

## GS Medical College faces derecognition

Malathy Iyer | TNN

Mumbai: For the second time this year, the Medical Council of India (MCI) has sent a showcause notice to the city's most prestigious medical school, the GS Medical School attached to KEM Hospital in Parel. Citing staff deficit, poor infrastructure and hostel facilities as the main reasons for issuing the showcause notice, the MCI has given the hospital a month to fix the "problems or face derecognition" of its MBBS course.

Two action-taken reports sent by the corporation-run college in this interim don't seem to have cut much ice with the MCI. A fast coming-up hostel building seems to have been ignored by the MCI. The only difference is that the MCI itself is new: after its chief Ketan Desai was arrested for corruption, the MCI has been reconstituted with a governing council comprising doctors from several teaching institutes. **Desperate KEM seeks lecturers for college**

Mumbai: Confirming the news of the Medical Council of India's (MCI) show-cause notice, Dr Sanjay Oak, dean of G S Medical College & KEM Hospital, said, "We are working on a war-footing to recruit lecturers after the MCI stated that we have a deficit of 57 lecturer-teachers."

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) commissioner Swadheen Kshatriya gave a special order on Wednesday morning for the latest round of recruitment—the fourth such order in a span of three years. But given the fact that most of these vacancies belong to the reserved category, there has been a dearth of candidates.

On Wednesday, calls made to Dr S K Sarin, governor of the new MCI governing council, yielded no response. The MCI website, however, clearly states that it has "issued a show-cause notice for withdrawal of recognition".

G S Medical College takes in 180 students every year to its MBBS course, training them at its 1,800-bedded KEM Hospital that treats over 1.8 million outpatients and 85,000 in-patients every year.

The new MCI show-cause reiterates most of the old charges—overcrowding in wards, inadequate space between beds, insufficient space in dormitories, makeshift labour room due to renovation and suchlike.

But the action taken on the campus is apparent. For instance, over the last six months, the hospital authorities have speeded up the much-needed infrastructure makeover.

"Work on a 20-storeyed hostel building has already reached 18 storeys," said a senior civic administrator, who added that outstation students were in not inconvenienced in any way.

"When the medical school was set up 80 years ago, it usually had local students. In fact, outstation students have started coming in huge numbers only in the last decade or so. But to take care of our students, we have rented six school premises within a one-km radius of the campus," he said.

The newly renovated labour ward is scheduled to open within a few weeks. "We cannot shut down an entire section just because of renovation work. KEM Hospital is a referral centre with women from across the country coming here," said a senior teacher.

The hospital has, in fact, managed to recruit staff for its forensic department which had been derecognized by the Delhi-based MCI for conducting post-graduate courses.

### GLORY DAYS

The Seth G S Medical College, the twelfth medical college in the country, opened its doors on June 1, 1925, to 46 students—six of them women. It was set up as an avenue for Indian students to pursue medical education, then a

domain of the British. The formal opening followed the next year and it was affiliated to the University of Mumbai (then Bombay). The hospital, with 125 beds, started admitting patients on 15 January, 1926. Today, the hospital has over 1,800 beds (with occupancy going to 2,000 at times). Around 180 new students enter the college every year. According to its website, the first heart transplant in India was conducted at KEM Hospital by Dr P K Sen.

