Observation of World Blood Donor Day in Gujarat

Under the active leadership and guidance of Shri Punamchand Parmar, Additional Chief Secretary, Health and Family Welfare, Dr Jayanti Ravi, Principal Secretary, Public Health & Family Welfare, Commissioner of Health, Medical Services, Medical Education and Training and the Project Director, Gujarat State AIDS Control Society and Dr Gaurav Dahiya, Mission Director, National Health Mission, the voluntary blood donation activity has got transformed into a mass-movement in Gujarat.

Incidentally it was at the instance of the Mission Director that a special camp was organized at NHM Bhawan, Gandhinagar, on 1st June 2018, that saw 279 officials/persons from state health department and National Health Mission come forward to donate their blood. The GSCBT and the GSACS are deeply indebted to his dynamic espousal of the noble cause and leadership that led to scaling up of the momentum for the voluntary blood donation campaign in Gujarat that was staring at a huge paucity of blood in all the blood banks across the state.

The dynamic leadership and appropriate communication at all levels played the major role in ensuring good collection in all the districts by directing all the functionaries in state health department, NHM and other people and organizations to organize blood donation camps in a special campaign to take care of the paucity in the state.
Through the proactive facilitation by Dr Jayanti Ravi, Principal Secretary, Public Health & Family Welfare, Commissioner of Health, Medical Services, Medical Education and Training and Chairperson, GSCBT, all the collectors, DDOs and Municipal Commissioners are requested to organize the blood donation camps on the 14th of every month to maintain the chain of camps starting from 14th June, 2018.

**State Level Felicitation Programme to promote Voluntary Blood Donation in Gujarat on the occasion of “World Blood Donor Day” on 14th June 2018**

The GSCBT in collaboration with ISBTI Gujarat Chapter organized a State Level Felicitation Programme to promote Voluntary Blood Donation in Gujarat on the occasion of “World Blood Donor Day” on 14th June 2018 at J B Auditorium, Ahmedabad Management Association, Vastrapur, Ahmedabad.

This year’s theme from WHO for the “World Blood Donor Day” on 14th June 2018 is “Be there for someone else. Give blood. Share life.”
To motivate more female donors to come forward for the blood donation activities, the theme of the programme was “Women Empowerment” through more meaningful involvement of empowered & enlightened lady blood donors”.

In the programme felicitation of one female camp organizer/ motivator and felicitation of one female Blood/ apheresis donor from each blood bank has been done.

Dignitaries present on the dias were:

- Dr. Rajesh Gopal, Additional Project Director, GSACS and Director, GSCBT
- Dr. H. G. Koshia, Commissioner, FDCA
- Mr. Arvind Kukrety, DDC, CDSCO
- Dr. Sanjay Gupta, Chairman, ISBTI, Gujarat Chapter and Head, Blood Bank, Apollo Hospitals, Gandhinagar
- Dr. Prakash Parmar, General Secretary, Indian Red Cross Society, Gujarat State Branch
- Dr. Bipin Patel, Secretary, ISBTI, Gujarat Chapter and Incharge Blood Bank, Sterling Hospital, Ahmedabad
Dr. Rajesh Gopal welcomed all the dignitaries and participants coming from different blood banks and charitable organizations working in the area of Voluntary Blood Donation.

The programme began with lightening of lamp by dignitaries present on the dias.

Dr. Rajesh Gopal has started the programme with detailed presentation about blood security and blood safety. It has been reiterated for repeat voluntary blood donation to ensure the safe and adequate blood supply.

Comparison of the Gujarat State with other states of India in the current scenario of blood collection, % of Voluntary Collection, % of Component Preparation etc. were elaborated. In this occasion, Dr. Rajesh Gopal has remembered all the centurion blood donors and their activity including Ms. Ketaki Shah, Late Shri Nikun Soni, Mr. Bharat
Gondaliya, Late Shri B.J. Diwan (Former Chief Justice). Activities done in the tribal area for Voluntary Blood Donation is nicely described.

Dr. Ripal Shah, Medical Director, Indian Red Cross Society, Ahmedabad District branch has given the detailed information of new Guideline for Blood Donor Selection published by NACO/NBTC.

Dr. H. G. Koshia has explained the role of FDCA to promote Voluntary Blood Donation and committed to participate in the activity of Voluntary Blood Donation.

