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Octogenarian organ donor saves 3; 19th donation in '25

Mumbai: An octogenarian visiting her son living in Alibori from her village in Vasai-Vandri became the city's 19th deceased organ donor this year, saving the lives of three organ failure patients on Wednesday.

Eighty-two-year-old Sushila Chintawar's son, Avinash, donated her liver and kidneys at MGM New Bombay Hospital, Vashi, after she suffered a brain haemorrhage. "Five years ago, my parents pledged to donate their organs during a community programme held in our village. They sent me a copy via WhatsApp. When doctors at MGM Hospital announced that my mother was brain dead, I remembered her pledge and donated her organs," said Chintawar.

Older donors are considered marginalised because of age (often over 60) or other factors such as comorbidities (like hypertension and diabetes) that may raise concerns about the quality or suitability of their organs for transplantation. However, doctors from the Zonal Transplant Coordination Centre (ZTCC) maintain if an organ is healthy, then age isn't a barrier. In Oct 2024, an 87-year-old retired central govt employee's daughter donated his liver after he suffered an intracranial bleed, making him the oldest organ donor in the city. In April 2022, an 85-year-old brain-dead man's wife donated his liver. Chintawar's donation is the city's 19th this year.

CBI drops 65 witnesses in Sheena case

Mumbai: In the Sheena Bora murder trial, the CBI on Thursday submitted a list of 65 witnesses it was dropping. The CBI said that it would not examine these witnesses during the trial, many of whose statements were part of the chargesheet. Among them is accused Peter Mukherjee's ex-wife, Shabbnam Singh.

HEALTH DEPT TO TACKLE CHILDHOOD OBESITY SCHOOL OUTREACH & AWARENESS ON AGENDA

Health problems in India could start early in life. According to Unicef's World Obesity Atlas-2022, over 27 million children in India will be obese by 2030. In other words, every 10th obese child in the world would be an Indian. Could setting up obesity task forces in schools help check the obesity epidemic? Samya Kamaal Khan reports



WHAT IS OBESITY

Overweight and obesity are defined as abnormal or excessive fat accumulation that presents a risk to one's health.

WHY CHILDHOOD OBESITY SHOULD BE A MAJOR CONCERN

1 The latest National Family Health Survey-5 found 3.4% of children under five are now overweight as compared with 2.1% in 2015-16.

2 In Mumbai, a study by Nair Hospital found that 8.57% of the children surveyed were obese while another 4.29% were overweight.

3 Being overweight in childhood and adolescence could:
○ Affect children's and adolescents' immediate health
○ Increase the risk of early onset of various non-communicable diseases such as Type 2 diabetes and heart disease
○ Have adverse psychosocial consequences (affect school performance, quality of life, increased discrimination and bullying)

CAUSES FOR OBESITY AMONG CHILDREN

A function held to observe World Child Obesity Day on Thursday, Maharashtra health minister Prakash Advani said: "Despite scientific advances, childhood obesity is escalating due to sedentary lifestyles, fast food and excessive screen time. The public health department will tackle this through awareness campaigns and school outreach programmes".



Obesity is the most preventable disease, yet it continues to surge. We need a state-level task force comprising paediatricians, educators and community leaders, as well as obesity screening in govt- and municipal-run schools — Dr Sanjay Doreale (occupy success)

Two teens held for wooing gay men & robbing them

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Mumbai: A college-goer who scouted for targets on a gay dating app, invited them over for a date and then looted them at knife-point was arrested along with his accomplice on Wednesday. A GRT Railway Police (GRP) team which made the arrest said that the duo wanted quick money to pursue professions of their choice.

So far, only one person, a 21-year-old jewellery maker, has approached the GRP with a complaint. Investigators have appealed to anyone who may have been similarly robbed to come forward and lodge complaints.

