

Youth is second unrelated marrow donor

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

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EDWIN Dominic, a student of Christ College Irinjalakuda, has become only the second person from the state to donate bone marrow to an unrelated person. The recipient was a four-year-old suffering from a serious blood disorder.

"Indeed, being a donor was an incredibly gratifying experience since I was

able to gift life and give back a treasured child to his kin," said the 22-year-old, who is pursuing BCom.

It was DATRI, an adult unrelated blood stem cell donors' registry, which facilitated the donation.

Edwin had registered with DATRI as a potential donor following a campus drive organised by 'My Irinjalakuda Charity and Social Welfare Organisation' and the NSS unit of the col-

lege. "We hope several people will draw inspiration from Edwin and come forward to register themselves as potential life-savers," said Raghuraj Rajagopal, DATRI co-founder and CEO.

In fact, this is the fourth bone marrow harvest from an unrelated donor in the country. The first three were also facilitated by DATRI.

With over 2,04,000 registered donors, DATRI has so

far facilitated 30 PBSC (peripheral blood stem cell) donations. There are over 41,500 registered donors from Kerala and 30 have donated their blood stem cells to gift lives to strangers. DATRI has 14 collection centres and services 41 transplant centres worldwide. It is an associate of the Bone Marrow Donors Worldwide (BMDW) and World Marrow Donors Association (WMDA) member.