



THE TIMES OF INDIA

## Holidays bring blood shortage, affect ops

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Mumbai:** Surgeries in many city hospitals have taken a hit due to severe shortage of blood across banks. Blood donation in May and June is usually sluggish with college students away on vacations.

The Vile Parle-based Nanavati Hospital claimed that the situation is "alarming" this year: "There has been a 30 to 40% drop in donations with many of the regular donors going out of station. Only 194 people have donated blood in April, which is much lesser than the average turnout of 300 donors," said Dr Rinku Bhatia, head, Nanavati Blood Bank.

She added that the hospital has tied up with external blood banks and other hospitals to meet the contingency: "We have also updated our

list of second-rung donors who would be tapped in case of emergencies," she added. Most of the civic blood banks that TOI spoke to said the blood supply was limited but not so low that it could hamper services.

Mumbai has an average annual collection of over 3 lakh units of blood. "At least 45,000 of our donors are college students," said Vinay Shetty, head of NGO Think Foundation. "But the situation is not so bad this year: Hospitals may have to postpone a few routine surgeries in rare situations, but emergency services are never affected," he said. He added that corporates are one of the biggest donors, but in summer not many agencies conduct camps because of the heat. Shetty said the shortage during summer is not only a countrywide but a global phenomenon.