



# India's First Sickle Cell Hub

## Why in News?

Recently, **India's first sickle cell wellness hub** was established at **the Sickle Cell Excellence Center** located at **Bal Chikitsalaya** in **Udaipur district** of Rajasthan. It was **inaugurated** by the **Tribal Minister of Rajasthan** .

## Key Points

### ▪ About Wellness Hub:

- This hub is **the country's first digital active centre** , which provides facilities ranging from screening to consultation for sickle cell patients.
- Its main objective is to ensure prevention, timely detection and effective treatment of serious disease like [sickle cell](#) which is widely spread in tribal communities .
- This center will provide **screening, counselling, and OPD (Outpatient Department) services** to patients at one place through digital medium , so that even remote areas can be connected to health services.
- This initiative will act as a **model system** in the field of health, through **joint efforts of the State and Central Governments** and collaboration with **social organizations**.

## Sickle cell disease (SCD)

### ▪ Introduction:

- SCD is a group of inherited [red blood cell](#) disorders. The disease involves abnormalities in [hemoglobin](#), a protein in red blood cells that transports oxygen. In SCD, the **red blood cells become stiff and sticky and look like a C-shaped agricultural tool called a "sickle."**

### ▪ Symptoms:

- The symptoms of sickle cell disease can vary, but some common symptoms include:
  - **Chronic anemia:** It causes fatigue, weakness and paleness in the body.
  - Acute pain (also known as sickle cell crisis): This can cause sudden, unbearable pain in the bones, chest, back, arms, and legs.
  - Delay in puberty and physical development.

### ▪ Treatment:

- **Blood transfusions:** These can help relieve anemia and reduce the risk of acute pain.
- **Hydroxyurea:** This medication can help reduce the frequency of pain episodes and control long-term complications of the disease.
- It can also be treated by bone marrow or [stem cell transplantation](#).

