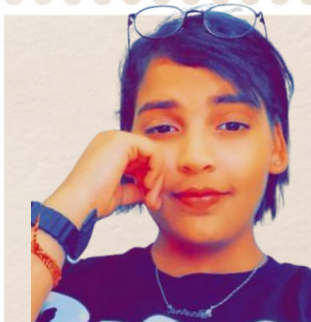



AGAINST ALL ODDS

Stories of Hope and Strength in the
Battle with Thalassemia




LET'S GIVE LIFE A BETTER CHANCE





Sneha's Journey : A Tale of Strength and Resilience




"Fearlessness is not the absence of fear. It's the mastery of fear." —
Arianna Huffington

Sneha Muthreja's life exemplifies this powerful idea. Born on January 14, 2006, in Faridkot, Punjab, Sneha was diagnosed with Thalassemia, a blood disorder requiring constant transfusions from infancy. Her journey was filled with early challenges, as her mother left when she was just three, leaving her father to raise Sneha and her brother, Harsh, alone.


Despite financial struggles, her father gave them unwavering love and support. When Sneha was six, her father remarried Anita Rani, a woman who became a true mother to the children. Anita not only provided emotional support but also accompanied Sneha to her transfusions and learned everything she could about Thalassemia.

Thanks to Anita's persistence, Sneha and Harsh were tested for a bone marrow match, and Harsh proved to be a perfect donor. In January 2022, Sneha underwent a life-changing transplant, and within a month, she was clinically stable.


Sneha thrived despite her struggles, excelling in studies and cricket. By eighth grade, she was playing at the state level. Her father proudly says, "She's not just a survivor, she's a fighter—fearless, resilient, and unstoppable." Sneha's journey proves that with love, support, and determination, no challenge is too big to overcome.







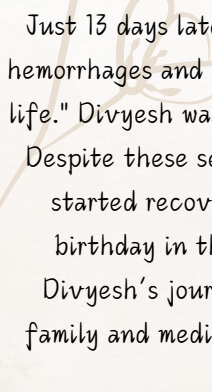
Divyesh's Journey : The Two Sides of Transplant – Hope and Struggles




Just as there are two sides to every coin, so too are there both challenges and triumphs in the journey of a transplant

Divyesh's story is one of resilience, filled with both hope and hardship. At just four months old, Divyesh began suffering from severe abdominal pain, diarrhea, and vomiting. After a month of struggle, he was diagnosed with thalassemia major, a life-threatening blood disorder. His family had never heard of bone marrow transplants as a treatment option until he was 15 and, through an HLA matching camp, discovered he had a perfect match with both of his siblings.

However, the COVID-19 pandemic delayed his treatment for two years. Finally, at 17.8 years old, Divyesh was admitted to Sankalp-CIMS BMT Unit for pre-transplant conditioning. On February 22, 2022, he underwent a bone marrow transplant using stem cells from his brother, Ashvin.



Just 13 days later, his condition took a tragic turn as he suffered brain hemorrhages and seizures. His mother recalls, "It was the worst night of my life." Divyesh was rushed to the PICU, where his life hung in the balance. Despite these setbacks, his strength began to show. By Day 14, his body started recovering, and after a month, Divyesh celebrated his 18th birthday in the ICU, cutting his birthday cake with his own hands. Divyesh's journey is ongoing, but his perseverance, supported by his family and medical team, is an inspiring testament to the power of hope and courage.





Nikhil's Journey: A Tale of a Mother's Blessing Beyond Life




"A mother is the heartbeat in the home, and without her, there seems to be no heart throb." Nikhil's story beautifully illustrates how, even without his mother, he triumphed over the struggles of thalassemia with resilience and strength.


Vipulbhai and Jayshreeben's life was full of happiness after their marriage in 2002, and the birth of their son, Nikhil, in 2004, brightened their world. But when Nikhil was just six months old, his health began to decline. A routine check-up revealed dangerously low hemoglobin levels, leading to an unexpected diagnosis of thalassemia major. For years, blood transfusions became a part of his life, while his parents continued to care for him with love and dedication. In 2007, they welcomed a daughter, Mira, and Nikhil's education progressed despite his ongoing health challenges.

