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## City to get first platelet donors club on October 1

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Mumbai:** There's good news for all those who have desperately looked for blood platelets for their critically ill relatives. The city will soon get a Life-savers' Club for platelet donors, a network of willing donors who can be reached easily in times of crisis.

Platelets are blood components which help in clotting and their demand has been steadily rising with the increasing burden of infectious diseases like dengue and leptospirosis.

Maharashtra's State Blood Transfusion Council (SBTC) will take an encouraging step forward on October 1 with the launch of its database on platelet donors. The initiative has been coordinated by the NGO Think Foundation and a group of KEM Hospital doctors who have formed an NGO, Doctors For You.

To start with, 50 regular donors have committed to the noble cause, and some will be felicitated at the state-run Cama Hospital on Monday. "October 1 is National Voluntary Blood Donation Day and we are taking the opportunity to start something useful for our citizens," director-general of health services Prakash Doke said.

The awareness drive kick-started with a Doctors For You initiative which saw about 50 Mumbaikars donating platelets at KEM.

Platelets are retrieved through a process called apheresis and can be donated by a person 24 times a year. "The city needs 90,000