

MANY MEMBERS OF DENTAL FACULTIES WANTED TO CONTEST FOR THE POST

Ketan Desai's DCI nomination kicks up a controversy

statesman news service

NEW DELHI, 10 MAY: The appointment of the disgraced former Medical Council of India president, Dr Ketan Desai, to the Dental Council of India (DCI) by the Gujarat University (GU) has triggered a row.

Despite protests to the Narendra Modi government in Gujarat, Dr Desai has been recommended as Gujarat University's representative to DCI for the fourth time in a row, according to sources in an NGO, People for Better Treatment (PBT).

Dr Desai was previously nominated to the newly formed Medical Council of India (MCI) by the GU (although they have not made him a formal MCI member yet to avoid controversy) despite the fact that his medical registration remains sus-

pending and that he awaits trial in at least two CBI courts in Delhi and Uttar Pradesh, the sources said. Dr Desai's nomination has raised many eyebrows. Many members of dental faculties wanted to contest for the post but as Dr Desai was contesting, none could file nomination, said officials in the Council.

"In Gujarat University, Dr Desai has been holding fort for several years, irrespective of the party in power in the state. He managed to get into the DCI for three terms, with each term having a period of three years... as he controls the medical and dental faculties in the state, and has cordial relations with political bosses, no member of faculty will dare challenge him and he hence gets into the council without opposition," sources said.

Mr Kunal Saha of PBT has filed a petition with the Union Health



Ministry, challenging Dr Desai's nomination and the constitution and functioning of the DCI.

The NGO, a registered society fighting for a better healthcare system, has filed a PIL against GU that is still pending before Gujarat High Court (Spl Civil Application no 13180 of 2013; PBT vs State of Gujarat and Dr Ketan Desai).

The petitioner has said it is common knowledge that while working as MCI president in 2010, Dr Desai was caught red-handed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) while taking huge bribe from a private medical college allegedly in exchange

for granting MCI recognition.

Although Dr Desai is currently free on bail waiting for the trial to begin, he has already been criminally indicted by CBI for serious charges of bribery and corruption, the petition added.

According to the petitioner, Dr Desai has already brought ignominy and distrust to the entire medical profession in India. He said Dr Desai's medical registration has also been suspended indefinitely by MCI in 2010 for "professional misconduct" after a complaint was lodged against his "illegal and immoral activities" vide MCI complaint No MCI-211-2/2010/2563/2566 (Annexure-2).

"The section 6 of 'Dentists Code of Ethics Regulations, 1976' (framed under Section 17A of 'Dentists Act, 1948') has categorically stated that it would be unethical for any DCI mem-

ber to be linked with 'immorality involving abuse of professional relationship' (section 6e) or 'conniving at or aiding in any kind of illegal practice' (section 6f). There can be no argument that Dr Desai's undisputed involvement with illegal and unethical activities, as discussed above, makes him absolutely unqualified to become a member of DCI. Selection of Dr Desai as a member of DCI also clearly violates 'Dentists Code of Ethics and Regulations, 1976' both in letter and spirit," the petition said. Dr Saha has urged the health ministry to investigate "this matter of grave concern to public health" and to take measures to remove Dr Desai from DCI immediately to maintain the integrity of the council and restore public trust in the highest regulatory body for dental practice in India.



'FOWL' IS FAIR AND FAIR IS 'FOWL' ~ A black-rumped Flameback woodpecker (Dinopium Benghalense) eats an insect in Guwahati on Saturday. **afp**

Short Takes

Militants killed in Poonch

JAMMU, 10 MAY: Two militants were killed when Army foiled an infiltration bid along the LoC in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir, the second this month. A jawan was also injured in the exchange of fire late last night. **pti**

Mukhtar Ansari on custody parole

AGRA, 10 MAY: Controversial UP legislator Mukhtar Ansari was today released on custody parole from central jail here for a day to campaign. Escorted by security personnel, Mr Ansari, whose Quami Ekta Dal is supporting the Congress in Varanasi and who is contesting from Ghosi constituency, was released after his wife Afshan furnished a bond of Rs 1.27 lakh. **pti**

