

# Govt calls for sickle cell anaemia's elimination

DC CORRESPONDENT  
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Principal secretary (Tribal Welfare) Kantilal Dande underlined that the state government is making all efforts to curb the spread of sickle cell anaemia, especially among tribal communities.

Taking part in a programme to mark the World Sickle Cell Anaemia Awareness Day' at AIIMS in Mangalagiri of Guntur district on Wednesday, he said the main objective of the National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission is to bring about awareness among the seven crore people, aged between 0-40 years and living in tribal areas, to undergo tests for confirming whether they have the disease.

Both the centre and state governments implement this programme. The senior trib-



Tribal welfare director J. Venkata Murali along with others officials takes part in a programme to mark the World Sickle Cell Anaemia Awareness Day' at AIIMS in Mangalagiri on Wednesday.

al welfare official they are conducting screening tests among tribal communities to confirm whether any of them has this genetic disorder. He said in case anyone inherits this gene from their parents, he or she could become a carrier of the disease.

Kantilal Dande emphasised that early diagnosis of the disease will

help initiate treatment, which would help control the sickle cell anaemia.

Tribal welfare director J. Venkata Murali disclosed that one among 86 tribals in the country is vulnerable to the disease. With regard to AP, he said they are making arrangements to screen nearly 20 lakh tribals for the disease.