In 2013, tragedy struck when Nikhil's mother, Jayshreeben, passed away suddenly from a stomach infection. This heartbreaking loss made their journey even harder. However, in 2019, hope arrived when Nikhil was found to be a match with Mira during an HLA matching camp. After overcoming financial and medical obstacles, Nikhil underwent a successful bone marrow transplant in January 2021, at the age of 17. Today, Nikhil is thriving, his grandmother's unwavering support guiding him through the toughest moments. His story is a testament to love, strength, and the power of hope.



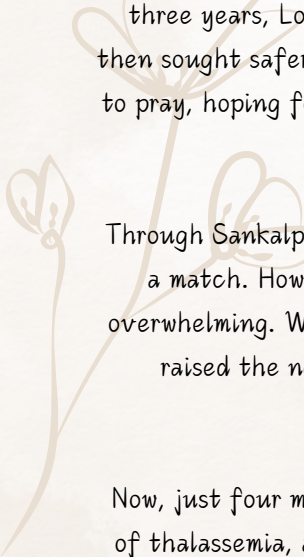


Love's Journey: A Story of Determination and Support




In a small, remote village where a bone marrow transplant seemed like an impossible dream, Love's story is a testament to the power of hope and determination. Amit, just 19, and Bhagyashree, only 17, began their married life with dreams of a brighter future. Despite struggling to make ends meet in their village of 4,500 people, they found joy when their son, Love, was born. But that joy was short-lived. At six months old, Love's health started to decline. He became pale and vomited after feeding, and after multiple tests, he was diagnosed with thalassemia, a blood disorder that changed everything for the young family.

For Amit and Bhagyashree, the diagnosis was devastating. With limited resources, they traveled for blood transfusions to Porbandar, but after three years, Love contracted Hepatitis C from the transfusions. They then sought safer care in Jamnagar. Despite the obstacles, they continued to pray, hoping for a miracle, but medical science pointed to one solution: a bone marrow transplant.




Through Sankalp India Foundation, they learned Love's father, Amit, was a match. However, the cost of the transplant—14 lakh rupees—was overwhelming. With relentless effort and the foundation's support, they raised the necessary funds. In August 2021, Love underwent the transplant.

Now, just four months later, Love is thriving. He's free from the burden of thalassemia, and his family's dream of a healthy future has become a reality.








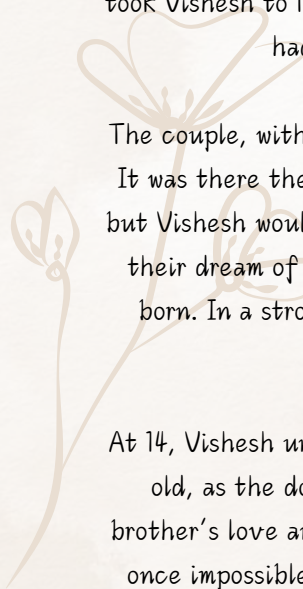
Vishesh's Journey:

A Story of impossible to possible dream




Can a driver from a small village ever dream of a better future? Rabindra, born into a humble family of subsistence farmers in Maharashtra's Gondia district, had dreams no bigger than a peaceful life and a two-course meal. After finishing his education up to the 12th grade, he worked as a driver, supporting his wife, Savitaben, and their young son, Vishesh, who was born in July 2007.

For the first few months, their lives were filled with joy. But by the time Vishesh turned three months, he began suffering from frequent fevers. A doctor's visit revealed his hemoglobin was dangerously low, prompting immediate blood transfusions. Desperate for answers, Rabindra and Savita took Vishesh to Nagpur, where they learned the devastating news: Vishesh had thalassemia major, a severe blood disorder.



The couple, with limited resources, traveled 140 kilometers for treatment. It was there they learned of a possible cure—a bone marrow transplant—but Vishesh would need a sibling with a matching HLA. Eleven years later, their dream of a cure seemed possible when their younger son, Adi, was born. In a stroke of fate, a matching test revealed Adi was a perfect donor.

