



The Daffodil Principle - Stop Waiting. Are you really yearning to do that something special in life and are just not convinced when is the right time? Read this beautiful story on page 2 to pep you up to get going immediately



The Blood Mobile Is Coming: What if blood donation drives start getting mobile? Will this lead to better collection and utilization of blood? Read the opinions and thoughts of Sankalp volunteers on this topic on Page 3



Rakta Kranti Schools: In order to increase the very poor Voluntary Blood Donation indices in India, Sankalp volunteers are educating school children on blood donation. Read more on Page 4 to know what they do

The Bombay Blood Group Saga

A WORKSHOP ON 'THE ROLE OF TRANSFUSION MEDICINE IN THALASSEMIA'

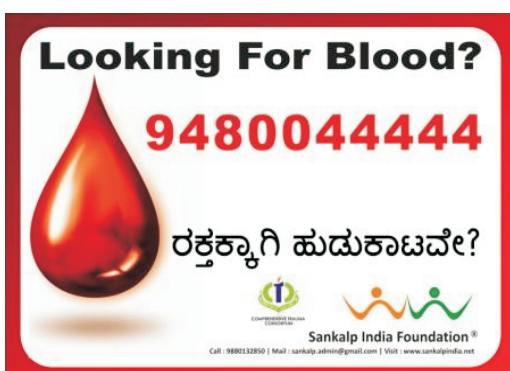
The Initiative for Better Blood Banking is pleased to present to the Blood Banking fraternity of the state of Karnataka a workshop on the 'Role Of Transfusion Medicine in Thalassemia'. The workshop will be held at the state of the art NIMHANS convention centre on the 17th and 18th of June 2011.

Technical presentations and practical demonstrations from experts and delegates working for Thalassemia care in reputed institutes across the nation will be a part of the workshop. The aim is to encourage more blood banks in the state to start working as Thalassemia care units by taking the working knowledge from these sessions.



Invitations for the same have been mailed to all blood banks in Karnataka. The organizing team of the workshop comprising of Dr Shivananda from Indira Gandhi Hospital for Child Care (IGICH) as Patron, Dr Uma Bai from MVJ Medical College as President, Dr Cecil Ross from St Johns Hospital as the Chief Advisor, Dr Vishwanath from IGICH as Chairman, Dr Sundar from NIMHANS and volunteers from Sankalp invites blood bank technicians, clinicians and blood bank officers from all over the state to participate in the two day workshop.

Visit www.ibbb.in or mail to ibbb.india@gmail.com for more details.



From the time the ABO system of blood grouping has been invented, that has become the accepted norm. People are believed to have either the A, B, O or AB blood groups with either a positive or negative Rh. (So it is usually A+, A-, B+, B-, O+, O-, AB+, AB-). In these, the O group is considered to be the most common one, with statistics generally claiming an average of more than 30% of the world's population believed to be falling in this category. So if your blood group is of type O then you may be a person having the most common blood group. Or is there something more to it?. Yes. Read on to know more.

Back in 1952 in the city of Bombay, Dr Bhende discovered a unique blood group the Bombay Blood Group. Most of us are not aware about such blood group's existence on this planet. Bombay blood group is named so because the first case was found in Bombay (now Mumbai), the financial capital of India. This group is commonly mistaken as "O" group and many times not identified at all because of lack of necessary technology in blood banks. Bombay blood group differs from O blood group by lacking H antigen on RBCs. It could be Rh positive or Rh negative.

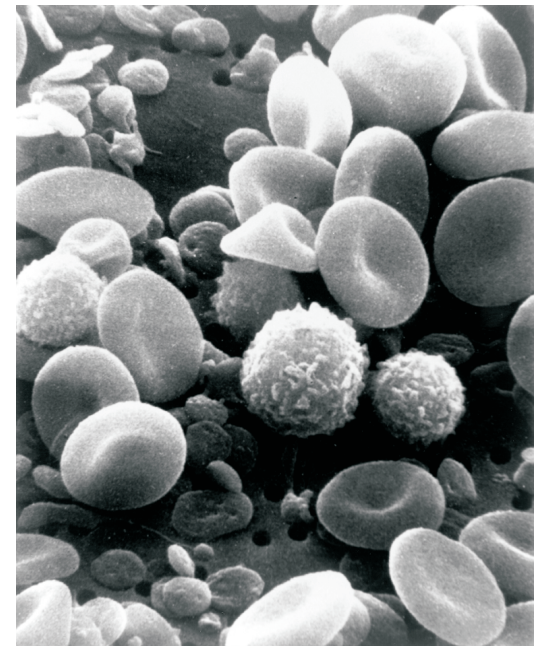
Bombay Blood group is probably the rarest blood groups in India as well as world. 1 in every 17600 people in India or 1 in every 25000 people in the world has this blood group. It is believed that this blood group resulted from gene mutation in Indian population and slowly was spread all over the world.

