

SANKALP INDIA FOUNDATION

Sankalp Patrika



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A New Dawn in Thalassemia Care: Ahmedabad's Newest BMT Unit

For families battling thalassemia, every day is a fight for survival. The hope of a cure through a bone marrow transplant (BMT) often feels out of reach due to limited facilities and high costs. In a step toward changing this reality Sankalp India Foundation with the partnership of DKMS Foundation India and Cure2Children have expanded the BMT unit at Health1 Hospital, Ahmedabad.

With the capacity increasing from 4 to 10 beds, the unit can now offer lifesaving transplants to up to 120 children each year.

This means more families will find hope, and more children will get the chance to live a transfusion-free life. Strengthening the unit's capabilities further, an Apheresis machine, contributed by Electrotherm Limited, Ahmedabad, will support critical donor procedures and advanced transplant care.

With this expansion, Sankalp India Foundation aims to complete 300 transplants in the coming year—bringing new beginnings to children who have spent their lives fighting thalassemia.

February Highlights

Blood Donation

Collected 789 units of life-saving blood from 17 camps, impacting countless lives through generous donations

Thalassemia Management

Transfused 3590 units in January in 23 daycare centres across 6 states, providing essential care and treatment to 2000+ affected children.

Prevention

Screened 15052 individuals, preventing 8 affected births and empowering families with critical knowledge.

Cure

Performed 16 Bone Marrow Transplants in Bangalore and Ahmedabad, offering renewed hope and second chances to affected children.

HLA Typing

Typed over 271 individuals from 84+ families across 10 camps in 6 states, paving the way for potential matches.

March is a month of purpose and progress! As we observe National Safety Day and International Women's Day, we reaffirm our commitment to safe and accessible healthcare for all, especially for women and children affected by thalassemia.

We are expanding thalassemia prevention with in-house fetal testing and scaling up blood drives to ensure uninterrupted care.

Marching Ahead: Let's Make March Count!

Team Sankalp

1,50,000 Families Enrolled: A Major Step Forward in Prevention



On February 13, 2025, Sankalp India Foundation achieved a significant milestone in thalassemia and sickle cell disease prevention, enrolling 1,50,000 families in antenatal screening.

This effort, spanning 80 centers across 5 states, has prevented over 142 births of children with hemoglobinopathies, providing families with a healthier future since we started scaling it in July 2023. Early screening remains crucial in breaking the cycle of these genetic conditions and reducing lifelong health burdens.

With the need still immense, Sankalp India Foundation is committed to expanding this life-changing program. We call on businesses, institutions, and individuals to support our efforts in scaling up screening and prevention. Increased collaboration, resources, and expertise can help reach more families and create lasting impact.

Together, we can build a healthier and happier future for generations to come.



RSS Youth Wing Spreads Joy at Sankalp Blood Centre

On February 23, 2025, the 20 members of the RSS Youth Wing of Uthishta Bharatha visited Sankalp Blood Centre for an interactive session with children undergoing treatment. The event featured paper rocket building, painting, and fun games, bringing joy and learning to the young warriors.

The morning concluded with a gift distribution, leaving the children smiling and uplifted. This heartwarming initiative provided much encouragement and support to the little ones, making the day truly memorable and special.



Empowering Families: HLA Typing & Counseling Camp

At Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health, Sankalp India Foundation led a HLA typing camp and counseling session, equipping families with crucial knowledge on Thalassemia and Bone Marrow Transplantation (BMT).

Pushpa, Regional Coordinator, broke down complex medical concepts in Hindi, Kannada, and Telugu, ensuring every parent understood.

The session concluded with HLA sample collection, bringing families one step closer to a lifesaving cure.



Huron Gives Back: Blood Donation Drive

Inspired by their visit to Sankalp India Foundation last month, Huron's leadership organized a blood donation camp at their office, recognizing its critical role in saving lives. Employees stepped forward to support thalassemia patients, showing solidarity through their donations.

With Sankalp Blood Centre's guidance, the event ran smoothly, reinforcing Huron's partnership with Sankalp. A total of 86 people participated, collecting 71 units of blood—a powerful act of compassion.



