



WORLD MALARIA DAY



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Malaria, a mosquito borne parasitic disease, is a major global health concern, with a significant burden in tropical and subtropical countries. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), approximately 247 million malaria cases and 619,000 deaths were reported globally in 2021, with a substantial proportion occurring in Africa and Southeast Asia. India remains a hotspot for malaria, being particularly vulnerable due to its dense population, large rural areas, and monsoon-driven climatic conditions that support mosquito breeding and proliferation.

Prior to independence, the burden of the disease was very high in our country. In 1947, when India became independent, 75 million malaria cases in a population of 330 million were estimated. Over the decades, with various policies and health programmes implemented by the government of India, starting from the National Malaria Control Programme in the 1950s to Intensified Malaria Control project in 2005 and National Framework for Malaria Elimination 2016, the cases have declined to 2 million in 2023. Development of malaria vaccines is another milestone towards global elimination of malaria.

However, despite stringent control measures and strides in the health programmes, there are several emerging issues that is complicating the scenario and acting as obstacles in our pathway towards malaria elimination. This includes: issues of insecticide resistance among the vector mosquitoes, emerging drug resistance leading to treatment failures, changing faces of the disease with atypical presentations, increasing number of complicated or severe vivax malaria cases which was once thought to cause benign malaria and also new species like *Plasmodium knowlesi*.

Malaria's treatment, control and eventual eradication remain pivotal to improve health outcomes and reducing economic losses in these regions. In this regard, more data on the present scenario is needed from all over the country. From the discovery of malaria transmission by Sir Ronald Ross in Presidency Hospital, now IPGMER & SSKM hospital, Kolkata to the discovery of *Plasmodium knowlesi* at Calcutta School of Tropical Medicine, our country has always been a pioneer in scientific biomedical research.

Association of Physicians of India is also committed in this regard to promote research and collaborate with our government to make the national programmes successful in all aspects.

Let us all stride towards Malaria elimination in India.

Jay Hind!
Jay API!

Dr. Jyotirmoy Pal
President, API

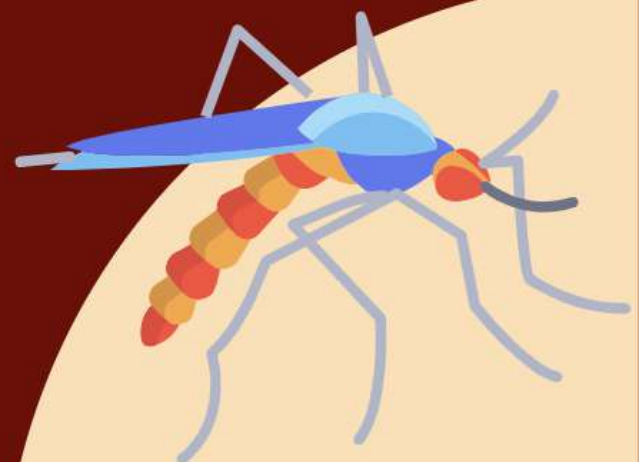
API Observes

WORLD MALARIA DAY

APRIL 25

MALARIA ENDS WITH US

Reinvest, Reimagine, Reignite



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