06 February 2025
Andhra Pradesh State Regional News

| Sickle Cell Anaemia & Thalassaemia | **Why in news?**
• Sickle cell anemia and thalassemia remained major health concerns in the State, particularly among tribal communities.

Key Points:
About Sickle Cell Anaemia:
• It is an inherited blood disorder.
• It affects hemoglobin, the molecule in red blood cells that delivers oxygen to cells throughout the body.
• People with this disease have atypical hemoglobin molecules called hemoglobin S, which can distort red blood cells into a sickle, or crescent, shape.
• **Causes:**
  ○ The cause of Sickle cell disease is a defective gene, called a sickle cell gene.
  ○ A person will be born with sickle cell disease only if two genes are inherited—one from the mother and one from the father.
• **Symptoms:**
  ○ Early stage: Extreme tiredness or fussiness from anemia, painfully swollen hands and feet, and jaundice.
  ○ Later stage: Severe pain, anemia, organ damage, and infections.
• **Treatments:**
  ○ The only cure for this disease is bone marrow or stem cell transplantation.

About Thalassaemia:
• It is the name for a group of inherited conditions that affect a substance in the blood called haemoglobin.
• People with thalassaemia produce either no or too little haemoglobin, which is used by red blood cells to carry oxygen around the body.
• Thalassemia can cause anaemia, leaving you fatigued.
• **Cause:**
  ○ It is caused by faulty genes that affect the production of haemoglobin.
  ○ A child can only be born with thalassaemia if they inherit these faulty genes from both parents.
• **Symptoms:** The main health conditions associated with thalassaemia are,
  ○ Anaemia – severe tiredness, weakness, shortness of breath, pounding, fluttering or irregular heartbeats (palpitations) and pale skin caused by the lack of |

	haemoglobin.
	○ Too much iron in the body – this is caused by the regular blood transfusions used to treat anaemia and can cause problems with the heart, liver and hormone levels if untreated
	● **Treatments:**
	○ **Blood transfusions –** regular blood transfusions treat and prevent anaemia; in severe cases these are needed around once a month.
	○ **Chelation therapy –** treatment with medicine to remove the excess iron from the body that builds up as a result of having regular blood transfusions
	○ The only possible cure for thalassaemia is a stem cell or bone marrow transplant, but this is not done very often because of the risks involved.

Species in news: Rare Siberian Flycatcher	**Why in news?**
	● Recently, Rare Siberian Flycatcher was photographed at Nulakamamidi Forest in Alluri Sitaramaraju District.
	
	Key Points:
	● The Siberian flycatcher, also known as the dark-sided flycatcher, is a member of the **Old World flycatcher family**.
	● **Conservation status**
	  ○ Not globally threatened
	  ○ Common or locally common in Siberia, fairly common in China, and In
	  ○ In India, it is common and widespread in the Himalayas.
	● **Appearance**
	  ○ Dark grey-brown upperparts with a pale wingbar
	  ○ Streaky dark grey-brown breast and flanks
	  ○ White throat and half-collar with a pale sub moustache stripe and dark malar stripe
	  ○ White belly and undertail-coverts with dark centers

e-Shram Portal	**Why in news?** ● Chief Secretary K. Vijayanand instructed officials to register all workers in the unorganised sector of the state on the e-Shram portal. **Key Points:** ● It is a **flagship initiative by the Government of India to support and empower the unorganized workforce.** ● It was launched by the **Ministry of Labour and Employment on 26th August 2021.** ● This portal is designed to create a comprehensive **National Database of Unorganised Workers (NDUW).** ● The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology's (MEITY's) Bhashini project** has been leveraged to upgrade the eShram portal with 22 languages. The previous version was

	available only in English, Hindi, Kannada and Marathi.

Heat waves	**Why in news?**
	● Heatwaves have hit Andhra Pradesh as temperatures continue to rise across the state.
	
	Key Points:
	● Heat waves are prolonged **periods of excessively hot weather** that can cause adverse impacts on human health, the environment, and the economy.
	● In India IMD defines heatwave based on the following criteria.
	● **Physiography of regions**
	  ○ **Plain–** The maximum temperature recorded at a station is 40 degrees Celsius or more.
	  ○ **Coast-** The maximum temperature recorded at a station is 37 degrees Celsius or more.
	  ○ **Hills-** The maximum temperature recorded at a station is 30 degrees Celsius or more.
	● **Based on Departure from Normal Temperature**
	  ○ **Heat Wave-** Departure from normal is 4.5°C to 6.4°C
	  ○ **Severe Heat Wave-** Departure from normal is >6.4°C

Avian influenza (H5N1)	**Why in news?** ● Recently, around four lakh chickens have died in West Godavari district, Andhra Pradesh, over the past 45 days. ● The Animal Husbandry Department suspects avian influenza as the cause and has sent samples to labs in Bhopal and Vijayawada for confirmation. **Key Points:** ● H5N1 is a type of influenza virus that causes a highly infectious, severe respiratory disease in birds called avian influenza (or "bird flu"). ● Basically, it is a subtype of the influenza A virus. ○ Influenza A viruses are classified by subtypes based on the properties of their surface proteins. ● Human cases of H5N1 avian influenza occur occasionally, but it is difficult to transmit the infection from person to person. ● When people become infected, the mortality rate is about 60%.

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