

IITR Donates Blood for Humanity (February 5, 2017)

The finest gesture one can make is to save life by donating Blood. National Service Scheme (NSS), IIT Roorkee, strives to make society healthy and happy. It is in this process NSS IITR team organized the annual Blood Donation Camp at the Institute Hospital, in association with IMA Blood Bank of Uttaranchal, Roorkee Civil Hospital and Himalayan Hospital, Jolly Grant, on February 5th, 2017. The camp was inaugurated by Hon'ble Director, Prof A.K. Chaturvedi, IITR, Dr. Rama Bhargava, Dean-Administration, IITR, and, CMO, Dr. M.K.Jha in the presence of Dr. Smita Jha, Program Coordinator, NSS IITR. It saw massive participation from students, faculty members and their families, turning up to do their part for the great noble cause. Their will to donate blood was not deterred even in the chilly and rainy weather during the afternoon hours.

In Dr. Smita Jha's own words, "in spite of their academics they are taking one hour out of their busy schedule to donate blood for the ones in need, which is commendable by all."

The procedure of donating blood was kept very simple for the convenience of the donors. It included filling of a form, followed by a complete health checkup in terms of **weight, blood pressure** and **hemoglobin level**, thus sending the healthy ones for the blood donation. The Camp staff monitored the donation process easy and smooth. In the end, a special Certificate of Appraisal and carbohydrate food was given for the fast regeneration of blood to all the blood donors.

During the Blood Donation Camp, NSS volunteers conducted a small survey focused mostly on the first year students to know their experience of the camp. Most of the donors felt very good about donating this precious gift for the first time. Some even knew about the benefits of donating blood to one's own health as highlighted by the experts from different hospitals, who spoke during the motivational camp held by NSS the previous day.

NSS IIT Roorkee took the camp one step further by launching a mobile application for smartphones aiming to thwart the problems involved with availability of blood in nearby areas. Explaining the features of the application, Mr. Somesh Mohapatra, General Secretary, NSS IITR, highlighted the variety of problems faced by the Institute during disease outbreaks and the unavailability of rare blood groups. This **Not for Profit** application aims to connect active donors to patients in crisis for quick donation and transport of required blood. It also includes features such as digital donor cards. The accounts can also be kept anonymous and linked with Aadhar cards. Subsequent updates will include gift vouchers for regular donors.

A massive count of 906 blood donations was accounted in total which was a huge success in such type of weather. Given such response, this year's Blood Donation Camp was a benchmark. It gives hope of a better tomorrow for India and the world in hands of a responsible generation.



BDC Highlights(February 5th 2017)

1. The camp was held on 5th February, 2017, in association with the IMA, Roorkee Civil Hospital and the Himalayan Hospital as semester activity.
2. It was inaugurated by Hon'ble Director, Prof. A.K. Chaturvedi and Dr. Rama Bhargava, Dean-Administration, IITR in the presence of Dr. Smita Jha, Program Coordinator of NSS IITR.
3. The donation process was kept a simple one with complete guidance provided to prospective donors.
4. Refreshments were provided to donors for faster regeneration of blood.
5. Different sections of the Hospital were allocated to the 3 associations present.
6. Donations were not only limited to students, but also to the Professors, staff members and local residents.
7. A small survey was conducted by NSS volunteers to know the opinions of donors after their donation.
8. The camp saw a benchmarking 906 donations this time.
9. Reason for the same is owed to the motivational lecture held on 4th February, 2017, highlighting the importance of blood donation.
10. **TransBlood** smartphone application was launched for faster availability of blood in real time.