

# 32-year-old mother elated to meet her bone-marrow donor

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bengaluru:** Gayathri Gunaranjan, an interior designer from Hyderabad, couldn't contain her tears when she met Shivakumar from Chennai for the first time. A corporate employee and father of two daughters, Shivakumar, 32, donated his blood stem cells to Gayathri last year, sealing a connection with the 30-year-old that will last their lifetime.

Suffering from acute lymphoblastic leukaemia, a bone marrow transplant was the only cure for Gayathri. After they failed to find a match among family members, they approached Chennai-based Datri Blood Stem Cell Donors Registry, through which they found Shivakumar.

Three months after she deliv-

ered her first child, Avyukth in 2014, Gayathri was diagnosed with leukaemia. She was staring at the bleak prospect of leaving her son without a mother, failing to get a matching donor. "I was weak and suffered immense pain, but it was my infant son that I wanted to live for and that is what bothered me the most," she said.

"Shivakumar had registered with us during a donor drive in 2013. When we contacted him two years later, he did not think twice to give Gayathri a new lease of life," said Raghu Rajagopal, co-founder and CEO of Datri.

Although they are not related biologically, Gayathri now looks at Shivakumar as her elder brother. "Initially, I had no knowledge about bone marrow donation and feared it might ad-

versely impact my health. Datri explained what it actually entailed and today, I am happy to have given an infant his mother back," said Shivakumar.

"I am fortunate to have such a supportive family. My mother looked after my baby when I was undergoing treatment and my husband, a dental surgeon, had to miss his examinations for a higher degree. And then came Shivakumar anna (elder brother), as a saviour and it's because of him that I have my motherhood back," said Gayathri.

The donor and recipient remained anonymous to one another for one year in accordance with the registry rules. On Saturday, they finally met at a hotel in Bengaluru and exchanged love, gratitude and happiness.

**DINESH MANDOTH**  
S/o Late Moolchandji Mandoth  
Expired on : 25-07-2016

:- UTTAVANA :-

on Wednesday 27-7-2016  
10.30 a.m. at Madhav Nagar  
Jain Temple, Bengaluru

Resi : # 3,

Kamal Khanna Mansion  
2nd Cross, Madhav Nagar  
Bengaluru - 560 001

:- Inserted By :-

Wife - Hemalatha Mandoth  
Naharmal, Vikram, Bharat  
Rahul, Jeet, Jiya  
Mandoth Family

**YASH FABRICS**

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