

Anti Microbial Resistance

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In News

Antimicrobial resistance happens when **microorganisms (such as bacteria, fungi, viruses, and parasites) change when they are exposed to antimicrobial drugs** (such as antibiotics, antifungals, antivirals, antimalarials, and anthelmintics). Microorganisms that develop antimicrobial resistance are sometimes referred to as **superbugs**. As a result, the medicines become ineffective and infections persist in the body, increasing the risk of spread to others.

More About Antimicrobial Resistance

- Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) **threatens the effective prevention and treatment of an ever-increasing range of infections** caused by bacteria, parasites, viruses and fungi.
- AMR is an increasingly serious threat to global public health that requires action across all government sectors and society.
- Without effective antibiotics, the success of major surgery and cancer chemotherapy would be compromised.
- In 2016, 490 000 people developed multi-drug resistant TB globally, and drug resistance is starting to complicate the fight against HIV and malaria, as well.
- **Antimicrobial resistance occurs naturally over time, usually through genetic changes. However, the misuse and overuse of antimicrobials is accelerating this process.**
- In many places, antibiotics are overused and misused in people and animals, and often given without professional oversight. Examples of misuse include when they are **taken by people with viral infections like colds and flu**, and when they are **given as growth promoters in animals** or used to prevent diseases in healthy animals.

Red Line Campaign

- India's idea of putting a **red line on antibiotic packages to curb their over-the-counter sale** is now being cited as a model that can be used globally to counter the rising threat of superbugs.
- Common labeling standards of this type could become a condition of sale of antibiotics around the world.
- The Red Line campaign **began marking prescription-only antibiotics with a red line to curb their irrational use** and create awareness on the dangers of taking antibiotics without being prescribed.