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News: Operation AMRITH

- Kerala's Drug Control Department has initiated Operation AMRITH to curb antibiotic overuse.
- Under this initiative, pharmacies must keep accurate antibiotic sales records and must display a poster mentioning 'antibiotics not sold without doctor's prescription'.
- The public can also report non-compliance of this measure to the Drug Control Department.
- In 2018, Kerala became the inaugural Indian state to introduce the KARSAP state action plan on AMR, aligning with India's National Action Plan.
- The Kerala government has implemented various similar initiatives including Antibiotic Literate Kerala Campaign, Establishment of block-level AMR Committees in all 191 blocks, Kerala Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance Network (KARS-NET), Inauguration of an AMR laboratory by Kerala State Pollution Control Board and Programme on Removal of Unused Drugs (PROUD) for proper disposal of unused antibiotics.