

dir, Eroor and Bhavan's Munshi Vidyasram, Thiruvankulam walked away with the runners-up trophies.

Over 6k students register as blood stem cell donors

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Thiruvananthapuram:

Around 6,500 students have registered themselves as blood stem cell donors at registration camps held at 21 colleges across the state in the past two months. Considered to be the biggest blood stem cell donation drive in Kerala, Aardra 2016 is being organized by DATRI Blood Stem Cell Donors Registry.

Aimed at creating awareness regarding blood stem cell donation, the 2015 edition of the drive was also a huge success, said DATRI coordinator Aby Sam John.

The registration procedure is quite simple. One has to fill up application and consent forms and give

a cheek swab and the information will be stored in DATRI's database.

The collected cells will be subjected to human leukocyte antigens (HLA) typing to check whether the registered person's HLA matches with that of the recipient. If so, the registry will contact the donor and facilitate the donation process. HLA is a gene complex, which are inherited proteins.

The registered person will have to undergo a master health check-up to be deemed fit. The donor will be administered granulocyte colony stimulating factor (GCSF) injection for five days, which will help stimulate bone marrow to produce granulocytes and stem cells and release them

into peripheral bloodstream. On the fifth day, the donor's blood stem cells will be collected in about five hours through a procedure called apheresis medical transfusion technology.

The campaign was inaugurated by Kerala University former vice-chancellor D Babu Paul, at a function held at TKM College of Engineering, Kollam. It was conducted in association STEPS, social wing of TKM college and ASTER MIMS, Kozhikode.

DATRI is the largest adult unrelated blood stem cell donors registry in India with over 1, 70,000 registered donors. Kerala stands first in the country with 38,059 registered donors.

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