What is Bombay Blood Group?

To understand Bombay Blood Group we must understand the details of blood grouping. When we say someone has blood group A, it means that the person has antigen of type 'A' and antibody of type 'B' in his/her blood. People with AB have both antigen A and B in their blood and no antibodies. People with O blood group have only antibodies A and B and no antigens. However what is not generally known is that all these groups have an antigen H on in the blood as well. There are very few people who do not have this antigen H also in their blood. Instead they have antibody H because of which no other blood can be given to them. Such people are believed to have the Bombay Blood Group.

Why are Bombay group people generally tested as O?

Most places where blood test is done, the presence and absence of AB and Rh alone is tested in the blood. Since Bombay group does not have neither A nor B antigens, it is usually read as O blood group. It is only when a specific test for H antigen is done that one can differentiate between O and Bombay Blood group.



The Sankalp Angle

Sankalp India Foundation has a dedicated team of volunteers working for blood emergencies and are available on call 24*7. Over the last 8 years, since it's inception on 23 May 2003, Sankalp has taken many blood requests and has successfully handled them all irrespective of the rarity or urgency of the need for blood. More than 2000 emergency blood requests have been taken up by these volunteers. However, of late, Sankalp's emergency team volunteers are always on their toes as the number of requests for blood of the Bombay Group type have shot up. Take the scenario of January 2011 alone. In about one month time requests for close to 10 units of Bombay Blood Group have reached the organization!. Luckily till now, all patients have been just about to get blood on time; thanks to the tireless efforts of the team. In parallel, a massive manhunt for donors of this type is on as most of the people who are known to have this type have donated blood recently. Now, Sankalp volunteers press for the H antigen testing in blood donation drives. They are also teaming up with leading blood banks and blood donor organizations in the country in order to address this scary situation of acute scarcity of donors having the Bombay blood group type.

I can accept failure, but I can't accept not trying. - Michael Jordan

Use The Daffodil Principle Stop Waiting ...

Several times my daughter had telephoned to say, "Mother, you must come to see the daffodils before they are over". I wanted to go, but it was a two-hour drive from Laguna to Lake Arrowhead. "I will come next Tuesday", I promised a little reluctantly on her third call.

Next Tuesday dawned, cold and rainy. Still, I had promised, and reluctantly I drove there. When I finally walked into Carolyn's house, I was welcomed by the joyful sounds of happy children. I delightedly hugged and greeted my grandchildren. "Forget the daffodils, Carolyn! The road is invisible in these clouds and fog, and there is nothing in the world except you and these children that I want to see badly enough to drive another inch!"... "But first we're going to see the daffodils. It's just a few blocks", Carolyn said. "I'll drive. I'm used to this".... After about 20 minutes, we turned onto a small gravel road and I saw a small church. On the far side of the church, I saw a hand-lettered sign with an arrow that read, 'Daffodil Garden'.

We got out of the car, each took a child's hand, and I followed Carolyn down the path. Then, as we turned a corner, I looked up and gasped. Before me lay

the most glorious sight. It looked as though someone had taken a great vat of gold and poured it over the mountain peak and its surrounding slopes. The flowers were planted in majestic, swirling



patterns, great ribbons and swaths of deep orange, creamy white, lemon yellow, salmon pink, saffron and butter yellow. Each different-colored variety was planted in large groups so that it swirled and flowed like its own river with its own unique hue.

There were five acres of flowers. "Who did this?" I asked Carolyn. "Just one woman", Carolyn answered. "She lives on the

property. That's her home." Carolyn pointed to a well-kept frame house, small and modestly sitting in the midst of all that glory. We walked up to the house. On the patio, we saw a poster. 'Answers to the

Questions I Know You Are Asking', was the headline. The first answer was a simple one. '50,000 bulbs', it read. The second answer was, 'One at a time, by one woman. Two hands, two feet, and one brain'. The third answer was, 'Began in 1958'.

