



Chhattisgarh's Initiatives to Combat Malaria

Why in News?

Recently, **Chhattisgarh** Chief Minister has directed the health department to take **proactive measures for preventing seasonal diseases** during the monsoon season.

- As a result, the number of **malaria cases** across the state, including Bastar, has **significantly reduced**.

Key Points

- Preventing diseases like malaria in the **dense forests and inaccessible areas of Bastar Division** has always been a **major challenge**.
- Under the **malaria eradication campaign**, the malaria positivity rate decreased from 4.60% to 0.51% during nine phases of the malaria eradication campaign from 2020 to 2023.
 - The tenth phase ended on 5th July, 2024, and **16.97 lakh insecticide-treated mosquito nets were distributed in 22 districts** as part of the campaign.
- The health department's malaria case report for the first half of 2024 revealed the following number of cases: 1,660 in Bastar, 4,441 in Bijapur, 1,640 in Dantewada, 259 in Kanker, 701 in Kondagaon, 1,509 in Narayanpur, and 1,144 in Sukma.
- Consequently, the health department has enhanced case monitoring and strengthened the treatment facilities in all the districts.

Malaria

- Malaria is a life-threatening mosquito borne blood disease caused by **plasmodium parasites**.
 - There are 5 Plasmodium parasite species that cause malaria in humans and 2 of these species - **P. falciparum and P. vivax** - pose the greatest threat.
- Malaria is predominantly found in **the tropical and subtropical areas** of Africa, South America as well as Asia.
- Malaria is spread by the bite of an **infected female Anopheles mosquito**.
 - The **mosquito becomes infected** after biting an infected person. The malaria parasites then enter the bloodstream of the next person the mosquito bites. The parasites travel to the liver, mature, and then infect **red blood cells**.
- Symptoms of malaria include fever and flu-like illness, including shaking chills, headache, muscle aches, and tiredness. Notably, **malaria is both preventable and curable**.