

BLOOD DONATION TO STRENGTHEN INTER RELIGIOUS FRATERNITY

Varanasi

06.04.2025

March-April is the spring season and are months marked by diverse religious festivities. In the city of Varanasi, to celebrate different religious festivals and to strengthen inter religious harmony, a blood donation camp was held on 6 April, Ramnavmi day in Revadi Talab Park, an area of the city thickly populated by Muslims of the weaver community. The program was organised drawing inspiration from Mazher Husaain of COVA, Hyderabad, which has been organising similar programs all over the country. Anand Mathew, a priest of the Indian Missionary Society and Director of Souhard Peace Centre, one of the organisers, said that this unique blood donation camp is to jointly celebrate the feasts of Holi, Eid-UI-Fitr, Ramnavami, Mahavir Jayanti, Baisakhi, Buddh Poornima, Ambedkar Jayanti, Good Friday and Easter in a meaningful manner beneficial to the common people. The camp was organised jointly by Souhard Peace Centre, Manav Rakt Foundation and Veer Abdul Hamid Foundation with the collaboration of Popular Blood Bank, a wing of Popular Hospital in Varanasi.

The blood donation camp began at 11.30 a.m. Sheelchand Kujur, a Catholic lay man actively involved in social welfare activities, and a member of the Child Welfare Committee of Varanasi, inaugurated the camp by donating his blood. He said he is happy to donate his blood in preparation for Good Friday and in veneration to Jesus Christ who shed his blood for the humankind. Advocate Abu Hashmi, President of Manav Rakt Foundation, while donating his blood, said that there were six unfortunate events of communal disharmony in Varanasi In March 2025, where three were incidents of unsocial elements attacking innocent Muslims with blades. He said that this camp is an attempt to respond to those attacks of violence by selflessly giving blood for saving human life. He said that one person can save three other lives by giving blood. Karunakar Tiwary, a student of Uday Pratap College, Varanasi, donated his blood and said that he is proud to donate it every three months. He said that he will be happy if the blood is transfused to people of other religions as this will strengthen communal amity and harmony. Anis Ahmad, the Secretary of Veer Abdul Hamid Foundation too donated his blood. He told this reporter that this was his first experience, and he intends to donate regularly and encourage more and more people to do the same. Advocate Abdullah Khalid, Muhammad Aasim Zuhaid and youth from different faith communities made the event a success by donating blood.

Pramod Singh, an activist who has donated blood 132 times expressed happiness over the celebration of multi-faith feasts through this unique manner of blood donation. Dr. Ravi Gupta, a Professor of Pandit Deendayal Post Graduate College in Sewapuri inaugurated the camp appreciating the organisers for promoting inter faith harmony in the unique manner. Manorama, coordinator of Popular Blood Bank appealed to the people present to create more and more awareness on the need of blood donation so as to help patients who suffer from Thalasemia and Cancer. She gave certificates and medals to all the donors. Advocate Abdullah Khalid, the Secretary of Manav Rakt Foundation promised that there will be periodic blood donation camps in the future in different wards of the city. A health camp too was part of the campaign.