For me, that moment was a life-changing experience. I thought of this woman whom I had never met, who, more than 40

years before, had begun, one bulb at a time, to bring her vision of beauty and joy to an obscure mountaintop. Planting one bulb at a time, year after year, this unknown woman had forever changed the world in which she lived. One step at a time, she had created something of extraordinary magnificence, beauty, and inspiration. The principle her daffodil garden taught is one of the greatest principles of celebration. "It makes me sad in a way", I admitted to Carolyn. "

What might I have accomplished if I had thought of a wonderful goal 35 or 40 years ago and had worked away at it 'one bulb at a time' through all those years? Just think what I might have been able to achieve!" .My daughter summed up the message of the day in her usual direct way. "Start tomorrow", she said. She was right. It's so pointless to think of the lost hours of yesterdays. The way to make learning a lesson of celebration instead of a cause for regret is to only ask, "How can I put this to use today?"

Use the Daffodil Principle. Stop waiting...

This story is taken from a book named 'Celebration' penned by the American writer Jaroldeen Asplund Edwards.

This January @ Sankalp



Sankalp India Foundation and Capgemini Indigo teamed up together to organize the 3rd blood donation drive @ Capgemini Indigo on 13th January 2011. A total of 63 donations were made with over 70+ donors registered. Sankalp gives a thumbs up to all these life savers for giving life another chance. Thank You guys!



Looking for blood?? Call 9480044444. This is what Sankalp volunteers having been telling across hospitals all over the state. More than 80 hospitals were visited in the month of January where stickers and posters about the blood helpline were put up. So the next time anyone is searching for blood, they know where to call to get assured help and support.



Another 468 young minds were opened up to understand the beauty and power of voluntary blood donation in the last month. Sankalp India Foundation thanks the principal and staff of Priyadarshini High School and JayaLakshmi High School in Bangalore for allowing us to motivate and educate 284 and 184 students respectively from their schools.



The Emergency Wing of Sankalp India Foundation were on their toes throughout the month with as many as 105 emergency requests for blood being taken up by them. There were many requests for Bombay Group too. However, the Emergency team made sure that each blood request was handled well and the patient got blood at the right time.



Sankalp India Foundation has taken another significant step to be counted as one of the NGOs in the country believed to be involved in good governance techniques and having transparency built in all its processes. Having already achieved certification for Credibility Alliance in 2010, the organization also registered with GuideStar India in January.

A USEFUL TIP FOR A SAFE BLOOD DONATION

Every person who wants to donate blood should fill a comprehensive donor questionnaire form before donation.



By carefully reading through and filling up every detail in the form, donors are sure to have taken a big safety and precautionary step before donation, viz -



Making a self check of eligibility for donation.

Furthermore, a doctor will be present to look at the medical history as entered in the form by the donor and should the donor have any questions or doubts, he/she can get the right answers from the doctor. The data in this form is kept confidential and is used by the blood bank for any necessary communication purposes. Blood banks too must make donors fill up the questionnaire form without fail

Remember, safe blood banking is the responsibility of both the blood bank staff

No farmer ever plowed a field by running it over in his mind -George E. Woodbury

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The Blood Mobile Is Coming

Not being able to make it to a blood donation camp? Don't worry. A state-of-the-art blood collection bus could soon park at your doorstep.

With India facing a major shortage of voluntarily donated blood -- to the tune of 2 million units a year -- the National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) flagged off a 'moving blood bank' in Delhi in October 2010 that will help to organize impromptu blood donation camps.

The report says that the vehicle costs Rs 1.1 crore. Going by our understanding of the cost of such vehicles, we believe that if this amount of money has been spent then the vehicle will truly give a delightful and safe blood donation experience. However, the main concern we have as an organization working for the cause of blood is the optimal utilization of this vehicle. We have seen several blood banks

in recent times refusing to come to blood donation drives simply because they do not want to ask their staff to go for multiple drives in a week. We have seen some other blood banks which are far from taking care of the blood requirement of their hospital, yet, reluctant to come for the drives. The question that comes to mind is whether this vehicle will be made to stand in the premises of one such blood bank or whether it will be fully utilized? (Image: File photo of American Red Cross Blood Mobile)



A blood mobile can ideally cater to 2 (if not 3) blood donation camps in a day. This vehicle should never be used at places where a large number of donations are expected. It fills in for those organizations who

want to conduct camps but who do not have sufficient space to organize it. These are typically camps where 20-100 units of blood are collected. One could easily organize 2 or more such drives daily. Assuming an optimistic number we could say that the vehicle can collect about 150 units a day. A vehicle will probably not tire out as easily as staff does, so typically one would expect it to run for at least 6 days a week. Keeping some government holidays and service days out, it is definitely possible to run the vehicle for 300 days in a year. That puts the total collection capacity of the vehicle to 45,000 units a year. This is almost 4 times the number of units any single government blood bank collects on an average. The point is clear. If

this vehicle is attached to one single blood bank in the state, either the blood bank's capacity to collect, store, process and issue blood should be increased dramatically or the vehicle will be grossly underutilized.

