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## **PRESS-RELEASE**

### **IIT (ISM) conducts awareness programme on the occasion of World Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) Awareness Day; Speakers inform people about the GOI's mission for elimination of SCD by 2047**

IIT (ISM) Dhanbad conducted an awareness programme for employees and their wards on Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) on the occasion of World Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Day on June 19, 2024 at Golden Jubilee Lecture Theatre (GJLT) of the institute during which Dr Ravi R Jha, Head of the Department (HOD) of Community Disease, Sahid Nirmal Mahto Memorial Medical College and Hospital (SNMMCH), Dhanbad delivered a lecture on the various aspects of Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) and apprised people about the government efforts towards elimination of SCD.

The programme during which, Shri Prabodh Pandey, Registrar, IIT (ISM) Dhanbad besides, Dr P Kumar, the Chief Medical Officer of IIT (ISM) Health Centre and Prof Sanjoy Mandal, Associate Dean (Students Activities) were present as other speakers was organized by Office of Dean Students' Welfare of IIT (ISM) on the Direction of Ministry of Tribal Affairs of Government of India.

The event witnessed deliberation on ways to create awareness and halt intergenerational transmission of Sickle Cell Disease (SCD).

Addressing the gathering, Dr Ravi R Jha said, "SCD refers to a group of inherited blood disorders, wherein a genetic mutation causes abnormal hemoglobin to clump together, causing red blood cells to turn sickle shaped"

"These sickle shaped cells cause blockages in blood flow, which can lead to anemia, pain, infection and other serious complications" said Dr Jha and added that individuals with sickle cell trait carry only one defective gene and typically live normal lives, but they can pass the gene to their children, therefore it is advisable for all adults and newborns to undergo a medical screening for sickle cell disease and sickle cell trait.

The other speakers including Dr P Kumar informed the gathering about the Government of India's mission for elimination of SCD by 2047.

The mission entails awareness creation, universal screening of 7 crore people in the age group of 0-40 years in the affected tribal areas etc.

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