

MAIL TODAY

Docs save two-month-old baby from rarest of rare brain tumour

By **Neetu Chandra**
in New Delhi

HE WAS born blind and with an extra-large head. The doctors gave him a one-in-a-million chance of survival.

"The child's MRI report showed a tumour near the bottom of the skull," said Rahul Nagpal, the chief paediatrician at Max Hospital, Saket. "The child was suffering from a rare condition called bulging anterior fontanelle. In this condition, the pressure in the brain is very high and it can cause sudden death and other neurological complications."

Doctors claimed that the mortality rate in such cases is nearly 100 per cent. "Babies with this tumour don't survive for more than three to four



Aditya, now four months old.

days," Nagpal said.

But there was an outside chance and the doctors at Max Hospital took up the challenge after Aditya Mohan, then barely two months old, was admitted there on May 15.

Three days later, he was wheeled into the operation theatre for a marathon sur-

gery. "Aditya was a tiny baby. But we took the challenge and successfully removed almost 90 per cent of the 210-gram tumour," Nagpal said.

After the surgery, the child was in coma for three days. "On the fourth day, he rolled his eyes and moved his hands... showing sure signs of revival. It's a miracle that he can see now and probably will lead a normal life," Nagpal said.

Aditya still has one-fifth of the tumour lodged inside his skull. "He is undergoing chemotherapy. The remaining portion of the tumour will vanish gradually," Nagpal said.

Today, Aditya is four months old and can see the tiny world around him — his mother, a devout Christian housewife, and father who works in the US.