A better possible solution would be to give access to all government blood banks. They could put together a reservation policy and each of the blood banks could share the expensive resource. It will definitely take some amount of will power from the decision makers to implement such an arrangement. What remains to be seen is whether a real optimal utilization policy will come or whether the ribbon will be cut without consideration to the utilization.

Hopefully when it actually comes, it will be a meaningful addition to blood banking in Karnataka.

India's RD Parade - A Sight To Behold

India adopted democratic government system on 26th January 1950 though it got independence on 15th August 1947. The Indian constitution was put in place on 26th January 1950 and India became republic in a true sense.

To mark this occasion, a grand parade is held near Rajpath in New Delhi, the capital of India, beginning from Raisina Hill near the Rashtrapati Bhavan (Presidential Palace), along the Rajpath, past India Gate and on to the historic Red Fort in the old quarter of the city. Different infantry, cavalry and mechanized regiments of the Indian Army, the Indian Marines and the Indian Air Force march in formation, decked in all their finery and official decorations. The cream of N. C. C. cadets, selected from all over the country consider it

an honor to participate in this event, as do the school children from various schools in the capital. They spend many days preparing for the event and no expense is spared to see that every detail is

pageant of spectacular displays from the different states of the country. The moving exhibits depict scenes of activities of people in those states and the music and songs of that particular state

country. It traditionally ends with a colorful flypast by Indian Air Force jets in a tiranga formation. Also part of the parade are children who win the National Bravery Award for the year.



taken care of, from their practice for the drills, the essential props and their uniforms. The President of India, who is also the Commander in Chief of the Indian Armed Forces, relishes the salute. The Chief Guest of the parade is the Head of State or Head of Government of another nation. The parade is followed by a

accompany each display. Each display brings out the diversity and richness of the culture of India and the whole show lends a festive air to the occasion. The parade and the ensuing pageantry is telecast by the National Television and is watched by millions of viewers in every corner of the

The official conclusion of republic day festivities is much later on 30 January, four days after the Republic day which is called 'Beating Retreat'. It is performed by the bands of the three wings of the military, the Indian Army, Indian Navy and Indian Air Force. The venue is Raisina Hills and an adjacent square, Vijay Chowk, flanked by the north and south block of the Rashtrapati Bhavan (President's Palace) towards the end of Rajpath.

The RD Parade is surely a sight to behold for every Indian citizen.

What to do if you need Bombay Blood Group?



We can definitely start a search for Bombay blood group by following these steps

1. Get all the family members and relatives of the patients tested for the blood group. It's very likely that one or the other relative has this group.
2. Put up a request for the requirement in the leading newspapers. Please don't circulate message and mails as it may end up in the spam folder.
3. Be open to get blood from other cities.
4. The most effective way is visiting all blood banks of the city as well as neighboring big cities. Usually blood banks have a huge list of donors who had donated in the blood bank till date. Out of this huge list 1 or 2 may be having Bombay blood group.
5. If nothing works contact us on +91-9880132850. We will do our best. You can also drop us an email to sankalp.admin@gmail.com.

Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass... it's about learning to dance in the rain - Unknown

Rakta Kranti Schools - Building a "Red Tomorrow"

As you sow, so do you reap!. Yes, time and again we have seen how all of us tackle various situations in life on the basis of what we learnt as young kids. Somehow, the stuff learnt and heard then gets cemented more firmly. At times, even though logic says otherwise, the heart and the mind which was molded years ago takes control to stand out against well defined logic.

Something exactly similar has happened to the Voluntary Blood Donation Index in our country. Languishing at a lowly 50-60% simply means that on an average one in every second person looking for blood is left with the arduous task of searching for blood. With a population of well over a 100 crore, India surely has the potential to turn this around. But the question is where do we start?

RAKTA KRANTI SCHOOLS TAKES BIRTH

In August 2008, Sankalp India Foundation launched its own version of the initiative: Rakta Kranti Schools. Volunteers of this team conduct blood awareness programs comprising of videos, PowerPoint presentations, talks and competitions in schools across different locations in Bangalore. It is realized that high school students have some knowledge about blood through biology.

