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News: Sickle Cell Disease (SCD)

- Amidst the unavailability of essential drugs to treat Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) at district healthcare institutions, there is growing concern about the challenges faced by people from marginalised Indigenous Tribal communities in managing the treatment of SCD.

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.