



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**JAMMU - 14<sup>th</sup> June 2017.....** A mega function was organized by J&K State AIDS Control Society (JKSACS) in collaboration with PG Department of Blood Transfusion Medicine GMC, Jammu and Indian Red Cross Society, Jammu on World Blood Donor Day 2017 in the Auditorium of Government Medical Jammu here today. The Chief Guest of the function was Mr. Bali Bhagat, Hon'ble Minister for Health & Medical Education, Government of J&K. Dr. Sunanda Raina, Principal GMC, Jammu was the Guest of Honour.

At the onset the Hon'ble Minister Mr. Bali Bhagat inaugurated voluntary blood donation campaign and also released balloons to mark the significance of the day.

Speaking on the occasion the chief guest Mr. Bali Bhagat explained the importance of celebration of the day and also emphasized the need for gearing up World Blood Donor Campaign to meet the need for sufficient blood in the blood banks functional in J&K. He also informed the audience that blood is required by all irrespective of religion, caste, colour, creed and regions and appealed people from all strata of life to motivate regular voluntary blood donation. He assured all help from health department in ensuring success of this voluntary blood campaign to save precious human lives.

The function started with the lighting of ceremonial lamp and singing of Saraswati Vandana by the students. The welcome address was delivered by Dr. Mushtaq Ahmed Rather, Project Director J&K State AIDS Control Society (JKSACS), wherein he highlighted the theme for this years' World Blood Donor Day. He appealed the masses particularly the youth to come forward for donating blood voluntarily. He appreciated the efforts of Hon'ble Minister, Mr. Bali Bhagat for ensuring support for this noble cause of blood donation campaign. The launching of this campaign will certainly go a long way in preventing and controlling HIV/AIDS in J&K.

Dr. Mushtaq Ahmed Rather, Project Director, JKSAACS also sought the cooperation of all under the stewardship of the Hon'ble Minister for meeting this challenge. He also felt the strong need for blood donation drive across the state to meet the shortage of blood especially the rare groups in case of emergencies.

Others who spoke on the occasion included Dr. Sunanda Raina, Pricipal GMC, Jammu and Dr. Meena Sidhu, Associate Professor and in-charge Blood Bank SMGS hospital Jammu.

As a token of appreciation of their commitment towards the cause of blood donation mementoes were presented to the dignitaries on behalf of J&K State AIDS Control Society. Mementoes and certificates were also distributed among the regular voluntary blood donors and the organizations related with this campaign. The Students who had participated in the poster making and slogan writing contest in connection with the celebration of this day, were also given prizes.

The vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Tabassum Jabeen, Deputy Director, JKSAACS.

**Deputy Director (IEC)**  
**I/c Media**