has been feared for inducing resistance.
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- While industrial units can claim there is no chemical discharge, the water bodies continue to receive inflows clearly loaded with chemicals, this is miserable here.
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- Now it’s clear that not only water bodies are getting polluted, the bacteria are also getting polluted.
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- If this tends to continue microorganisms will evolve into drug resistive and

spread across the nation which will be a global threat.
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## What is the reaction of the Industry?

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- Drug manufacturers in Hyderabad maintain that it does not sufficiently link antibiotic resistance to pharma effluents and that they comply with Pollution Control Board norms.
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- University of Hyderabad (UoH) scientists have carried out a study commissioned by the Bulk Drug Manufacturers Association (India) that shows multidrug-resistant bacteria can also be found in areas where no pharma units exist.
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- As it looked only for bacteria, the UoH study could not respond to specific allegations made by the Infection study of drug residues in high concentrations around specific pharma units.
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- Industry representatives say they will commission another study before responding to this accusation.
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## What is the way forward?

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- Claiming that Indian authorities have not done enough, the study also calls upon European regulators to ensure enforcement of regulations during the manufacturing process.
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- It is important, that government should take needful action for prevention, rather than seeking complex methods for cure.
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**Source: The Hindu**

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