BJP leader killed in mishap

MAU (UP), 10 MAY: A local BJP leader was today killed and another injured when the vehicle in which they were travelling collided with a truck while they were returning in the wee hours after preparations for a rally by Narendra Modi. BJP district president Sushil Rai was killed on the spot while party general secretary Shaileendra Singh was seriously injured in the mishap. **pti**

Family buried alive in landslide

GUWAHATI, 10 MAY: Seven members of a family were buried alive in a landslide in south Assam's Karimganj. Due to heavy rains, mud slid down a hill and fell on a temporary house at Satgarakul village last night. **pti**

Assam attack toll rises to 43

NARAYANGURI (ASSAM), 10 MAY: Two more bodies of minors were recovered in the Baksa district today, taking the toll in the mayhem allegedly unleashed by the rpt Bodoland People's Front (BPF)-supported miscreants in BTAD areas to 43, a senior government official said. **pti**

'My jugal bandi with Modi is long term'

narendra dev

GORAKHPUR, 10 MAY: The camaraderie between him and the BJP's Prime Ministerial nominee Narendra Modi is a long-term phenomenon and not dependent on the success or failure of either of them, BJP president Rajnath Singh has said.

"Agar aap ise jugal bandi kehte hain, toh yeh tike wali jugal bandi hai (If you say the Modi-Rajnath relationship is one of camaraderie, it is going to last long)," Mr Singh told The Statesman yesterday.

The BJP chief said he was in "no way in competition" with Mr Modi not only because the Gujarat Chief Minister is very popular and has established a national acceptability but "also because we are truly both great friends".

Mr Singh claimed that contrary to media speculation, even during his first stint as BJP president in 2005-09; there were "no differences" between him and Mr Modi.

The BJP chief said as there was still time for his term as party chief to end, he would not want



Narendra Modi in Robertsganj on Saturday. **afp**

to join the government as minister. "However, in our party, individual opinion will not count and the party will decide," he said. Mr Singh said if he continued as party chief and Modi takes over as Prime Minister, "the jugal-bandi can only continue further".

The BJP chief said the relationship between the two leaders was further cemented after January 2013 when Rajnath Singh had returned as party chief as Nitin Gadkari's second term was denied.

"But when I decided to support Modi's candidature, I did

not take an emotional decision. It was completely on merit and the ground level assessment I made by talking to workers at all levels. I am happy I could sense the pulse of the people of this country," he said.

Mr Singh admitted it was "a tough call" to make particularly after party patriarch L K Advani opposed the move. "Wob gurujan baen (Advani is an elderly statesman)," he said, adding, "but I have been always like this, once I take a decision after examining all issues, generally I stick to it". The BJP chief denied he had any regrets over past mis-

takes in his political career, particularly as BJP president. "I am a positive person from childhood. My family members also say that," he remarked.

Mr Singh said "qualitatively, NDA regime under Modi will be different from UPA". But he declined to draw any comparison with the erstwhile NDA regime under Atal Behari Vajpayee where he served as a minister. Asked to comment on lapses during the Vajpayee regime like Kandahar hijack and attack on BSF jawans by Bangladesh Rifles, he said, "one thing we can assure you, our government will not stomach any insult to India's pride and prestige".

He said in the event of the NDA forming government it will work hard to improve relations with all neighbouring countries like China, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

"In diplomacy I have said on a number of fronts. The way he convinced China to concede Sikkim was an integral part of India was very impressive," he added.

Cong takes a dig at Modi over removal of ads in Mumbai buses



statesman news service

AHMEDABAD, 10 MAY: The Gujarat unit of the Congress has taken a dig at BJP's Prime Ministerial aspirant Narendra Modi for keeping quiet on the issue of discrimination against Gujaratis settled in Mumbai by the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) led by Raj Thackeray.

