



Pension Benefit to Sickle Cell Anemia Patients | Jharkhand | 20 Jun 2024

Why in News?

According to the officials, People suffering from [sickle cell anemia](#) will get a **monthly pension of Rs 1,000** in Jharkhand's **Khunti district**.

Key Points

- The Khunti district administration has approved pension benefits for persons suffering from sickle cell anemia under [Swami Vivekananda Nishakt Swavlamban Protsahan Scheme](#).
 - In the **first phase, nine beneficiaries have been identified from different blocks** - three each from Khunti and Karra, two from Murhu and one from Torpa block.
- In case any sickle cell case coming to light or identified later on it will be covered under this scheme.
- Sickle cell screening of 99,165 people has been conducted so far in the district.
 - Out of which 114 were found to be carriers of sickle cell and a total of 46 persons were found to be suffering from [sickle cell anemia-thalassemia disease](#).
 - Among them, nine people who have been suffering from **40% or more sickle cell anemia-thalassemia disease are being given pension under the scheme** on the basis of disability certificate.

Swami Vivekananda Nishakta Swavlamban Protsahan Yojana

- It is a scheme launched by the **Department of Women, Child Development & Social Security, Government of Jharkhand**.
- It aims to provide **social security to differently abled people** aged five years and above who are in need of **financial assistance**.
- The scheme operates as a [Direct Benefit Transfer \(DBT\)](#) where the pension amount is directly transferred to the bank account of the beneficiary.

Sickle Cell Disease

- Sickle cell disease is a genetic blood disorder characterized by an abnormality in hemoglobin, the **protein responsible for carrying oxygen in red blood cells**.
- It causes **red blood cells to adopt a sickle or crescent shape**, hindering their movement through vessels, leading to potential complications like **severe pain, infections, [anaemia](#), and strokes**.
- In India alone, an estimated **30,000-40,000 children** are born with sickle cell disease annually.

Thalassaemia

- Similar to **sickle cell disease**, individuals with **thalassaemia experience severe anaemia due to low haemoglobin levels**, necessitating lifelong blood transfusions and **chelation therapy** to manage iron accumulation.
- Major symptoms include **fatigue, paleness or [jaundice](#), shortness of breath, delayed growth, facial bone deformities (in severe cases)** among others.

Tigresses Relocation to Palamu Reserve | Jharkhand | 20 Jun 2024

Why in News?

According to the sources, to keep the four tigers that have moved to [Palamu Tiger Reserve \(PTR\)](#) efforts are being made to bring in two tigresses and one tiger from another reserve.

Key Points

- The approval of the [National Zoo Authority](#) is awaited for shifting 350 animals to the **Soft Release Centers (SRC)** set up in the reserve.
 - Permission from [National Tiger Conservation Authority \(NTCA\)](#) for shifting the cheetals, sambhars and deer has already been obtained.
- The forest officials have set up four SRCs to ensure enough food for tigers, which will help them breed in the reserve.
 - In these centres, animals are placed in pre-release cages placed close to the location where they will be released.
- Soft releases at Baresadh, Lukaiya, Mundu, and Dhardharia cover 10 hectares each, creating a suitable environment for [cheetal](#) breeding, which will serve as prey for the tigers.
- Cheetals and sambhar will be shifted from **Betla National Park** and [Bhagwan Birsa Biological Park \(Birsa Zoo\)](#) to different SRCs.
- According to the report on the [status of tigers in India](#), released by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2019, **there were no tigers in PTR**.
 - PTR is **spread over** an area of about **1,230 sq km**. It was made a **tiger reserve in 1973**.

National Zoo Authority

- It is a **statutory body** under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. It was constituted in 1992 under the [Wildlife \(Protection\) Act, 1972](#).
- It is **chaired by the Union Minister of Environment** and has 10 members and a member-secretary.
- The main objective of the authority is **to complement and strengthen the national effort in conservation of rich biodiversity**.
- The authority provides **recognition to zoos** and is also tasked with **regulating the zoos** across the country.
 - It **lays down guidelines** and prescribes rules under which animals may be transferred among zoos nationally and internationally.
 - It **coordinates and implements programmes** on capacity building of zoo personnel, planned breeding programmes and ex-situ research.

National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)

- It is a **statutory body** under **section 38 L (1) of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**.
- It was established in **2005** following the recommendations of the [Tiger Task Force](#).