

## Organ recipients meet donor's family in Kochi

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Kochi:** Life has changed for Lingaselvi since she got a hand transplant. This was possible because the family of Angamaly resident Arunraj (29) decided to donate his body after he was declared brain-dead in a road accident.

Despite all the negative publicity against organ donation and transplant programme, Arun's family consented, once he was identified as a potential organ donor. His heart was transplanted to a patient in Chennai, liver to a patient at Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences, pancreas and one kidney to a patient at AIMS, other kidney to a recipient at Kottayam Medical College and both hands to 49-year-old Lingaselvi at AIMS.

All these transplanted patients, who are doing well, got together to thank Arun's family on Monday in a donor-recipient meet organized by AIMS. "This meet was needed because the instances of organ donation after brain-death have been low in Kerala for the past few years. We wanted to show the bright side of organ donation and transplant," said Dr Subramania Iyer, department of head and neck surgery, AIMS. "It's a rebirth for me. I felt helpless



The donor-recipient meet held at Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences, on Monday

without hands as I was dependent on others. But thanks to Arun, I now have hands," said Lingaselvi, who presented a memento to Arun's family in the presence of health minister K K Shailaja

"In the past one to two years, our statistics have shown a decline in organ donation numbers. Though the numbers for organ donation for live donors through informed consent have grown, there has been a marked decline in organ donation from brain-dead donors. To counter this, the process of regulating organ donations from brain dead donors must be made speedy," the health minister added.