

Rights panel member saves the day for ailing sr citizen

S Balakrishnan I TNN

Mumbai: The Maharashtra Human Rights Commission has come to the rescue of a lonely, 82-year-old man who recently suffered a cerebral stroke and had no access to funds.

On December 10, Ghanshyam Rangnekar, who resides at Sahakar Nagar in Chembur, suffered the stroke. His maid found him lying unconscious and uncared for in his flat. She alerted the neighbours, who in turn informed the Nehru Nagar police.

Sub-inspector N V Desai admitted Rangnekar to the Rajawadi municipal hospital at Ghatkopar. Dr Vijay Sangole, a resident and social worker, came to know about the incident through a local newspaper report and rushed to Rajawadi Hospital.

"I was moved by Rangnekar's plight. None of his relatives had turned up and no one at the hospital bothered to care for him. With the help of the police, I had him discharged and admitted him to Universal hospital in Chembur where my friend Dr Kuldeep Mahajan agreed to treat him without insisting on pre-payment," Dr Sangole told TOI on Wednesday.

Dr Sangole came to know that Rangnekar had an account with Canara Bank in Pestom Sagar, Chembur, and requested the manager to release the funds.

"The bank officials cited rules and regulations and refused to release the funds to save their accountholder's life. I then called T Singaravel, a member of the rights commission, who had already come to know about Rangnekar's case through a newspaper. Singaravel was moved by Rangnekar's condition and suo motu ordered the bank to release the necessary funds," Dr Sangole stated.

Bank officials said they were faced with a tricky situation because in the absence of proper authorisation, they could not release the funds. But, the order of Singaravel, a retired IPS officer known for his complete integrity, has helped the bank come to the rescue of Rangnekar, who continues to remain unconscious.

S Ganeshan, an activist, said the incident underscored the plight of senior citizens living alone in the metropolis.

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