

## 'TRAVEL' BUG

# 'Superbug gene' identified in Delhi spreads to Arctic

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Superbug genes that were first detected in New Delhi over ten years ago have now spread to the Arctic — one of the last 'pristine' places on the Earth, scientists say.

Antibiotic-Resistant Genes (ARGs) provide multidrug resistance (MDR) in microorganisms.

NDM-1 was first identified in New Delhi and coded by the resistant gene blaNDM-1. Strains that carry blaNDM-1 were first found in clinical settings in 2008, but by 2010 blaNDM-1 was found in surface waters in Delhi.

Analysing the extracted DNA from 40 soil cores at eight locations along Kongsfjorden region of Svalbard, a total of 131 ARGs were detected, according to the study published in the journal *Environmental International*.