

VJTI throws a unique farewell

70 students register for stem cell donation with DATRI

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This year, the send-off party for the final-year students of Veermata Jijabai Technological Institute (VJTI) was with a difference. A blood and stem cell donation awareness programme, with the help of DATRI, was organised on the campus on Tuesday. Seventy students registered in DATRI's donor registry and over 200 students were counselled on stem cell donation.

"We often have blood donation camp on our campus, but stem cell donation is something new. I was very excited to organise this event," said Komal Devra, a third-year computer engineering student, who also registered herself. "Many people have misconceptions about stem cell donation and find it scary, but in reality, all you have to do is provide a DNA sample, of cheek cells for example, and you are registered. Should a patient match your DNA and require



Commitment: Students of VJTI showing their registration certificates on Tuesday ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

stem cell donation, you are contacted."

The awareness programme covered the topics of blood cancer, why donate bone marrow, and whether it poses threats to donors' health. "Hopefully stem cell donation event becomes a recurring feature in our college so that more students sign up," said B.Tech student Sumit Daware.

"In countries like Japan and Germany, they have an inbuilt directory in which

95% of the population are registered as donors, for illnesses like blood cancer, thalassemia and lymphoma. In India, many lives are lost because DNA matches cannot be found," said Brijesh Mishra, DATRI's drive co-ordinator, Mumbai. "Patients, at a time, can find 5-10 donor matches in the U.S. Here, even one is rare. We are glad that VJTI students registered and hopefully we can encourage more young people to donate and save lives."