

National Heart Failure Biobank (NHFB)

August 7, 2021

In news- The **first National Heart Failure Biobank (NHFB) in the country** was inaugurated at the Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST).

About National Heart Failure Biobank (NHFB)-

- NHFB will **collect blood, biopsies, and clinical data as a guide to future therapies.**
- Under NHFB, the **storage facilities include-20, -80-degree mechanical freezers** and a liquid nitrogen storage system which can store bio-samples at – 140 degrees perpetually for years.
- **The biosamples that can be collected include** the blood, serum, tissue samples obtained during open-heart surgery and peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) and genomic DNA collected from heart failure patients.
- The biobank activity is **supervised by a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)** with a member from ICMR.
- The samples are collected after informed consent from patients who are willing to donate specimens.
- The **samples stored and catalogued will be linked to clinical data such as physiological measures,** imaging data like ECG, Echocardiography MRI, and follow-up data.
- This biobank will provide insights into heart diseases and heart failure among Indian children and adults, which are very different from that seen in the West.
- NHFB would prove very helpful in understanding molecular pathways and would improve the diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment of Heart Failure.

Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and

Technology (SCTIMST)

- It was originally established by the Government of Kerala as an advanced centre for medical specialties.
- The origin of the Institute dates back to 1973 when the Royal Family of Travancore gifted a multistoried building for the people and Government of Kerala.

SCTIMST metamorphosed into an **Institution of National Importance** with the status of a University in 1980 under the Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India.