

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 18th to 24th November to raise awareness about antimicrobial resistance.
- AMR occurs when microorganisms like bacteria, viruses, parasites, or fungi evolve and become resistant to antimicrobial medicines, 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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