At 14, Vishesh underwent a successful transplant, with Adi, just 4.5 years old, as the donor. Now, Vishesh is healthy and stable, thanks to his brother's love and the support of Sankalp India Foundation. The family's once impossible dream has become a reality—one filled with hope and a bright future ahead.





Darshan's Journey: From Despair to Hope



Sometimes, hearing someone else's story can provide the strength needed to face your own. "Sankalp's BMT consultants took time to educate us about the process, and it made all the difference," says Darshan's father, reflecting on their life-changing journey.

Bharat Makwana, from a humble village, and his wife Savita, had dreamed of a family. After a heartbreaking miscarriage, they waited four long years before welcoming their son, Darshan. His birth filled them with joy and hope. But at three, Darshan's health began to decline. His energy faded, and after many doctor visits, he was diagnosed with thalassemia—a condition his parents had never heard of.


The family started regular blood transfusions in Ahmedabad, a routine that became their new reality. But when Darshan was seven, tragedy struck. After taking medicine for a cough, he suddenly collapsed. Rushed to the hospital, Darshan slipped into a coma. The doctors didn't know if he would survive. Miraculously, after 26 hours, he regained consciousness.

Despite this, Darshan's spirit remained unbroken. He loved learning, dreaming of becoming a scientist. But the COVID-19 pandemic paused his education, and the road ahead was uncertain. With his younger brother's bone marrow matching, Darshan's only hope lay in a transplant. After two years of preparation, Darshan underwent a successful transplant.


Today, 70 days later, Darshan is thriving, his health improving each day. His story is a testament to the power of love, perseverance, and family.





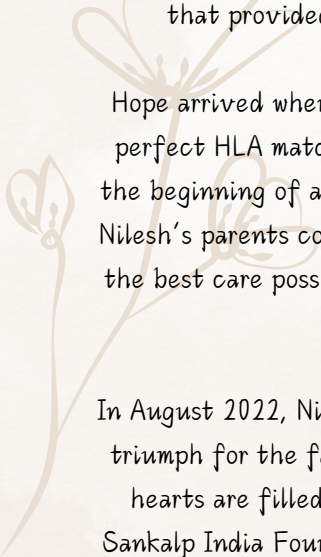


Nilesh's Journey: A Tale of Hardship to Hubris



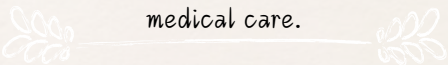
Nilesh, a bright and cheerful 5-year-old, is the heartbeat of his family. From the small village of Modasa, near Ahmedabad, Nilesh and his parents lead a simple life. His hardworking parents labor in the fields, striving to provide for their family. Nilesh enjoys spending time with his sister, Rinkal, but life took an unexpected turn when both children were diagnosed with thalassemia major.

The family's struggle deepened as blood transfusions, critical for managing thalassemia, were scarce in their village. Every few weeks, Nilesh's parents made the 60-kilometer journey to Ahmedabad for treatment, a grueling task both financially and emotionally. But their search for better care led them to Sankalp's Day Care Center, a lifeline that provided regular blood transfusions for Nilesh and Rinkal.




Hope arrived when Nilesh's younger brother, Kurturaj, was found to be a perfect HLA match for a bone marrow transplant. This discovery marked the beginning of a life-changing journey. Despite their limited education, Nilesh's parents committed themselves to ensuring their children received the best care possible. The road to the transplant was difficult, but they never gave up.


In August 2022, Nilesh underwent his bone marrow transplant, a moment of triumph for the family. Today, Nilesh is recovering well, and his family's hearts are filled with hope. Their resilience, love, and the support of Sankalp India Foundation have transformed their lives. Nilesh's story is a powerful reminder of the strength of family and the life-saving impact of medical care.





