



## World Malaria Day 2022

**For Prelims:** World Malaria Day, Efforts to Control Malaria

**For Mains:** Health, Malaria and its Eradication

### Why in News?

[World Malaria Day](#) is observed on 25<sup>th</sup> April every year to spread awareness of the global effort to control and ultimately eradicate malaria.

- World Malaria Day was first held in 2008. It was **developed from Africa Malaria Day**, which was an event that had been observed since 2001 by African governments.
- The theme 2022 is "**Harness innovation to reduce the malaria disease burden and save lives.**"

### What is Malaria?

- **About:**
  - [Malaria](#) is a life-threatening **mosquito borne blood disease caused by plasmodium parasites**. It is predominantly found in the **tropical and subtropical areas of Africa, South America as well as Asia**.
  - The parasites spread through the bites of infected female **Anopheles mosquitoes**.
    - After entering the human body, parasites initially multiply within the liver cells and then attack the Red Blood Cells (RBCs) resulting in their rupture.
  - There are 5 **parasite species that cause malaria in humans**, and 2 of these species – **Plasmodium falciparum and Plasmodium vivax** – pose the greatest threat.
  - **Symptoms** of malaria include fever and flu-like illness, including shaking chills, headache, muscle aches, and tiredness.
  - It is **preventable as well as curable**.
- **Malaria Vaccine:**
  - Known by its lab initials as **RTS, S but branded as Mosquirix**, the vaccine has passed **lengthy scientific trials that found it to be safe and reducing the risk of malaria by nearly 40%**, the best recorded.
  - It was developed by GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) company and approved by the **European Medicines Agency in 2015**.
  - The RTS, S vaccine **trains the immune system to attack the malaria parasite** (Plasmodium (P.) falciparum, the deadliest species of the malaria parasite).
- **India's Scenario:**
  - Malaria Burden: The [World Malaria Report \(WMR\) 2020](#) released by [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#), which gives the estimated cases for malaria across the world, indicates that India has made considerable progress in reducing its malaria burden.
    - India is the only high endemic country which has reported a decline of 17.6% in 2019 as compared to 2018.

## What are the Initiatives to Curb Malaria?

- The **WHO** has also identified 25 countries with the potential to eradicate malaria by 2025 under its '**E-2025 Initiative**'.
- **In India, malaria elimination efforts were initiated in 2015** and were intensified after the launch of the National Framework for Malaria Elimination (NFME) in 2016 by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
  - NFME is in line with WHO's Global Technical Strategy for Malaria, 2016-2030, which guides the WHO **Global Malaria Programme (GMP)**, responsible for coordinating WHO's global efforts to control and eliminate malaria.
- The **National Strategic Plan for Malaria Elimination (2017-22)** was launched in July 2017 which laid down strategies for the following five years.
  - It gives year-wise elimination targets in various parts of the country depending upon the endemicity of malaria.
- Implementation of the **High Burden to High Impact (HBHI) initiative** was started in four states (West Bengal, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh) in July 2019.
- **Distribution of Long Lasting Insecticidal Nets (LLINs)** to high burden areas has led to a reduction in endemicity in these otherwise very high endemic states.
- **The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** has established Malaria Elimination Research Alliance-India (MERA-India) which is a conglomeration of partners working on malaria control.

**Source: IE**

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