

SHORT COMMUNICATION

Status of Malaria in India during 2023

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ABSTRACT

Objective: To find out the distribution of the Malaria problem in India during 2023. **Methods:** By reviewing the latest document published by India's National Centre for Vector Borne Disease Control (NCVBDC). **Results:** From the 2023 NCVBDC data-set, it is seen that the Malaria problem in India is greatest in Chhattisgarh and least in Chandigarh, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Lakshadweep, Sikkim and Puducherry. **Conclusion:** At the present time, focus of Malaria elimination efforts must be put on Chhattisgarh.

Keywords: Malaria, India, NCVBDC, *Plasmodium*, World Health Organization.

Introduction

India is located in south-east Asia and is bounded by the Arabian Sea in the south-west and the Bay of Bengal in the south-east. To the west lies Pakistan and along the northern border are China, Nepal and Bhutan. To the east is Myanmar and enclosed by West Bengal and the north-eastern states is Bangladesh (Figure 1).

Malaria is thought to be a mild disease, but it is a life-threatening one since thousands of years, causing 228 million cases and taking 405,000 human lives worldwide during 2018 according to the World Health Organization (WHO).^[2] The majority of cases i.e., more than 90% of them were from the African region, and nearly 67% of the global death rates were of children below the age of 5 years. *Plasmodium vivax* and *Plasmodium falciparum* are the main parasite species out of the five *Plasmodium* affecting humans and pose the greatest threat of Malaria cases throughout the earth.^[3] The WHO is very keen to reduce the incidence and mortality rate of Malaria by 90% and to eliminate it from at least 35 countries by 2030 and to prevent the recurrence of Malaria cases in countries free from the disease.^[4]

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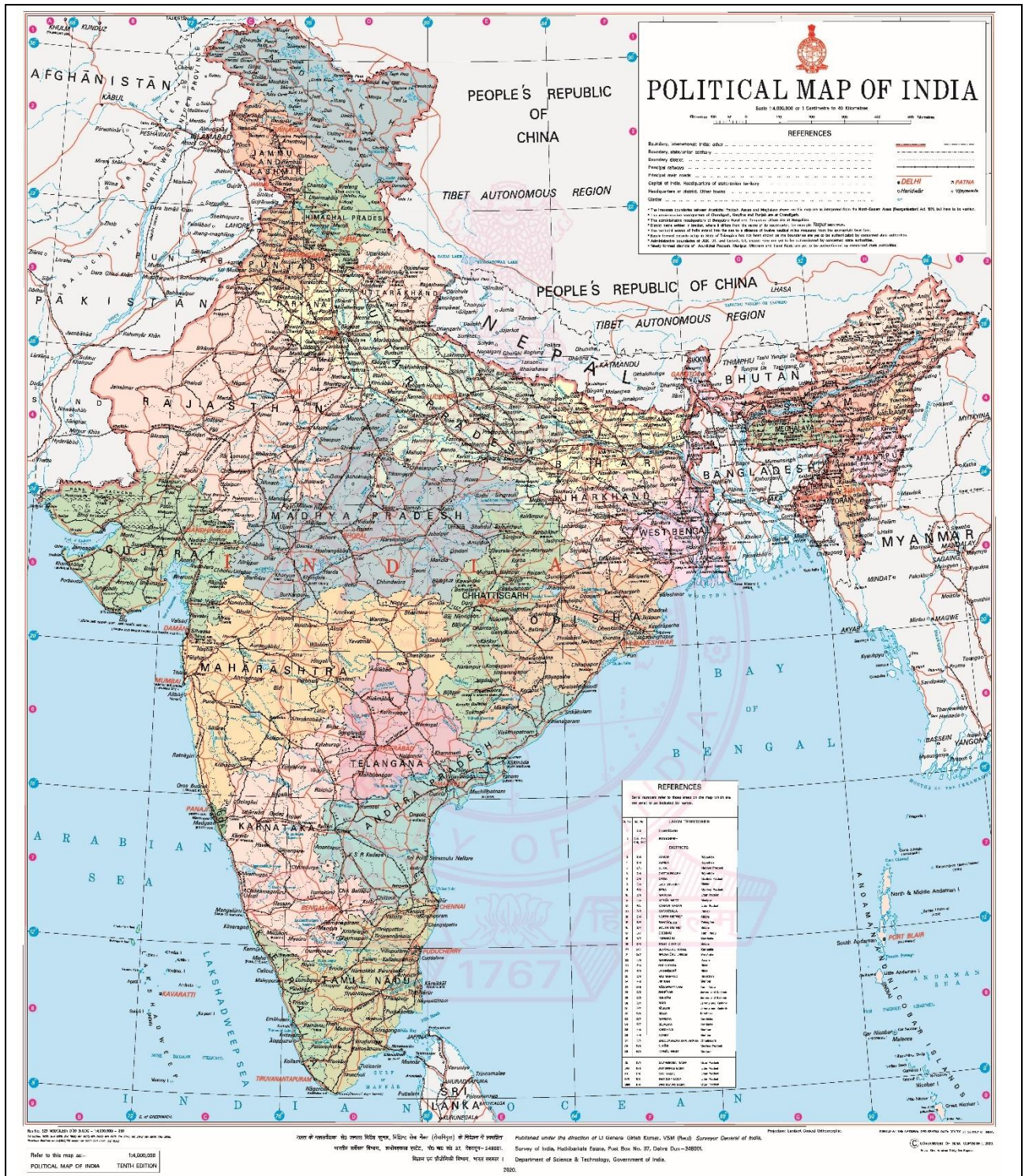