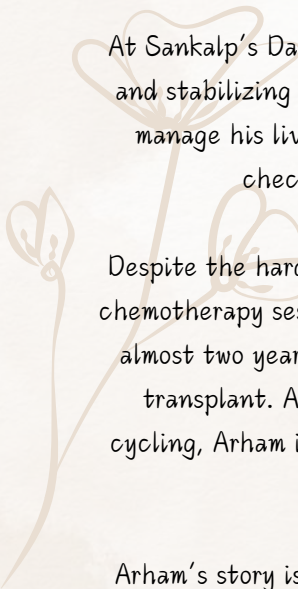


Arham's Journey: Triumph Over Challenges on the Path to Healing



For young Arham Jain, the road to healing was long and filled with obstacles. Hailing from Guntur, Andhra Pradesh, Arham's battle with thalassemia began with a near two-year wait before he could finally undergo a life-saving bone marrow transplant (BMT).


Arham's family, originally from Rajasthan and Gujarat, faced numerous challenges. Living in a small town, they struggled with the constant lack of blood supply, which took a toll on Arham's health. His ferritin levels soared, and his liver and spleen became enlarged due to irregular transfusions. In this difficult time, his maternal family rallied around him, bringing him to Ahmedabad for much-needed care.



At Sankalp's Day Care Center, Arham received regular blood transfusions and stabilizing treatments. His condition required super transfusions to manage his liver and spleen issues. Along with this, he began regular check-ups at Sankalp's BMT center in Ahmedabad.

Despite the hardships, including the nationwide lockdown just before his chemotherapy sessions, Arham's determination remained unwavering. After almost two years of pre-transplant care, he was finally admitted for his transplant. A bright student with a love for South Indian food and cycling, Arham is eager to return to his hometown of Guntur and reunite with his friends.

Arham's story is a shining example of resilience, family support, and the power of hope. We wish him continued health and success as he embarks on the next chapter of his recovery.





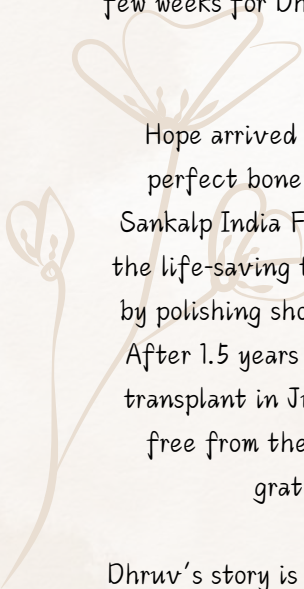


Dhruv's Journey: A Father's Love, Determination, and the Gift of Life




From the moment Dhruv was born, life was a constant battle. Diagnosed with beta thalassemia major at just five months old, he required blood transfusions every three weeks to survive. Without treatment, the disorder would have taken his life, but with the unwavering support of his parents, Dhruv bravely fought on.

The third of five children, Dhruv's father, Ajaykumar, came from humble beginnings in Amritsar. Though he never went to school, he worked tirelessly to give his children a better life. When Dhruv was diagnosed, Ajaykumar vowed to learn everything he could about the disease to save his son. Together with his wife, Poonam, they traveled 80 kilometers every few weeks for Dhruv's blood transfusions, a journey they never hesitated to make.




Hope arrived when Dhruv's older brother, Karan, was found to be a perfect bone marrow match at an HLA matching camp organized by Sankalp India Foundation. But there was still one obstacle: the cost of the life-saving treatment. Ajaykumar and Poonam, who made their living by polishing shoes and selling blankets, turned to local donors for help. After 1.5 years of careful preparation, Dhruv was finally ready for his transplant in June 2023. Now, 100 days post-transplant, he is thriving, free from the burden of blood transfusions. Ajaykumar, filled with gratitude, reflects, "This is a dream come true."


Dhruv's story is one of hope, resilience, and the transformative power of love and medical care.





