

WORLD MALARIA DAY OBSERVED

Panaji, April 29, 2025

The State-level function to observe World Malaria Day was held at Institute Menezes Braganza, Panaji, today. Organised by National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme, Directorate of Health Services (DHS), the programme was attended by health workers, grass root workers, doctors, and staff of various health centers.

Dr. Dattaram B. Dessai, President of Indian Medical Association, Ponda Branch, who was the Chief Guest, lauded the health workers and staff of health centres who he said are doing a commendable job in fighting against Malaria in the State. Expressing happiness knowing that Goa is on the verge of eliminating Malaria, Dr Dessai said that Goa being a small state and having a literate population, the efforts to eliminate Malaria from Goa can be achieved.

The theme for this year's World Malaria Day is 'Malaria Ends with us: Reinvest, Reimagine, Reignite.'

Earlier, Dr. Kalpana Mahatme, State Programme Officer and Deputy Director of National Vector Borne Diseases Control Programme, in her welcome address said that Goa is targeting eliminating Malaria by 2025-26. She appreciated the efforts of health and grass root workers in screening the work force and taking several measures at construction and other sites to combat Malaria.

Dr Mahatme informed that while indigenous cases of Malaria had become nil in Goa, there were still import cases of Malaria pointing out to migrant work force and informed of the various steps undertaken by the Government authorities to tackle the disease among this population. She further highlighted the challenges ahead in planning and preventive strategies, tracking and tracing labourers, among other issues.

Research Scientist and Officer In-Charge, Indian Council of Medical Research-National Institute of Malaria Research(NIMR), Goa, Shri Ajeet Kumar Mohanty, said that the mandate of the NIMR was to support the State Government in controlling Malaria by timely interventions and carrying out research activities. He informed that NIMR was going to start new research studies soon for effective monitoring of Malaria cases among migrant population using digital platforms and use of drone technology and Artificial Intelligence for mapping of open breeding habitats in inaccessible areas.

Prize winners of a poster competition organized by National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme, DHS on Malaria were felicitated on the occasion. Various Community Health Centres and Urban Health Centres and health workers were also recognized for their exemplary work in Malaria elimination and were felicitated.

Dr Rupa Naik, Director, DHS, said that despite the challenges Goa faced during tourist season and Goa's dependency on migrant labour, active surveillance, prompt treatment and follow-up has helped the State in fighting Malaria. She

appreciated the efforts of line Departments, health workers and the community at large in Malaria elimination.

Dr Rajnanda Desai, Officer on Special Duty to the Health Minister among others was present for the function.

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