World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW) 2026

The Department of Microbiology, Sri Chamundeshwari Medical College Hospital & Research Institute (SCMCH&RI), successfully observed **World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW) 2026** from **18th to 24th November 2026** under the global theme **"One Health, One Action: Prevent AMR Now."** Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) remains one of the most significant global public health challenges, threatening the effective prevention and treatment of infectious diseases in humans, animals, and the environment. To create awareness among future healthcare professionals and reinforce the principles of antimicrobial stewardship, the Department organized a **Collage and Poster Presentation Competition** for Phase II MBBS students on **23rd & 24th of November 2026**.

The event was conducted under the leadership and guidance of **Dr. Yashaswini M. K., Professor and Head, Department of Microbiology**, with the objective of sensitizing students to the growing threat of antimicrobial resistance and promoting the One Health approach that recognizes the interconnectedness of human, animal, plant, and environmental health. A total of **150 Phase II MBBS students** participated enthusiastically and were divided into **ten roll number–based groups**, encouraging collaborative learning, teamwork, and creative expression. Each group prepared both a poster and a collage depicting various aspects of AMR, including rational antibiotic use, infection prevention and control, hand hygiene, self-medication practices, antimicrobial stewardship, and the role of healthcare professionals in preventing the emergence and spread of resistant microorganisms.

The competition commenced with the display of exhibits, transforming the corridors of the practical lab into a vibrant educational gallery. Students presented highly informative and visually engaging displays that effectively communicated the importance of responsible antimicrobial use and the urgent need for collective action against AMR. Faculty members, doctors, and healthcare professionals from various departments participated in a gallery walk, interacting with students, appreciating their innovative ideas, and discussing practical approaches to combating antimicrobial resistance. The exhibits reflected a strong understanding of the scientific concepts and showcased remarkable creativity, artistic skills, and evidence-based learning.

The presentations were evaluated by an esteemed panel of judges comprising **Dr. Champa H (Professor, Department of Microbiology)** and **Dr. Manuja L. M. (Professor, Department of Community Medicine)** for the Poster Presentation category, while **Dr. Megha S (Professor, Department of Microbiology)** and **Dr. Sheetal M. P. (Professor & Head, Department of Community Medicine)** served as judges for the Collage Presentation category. The entries were assessed based on theme relevance, scientific accuracy, innovation and creativity, conceptual clarity, presentation skills, and overall appearance.

The event served as an excellent platform for students to translate classroom knowledge into impactful health communication messages. It significantly enhanced awareness regarding antimicrobial resistance and strengthened students' understanding of the importance of judicious antimicrobial use in preserving the effectiveness of life-saving medicines. The activity also fostered teamwork, scientific thinking, leadership qualities, and communication skills, preparing students to become responsible antimicrobial stewards in their future clinical practice.

The Department of Microbiology extends its sincere gratitude to the Management and Princopal of SCMCH&RI, the esteemed judges, participating faculty members and doctors, all Phase II MBBS students, and the supporting staff for their valuable contributions to the success of this programme. The enthusiastic participation and overwhelming response from students and faculty made the celebration of **World Antimicrobial Awareness Week 2026** a meaningful and impactful educational initiative, reinforcing the message that **"One Health, One Action: Prevent AMR Now."**