

# 'Our focus is on creating awareness of sickle cell among 7 cr. tribals in India'

**The Hindu Bureau**  
VIJAYAWADA

The main objectives of the Mission for Elimination of Sickle Cell Disease are to create awareness among seven crore people in tribal areas across the country in the age bracket of zero-40 about sickle cell disease, conduct tests, and treat it, said Kantilal Dande, Principal Secretary, Tribal Welfare Department.

The Centre has set a target of eliminating the disease by 2047.

Speaking at a programme organised to observe World Sickle Cell Day on Wednesday at AIIMS, Mangalagiri, Mr. Dande said the department has just finished the first phase



Principal Secretary of Tribal Welfare, Kantilal Dande (2nd from right), arrives at the World Sickle Cell Day event at the AIIMS-Mangalagiri in Guntur district on Wednesday. K.V.S. GIRI

of screening tests for tribal people.

One in every 86 tribal people is affected with sickle cell disease, said the department Director J. Venkata Murali, adding that the Centre has launched screening tests for all the tribal population

as part of the Mission for Eradication of Sickle Cell disease by 2047.

He added that the State government is providing a monthly pension of ₹10,000 as a social security pension and free medicines to sickle cell disease patients.