



Bone Marrow Transplant Included Under Swasthya Sathi Health Scheme | West Bengal | 02 Aug 2025

Why in News?

The **West Bengal government** has included **bone marrow transplant (BMT)** under its **universal health coverage scheme 'Swasthya Sathi'**, raising hopes for wider accessibility to this life-saving procedure, particularly for patients with blood disorders like **thalassaemia**.

Key Points

- **Bone Marrow Transplant (BMT)** is a medical procedure used to replace damaged or diseased bone marrow with healthy stem cells.
 - The healthy stem cells may come from the patient (**autologous**) or a donor (**allogeneic**).
 - BMT helps restore the body's ability to produce **healthy blood cells** and improve immunity.

Swasthya Sathi Health Scheme

- Swasthya Sathi is a flagship health insurance scheme launched by the **West Bengal government on 30th December 2016**, providing cashless, paperless health coverage of up to **₹5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care**.
- It covers **all family members**, including parents of both spouses and dependent physically challenged individuals, with no cap on family size. The entire premium is borne by the state, with no cost to beneficiaries.
- The scheme uses smart cards, real-time e-health records, and an IT-enabled platform for enrollment, hospital empanelment, pre-authorisation, and claim settlement.

Thalassemia

- It is a **genetic blood disorder** in which the body produces **abnormal or insufficient hemoglobin, leading to the destruction of red blood cells** and causing anemia. It is inherited from parents and can be mild or severe.
- Severe cases may require regular blood transfusions and bone marrow transplant is considered a potential curative treatment, especially if done at an early age.