International Malaria Conference (IMC), 2026

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance | Government policies and Interventions*

Why in News?

Recently, the International Malaria Conference 2026 concluded in New Delhi after three days of scientific deliberations and global engagement on malaria elimination.

- Malaria is a life-threatening, ***mosquito-borne parasitic disease*** transmitted by infected female Anopheles mosquitoes.
- **Caused by** – *Plasmodium* species (mainly *P. falciparum, P. vivax, P. ovale, P. malariae,* and *P. knowlesi*).

To know about the Malaria disease, click here

International Malaria Conference, 2026

- **Organised by –** ICMR–National Institute of Malaria Research (ICMR–NIMR) under the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)
- **Theme – *"Discovery, Development and Delivery: Driving Malaria Elimination and Beyond"***
- **Participants –** Scientists, public health experts, policymakers and researchers from India and across the world
- **Key Highlights –** Provided a platform for sharing scientific knowledge, strengthening partnerships and addressing challenges in malaria control and elimination.
- Emphasised collaboration among research institutions, national programmes and global partners to accelerate malaria elimination.
- **Major Discussion** – **Discovery –** Advances in parasite biology and transmission dynamics.
- Emerging molecular mechanisms influencing malaria persistence and drug resistance.
- **Development –** Innovations in malaria diagnostics, research tools and

surveillance technologies.

- Platform for early-career researchers through turbo talks and poster presentations.
- **Delivery –** Focus on translating scientific discoveries into public health interventions.
- Highlights on residual malaria transmission, vaccine research and community-based malaria control strategies.
    - ***Residual malaria transmission*** is the *continued transmission even after implementation of control measures*, requiring targeted interventions.
- **Significance –** Strengthens global collaboration and partnerships for malaria elimination.
- Encourages research, innovation and capacity building in malaria control.

Quick Fact

Malaria Elimination in India
• India has an ambitious target to ***eliminate malaria (zero indigenous cases) by 2030*** under the National Framework for Malaria Elimination in India (2016-2030). • **Interim Target –** To interrupt indigenous transmission by 2027. • **Case Reduction –** Malaria cases reduced by ~80% between 2015 and 2023. • **WHO Status –** India exited the WHO High Burden to High Impact (HBHI) Group for Malaria in 2024. • **Current Status (2023) –** - 34 States/UTs recorded Annual Parasite Incidence (API) less than 1. - Tripura (5.69) and Mizoram (14.23) remain higher. - 160 districts in 23 States/UTs reported zero indigenous cases (2022–2024). • **Annual Parasite Incidence (API) –** Number of confirmed malaria cases per 1,000 population under surveillance per year. • **Key Strategy –** National Framework for Malaria Elimination in India (2016–2030) – Vision and roadmap for phased elimination. • National Strategic Plan (NSP) for Malaria Elimination (2023–2027) focus on - Surveillance as core intervention - Testing, Treating and Tracking (TTT) strategy - Universal access to diagnosis, treatment and vector control

Reference

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