



World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW)

Why in News?

On the occasion of the [World Antimicrobial Awareness Week \(WAAW\)](#), [Banaras Hindu University](#) organised an awareness programme.

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

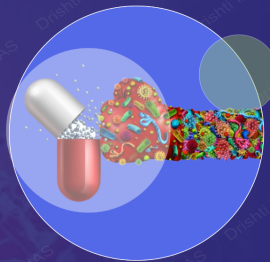
Key Points

- **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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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