

MP doctor 'slaps, drags 77-yr-old on hospital floor', inquiry ordered

ANAND MOHAN J  
BHOPAL, APRIL 20

A 77-YEAR-old man was allegedly assaulted by a doctor at the district hospital in Madhya Pradesh's Chhatarpur. A video of the incident went viral on social media after which an inquiry has been ordered into the doctor's conduct. The incident took place on April 17. A video captured by a bystander purportedly showed a frail Udhavlal Joshi being dragged across the hospital premises and threatened with confinement inside the hospital's police outpost. Joshi had brought his ailing wife to the hospital over a stomach vein disorder. He said they were waiting in line, like several others, when the doctor, identified as Rajesh Mishra, confronted them. According to Joshi, the doctor asked them why they were in the queue, and when they tried to explain, the doctor allegedly slapped him. Then, the doctor dragged him towards the police outpost inside the hospital premises.

3 killed as flash floods, landslides wreak havoc in J&K's Ramban dist

ARUN SHARMA  
JAMMU, APRIL 20

A CLOUDBURST triggered flash floods and landslides in J&K's Ramban district on Sunday, killing three persons, blocking the Jammu-Srinagar NH at several points, and disrupting power and water supply, officials said. Several parts of the UT have been hammered by torrential rain, high-velocity wind, lightning and hail since Saturday evening. Scores of houses, commercial establishments and vehicles have been damaged. On Saturday, two nomads along with their flock of around 40 sheep were killed in a lightning strike in Reasi district's Amas area. They were identified as Mohammad Rashid, 52, and Shahab Begum, 32. The three persons killed in Ramban Sunday have been identified as brothers Aqib Ahmad and Saqib Ahmad, and Muneer Ahmad. They died when a house collapsed at Seri Champa village on the outskirts of Ramban town. Rescue teams in Ramban



In Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district on Sunday. PTI

shifted nearly 500 people from low-lying areas to safer places, officials said. Ramban SSP (National Highway Traffic) Raja Adil Hamid Ganaie said the highway was blocked at five locations, including Panthyal, Seri and Kishtwar Pathar, due to landslides and shooting stones. Other roads were blocked as well. CM Omar Abdullah said his government was in touch with local officials to coordinate the operations. "Later today, I will be re-

many places. The district administration, which had already established an emergency control room and sounded an alert in view of adverse weather forecasts by Met department, made announcements from temples and mosques about the situation and asking them to contact designated officers in case of any emergency. Through the rain stopped at around 1.30 pm on Sunday, several areas were still without power supply because of the extensive damage to electricity grid. Meanwhile, the Mughal Road, connecting Jammu's Poonch district with Shopian in Kashmir, was opened for vehicular traffic after nearly a week. The road was closed last Sunday after heavy snowfall. In the hilly Kishtwar district, the Paddar sub-division and the district headquarters were cut off after a massive landslide at Pathar Naki along the Kishtwar-Paddar road, nearly 25 km from Kishtwar town. Kishtwar DC R K Shavan said 22 families were temporarily shifted from there as a precautionary measure.

Now, BJP's Dubey calls ex-CEC Quraishi 'Muslim commissioner'

VIKAS PATHAK  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 20



BJP MP Nishikant Dubey; ex-CEC SY Quraishi

HOURS AFTER his party distanced itself from his statement that CJI Sanjiv Khanna was responsible for civil wars in the country, BJP MP Nishikant Dubey on Sunday morning attacked former Chief Election Commissioner SY Quraishi over his criticism of the Waqf Act, labeling him a "Muslim commissioner". Asked about his statement, Dubey told *The Indian Express* that he had simply endorsed what BJP general secretary (organisation) B L Santhosh had said Saturday evening. Queries to the BJP about his latest statement have not elicited a response yet. On Saturday evening, amid the row over Dubey's attack on the CJI and the apex court, Santhosh fired a salvo at former Chief Election Commissioner SY Quraishi for his criticism of the law. On April 17, Quraishi had written on X: "Waqf Act is undoubtedly a blatantly sinister/evil plan of the govt to grab Muslim lands. I'm sure SC

