

# Radiation affects health: global report

**PROOF** The Bioinitiative 2012 report refutes claims by cellular phone operators that there is no conclusive evidence to prove correlation between radiation and health problems



Reetika Subramanian  
reetika.subramanian@hindustantimes.com

**MUMBAI:** A global report published on Sunday has turned the tables on cellular phone operators and even the civic body, who have been claiming that there is no "conclusive evidence" to prove the correlation between exposure to mobile tower radiation and health problems.

"Continuous base station-level exposure can result in illness and have biological effects that can interfere with normal body processes, prevent the healing of damaged DNA, produce immune system imbalances, cause metabolic disruption and lower resilience to disease," states the Bioinitiative 2012 report.

The report has been published by 29 independent scientists and health experts from 10 countries, including Sweden, India, Italy, Greece, US and Russia, after 1,800 papers written by scientists and health experts globally were studied and analysed

## HARM TO HEALTH

**THE AIM OF THE REPORT:** It studies and highlights the possible risks from wireless technologies and electromagnetic fields; around 1,800 global research papers written by scientists and health experts were studied before the 2012 report was released on Sunday.

### WHAT THE REPORT SAYS

Continuous base station-level exposure can result in illness.

**Prolonged exposure** can interfere with the functioning of the body, prevent it from healing damaged DNA, can produce immune system imbalances, create metabolic disruption and lower resilience to disease.

**Headaches, difficulty in concentration** and behavioural problems have been found in children and adolescents; and sleep disturbances, headaches and concentration issues in adults.

**Existing global public safety** limits don't seem to be sufficiently protective of public health, especially when it comes to that of the foetus, newborn and very young children.

**Early childhood exposure** may increase the risk of developing hyperactivity, learning disorders and behavioural problems.



over a period of five years. This is the second edition of the report, which was first published in 2007.

The report has studied the effects of exposure to electromagnetic field radiation on neurology and behaviour, gene and protein expression, stress

response, fertility and reproduction, and cancer; among other things. "Some part of the population, such as children, pregnant women, hypersensitive persons, could be especially sensitive," the reports states.

Reiterating the need to adhere

### WHO'S BEHIND THE REPORT?

The Bioinitiative 2012 report is published by 29 independent scientists and health experts from 10 countries, including India, Sweden, Italy, Greece, Canada, Austria, US and Russia. This is the second edition of the report; the first was published in 2007.

### COMBAT RADIATION EFFECTS

Health agencies and regulatory agencies should go by recent studies and adopt new, biologically relevant safety limits and adhere to the lowest scientific benchmarks for harm. Special safety limits must be put in place for sensitive population, including foetus, infants, children, elderly and those with pre-existing diseases.

Strong precautionary action and clear public health warnings needed immediately to prevent global epidemic of brain tumours. Steps must be taken to lower rates of premature death.

Follow the scientific benchmark of 0.03 milliwatts/square metre for 'lowest observed effect level'.

to suggested global radiation emission levels, telecom expert Anuj Jain said. "Based on the findings, the government should formulate its own study on the correlation between health issues and radiation."

"The report indicates that

India has set a high limit for radiation emission from mobile towers," said Professor Girish Kumar from IIT Bombay. "It is of utmost necessity to bring down the permissible limit to global safety standards."

The 29-member panel of

health experts and scientists included two Indian professors, Professor Jitendra Behari and Professor Paulraj Rajamani from Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi. The duo studied the effects of radiation on fertility and reproduction.

The safe radiation limit as per the report is **0.5 milliwatts/sq m**

INDIA'S LIMIT IS **450 milliwatts/sq m**



### HT's coverage

HT has been consistently reporting on radiation from cellphone towers in the city



We reported on how Malabar Hill residents visited mobile towers in south Mumbai to measure the radiation emitted

NOVEMBER 23, 2012



During our campaign, we also informed our readers how they could help identify illegal mobile towers in their neighbourhood

DECEMBER 16, 2012



We have consistently reported on the harmful effects caused by radiation emitted by mobile towers

DECEMBER 22, 2012

## Chilly day out



On Sunday morning, temperatures dipped to 10.4°C in the city forcing Mumbaiites to bring out their woollens.

KALPAK PATHAK/HT PHOTO

## Eat healthy, avoid exposure to cold, advise docs

**MUMBAI:** Doctors warned Mumbaiites suffering from respiratory tract and viral infections owing to the dipping mercury to eat carefully and protect themselves well against the cold.

"A lot of people have been suffering from cold, cough and

other respiratory illnesses," said Dr Krishnakant Dhebbri, family physician at Girgaum. "People must eat nutritious food, such as oranges and sweet lime that are rich in vitamin C. It is misconception that these are harmful during winter," said Dr Dhebbri.

Doctors also advised those falling ill to stay home for at least two days. "Patients should stay home to avoid aggravating the condition and reduce chances of spreading the infection," said Dr Vibhakar Adhvaryu who practices at Napean Sea Road.

HTC

## 3 ARRESTED FOR DUPING FAMILIES WITH MHADA BAIT

Kiran Sonawane

htmetro@hindustantimes.com

**DOMBIVLI:** Three people, including a woman, have been arrested by the Vishnunagar police for allegedly duping at least 60 to 65 families by promising them Mhada houses.

Accused Anand Maladkar, 32, Anand Kamble, 40, Sunita Salvi, 28, have been booked for cheating and forgery. Police suspect the scam runs into a few crores of rupees.

