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स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण, विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी
व पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्री, भारत सरकार

Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare,
Science & Technology and Earth Sciences
Government of India

सबका साथ, सबका विकास, सबका विश्वास
Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas

MESSAGE

World Blood Donor Day is observed every year on 14th June to remember and to pay homage to Mr Karl Landsteiner who is credited for his discovery of the ABO blood group system. Started in 2004, the event serves to raise awareness of the need for safe blood and blood products and to thank blood donors for their voluntary and life-saving gift of blood. Activities are organized all over the world to promote voluntary blood donation and awareness is generated to use blood & blood products judiciously and propagate measures to ensure blood safety. A theme is decided every year around which activities and campaigns are scheduled.

The theme for this year's World Blood Donor Day is "Safe blood saves lives".

This year the COVID-19 pandemic has put the world in a precarious unprecedented situation that was never experienced earlier in our lifetime. Due to lockdown, people have not been able to venture out of their residences. All this has also affected supply of blood putting a lot of pressure on the patients suffering from blood disorders.

It gives me satisfaction to note that in such a difficult situation, IRCS led from the front and initiated the process to collect blood from all possible sources. Blood Bank staff started contacting voluntary blood donors, Resident Welfare Associations, Police and Paramilitary forces and others to increase the supply of blood. During the lock down period over 81,000 units of blood has been collected in the country by Red Cross through over 1,800 blood donation camps.

I take this opportunity to especially thank and laud the generosity of the blood donors in the country for stepping out to donate blood in these times. I also call upon all eligible people to take the pledge to donate blood so that more and more lives are saved.


(Dr. Harsh Vardhan)

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