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PATH and CHRI introduce AMR Safe Disposal Innovation Challenge 2026

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In an effort to address antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and reduce the environmental risks associated with improper antibiotic disposal, the Centre for Health Research and Innovation (CHRI), a PATH affiliate, has launched the AMR Safe Disposal Innovation Challenge 2026 in collaboration with GSK cares, a CSR initiative.

The challenge is open to students, innovators, researchers, and startups across India, inviting them to develop practical and scalable solutions that encourage responsible antibiotic disposal at the community level.

Improper disposal of antibiotics, such as throwing them in household waste or flushing them, allows drug residues to enter soil and water systems, contributing to the growing threat of antimicrobial resistance. Through this initiative, CHRI aims to bring greater attention to this issue while supporting solutions that can work in real-world settings.

Participants are encouraged to submit ideas across a range of approaches, including safe collection and disposal systems, community-led awareness models, environmentally responsible practices, and technology-enabled platforms that improve access to safe disposal options.

Selected solutions will be taken forward for potential pilot deployment across select districts in Maharashtra, giving teams an opportunity to test and refine their ideas in real community settings. Participants will also receive guidance from experts in antimicrobial resistance and public health, while continuing to retain full ownership of their intellectual property.

Entries will be evaluated based on innovation, feasibility, scalability, and their potential to create meaningful public health impact.