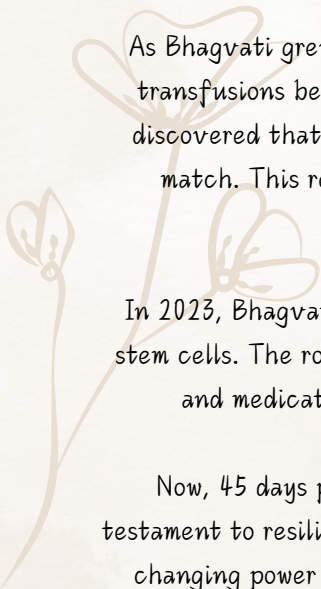


Bhagvati's Journey: *A Story of Curse to Blessings*



Bhagvati, the eldest of four siblings, was born in a small, remote town in Gujarat. Her arrival as the first female child filled her family with joy, and they named her "Bhagvati," meaning "blessed." But at just 1.5 years old, life took an unexpected turn when she was diagnosed with thalassemia major, a condition that required regular blood transfusions to survive.


Living in a remote area made accessing treatment incredibly difficult. The nearest medical facility capable of providing the necessary care was far away, and frequent trips to Ahmedabad for transfusions took a toll both emotionally and financially on the family. Despite these struggles, Bhagvati's parents never gave up.




As Bhagvati grew, her health worsened, and the weight of continuous transfusions became overwhelming. Then, in a moment of hope, they discovered that Bhagvati's younger sister was a perfect bone marrow match. This revelation sparked a glimmer of hope: a bone marrow transplant could cure Bhagvati.

In 2023, Bhagvati underwent a successful transplant with her sister's stem cells. The road to recovery was difficult, with frequent check-ups and medications, but over time, Bhagvati's health improved.


Now, 45 days post-transplant, Bhagvati is thriving. Her story is a testament to resilience, the unwavering love of her parents, and the life-changing power of medical care. The future looks bright as Bhagvati begins a new chapter, free from the burdens of thalassemia.





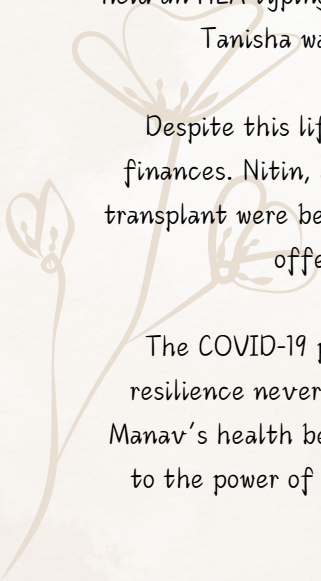


Manav's Journey: A Tale of Ray, Rise and Radiance



Manav's story is one of hope, resilience, and the unbreakable bonds of family. Born to Nitin and Heena from Gujarat, Manav's arrival was a blessing, completing their family. However, their joy quickly turned to despair when, at just four months old, Manav's health began to decline. After frequent illness and a high fever, doctors diagnosed him with thalassemia major, a condition requiring regular blood transfusions to survive.

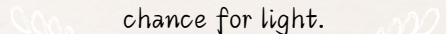
The family's financial situation made treatment difficult, and they turned to the district hospital in Rajkot for help. Yet, it wasn't until a few years later that a glimmer of hope appeared: Sankalp India Foundation held an HLA typing camp, where Manav's family discovered that his sister Tanisha was a perfect match to be his bone marrow donor.



Despite this life-changing news, the family faced another battle—finances. Nitin, a bangle seller, worked tirelessly, but the costs of the transplant were beyond their reach. Sankalp India Foundation stepped in, offering support to help fund the procedure.

The COVID-19 pandemic posed further challenges, but the family's resilience never wavered. After a successful bone marrow transplant, Manav's health began to improve. Today, Manav is thriving, a testament to the power of perseverance, love, and the incredible support of his family and medical team.

Manav's journey proves that even in the darkest times, there is always a chance for light.





Behind every heartwarming, life-changing story of children and family battling blood disorders is a collective effort of countless individuals, organizations, and donors who come together with a shared dream: to make India thalassemia-free. These children's journeys of hope and healing are possible only because of the unwavering support from those who care. At Sankalp, we believe every child deserves a better life, and while the path is not easy, we are committed to making that dream a reality. With each step, we vow to not stop until every child in need receives the opportunity for a healthy, bright future. Together, we are making a difference—one life at a time.

The stories are compiled and written by Kruti Joshi

Explore these inspiring stories in full at www.sankalpindia.net.

