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News: Sickle Cell Disease (SCD)

- More than 1 crore people have been screened for Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) under the National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission.

Sickle Cell Disease (SCD)

- Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) is a **group of inherited red blood cell (RBC) disorders.**
- **RBCs contain hemoglobin, a protein that carries oxygen and healthy RBCs are round. In SCD, the hemoglobin is abnormal, which causes the RBCs to become hard and sticky and look like a C-shaped farm tool called a sickle.**

Symptoms

- **Symptoms of sickle cell disease can vary, but some common symptoms include:**
- **Chronic Anaemia:** leading to **fatigue, weakness, and paleness.**
- **Painful episodes (also known as sickle cell crisis):** these can cause **sudden and intense pain in the bones, chest, back, arms, and legs.**
- **Delayed growth and puberty.**

Treatment

- **Blood Transfusions:** These can help relieve anemia and reduce the risk of pain crises.
- **Hydroxyurea:** This is a medication that can help reduce the frequency of painful episodes and prevent some of the long-term complications of the disease.
- It can also be treated by bone marrow or stem cell transplantation.