till the apex court begins hearing it again on May 5. On Sunday morning, hours after BJP's disapproval of his attack on the CJI, Dubey replied to Quraishi's post on X: "You were not an Election Commissioner, but a Muslim Commissioner; during your tenure, most Bangladeshi infiltrators were made voters in Jharkhand's Santhal Pargana. He added: "The Islam of Prophet Muhammad Sahib came to India in 712; before that, this land belonged to Hindus or to the tribal, Jain, or Buddhist faith communities. My village Vikramshila was burned by Bakhtiyar Khilji in 1189; Vikramshila University gave the world its first Vice-Chancellor in the form of Atish Dipankar. Unite this country, read history; division created Pakistan, now there will be no more partition?" A day earlier, Dubey had accused the CJI not just of being the cause of the various civil wars in the country — in response to a question on Murshidabad violence — but had also wondered under which Article of the Constitution the SC had imposed a three-month timeline on the President to reject or give assent on a Bill referred to by a governor. will call it out. Misinformation by the mischievous propaganda machine has done its job well." Santhosh posted in reply to Quraishi's post at 7.47 pm Saturday: "Just remember that this man once headed the Election Commission of India. The Punya aggregated by our ancestors might be so huge that we still breathe democracy in spite of all these characters. Land grabbing was the aim of the 'Wakf by User' clause, Quraishi Saab." This was two days after the government told the Supreme Court it would not appoint any new member to the Central Waqf Council and state Waqf Boards, and not change the character of any Waqf-by-user property either notified or registered before the Act came into force.

Irked by 'interaction' with his wife, Bihar cop shoots colleague

HIMANSHU HARSH  
PATNA, APRIL 20

FOLLOWING AN argument with his colleague over his "interacting" with his wife, a Bihar Police constable shot his colleague dead with his rifle at the Bettiah police lines Saturday night. According to the police, the accused, Sarabjeet, allegedly shot around a dozen rounds with his INSAS rifle, killing Sonu. The incident took place inside the police barracks. Following the incident, other personnel at the barracks raised the alarm, but the accused could not immediately be detained as

he reportedly went up to the roof of the barracks. Eventually, constable Sarabjeet was overpowered by other personnel in the police lines and he was arrested. The rifle which was allegedly used to shoot constable Sonu was also seized. Superintendent of Police (SP) of Bettiah district, Shaurya Sumand said that the shooting stemmed from a personal dispute between the two constables, who had been reportedly "close friends". The officer also told that the two constables had been transferred to the Bettiah police lines from Sikta police station just "two days ago".

Why a Mumbai doc wrote a play to teach history-taking and bedside manners

RINKU GHOSH  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 20

FOR YEARS, Dr Farokh Udawadia has sat by the bedside of his patients at the intensive care unit (ICU) of Mumbai's Breach Candy Hospital, holding hands, listening and talking to them. "That bond often wins battles because it is about the patient's faith that the doctor will get him through and it is the doctor's faith that the patient will use his will to fight back even when their body is broken," says the 93-year-old doctor, who is known for his accurate diagnosis and relied upon by generations of patients. The true art of medicine, he believes, has been submerged by the "hubris of technology." It was precisely to revive to

human touch, which he sees fast receding among corporatised young doctors today, that he presented his play 'Oganga' (The Healer), based on the life of his idol Dr Albert Schweitzer (1875 - 1965), at the Ambedkar International Centre in Delhi on April 18. The play, featuring Jim Sarbh and directed by Sooni Taraporewala, was a soliloquy on the conflict between ethics and progress and how the twain can meet. Schweitzer, a polymath who gave up a successful life in Europe to treat patients in the jungles of Africa, epitomizes the kind of ethical dedication Dr Udawadia admires. "You don't have to be an evangelist," he says, "but India needs doctors who are committed to public health." He still keeps Schweitzer's photo in his



Dr Farokh Udawadia

consultation room. A lesson for medicos Somewhat of a polymath himself, he wrote the play during the lockdown over four months. He continues to write books on public health, plays Bach on his violin, paints, reads classical literature and gets inspired by Victor Hugo, Somerset Maugham and Rabindranath Tagore. But it's the poetry of TS Eliot that he loves, quoting verses from *The Wasteland* impromptu. "He talks about finding purpose in the wreckage of despair and as men of medicine, we can find that purpose. I ask doctors to develop many interests as a knowledge of humanities makes a good physician," says the doctor, who reaches his hospital everyday by 8.45 am for his rounds and finishes by 7 pm. As his students mill around, he educates them about the drill of history-taking, a thorough physical examination and making a clinical diagnosis rather than depending on technology and tests. "If you take a decent history of the patient, then listen to him carefully

about his discomfort, read the signs, you will know the path to take," he says. Recalling a case from his early days at KEM Hospital, he tells of an obese patient who suffered seizures. No test revealed the cause until a careful conversation revealed he had used uncertified herbal supplements for a long time. The supplements were laced with arsenic, leading to arsenic encephalopathy. "It was clinical observation and inquiry that solved the mystery," he says. Dr Udawadia advocates scientifically-backed medicine, including traditional and alternative therapies—so long as they're tested for efficacy. "Nobody is against alternative medicine, but it must be empirically validated. That benefits everyone."