Mr. Arvind Kukrety has explained Supreme Court Judgment and how blood is considered as a Drug and others acts and boundaries for the blood banks. A nice example of how mother can motivate the child for Blood Donation is given by him which was very appreciated.
Dr. Prakash Parmar has explained the role of Indian Red Cross Society in blood banking sector of the state and in promotion of Voluntary Blood Donation.

Felicitation of Female Camp organizers and Female Blood Donors of different blood banks done by giving memento to them. They have shared their personal experiences of their journey in the promotion of Voluntary Blood Donation.

Some Glimpses of experiences are as:

- A thalassemia Major Patient, Deepa Chetwani working as a Camp organizer in the Vadodara District through Jalaram Blood Bank who organize the blood donation camps 3-4 times in year, has nicely elaborated that she cannot donate the blood but at least she can encourage the other people to donate the blood so that some needed can get the blood.
• Female Camp Organizer Ms. Daxaben Jigneshbhai Solanki has presented her journey in the Blood Donation activity and how she has continued this activity after the death of her husband. Blood Donation is a noble cause which can sequel in the life. She thanked Jay Ambe Yuvak Mandal, Valsad through which she can organize the Blood Donation Camp in the tribal area of Valsad District.

• A couple of Navsari District organize regular Blood Donation Camp on “Ram Navmi” through IRCS, Navsari in the memory of their beloved son. They lost their son at very young age who was suffering from Thalassemia Major. Both Husband and wife are Thalassemia Minor Patient so they cannot donate blood but they encourage others to donate the blood so needy patients like their son can get the blood.

• Himanshu Bhatt is professor at IIM and a centurion blood donor. He shared his first blood donation which was replacement and by saying of his mother he donated the blood first time. After that second donation was done by him within one month and how he
fainted after that. After that he has understood the gap between two blood donations.

- Professor L. K. Santoki who is also a centurion donor has remembered Owner of Skoda Showroom Mr. Jagatsinh Jadeja who organizes the Blood Donation Camp at Rajkot twice in year in which around 3000 units of blood is collected till 2:00 PM afternoon. Lunch is also provided to all Blood Donors by Mr. Jagatsinh Jadeja.

- Dr. Rajesh Gopal and His wife are also couple donors. Dr. Rajesh Gopal has donated his blood 42 times. He has encouraged for the noble cause of blood donation.

- Dr. Ripal Shah has donated her blood 41 times and on the way of mother, her daughter, Medical Student of the second year of MBBS has also donated her blood first time at the age of 18. Her Daughter’s friend has organized a blood donation camp in her college by understanding the importance of Blood Donation and also donated the blood.

Dr. Bipin Patel rendered vote of thanks, which was followed by Lunch to all.

**Felicitation of Police Personnel of Ahmedabad City by Indian Red Cross Society, District Branch**

Later in the day, at the same venue, IRCS felicitated the police officers and personnel during a programme in which, Hon’ble Governor of Gujarat, Shri OP Kohli, was the Chief Guest where as
Shri AK Singh, City Police Commissioner, Ahmedabad and District Collector Shri Vikrant Pandey were guests of honour.

During the month of May, the officials in government of Gujarat were extremely worried about the low supply of fresh blood in the blood banks. Against an average of 100-125 units they used to get daily, there was a drastic fall below 25 units per day due to factors like holiday in colleges and many of the families going on vacation. The biggest victims were children with thalassemia major who required periodic blood supply. In view of this, Indian Red Cross Society decided to approach city police force for a blood donation drive, and what they received was much more than what was asked for. Leading by example, Shri A K Singh, City Police Commissioner, Ahmedabad, and his wife, Smt Sangita Singh, donated blood, which motivated police personnel from all cadres to queue up for voluntary blood donation. They have started a new campaign- called ‘Muskan mate Raktadaan’ (Blood donation for smiles) to look after 100 children with thalassemia major. A total of 1356 units were collected by the city police in a 10-day long drive that had taken place across the city in different zones. Ahmedabad collectorate has promised to adopt 900 children with thalassemia.

- The celebration of World Blood Donors Day were marked by organization of 176 voluntary blood donation camps in 33 districts of Gujarat, yielding a total blood collection of 7654 units which has adequately addressed the issue of paucity of blood in the state for now.
- All the blood banks are now determined to organize voluntary blood donation camps on 14th of every month with a strong emphasis on
promoting repeat blood donations for enhanced blood security in Gujarat, so that it is available in all urban as well as rural areas of Gujarat.