

## Malaria Elimination

### Why in news?

\n\n

To curb malaria, globally, the World Health Organization (WHO) is poised to introduce **the first vaccine created to prevent malaria**. The organisation announced the vaccine on April 24, 2017, the eve of World Malaria Day.

\n\n

### What do the statistics say?

\n\n

\n

- Globally, more than 4,29,000 people died of mosquito-borne illnesses in 2015, and millions are affected by malarial infection.

\n

- From 2000 to 2015, a 62% reduction in malaria deaths has been noted, according to the WHO.

\n

- The implementation of the **urban malaria scheme (UMS)** in 1971-72 and the modified plan of operation (MPO) in 1977 had helped in improving the malaria situation considerably.

\n

- However, almost 22% of India's population live in high transmission areas, and 67% live in low transmission areas, shows the World Malaria Report 2014.

\n

- **The WHO has defined an ambitious goal to eliminate malaria by 2030.**

\n

- Similarly, the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare had launched the National Framework for Malaria Elimination last year.

\n

\n\n

### How important is immunization?

\n\n

\n

- Vaccines are widely recognised globally by health experts as one of the world's most successful and cost-effective interventions for health.  
\n
- It is unfortunate that even with the availability of advanced and affordable vaccines, there are 19.4 million children world over who remain **under-vaccinated or unvaccinated**.  
\n
- **India's vaccine market remains small and under penetrated**.  
\n
- The Government has to realise that adding new vaccines to the National Immunisation Programme results in creating immense value creation.  
\n

\n\n

### **Five point agenda for Immunisation:**

\n\n

- Take up value-added disease surveillance initiatives to measure and assess the current burden of the disease on communities and the process of dealing with it.  
\n
- Form an evidence-based nationwide protocol for all stakeholders for doing research on new vaccines and implement them at the ground-level should be done, because in India malaria hits the poor the most.  
\n
- Build a motivated workforce to promote education and communication about the new vaccine is important.  
\n
- Put up an efficient logistics and distribution network for upcoming vaccines and set up safe cold stores to protect them.  
\n
- Define the performance and management accountability responsibilities in a clear-cut manner, and periodic monitoring and evaluation should be done in the first five years after the introduction of the new vaccine.  
\n

\n\n

### **What could be done?**

\n\n

- Eradicating malaria and other tropical diseases in endemic countries such as

ours needs a paradigm transformation in the way the disease is to be dealt with.

\n

- Broadening the spectrum of universal immunisation coverage will surely play a significant role in achieving this goal with a long-lasting, tangible impact for improving health outcomes in the treatment of this disease.

\n

\n\n

\n\n

**Source: Business Line**

\n

