

DEPwD organized Awareness Programmes across the country on World Thalassemia Day 2025

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The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, organized various awareness programmes on World Thalassemia Day on 8th May 2025, through its subordinate national institutions and Comprehensive Regional Centres (CRCs) across the country. This year's theme was '*Together for Thalassemia: Uniting Communities, Prioritizing Patients*'. The day is dedicated to spreading awareness about serious genetic blood disorders like thalassemia and supporting people affected by it.

Thalassemia is a genetic autosomal recessive disorder, which is inherited from one or both parents. It affects red blood cells due to a genetic mutation, which leads to a reduction in the alpha or beta globin chains of haemoglobin. This results in reduced production of red blood cells and reduced supply of oxygenated blood to the body parts (anaemia).

On the occasion of World Thalassemia Day 2025, various institutes under the DEPwD located across the country organized various awareness programmes, lectures and webinars. These are as follows:

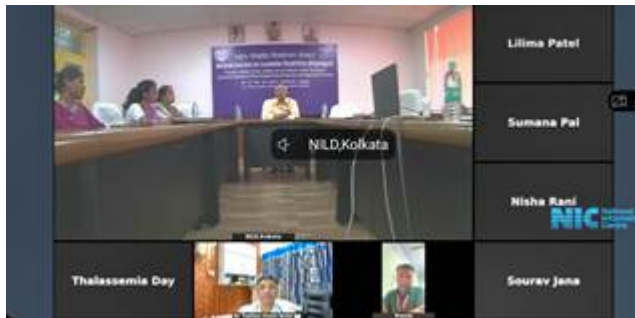
National Institute for Locomotor Disabilities (Divyangjan), Kolkata organized a public awareness programme and webinar on the causes, symptoms, diagnosis, management and prevention of Thalassemia for patients and caregivers. The objective of the programme was to educate Divyaangjan/patients and their caregivers about Thalassemia, its causes, symptoms, management and prevention.

Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PMR), **Swami Vivekanand National Institute of Rehabilitation Training and Research (SVNIRTAR), Cuttack** also organized a special awareness programme on the same day in which educational lectures were given by experts emphasizing on the severity, timely diagnosis, prevention and management of the disorder.

Composite Regional Centre (CRC) Jaipur organized an awareness programme in collaboration with Vivekanand Global University, Jaipur. On this occasion, experts provided information related to thalassemia and various schemes and facilities being provided by the Central Government for Divyangjan.

CRC Davanagere also organized a special scientific awareness programme where specialist doctors highlighted the clinical aspects of thalassemia, the role of genetic counseling and multidisciplinary care. 73 participants, including Divyangjan, caregivers and students, attended the programme. **CRC Nagpur** organized a webinar on the occasion in which various experts participated. In addition, a health check-up and blood donation camp was organized in collaboration with the Red Cross Society at **CRC Rajnandgaon**.

Awareness programmes were also organized by other National Institutions of the department and Composite Regional Centres (CRC). The aim of these awareness programmes held across the country was to spread awareness about Thalassemia in the society, promote early diagnosis, and provide support to affected individuals and their families.



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