Sickle cell anaemia

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Why is in news? In the union budget of FY 2023-24, it is announced to launch a mission to eliminate sickle cell anaemia

In the union budget of FY 2023-24, it is announced to launch a mission **to eliminate sickle cell anemia by 2047**.

The mission entails focus on awareness creation, universal screening of approximately seven crore people in the **0-40 years age group** in affected tribal areas and counselling through collaborative efforts of central ministries and state governments.

Sickle cell disease (SCD) is a **chronic single gene disorder** causing a debilitating systemic syndrome characterized by chronic anemia, acute painful episodes, organ infarction and chronic organ damage and by a significant reduction in life expectancy.

Under National Health Mission, Government of India supports the states for prevention and management of sickle cell disease.

The Ministry has also released technical operational guidelines for prevention and control of hemoglobinopathies in 2016 including sickle cell anemia

Further in terms of treatment, support is given under NHM for capsule hydroxyurea, free blood transfusion for all Sickle cell patients (men & women) as per State's proposal.

State Haemoglobinopathy Mission has been established in **Madhya Pradesh** to tackle the **challenges in screening and management** of sickle cell disease.

A pilot project launched by Honourable Prime Minister on 15th November 2021 for screening in Jhabua and Alirajpur district of M.P and 89 tribal blocks included in Second Phase of Project.

As reported by state, total 993114 persons have been screenedOut of whom 18866 have been detected HbAS (Sickle Trait) and 1506 (HbSS sickle diseased)Further, state government has established Integrated Centre for Hemophilia and Heoglobinopathies in 22 Tribal District for treatment and diagnose of patients.

Sickle cell disease (SCD) is a **group of blood disorders typically inherited**. The most common type is known as sickle cell anaemia.

It results in an **abnormality in the oxygen-carrying protein haemoglobin** found in red blood cells.

This leads to a rigid, sickle-like shape under certain circumstances.

Problems in sickle cell disease **typically begin** around **5 to 6 months of age**.

A number of health problems may develop, such as attacks of pain (known as a sickle cell crisis), anaemia, swelling in the hands and feet, bacterial infections and stroke.

Long-term pain may develop as people get older. The **average life expectancy** in the developed world is **40 to 60 years.**