

## World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW)

#### Why in News?

On the occasion of the <u>World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW)</u>, <u>Banaras Hindu University</u> organised an awareness programme.

The aim is to educate patients and MBBS students about the correct use and importance of antimicrobial drugs.

#### **Key Points**

- Overview of WAAW:
  - World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW) is observed annually from 18<sup>th</sup> to 24th November to raise awareness about <u>antimicrobial resistance</u>.
  - AMR occurs when microorganisms like <u>bacteria</u>, <u>viruses</u>, <u>parasites</u>, <u>or fungi</u> evolve and become resistant to antimicrobial medicines</u>, making infections harder to treat and increasing the risks of disease spread, severe illness, and death.
  - Experts stressed that antimicrobial resistance contributes to approximately 300,000 deaths annually and clarified that not every fever is typhoid or requires antibiotics.
- Interactive Activities:
  - Students used a street play to effectively convey the message of AMR awareness to the audience.
  - **Proper handwashing techniques were demonstrated** emphasizing the role of infection prevention in combating AMR.
- Significance:
  - The initiative marked a crucial step in raising awareness and educating the public about the dangers of antibiotic resistance and promoting sustainable practices to address the issue.

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# 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 Resistanceand Use Surveillance System) in 2015

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#### 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 The Vision

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