

# 'I refuse to take a local train anymore'

LEST WE FORGET

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EACH time Mahesh Kumavat (37) changes his clothes, he remembers the bomb blast that almost killed him. Kumavat has a scar in his stomach from shrapnel after the bomb exploded in the Virar-bound fast local near Matunga Road station at 6.11 pm. The blast ruptured his spleen and lungs, apart from several lacerations elsewhere. Ninety stitches were required

**Mahesh Kumavat was the first bomb blast patient at Lilavati Hospital; two years on, his life is back on track**

to suture the wound.

He was first rushed to Hinduja Hospital, but since his case was complicated, he was transferred to Lilavati Hospital. Incidentally, Kumavat was the first blast patient to be brought to Lilavati Hospital. The hospital received another 49 bomb blast patients later that evening. Kumavat runs a construction business and has been on medication for the last two years.

"Initially, I thought I had been electrocuted, but later I heard my friend saying it was a bomb blast. I could see people crying for help everywhere, bloodied and mutilated," recalled Kumavat.

Dr Narendra Trivedi, the surgeon who operated on

Kumavat, said any delay in treating Kumavat could have been fatal. "The patient had lost four litres of blood and his haemoglobin was just three instead of 14. He was in a semi-conscious state for eight days but thankfully responded to treatment," said Dr Trivedi.

Two years on, Kumavat's life is back on track, he is upbeat and refuses to live in the past. There's just one small change — he has stopped travelling by local trains and takes his SUV to the construction sites in the western suburbs.

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**LIFE AS USUAL:** Mahesh Kumavat, who runs a construction business, takes his SUV to the site. Kumavat has a scar in his stomach from shrapnel after the bomb exploded in the Virar-bound fast local near Matunga Road station at 6.11 pm. PIC/NIMESH DAVE