

# 6,500 students list for blood stem cell donation

**DC CORRESPONDENT**

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More than 6,500 students from various colleges across the state have been registered as blood stem cell donors during a massive campaign organised by STEPS, a student-run charitable organization at TKM College of Engineering, Kollam in association with DATRI, the national registry and Aster MIMS hospital, Kozhikode.

The massive registration is expected to help hundreds of patients waiting for suitable stem cell matches.

Stem cell donor registry camps were conducted in nearly 30 colleges across the 14 districts and a total of about 6500 students par-

ticipated in the camps and registered as donors. All the camps were conducted in the presence of Kerala's first blood stem cell donor and the coordinator of DATRI, Aby Sam John who was a source of great inspiration to them.

The statewide campaign called 'Aardra-2016' was formally launched by Dr. D. Babu Paul at TKM College of engineering in October.

During the donation camps, cheek swabs from the students were collected along with a consent letter. The cells will be subjected to human leukocyte antigen testing and stored in the database of DATRI. If any patient's HLA matches with that of any registered person, DATRI will contact them and facilitate the donation process.