Pension Benefit to Sickle Cell Anemia Patients

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 Swawlamban 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.