Seizing the opportunity arising out of the city buses in the western metropolis being forced by the MNS to withdraw advertisements of a Gujarati daily's new edition, GPCC president Arjun Modhvadia has alleged that greed for power has prevented Mr Modi from protesting against the humiliation of Gujaratis in Mumbai. The MNS, whose leader Raj Thackeray has a cordial relationship with the Gujarat Chief Minister and had been in the forefront of 'Modi for PM' campaign, has objected to the advertisement for the new

edition of the Gujarati daily which attributed much of the city's growth to the Gujaratis settled there.

GPCC president Arjun Modhvadia in a statement today attributed Mr Modi's silence on the humiliation of Gujaratis to his greed for power, an euphemism for requirement of MNS support for forming a possible government at the Centre.

Mr Modhvadia asked Mr Modi to clarify what kind of relationship he has with Raj Thackeray's MNS which terrorises Gujaratis in Mumbai and subjects them to humiliation.

"What kind of alliance does BJP's Prime Ministerial aspirant have with the MNS?", the GPCC president asked.

He said that Mr Modi talks a lot about 'One great India' at rallies in other states but gets cosy with people like Raj Thackeray who spreads parochialism and regionalism.

Honour killing: Mother, uncle extradited to India

press trust of india

TORONTO, 10 MAY: The mother and uncle of an Indian-origin woman, who was the victim of alleged "honour killing" in Punjab in 2000, have been ordered by a Canadian court to be extradited to India to face trial for her murder.

Jaswinder Sidhu was stabbed to death in Punjab in June 2000 and her mother, Malkit Kaur Sidhu, and uncle, Surjit Singh Badesha, both of Maple Ridge, east of Vancouver, are accused of murder and conspiracy in India.

Malkit and Badesha were arrested in 2012.

The prosecution in the case heard by the British Columbia Supreme Court alleged that the pair orchestrated the murder because Sidhu had married a poor rickshaw driver in India, rather than a person of their choice.

Malkit and Badesha fought extradition, arguing there was not enough evidence to force them to face charges in India. The Canadian Press reported.

Twenty-five-year-old Jaswinder secretly married against the

wishes of her family and fled Canada for India to reunite with her husband Mithu Sidhu, who survived the attack.

Four men have already been convicted of murder in India.

In a ruling delivered yesterday, Justice Gregory Fitch said Jaswinder's family wanted her to accept arranged marriage.

The judge noted that Badesha was the family patriarch and enforced traditional gender roles in the home. The pair, who both appeared in court via video link, have been ordered to remain in custody until their extradition.

'Pressure groups will help women play larger role in politics'

statesman news service

NEW DELHI, 10 MAY: Women need to organise themselves as pressure groups to be able to play a larger and significant role in politics, women journalists told a panel discussion on 'Women & Politics: Elections Today & Tomorrow' organised by Ficci Ladies Organisation (FLO).

Ms Navika Kumar, Ms Nistula Hebbur and Ms Smita Sharma, representing different newspapers and TV channels, expressed their views on why

women have been left behind in the political arena both as leaders and voters when they have excelled in private and public sectors in the last few decades. Participation of women was dismal in legislatures as they have not been able to stress the need to be heard, she said.

In 1911, women were allowed to vote in just two countries in the world. Today, a century later, that right is virtually universal and a fundamental right. But how many women actually step out and exercise

their electoral rights? How are women's issues placed in the manifestoes of political parties? How many women candidates are actually fielded by political parties to contest elections? What is happening to the women's reservation Bill? These were some of the questions that were focused on during the discussion.

Political parties must become more sensitive towards women and should reserve 33 per cent for women in organisational posts or give them party tickets,



they said. It was also highlighted that national parties should clearly draw out a roadmap for women-related issues and deliver results.

The moderator, Mr Ashutosh Sinha, business journalist, said cultural attitudes that see

women as less able and worthy to lead is one of the challenges that need to be addressed to create an enabling environment for women's participation in politics.

Ms Neeta Boochra, president of FLO, pointed out that women make up less than 10 per cent of world leaders, only 21 countries out of 193 UN Member States have women at the helm, less than 15 diplomatic missions in India have women ambassadors or high commissioners out of 155 missions.