The complainant approached the Borivli GRP on May 17 and an FIR was registered. The FIR does not mention that he matched with Ojha on a gay dating app. After a technical investigation, a Special Task Force (STF) of the GRP headed by senior inspector Vijay Khedkar and comprising inspector Rohit Sawant and assistant inspector Abhijeet Talwar, tracked down Ojha and Jha, and arrested them. The police said Ojha wanted to enter a bodybuilding contest and wanted money for affording a protein-based diet and steroids. Jha had already registered a company and needed funds to start his business, officials said. The custody of the two was handed over to Borivli GRP and they were produced before a magistrate court.

IPS and IAS transfers across state

Mumbai: The state govt on Thursday ordered 21 IPS officers and some IAS officers transferred.

Abhyanga SP Rakesh Oia, AIG Raj Tilak Roshan and Satar SP Sameer Shaikh were posted as DCPs in Mumbai. DCP Mangesh Shinde has been transferred as SP, Nagpur railway police. Pune SRPF commandant Anchal Dhal was moved to Raigarh as the SP. Saurabh Katiyar, an IAS officer of the 2016 batch, will be the new collector of Mumbai suburban district. He will replace Rajendra Khatiwara, who will retire on May 31. Katiyar, currently collector of Amravati, will be replaced by Ashish Yeeekar from the 2008 batch.

Man gets 20 years' RI for sexually assaulting teen

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Mumbai: A special Pwss court recently convicted and sentenced a 34-year-old man to 20 years' rigorous imprisonment (RI) for repeatedly sexually assaulting a teenage girl. The victim, who was 16 years and 10 months old at the time of the first incident in July 2021, deposed against the accused, detailing three instances of rape that occurred between July and Sept 2021. The incidents happened in an isolated place where the man worked at a nearby cloth stall. The victim recalled dialling the 100 police emergency number on Oct 30, 2021, to report the abuse. The court acknowledged the three-month delay in reporting the matter, crediting the victim's explanation that he had threatened her with acid attacks and the removal of her grandmother's street stall. The judge said that the delay was not fatal to the prosecution's case, considering the victim's young age and the psychological im-

pact of the threats. "...evidence of the victim has been found to be cogent, convincing and trustworthy. In this view of the matter, the delay if any, paled into insignificance. The delay in this case was not utilised for falsely implicating the accused, concoction of story or introduction of false witnesses," special judge Nandkishor L. More said. It was the prosecution's case that the victim was residing with her grandparents, father, and two step-brothers. The accused vendied clothes near her grandmother's stall at a market. The accused had given the victim a mobile phone he took on installment, which initiated their contact. In July 2021, the accused lured the victim to a godown, used by his employer as a storage space, under the pretext of collecting a raincoat. There, he forcibly committed rape with her and threatened her with death and acid attacks if she disclosed the incident. Due to these threats, the victim remained silent. A second assault occurred at the same location four to five days after Aug 15, 2021, with similar threats of dire consequences. The accused continued to harass the victim, repeatedly demanding sexual favours. To escape this persistent and unbearable harassment, the victim eventually called the police (dialled 100) in Oct 2021. The medical evidence showed the possibility of sexual assault.

The defence lawyer for the accused argued that the victim's grandmother harboured ill will due to a dispute over their street stalls, leading to false implication. However, the court found no substance in this claim, noting that the accused was merely an employee and not the owner of the stall. The court noted that the prosecution successfully proved that the accused had demanded sexual favours repeatedly and had subjected the minor to rape under threats. The court emphasised that the victim's consent was immaterial due to her minor age.

Minor fire near Borivli rly stn

Mumbai: A minor fire broke out near Borivli railway station at 7.47 pm on Thursday, causing brief panic. No casualty has been reported. The blaze was confined to the railing of the skywalk, according to civic authorities. The exact cause of the fire, which was swiftly brought under control, is yet to be determined, officials said.

11th East Indian Mahotsav held

Mumbai: Around 4,000 people from the East Indian community celebrated the 11th East Indian Samaj Mahotsav at Velankanni shrine in Uttan, Bhayander, on Thursday. Archbishop John Rodrigues was the main celebrant. Cultural programmes and a food festival were organised on the occasion, said Tulip Miranda of the Bombay East Indian Association.

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