They study about blood, blood components, blood groups, blood clotting, etc. but they are unaware blood donation and its need. Educating the students at

this age will show results once they turn eligible for blood donation, as chances of building misconceptions will be reduced if these children have correct information. At Sankalp, we believe, proper education imparted to the right people at the right time can make a BIG DIFFERENCE. We hope that this initiative leads to 100% voluntary blood donation in Bangalore. In West Bengal a similar such campaign was held

lively and interactive by including certain activities and quiz. We also distribute a information manual and few goodies after this.

On the second day of the program, students are encouraged to think about blood donation and are given an opportunity to showcase their skills through essay, drawing, speech and collage competitions. This, one hour

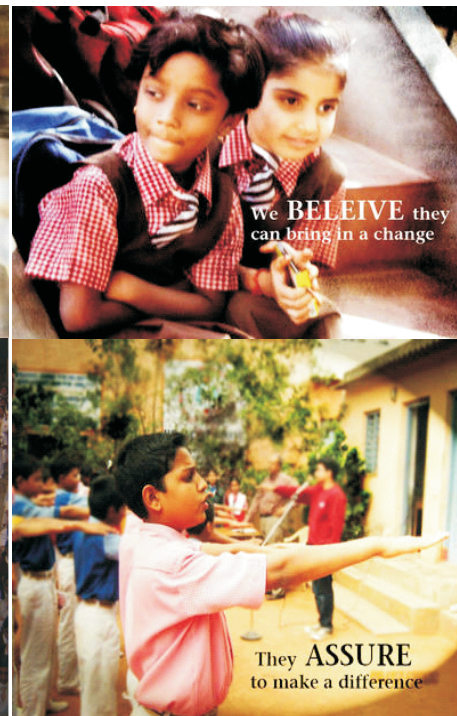
WHAT HAS HAPPENED

The RK schools initiative by Sankalp India Foundation has been successfully conducting awareness program about blood donation across various schools in Bangalore for high school students .

A small group of students from M.S.Ramaiah Vidyanikethan were the first to be familiarized to this new concept. Volunteers have completed these programs in various schools like Methodist Mission High School, Air force school – Hebbal, MES High School - BTM, Cauvery High School, Nirmala Rani High School, Navkis High School, Kendriya Vidyalaya – Jalahalli, St Claret High School – Jalahalli, St Francis Xavier High School, Parachute Regiment – Mekri Circle, St Lourdes High School – Mathikere etc.

The enthusiasm and interest shown by these children towards blood donation encouraged volunteers to approach more schools and share the understanding with many more students. Today, more than 7000 students from 43 schools in Bangalore have been trained.

This initiative has received generous support from Punjab National Bank, who have funded for resources for 10,000 students. These resources include Time tables, labels, brochures for all the participating school students and also many motivating posters which can be put around in various schools.



many years ago and today the state has close to 90% of the blood being donated voluntarily.

MODUS OPERANDI

On the first day, students are given information about various facts of blood and blood donation for half an hour through a talk or a video. They are explained about the present scenario in the city and the need for them to be voluntary blood donors. The program is made

session is held in their respective schools. They are judged on the basis of the content and presentation.

On the third day best performers are awarded. The school is also given a "Certificate of Appreciation" for participating in this initiative and allowing us to spread awareness. On all 3 days, volunteers spend time clarifying doubts of students.

DO YOU KNOW A BOMBAY BLOOD GROUP DONOR?



Sankalp Emergency wing handles plenty of blood requests on a daily basis and some of them are for the Bombay group. Despite the continuous efforts of the volunteers of Sankalp, the situation is grim. Is your blood group of type Bombay? Or do you know of any donor whose blood group is of type Bombay? If your answer is yes to any of these questions, pick up your phone and dial +91-9880132850, the contact number of Sankalp India Foundation and pass on the information/register as a blood donor. Also, if you are already know your blood group to be of type Bombay and have registered as a blood donor, it would be wise to test the blood group of all family members as they are also likely to have the same group and there can be more blood donors whose group is the rarest of rare.

Participate

If you are wondering how Sankalp Patrika's operation is funded? This magazine is printed from the contribution of the volunteers of Sankalp India Foundation. Your participation and support is vital to keep this newsletter going. If you wish to contribute towards the publication of this newspaper, please contact the publisher at 9880132850/Sankalp.admin@gmail.com.



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Life is like a box of chocolates, ya never know what your gonna get - Forest Gump

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