



## Operation AMRITH

Kerala's Drug Control Department has initiated **Operation AMRITH** to curb antibiotic overuse.

- Under this initiative, pharmacies must keep accurate antibiotic sales records and must display a poster mentioning 'antibiotics not sold without doctor's prescription'.
  - The public can also report non-compliance of this measure to the Drug Control Department.
- In 2018, **Kerala** became the inaugural Indian state to **introduce** the **KARSAP** state action plan on AMR, aligning with **India's National Action Plan**. The **Kerala government** has implemented various similar initiatives:
  - Antibiotic Literate Kerala Campaign**
  - Establishment of **block-level AMR Committees** in all 191 blocks
  - Kerala Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance Network (KARS-NET)**
  - Inauguration of an **AMR laboratory by Kerala State Pollution Control Board**
  - Programme on Removal of Unused Drugs (PROUD)** for proper disposal of unused antibiotics

# ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

The ability of microorganisms to resist the effects of antimicrobial drugs

**CAUSES OF ↑ AMR**

- Poor infection control/sanitation
- Antibiotic overuse
- Genetic mutations of microbe
- Lack of investment in R&D of new antimicrobial drugs

*Microbes that develop AMR are called 'Superbugs'*

**IMPACTS OF AMR**

- ↑ Risk of spreading infections
- Makes infections harder to treat; prolonged illness
- ↑ Healthcare costs

**EXAMPLE**

- Carbapenem antibiotics stop responding due to AMR in *K. pneumoniae*
- AMR *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* causing Rifampicin-Resistant TB (RR-TB)
- Drug-resistant HIV (HIVDR) making antiretroviral (ARV) drugs ineffective

**RECOGNITION BY WHO**

- Identified AMR as **one of the top 10 threats** to global health
- Launched **GLASS** (Global Antimicrobial Resistance and Use Surveillance System) in 2015

**INDIA'S INITIATIVES AGAINST AMR**

- Surveillance of AMR in microbes causing **TB, Vector Borne diseases, AIDS etc.**
- National Action Plan on AMR (2017)** with One Health approach
- Antibiotic Stewardship Program** by ICMR

*New Delhi metallo-β-lactamase-1 (NDM-1) is a bacterial enzyme, emerged from India, that renders all current β-lactam antibiotics inactive*

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Read more: [Antimicrobial Resistance](#)

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