

Govt efforts have resulted in 86.45% decline in malaria cases in 2021 than 2015: Dr Mandaviya

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Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya during his address to commemorate World Malaria Day 2022, said that there is a need to emphasise progressive strengthening of the healthcare delivery system and improve multi-sectoral coordination and collaboration. The theme for this year is 'Harness innovation to reduce the global malaria disease burden and save lives.'

Dr Mandaviya called for the prioritisation of malaria elimination through national and sub-national efforts. He emphasised that leveraging technology and innovation will help in developing tailor-made solutions to advance India's malaria elimination plan and contribute to improved health, quality of life and alleviation of poverty. He added that ground-level frontline healthcare workers including the ASHAs, ANMs along with partner organisations need to work in tandem for creating mass awareness about diagnosis, timely and effective treatment and vector control measures. He further suggested that the private sector including the private practitioners need to align their malaria case management and reporting and related activities with the national programme.

The Union Health Minister also detailed the success made in malaria elimination. "India has made remarkable progress in reducing the malaria incidence and deaths. Our efforts have resulted in 86.45 per cent decline in malaria cases and 79.16 per cent reduction in malaria-related deaths in 2021 as compared to 2015. 124 districts in the country have reported 'zero malaria cases.'"

Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Dr Bharti Pravin Pawar highlighted, "Work is going on a mission mode towards eliminating Malaria by 2030. The Union Government is working with the state governments on the ground level to reduce the burden of malaria, including infrastructure improvement and laboratory support.

Railway stations at New Delhi, Lucknow, Bhubaneswar and Nagpur will be illuminated in hues of orange and purple to observe World Malaria Day 2022. A manual on Integrated Vector Management 2022 was released on this occasion. The dignitaries took a pledge to adhere to appropriate behaviour and practices to eliminate Malaria by 2030, in time with the

achievement of Sustainable Development Goals. States doing exemplary work on malaria elimination were also felicitated.