

Ketan Desai's arrest exposes massive corruption in MCI

Medical Body Chief Caught Taking Rs 2 Crore Bribe From Punjab College

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The arrest of MCI chief Ketan Desai on Friday and subsequent investigations have firmly established that the body which regulates medical education in the country is, as a court described it once, a den of corruption. Desai was caught accepting a bribe of Rs 2 crore from the vice-president of Patiala-based Gyan Sagar medical college and hospital.

The vice-president of the college, Surinder Singh, has been arrested. Another official of the college, Kanwaljit Singh, and a Delhi-based middleman, Jitendra Singh, too were arrested. Kanwaljit was delivering the cash to Desai when CBI officials nabbed them. All four were remanded to five-day CBI custody by a court on Friday.

According to CBI, Desai had asked for Rs 2 crore for



IN THE HD: MCI chief Ketan Desai (C) being produced in a court in New Delhi on Friday

granting permission to start admission of students for the academic year 2010-2011 in

different courses even though the college had failed to comply with objections pointed

out earlier by an inspection committee.

Earlier, the college had applied for permission for admission of students for the academic session of 2010-2011. The executive committee meeting of MCI held on February 5 under the chairmanship of Desai had found that the college was lacking in requisite infrastructure. "On account of deficiencies noticed in the inspection report, the college was not granted approval and its request was declined at that stage," said a CBI official.

Sources said Desai had been under CBI scanner for the past few years and his phone had also been under surveillance.

The agency on Thursday raided the offices of Desai and registered a case under Prevention of Corruption Act (PCA). CBI officials raided the official's workplace in the

IMA building as well as the MCI headquarters at Dwarka.

MCI, in the recent past, has been plagued by allegations of corruption and wrongdoing by its officials. An expose by TOI and Times Now last year had revealed that two senior officials of MCI were also board members of one of the colleges caught demanding capitation fees on camera. Desai was himself on the board of one of the colleges that was caught asking for money for admission. Desai had been asked to step down by a court in 2001 but was later reelected.

The CBI later sought seven days custodial remand for Desai, Kanwaljeet and Jitendra saying that it was necessary to unearth the entire nexus and ascertain how many more colleges benefited similarly from Desai.