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DU, celebs pledge to donate organs

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Organ donation is a cause that's gaining in public mindspace these days, and that was evident when Shivaji College, DU, recently organized a two-day campaign around it.

The event started with a welcome address by college principal Dr Shashi Nijhawan. She said, "The campaign aims to urge people from all walks of [life](#) to associate with the college for the noble cause of pledging their organs to help save lives." The first day also had in attendance Jaya Prada, actress and politician, who said, "One individual can't make a difference to society; a collective effort is required for it." Cricketer Murali Kartik told us that organ donation had a personal resonance in his life because of his mother's kidney failure.

The event, called Walkathon - Walk for Life, was flagged off by Dr Nijhawan, Jaya Prada and Kartik at the college's sports ground. Almost 2,000 participants, including staff and students, followed the designated route around Shivaji College carrying banners and chanting slogans, besides distributing pamphlets to sensitize and make the general public aware of the need for and importance of organ donation. The Dramatics Society of the college, Vayam, performed a short street play at various points on the route.

The campaign ended with a seminar on the second day, which saw faculty and students pledge to donate their organs.