Conventional methods still work Known to be a hard taskmaster of the basics, he insists how each hospital should keep an antibiogram, a study of bacteria in the laboratory and understanding how resistant it is to antibiotic medicines. As a critical care specialist, Dr Udawadia continues to study the mind-body effect, where the brain and body communicate through neural and hormone pathways. "Thoughts and emotions can trigger physiological responses like changes in heart rate, blood pressure, hormone release and immune function," he says. Dr Udawadia advocates scientifically-backed medicine, including traditional and alternative therapies — so long as they're tested for efficacy.

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2 South African cheetahs get new home, 250 km from Kuno

ANAND MOHAN J  
BHOPAL, APRIL 20

AFTER SPENDING two years at Kuno National Park (KNP) in Madhya Pradesh's Sheopur district, six-year-old cheetahs Prabhsh and Pavak were relocated to the Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary, 250 km away, on Sunday evening, according to officials overseeing

the translocation. The two male cheetahs, originally brought from South Africa's Waterberg Biosphere Reserve to Kuno in February 2023, were chosen for the move to Gandhi Sagar due to their wild traits, hunting record and age, wildlife officials said. The two have successfully hunted several chitals — the most common prey at KNP. Additional Principal Chief

Conservator of Forests Uttam Kumar Sharma said the animals were transported by road to their new home in a journey that took around eight hours. Chief Minister Mohan Yadav released them into the sanctuary in the evening. The Chief Minister said the release of the two cheetahs was a matter of great joy and a major step in the state's ambitious Cheetah Project.

He said the project, aimed at increasing the population of cheetahs and preserving the species, is showing signs of success. "Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary has now become the second site in the state, after Kuno National Park, where cheetahs are being reintroduced. From the perspective of wildlife tourism, today marks a historic day," he said. The Chief Minister emphasised that India's cheetah reintroduc-

tion efforts have shown better survival rates than those seen in other countries and attributed this to the state's forests and conducive climate. He pointed out that Madhya Pradesh's forests now host 26 cheetahs, including 14 cubs born in India. He also said that cheetahs are being brought from countries like South Africa, Kenya, and Botswana to be settled in Madhya Pradesh's forests.

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Chhattisgarh ex-Speaker's death: Culpable homicide charge against 'fake Dr Camm'

JAYPRAKASH S NAIDU  
RAIPUR, APRIL 20

CHHATTISGARH POLICE booked Narendra Vikramaditya Yadav, accused of impersonating UK-based cardiologist Dr John Camm, on charges including culpable homicide in connection with the death of former Chhattisgarh Speaker Rajendra Prasad Shukla in 2006. Police also booked then management of Apollo Hospital in Bilaspur, where Yadav allegedly operated on Shukla. According to Shukla's son, the former Speaker died days after the surgery. The FIR against Yadav and the Apollo management was filed at Sarkanda police station in Bilaspur late Saturday under IPC sections 420 (cheating), 465 (forgery), 466 (forgery or record of court or of public register, etc), 468 (forgery for cheating), 471 (using forged document as genuine), 304 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder) and 34 (act done by two or more persons with common intention). Yadav was arrested earlier this month by MP's Damoh police for allegedly forging medical qualifications and getting a job at Damoh's Mission Hospital. According to investigators, he assumed the name Dr Narendra John Camm, allegedly stealing the identity of UK-based cardiologist and professor John Camm. Apollo Hospital officials in Bilaspur, where Yadav reportedly worked for nine months in 2006, did not respond to calls and messages by *The Indian Express* seeking a comment on the FIR. Earlier, when district authorities sought information from the hospital about Yadav's time there, Apollo Hospital PRO Devsh Gopal had said the hospital would provide authorities the information and refused to comment further. The FIR on Saturday is based on a complaint by Shukla's son Pradeep Shukla (63) on April 9. In the complaint, it was alleged that Yadav performed an angiography and angioplasty on Yadav at Apollo Hospital. After that, Shukla was on ventilator for 18 days and died on August 20, 2006. Pradeep alleged that the hospital suppressed the matter.