

SANKALP INDIA FOUNDATION

# Sankalp Patrika



01 January 2025



Embrace the new beginnings and all the possibilities ahead!

Happy New Year to our cherished members, partners, and supporters! As we step into 2025, let's embrace fresh beginnings and the countless opportunities ahead. Together, we'll continue to grow, innovate, and work towards our shared dreams. May this year bring you joy, purpose, and fulfillment. Here's to a year of hope and inspiring progress!

## Here's what has happened in the last year and what's to come!

### Blood Donation

Collected **16,763** units of life-saving blood in **302** camps, impacting countless lives through generous donations.

### Thalassemia Management

Supported **2,400+** children across **23** care centers in **6 states**, providing essential care and treatment.

### HLA Typing

Typed **3,527** individuals from **1,119** families, paving the way for potential life-saving transplants.

### Prevention

Screened around **1 Lakh** couples, preventing **90+** affected births and empowering families with critical knowledge.

### Cure

Achieved **140+** transplants in Bangalore and Ahmedabad, bringing the total to **700+**, offering renewed hope and second chances to Children.

As we enter 2025, we reaffirm our commitment to a thalassemia- and sickle-free India, where no one suffers from blood disorders. This year, we are embracing transformative changes to strengthen, refine, and scale the prevention, management, and cure models we've developed over the past 14 years. Our focus is on amplifying impact and advancing our mission for the greater societal good.

With a renewed focus on innovation, technology, and human-centric solutions, we aim for new heights while maintaining ethical practices and expertise. As we reflect on our 21-year journey, we're energized to continue our pursuit of excellence. Sankalp Patrika is back, keeping you informed as we move forward together.

*Team Sankalp*

## A Decade-Long Dream to Save Lives

Twelve years ago, a dream was born to save lives by freezing Bombay blood group units, extending their shelf life from 42 days to 10 years. Despite countless challenges and setbacks, the team at Sankalp Blood Center never gave up. In November 2023, their relentless dedication resulted in the first successful transfusion of a frozen red blood cell.

This heartwarming achievement ensures that patients with rare blood types now have hope, marking a life-saving breakthrough driven by passion, perseverance, and the commitment to making a difference.



## Thalassaemia Prevention Coordinators' Annual Training: Strengthening Skills and Uniting for the Mission

In the last quarter of 2024, thalassaemia prevention coordinators from across India took part in a series of valuable training sessions. In Maharashtra, the focus was on building confidence, with role-playing exercises that helped coordinators improve their counseling skills. In Madhya Pradesh, coordinators worked together to align their goals and gained a clearer understanding of thalassaemia prevention, enhanced by a visit to the BMT unit.

The sessions in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka gave experienced coordinators a chance to sharpen their skills and collaborate with others. In Gujarat, coordinators filled in knowledge gaps, and a visit to the Ahmedabad Day Care Centre helped deepen their empathy. These sessions helped strengthen teamwork, improve skills, and renewed commitment to thalassaemia prevention.



### Empowering Care Teams: Elevating Thalassaemia Management

In November 2024, Thalassaemia management teams from 21 centers attended a two-day training in Bangalore and Ahmedabad. The event focused on improving patient care, with a heartwarming greeting from patients in remission. Teams exchanged best practices, tackled high-risk cases, and worked on action plans for better outcomes. Dr. Rajeshwari led patient counseling sessions, inspiring renewed commitment to cure more children.



### Sankalp Expands Research Efforts to Drive Healthcare Innovation

Sankalp is proud to announce the strengthening of its Clinical Research Team, marking a significant milestone in its ongoing journey of scientific discovery. What began with a simple curiosity-driven approach has evolved into a cutting-edge initiative that combines advanced medicine, information technology, and diagnostics. The team is committed to pushing boundaries, sharing research openly, and transforming healthcare for a lasting impact.



## Empowering Tanzania's BMT Future

A Tanzanian medical team visited Bangalore for 15 days to learn about Bone Marrow Transplant (BMT) setup and management at BMJH. They gained insights on BMT room setup, transplant protocols, and post-transplant care. This visit, part of a broader collaboration with Cure2Children Foundation and DKMS, helps Tanzania establish its own cost-effective BMT infrastructure.