'Avoid heat to prevent heart attacks'

statesman news service

NEW DELHI, 10 MAY: Summer can be a dangerous time for older people, especially heart patients. They need to be especially careful when it is not only hot, but humid too, for their chances of having a heart attack increase in extreme conditions, according to Dr Purushottam Lal, eminent interventional cardiologist and director of Metro Hospitals & Heart Institute, Noida.

"This has been seen time and again in our own experience that heart attacks are more likely in extreme conditions - very cold and very hot temperatures - and affects mainly people over 70. It has been found that heart attacks are more common in the winter months. As the weather turns warmer they drop in frequency. But over about 23 degrees Celsius (74 degrees

Fahrenheit) they began to rise again," he said.

According to Dr Lal, BC Roy national award winner, humidity also increases the risk, regardless of whether it is hot or cold. A heart attack is more likely if it has been preceded by a week of extreme conditions, not just an isolated day.

Why this is so is not clear, but it could be that in extreme conditions the body's metabolism has to work harder to keep the body at its normal temperature of 37 degrees Celsius (98.6 degrees Fahrenheit) and this puts a strain on the heart, said Dr Lal, who has introduced a number of interventional techniques in India.

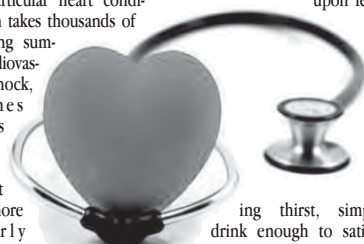
In hot conditions, there could be other contributing factors such as dehydration, and/or fall in blood pressure while standing outside in the heat. With a hot summer coming up, older peo-

ple need to take precautions, especially if they have a history of heart problems or risk factors like smoking, high blood pressure, raised cholesterol, obesity, and/or diabetes.

One particular heart condition which takes thousands of lives during summer is cardiovascular shock, sometimes known as cardiovascular insular but perhaps more popularly known by the name of its primary cause of "dehydration".

According to Dr Lal, cardiovascular insular occurs when the body becomes dehydrated plunging it into a state of shock. Dehydration is not a unique condition, but it is a situation that is

often ignored, especially at the sub-clinical stage which is just enough dehydration to be a potential problem but not enough to cause severe symptoms. Most often a person will upon feel-



ing thirst, simply drink enough to satisfy the thirst but not necessarily enough to safeguard normal physiology.

In a great percentage of dehydration victims, the first symptoms are often fatal. The tragedy of this condition is that it could have been avoided by simply increasing the intake of water.

HC puts on hold release of film on Aarushi's killing

press trust of india

MUMBAI, 10 MAY: Bombay High Court has put on hold the release of Hindi feature film 'Rabasiya', reportedly based on the high profile murder case of Aarushi Talwar, till 13 June, but refused to restrain the producers from making promos of the movie.

Mr Justices V M Kanade and Anil Menon, hearing a petition yesterday, refused to restrain the producers of the film from advertising or making promos of the movie, because no prima facie case had been made out for this relief.

However, the judges said they were keeping the petition for final hearing after the vacations on 13 June when they would

decide on the release of the film. Nupur and Rajesh Talwar, parents of Aarushi, who have been convicted for their daughter's murder and are undergoing life sentence, had filed a petition in the High Court earlier seeking a

SENSITIVE ISSUE

ban on the film's release on the ground that it was based on "distorted" facts about their daughter's killing.

Advocate Atul Damle, appearing for director Manish Gupta and producer UVI Films Production Ltd, assured the court that the film would not be released till the final date of hearing of the petition, i.e 13 June. The counsel also assured the court that in the promos and

advertisement they would put a disclaimer saying that the movie was a work of fiction and did not bear any resemblance to any person, dead or alive.

The Talwars have filed an appeal against their conviction and it is pending in the Court. Both pleaded that promos and advertisements of the film should be banned because it may influence their appeal, which is yet to be heard.

The judges, however, did not grant any relief to the Talwars while observing, "No case has been made out for grant of relief in the notice of motion."

The court also took note of the assurance given by the film makers that they would put a disclaimer in the advertisements and promos of the film.