

World Antimicrobial Awareness Week 2021

November 26, 2021

In news—World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW) is celebrated from 18-24 November every year.

About World Antimicrobial Awareness Week(WAAW)-

- It **aims to increase awareness of global antimicrobial resistance and to encourage best practices** among the general public, health workers and policy makers to avoid the further emergence and spread of drug-resistant infections.
 - **The theme for 2021** is “Spread Awareness, Stop Resistance”.
 - The primary **tagline for WAAW is** ‘Antimicrobials: Handle with Care.’
 - During WAAW, **‘Go Blue’ campaign** intends to raise awareness on AMR.
 - By ‘going blue’, individuals, workplaces, landmarks, and communities will help to spread awareness about antimicrobial resistance.
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- **For the first time, the concept of WAAW was proposed in 2007 in Europe.**
 - Following this resolution, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) convened meetings to explore the issue and develop a plan.
 - The **European Antibiotics Awareness Day** was the name given to this project (EAAD).
 - To address AMR, the World Health Organization spearheaded the development of a Global Action Plan on AMR (GAP-AMR) which was approved in 2015.
 - **The goal of GAP-AMR is** to ensure, for as long as possible, continuity of successful treatment and prevention of infectious diseases with effective and

safe medicines that are quality-assured, used in a responsible way, and accessible to all who need them.

- **On 22 October 2015, WHO launched the Global Antimicrobial Resistance and Use Surveillance System (GLASS)**, the first global collaborative effort to standardize AMR surveillance.
- In April 2017, **India was amongst the first nations to have launched the National Action Plan for AMR for 2017 to 2021.**

What are antimicrobials?

Antimicrobials – **including antibiotics, antivirals, antifungals and antiparasitics** – are medicines used to prevent and treat infections in humans, animals and plants.

What is antimicrobial resistance (AMR)?

- It is the ability of a parasite to survive and/or multiply despite the administration and absorption of a drug given in doses equal to or higher than those usually recommended but within tolerance of the subject.
 - It **occurs when bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites change over time and no longer respond to medicines making infections harder to treat** and increasing the risk of disease spread, severe illness and death.
 - As a result of drug resistance, antibiotics and other antimicrobial medicines become ineffective and infections become increasingly difficult or impossible to treat.
- **WHO has declared that AMR is one of the top 10 global public health threats facing humanity.**