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58-yr-old's throat slit by terrorists, but survives

While almost all others were either shot at, hurt in the grenade attacks or burnt in the Taj fire, Harishchandra Shrivardhankar had his throat cut by terrorists and left for dead

By Santosh Andhale**Posted On Monday, December 01, 2008**

Harishchandra Shrivardhankar, 58, is one of the 359 injured in the city's recent terror attacks, but his injury is strikingly different from the other victims'.

While the others have been recuperating in hospitals with bullet or burn injuries, Shirvardhankar is the only one who had his throat slit by a sharp object.

Doctors say he will be unable to talk for the next 15 days. As he is unable to speak, Shirvardhankar has been explaining his situation in writing.

Shrivardhankar works at the Mantralaya in the Food and Civil Supply department as a senior officer. He stays in Kalyan and has been on election duty since the last few days near Cama Hospital's government office.





Harishchandra Shrivardhankar is now being treated at JJ Hospital

On Wednesday night, he got late due to his election duty. Just as he was leaving the office, he heard the sound of a gunshot and ran to the fifth floor of Cama Hospital.

However, one of the terrorists caught Shrivardhankar and used a sharp object to slit his throat, leaving him to die.

Till Thursday morning, Shrivardhankar's family were clueless about his whereabouts, as he doesn't have a mobile phone. However, the family was intimated by the JJ hospital staff and they rushed to see him admitted there.

Dr Rajan Palav, ENT surgeon, JJ Hospital, said, "We have performed the tracheotomy, a surgical procedure on the neck, to open a direct airway through an incision in the windpipe.

Now, we are doing an endoscopy to inspect if any obstruction exists in his airway passage. If there is no complication, then he will be able to talk in 15 days. But there is a deep scar on his neck."

Shrivardhankar's younger son, Atish said, "Luckily, the terrorist left my father after slitting his throat, because they could have done anything to him. We are praying for his speedy recovery.

Doctors need to carry out one more procedure on Monday after which we will have a clear idea about how severe the throat injury is, as it may even take a month then."

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