## Revolutionizing Infection Diagnostics

Sankalp Labs is transforming infection diagnostics for bone marrow transplant patients with rapid PCR tests targeting antimicrobial resistance (AMR). These tests detect pathogens within hours, enabling faster, targeted treatments and reducing unnecessary antibiotic use. In December 2024, the lab identified three microbes, marking a significant breakthrough in infection management.



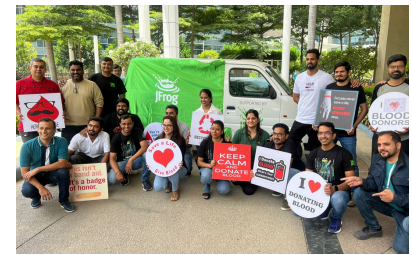
## Jasper's Journey: From Pain to Promise

Jasper from Zambia, diagnosed with Sickle Cell Disease at age 1, faced endless hospital visits until a perfect match was found with his sister, Mercu, through DKMS, Germany. In March 2024, he received a life-changing bone marrow transplant at our Bangalore center. By November, Jasper was healthy, free from pain, and ready for a bright, joyful future.



## Fast-Track Thalassemia Testing at Sankalp Labs

Many women in India seek antenatal care late, with 1 in 6 starting after 18 weeks. Sankalp Labs has now secured registration to offer fetal genetic testing for thalassemia and sickle cell diseases, reducing wait times from weeks to just 3 days. This breakthrough enables timely, informed decisions, enhancing prevention program outcome.



## November-December Blood Drives Impact

Blood Donation Drives (Nov-Dec 2024)

- Total Camps Organized: 57
- Total Units Collected: 2,610
- Total Donors: 2,930
- Deferral Rate: 10.92%
- Adverse Reaction Rate: 3.3%

Key Highlights:

- 10 inaugural camps, including at local schools.
- Record participation at Collins Aerospace.
- 1,706 units sent to 17 centers in November.
- Fyres Securities' first successful camp.
- Nexus Malls tackled year-end blood shortages.

These efforts made a significant impact, helping address national blood supply needs.





## A Dream Realized: Moved to Health1

Dreams can be powerful, but when combined with action, they become transformative. Sankalp, a visionary with an unwavering belief in the power of persistence, is the perfect blend of dreamer and doer. The Ahmedabad BMT project has been one of our biggest dreams, a vision to elevate the care we provide to children in need of bone marrow transplants. However, turning this dream into reality took more than just hope—it took time, resilience, and unwavering commitment.

For over two years, we searched tirelessly for the perfect space. It wasn't just about finding a building—it was about creating a place that would embody healing, hope, and growth for the children who would need it most.

Every setback was met with determination, as Sankalp's vision continued to guide us forward.

In June 2024, we found the ideal space at Health1 Super Specialty Hospital. With two spacious floors, the facility offered everything we needed—and more. With support from our incredible partners at DKMS, we began modifying the space to meet the needs of our little patients, creating a safe, comfortable environment with HEPA-filtered rooms.

On October 1st, we moved in, and the journey of a new chapter began. The future of the Ahmedabad BMT project shines bright, filled with hope, promise, and the commitment to continue curing more children and bringing joy to families.

### Other Updates:

- Government of Gujarat boosts hemoglobinopathy prevention by organizing awareness sessions for CHC/PHC staff with Sankalp coordinators.
- Father Muller Hospital, Mangalore hosts 10 families for HLA typing and counseling, marking significant progress toward thalassemia cure.
- Daga Women's Hospital, Nagpur honors Sankalp's Ms. Anju during Sickle Cell Awareness Week for her contributions to prevention efforts.
- ASHA workers in Bhandara are educated on thalassemia and sickle cell screening, with an emphasis on HPLC testing for pregnant women.
- Sankalp Day Care Center introduces play activities to help children feel comfortable during blood transfusions.
- Super transfusion therapy launched in Sankalp Day Care Centers for thalassemia patients with pulmonary hypertension or hypersplenism, ensuring improved care and compliance.

Read more on [sankalpindia.net](http://sankalpindia.net)