Fig. 1 Map of India

[Source: (1)]

Methodology

The study design included analysis of the most recent Epidemiological Report (report up to the month of May 2023) available on the website of the NCVBDC.⁵

Findings

Table -1: Number of Malaria Cases in the States and Union Territories of India, 2023
(Till May 2023)

Rank	State/U.T.	Number of Malaria Cases
1	Chhattisgarh	12253
2	Odisha	9907
3	Jharkhand	5020
4	Tripura	4364
5	Mizoram	3241
6	Maharashtra	3046
7	West Bengal	1841
8	Andhra Pradesh	998
9	Madhya Pradesh	761
10	Gujarat	586
11	Uttar Pradesh	385
12	Rajasthan	297
13	Bihar	291
14	Kerala	118
15	Telangana	117
16	Tamil Nadu	101
17	Meghalaya	82
18	Assam	68
19	Karnataka	46
20	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	10

Contd.... Table-1

Rank	State/U.T.	Number of Malaria Cases
21	Punjab	10
22	Delhi	8
23	Haryana	8
24	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	7
25	Nagaland	4
26	Ladakh	3
27	Manipur	3
28	Jammu & Kashmir	2
29	Uttarakhand	2
30	Arunachal Pradesh	1
31	Chandigarh	0
32	Goa	0
33	Himachal Pradesh	0
34	Lakshadweep	0
35	Sikkim	0
36	Puducherry	0
Country	INDIA	43580

[Source: (5)]

Discussion

From Table 1, it is seen that the Malaria problem in India is greatest in Chhattisgarh and least in Chandigarh, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Lakshadweep, Sikkim and Puducherry.

During 2016, the Indian Government formulated the Malaria Elimination in India framework which spanned 2016 – 2030.⁶ It was founded on the WHO Global Technical Strategy for Malaria, spanning the same period, which was formulated during 2015 and updated in 2021.⁷ The goal is to reach no Malaria cases in the country by the year 2027 and then after waiting for a period of three years, the WHO can then grant Malaria-free status certification in 2030.

Conclusion and Recommendation

At the present time, focus of Malaria elimination efforts must be put on Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, India.

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