

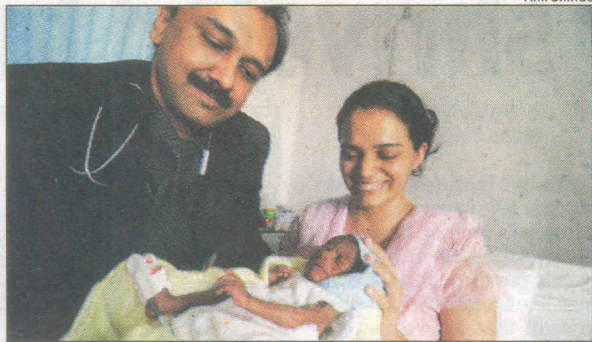
Boy who weighed 800 gms at birth ready to be discharged

The Baby Was Born 93 Days Too Early

Sandhya Nair | TNN

Mumbai: A boy born premature to a Bhayander couple and weighing only 800 gram is ready to be discharged from the newly opened Umrao multi-speciality hospital in Mira Road. The infant who stayed in the hospital's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) for 45 days, is now being acclimatized to normal temperature before being sent home.

Sneha Das (25), a resident of Narayan Nagar in Bhayander, went into labour at a private clinic on January 11, when she was in the sixth month of pregnancy. The infant, born 93 days before time, was immediately brought to the NICU of Umrao hospital. Dr Pradeep Jain, paediatrician, said, "The infant's weight has increased to 1.2 kg. He is out of the ICU and kept in a home-like atmosphere in the hospital ward where we are watching his be-



Anil Shinde

SMALL WONDER: Dr Pradeep Jain and Sneha Das with Das's son

haviour, feeds and motions." This is the first preterm baby weighing under 800 gram to survive in the Mira-Bhayander region.

Das says that she was depressed after the preterm birth of her son as she had lost her brother, who was born premature but could not survive. "My baby has started responding to my voice. I am now waiting to take him home," said the first-time mom.

Doctors at the hospital were taking each day with a new challenge. Doctors ensured that Sneha, who got the glimpse of her child only three days after he was born, was constantly with the infant. "Premature babies lack the fat necessary to maintain

their body's temperature. We adopted the 'kangaroo care' method, where the baby was kept close to the mother's bare chest, which provides warmth, just like in a womb," said Dr Jain.

Sneha underwent two days of training in holding the premature child and breastfeeding him. The hospital went a step further and asked other new mothers who had delivered normal babies to visit Sneha and give her tips on childcare.

According to Dr Ashish Kumar Tiwari, head, Medical Services, Umrao hospital, the NICU is now fully equipped to handle critical cases. "The infant could be saved due to the NICU and doctors being there round-the-clock."