

# Munda launches 'Awareness Campaign and Training of Trainers for the Elimination of Sickle Cell Anaemia'

**NEW DELHI:** Union Minister of Tribal Affairs, Shri Arjun Munda launched the 'Awareness Campaign and Training of Trainers' as a part of the 'Mission for Elimination of Sickle Cell Anaemia' in New Delhi today. The programme envisages training of grassroots level functionaries so as to create awareness in this direction among the masses, especially in tribal regions.

In a recent announcement, the Government declared a Mission to eliminate Sickle Cell Anaemia by 2047 in the budget of 2023-24. This Mission will entail



awareness creation, universal screening of 7 crore people in the age group of 0-40 years in affected tribal areas, and counselling through collaborative efforts of central

ministries and state governments. The Mission was formally launched by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, on 1st July, 2023 in Shahdol District of Madhya Pradesh.

Speaking to the media after the launch, the Minister said that the initiative would take forward Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi's vision of a sickle cell disease free India by ensuring community participation. Under his inspirational leadership, the Ministries of Health and Family Welfare and Tribal Affairs are collaborating to launch awareness generation initiatives for the Mission for the Elimination of SCD, Shri Munda added.

The Minister further identified the challenges and opportunities in making this initiative a success. The fun-

damental challenge, he said, would be to make the mission a grassroots level movement by ensuring Jan Bhagidari. It would require countering misconceptions among masses and bring them on board to develop a truly participative ecosystem for eliminating the disease. The Minister cited the importance of creating a healthcare database of the affected population, which in turn would help in research and finding a lasting solution. Only then it would be possible to stop the transmission of this disease and save the coming generations, he added.