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President of India inaugurates Golden Jubilee celebrations of ICMR–National Institute of Malaria Research



CHENNAI – 18 Nov, 2026 The President of India, Droupadi Murmu, today inaugurated the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Indian Council of Medical Research–National Institute of Malaria Research (ICMR–NIMR). Congratulating the past and present scientists, researchers and healthcare workers associated with the institute, the President recalled that malaria had historically been one of India's most serious public health challenges, particularly affecting rural and tribal communities.

Sharing her personal experiences of witnessing the impact of malaria in villages, she highlighted how the disease affected people's livelihoods, education and future. She emphasised the importance of public awareness about completing the prescribed course of medication to ensure effective treatment and prevent recurrence.

The President highlighted India's progress in malaria control, noting that malaria cases and deaths had declined by nearly 80 per cent between 2015 and 2025, while the number of high-burden districts had reduced from 155 to 33. She also noted that 160 districts reported zero indigenous malaria cases during 2022–2025. Appreciating India's exit from the World Health Organization's (WHO) High Burden to High Impact (HBHI) group in 2024, she acknowledged the collective efforts of scientists, healthcare workers and citizens. She recognised ICMR–NIMR's contribution over five decades to research on malaria parasites, mosquito vectors, vector control, insecticide resistance and community surveillance.

Emphasising the need for continued vigilance and effective interventions, the President called for strengthened malaria diagnosis, treatment and surveillance, mosquito control, development of new medicines and vaccines, and greater public awareness and community participation. She stressed that scientific research and its outcomes should reach villages and communities where they are most needed. Drawing attention to emerging challenges such as climate change, unplanned urbanisation and increasing insecticide resistance among mosquitoes, she highlighted the importance of preventing waterlogging, eliminating mosquito breeding sources and strengthening environmental management. She also expressed satisfaction over ICMR–NIMR's contribution to the indigenous malaria vaccine being developed in Bhubaneswar and expressed confidence that it would support India's malaria elimination efforts.