

HOSPITAL IN BIHAR WILL BEAR CITY DOC'S NAME

Dr Chandrakant Patil, a 24-year-old doc, lost his life while helping people affected by the recent floods in Bihar

SANTOSH ANDHALE AND VIVEK SINHA

While the nation is still trying to make sense of the violence against north Indians in Maharashtra, doctors in Bihar have taken a decision that offers a ray of hope. They have named a make-shift hospital in Saharsa after Dr Chandrakant Patil, a resident doctor from K E M Hospital who lost his life while helping people affected by the recent floods in Bihar.

Dr Patil was part of a 48-member team deputed to Bihar from September 17-27 to take care of flood victims. He was sent to Saharsa district, which was among the worst-affected. The doctors were working out of a make-shift hospital in a tent. While there, the 24-year-old sustained

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Dr Chandrakant Patil died in Bihar after being struck by lightning

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serious burns after being struck by lightning. Doctors tried to treat him at the make-shift hospital but in vain.

Dr Patil's K E M Hospital colleagues and local doctors decided to honour him by naming the hospital, which is currently housed in a college at Sonbarsa, after him. Singh said the principal of the college promptly agreed to the proposal.

"We hope it will be a monument of harmony. Dr Patil had come here on a mission. He never allowed parochialism to prevail over his sense of duty. To begin with, we have named the make-shift hospital after him. On November 20, the district magistrate will formally dedicate the hospital to Dr Patil," said Dr Ravi Kant Singh, a doctor at K E M Hospital, who is from Patna and is part of a team of doctors from Mumbai who are attending to flood victims in Bihar.

With help from the local Red Cross unit, the hospital is now equipped with a full-fledged operation theatre, a labour room and four rooms with multiple beds. Plans include a casualty ward that will be kept open round-the-clock.

Dr Anil Dudhbhate, secretary, Maharashtra Association of Resident Doctors, said, "It's a heart-warming gesture. Dr Patil went there as a volunteer. We just felt good that our doctors are doing their bit to help the flood-affected people in Bihar."

The Saharsa district magistrate could not be contacted for his comments.

COLLEAGUES RAISE MONEY FOR DR PATIL

Last month, Dr Chandrakant Patil's colleagues contributed two-days' pay and raised Rs 6.5 lakh, which