Saba's Second Chance: A Renewed Life

Saba's Bone Marrow Transplant was delayed over 2 years due to COVID, forcing her to travel long distances from her village near Kolhapur to Bangalore for blood transfusions and treatment. Despite the hardship, she never gave up and pleaded for a chance at a cure.

With Sankalp India Foundation's support, she underwent a high-risk transplant. Now, two years later, she is healthy, vaccinated, and back in school, proving that hope and resilience can change lives.



G-CSF-Primed BM: Safer, Better Transplants

A study of 350 matched sibling transplants for severe thalassemia across four centers in India highlights G-CSF-primed bone marrow (G-BM) as a safer, more effective graft source. G-BM led to faster recovery, lower severe GVHD rates (5% acute, 3% chronic), and reduced marrow collection volumes.

With no donor requiring third-party transfusions, it stands out as a cost-effective, superior choice for transplants.



Sankalp Labs Starts In-House Fetal Screening

With the PCPNDT license secured on December 20, 2024, Sankalp Labs geared up for in-house fetal screening, to ensure faster, reliable results. The first amniotic fluid sample was tested on January 31, 2025, and results were validated externally, confirming accuracy.

After rigorous testing, on February 25, 2025, Sankalp Labs officially began in-house fetal testing, cutting report time to just 3 days, as opposed to 14-15 days externally, greatly improving efficiency and access to early diagnosis.



Smarter Approach to Thalassemia Screening with HPLC

A study of 6,549 antenatal women in India found that HPLC-first screening for thalassemia and hemoglobinopathies is more effective than the CBC-first approach. While CBC alone missed 14.1% of carriers, HPLC identified more variants. With just a 0.7% cost increase, HPLC offers greater accuracy and efficiency in screening.



Dhanu's Journey: A Family's Fight Against Thalassemia

Pavani and Darshan, a rural couple, rely on Darshan's limited earnings as a daily wage electrician. Their daughter, Dhanu, was diagnosed with Thalassemia Major, requiring lifelong care. With limited resources, they sought treatment at Bathalapalli Hospital before being referred to Sankalp India Foundation in Bangalore.

Doctors explored the possibility of a Bone Marrow Transplant (BMT), but no suitable donor match was found, making transfusions the only option for now. The family quickly educated themselves on the disorder and its challenges.

During Pavani's second pregnancy, we could offer fetal screening which confirmed Thalassemia Major. After deliberation, the couple made the decision to terminate and prevent another child from enduring the same struggles.

Dhanu continues to receive regular blood transfusions while waiting for a viable BMT donor.



Monika and Vinodkumar: The Journey from Fear to Awareness

Monika and Vinodkumar, daily wage laborers, struggled with financial hardship and societal pressures. Their first child, Sanvika, was healthy, but during Monika's second pregnancy in 2024, prenatal testing by Sankalp India Foundation revealed Thalassemia Major.

Lacking awareness, they mistakenly believed the disorder could spread through touch. They deliberated and terminated the pregnancy without informing their extended family.

With counseling and education from Sankalp India Foundation, they learned about Thalassemia's genetic nature and the importance of prenatal testing. Now, Monika is 11 weeks pregnant and, instead of fear, the couple has proactively returned for fetal screening.

Their journey highlights the power of awareness in preventing Thalassemia and ensuring informed decisions for a healthier future.

These stories highlight the need for early screening and prevention, increased donor registrations, and stronger financial and emotional support to help families battling Thalassemia.

Sankalp Labs Launches In-House Microbiology Lab to Enhance Efficiency

Sankalp Labs has launched a brand new microbiology lab, bringing blood culture, identification, and resistance testing in-house. With the latest technology, infections can now be detected in just 4-5 days, compared to results taking 7, even up to 10 days from external labs.

By moving testing in-house, Sankalp Labs aims to improve efficiency and quality, ensuring faster, more reliable diagnoses for critical patients from the BMT unit in Bangalore at our NABL-certified facility.

Scan to learn more on sankalpindia.net