Rajendra Kulkarni, inspector, Vishnunagar police station, said, "The cheating came to light when two of the complainants went to the Mhada office with keys and allotment letters to take possession of their respective flats. However, when officials started to question them about the papers, the victims realised that they had been conned."

They went to the police station and registered a complaint. After Maladkar and Kamble's arrest, the police came to know about Salvi's involvement in the scam.

According to the police, she would accompany the two accused as a Mhada officer and collect lakhs of rupees from the victims.

## Half-eaten body of infant found

HT Correspondent

htmetro@hindustantimes.com

**MUMBAI:** The half-eaten body of a newborn baby was found at Nallasopara (West) on Sunday afternoon. The police said that they are yet to ascertain whether the baby was a boy or a girl.

It is suspected that the baby's parents abandoned it, following

which it was devoured by stray dogs. According to the Nallasopara police, the body was found by a children playing at a ground in Takipada area in Nallasopara (West).

"It is suspected that dogs had devoured body parts as only the face and arms were found. The body has been sent to the Nallasopara Primary Health

Centre (PHC) for a post mortem," said Mukund Mahajan, inspector, Nallasopara police.

"We are also checking nearby maternity clinics for deliveries in the past few days," said Mahajan. A case has been registered under section 319 (causing hurt) of the IPC. They will add more charges once the post mortem report arrives.

## Sailor commits suicide on naval warship

HT Correspondent

htmetro@hindustantimes.com

**MUMBAI:** A 23-year-old sailor allegedly committed suicide by shooting himself aboard a naval warship on Saturday evening.

Demanding a thorough probe, family of the deceased, Mellwyn Raj, alleged that he took extreme step due to harassment from seniors.

The police have recorded an accidental death and are conducting further inquiries into the case.

According to Colaba police, Raj, a native of Tamil Nadu, was recruited as a sailor two years ago. He was posted aboard the INS Talwar at the naval dockyard at Lion Gate and was on sentry duty on Saturday.

### HARASSED BY SENIORS: FAMILY

Mellwyn Raj, 23, was on sentry duty on IBS Talwar at the naval dockyard at Lion Gate on Saturday night

After finishing his duty, he went to the armoury room. But instead of depositing his rifle, he

allegedly shot himself.

Raj's family alleged that his seniors had been harassing him. He was supposed to go on leave from Saturday. But his leave was suddenly cancelled, his family alleged.

Around 8pm, Raj completed his duty and headed to the armoury room, where, as per protocol, he was supposed to deposit his rifle. However, he shot himself. He was rushed to INS Ashwini, where he was declared dead before admission.

Selvam Ramakrishnan, 33, Raj's cousin, said his brother was depressed as his seniors were harassing him. Raj, according to Selvam, had told

how he had been harassed and had also named a few seniors," alleged Selvam.

Meanwhile, his father, Devadas, 52, a businessman, said Raj always wanted to be in the Indian Navy.

"If he would have died in a war, I would have been proud. But the circumstances in which my son has died are dubious and the case should be thoroughly investigated," he said.

"We have recorded an accidental report death. His colleague's statements are being recorded and we will speak to his family next. However, the family's allegations have to be corroborated with circumstantial evidence. We will continue investigations," said R Shishve, zonal deputy commissioner of police.

conduct workshops, to sensitise policemen to tackle cases of harassment and crimes such as rape.

"Senior police officials are working on reducing VIP security and will make a proposal to the home department for approval. Following this, a committee led by the chief secretary will finalise the move to downsize forces that can be diverted to ensure women's safety," said a senior government official.

## Three days on, cops have no leads on Virar woman's identity, murder

HT Correspondent

htmetro@hindustantimes.com

**MUMBAI:** Even three days after the body of an unidentified woman, aged between 22 and 25 years, was found in a forested area off the Mumbai-Ahmedabad highway, the Virar police are yet to make a breakthrough in the case.

According to the police, the body was found in the Wathrapada village (Tokri gram panchayat) in Virar area, about 24 kilometers from Mumbai on Thursday morning.

A villager spotted the naked body of the woman lying near an old, uninhabited building at 7.30am and subsequently informed the sarpanch (village head), Ramchandra Roj, 40. A social worker then informed the police.

## Special service on Bhandup-Mulund route

The Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport (BEST) undertaking will be introducing a special bus service for women on one more route from Monday evening. The new service is to be started on route no 606, between Bhandup (West) and Nardas Nagar.

This will be the 57th special service for women by BEST. There are 56 such services already in place for 27 different routes in the city. BEST has already started three special services for women at Andheri and Goregoan at the beginning of the year.

HTC

### ACCUSED ABSCONDING

Police said that as the body was not decomposed, it appeared that the accused abandoned the body only the night before it was found

Post mortem reports revealed that she had not been sexually abused.

issued wireless messages across the state to see if any missing person's complaints had been filed recently.

"Her picture has been circulated throughout the state, however, there are no leads on the accused yet," said D Patil, assistant inspector, Virar police station.

The police said that the victim's post mortem report revealed that she had not been sexually abused. The cause of death was 'asphyxia due to smothering,' said Patil.

There were strangulation marks on the woman's neck, injuries made with a sharp object on her cheeks and she had also sustained head injuries. Based on the bruises, the police had registered a case under section 302 (for murder) and 201 (for causing disappearance of evidence) of the Indian Penal Code, against an unidentified person.

The police said that they had