



The 'Dr' is in (or is it?)

MBBS holders will soon have an exclusive symbol, but the IRCS may be cross

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Doctors who have MBBS degrees often grumble about practitioners of traditional Ayurvedic or Unani medicine and homeopaths calling themselves doctors, and worse, prescribing allopathic medicines (which they refer to as 'crosspathy'). The Indian Medical Association (IMA) has a solution: a unique emblem.

The IMA has received a no-objection certificate from the Intellectual Property Office (IPO) to trademark a red cross with the letters 'Dr' in the centre, in white, and is now registering it. Allopathic practitioners will be able to use it on their prescriptions and signage to indicate that they have studied modern medicine.

Dr. K.K. Aggarwal, president of the IMA, said



that the umbrella body had put out a call for designs and suggestions in 2015, and that it had received over 110 designs from doctors across the country.

Dr. Jayesh Lele, of the Maharashtra IMA, said that the aim was to have something simple and easily identifiable with medicine. "The emblem would be of great service to the public. Also, it will empower us to initiate action against

crosspathy practitioners or quacks who wrongly use the emblem."

All not well?

The potential problem: the emblem closely resembles one of the emblems of the International Committee of the Red Cross, and has been recognised since the 1864 Geneva Convention as a distinctive sign for medical relief teams on battlefields.

"We have used a lighter red shade for the cross, and we also have the abbreviation 'Dr' in the centre, which will differentiate the logo," Dr. Aggarwal said.

Later, Dr. Aggarwal added, "There is no duplication as far as we are concerned."

India's Geneva Convention Act, 1960, Section 12, prohibits the use

(without the Central government's permission) of 'any design or wording' that resembles the Red Cross emblems closely enough to be mistaken for it.

Neel Kamal Singh, deputy secretary of the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS), told *The Hindu*, "Even if one changes the colour or slightly changes the pattern of the cross or applies any other filter, it will not be permitted. This is a rule set by the Geneva Convention and the Indian government has committed to it."

Union Health Secretary C.K. Mishra said he was not aware if any objection had been raised over the emblem. "As of now we have no information on the matter," Mr. Mishra said.

(With inputs from Bindu Shajan Perappadan in New Delhi)

6 from K'taka in list of debarred medical colleges

Bengaluru: The Medical Council of India has released a list of 69 medical colleges which have been debarred from admitting students for bachelor of medicine and bachelor of surgery.

The list includes six colleges from Karnataka, of which three have been debarred from admissions during 2017-18 and 2018-19. The three institutions are Kanachur Institute of Medical Sciences & Research Centre, Mangaluru; Akash Institute of Medical Sciences & Research Centre, Devanahalli; and Sambharam Institute of Medical Sciences & Research, Kolar.

Sri Siddhartha Medical College, Tumakuru, Al Ameen Medical College & Hospital, Bijapur, and Kempegowda Institute of Medical Sciences, Bengaluru, which are not permitted to admit students against increased intake during for academic year 2017-18, also figure in the list.

SSMC Tumakuru has permission to admit students only for 130 seats, Al Ameen Medical College 100 seats and KIMS 120 seats. TNN

Seeking legal opinion on denotifying highways: Centre tells High Court

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Union government on Thursday informed the High Court of Karnataka that it has forwarded the state government's request of denotifying national highways that fall within the city limits to the Ministry of Law and Justice to seek legal opinion in the matter.

Assistant Solicitor General Prabhulinga K Navadgi, filing a memo, has also sought details from the state government about the number of roads where bypasses have been constructed and if national highway standards have been maintained.

Further, it has said that the state government, which is proposing to denotify the roads, has to maintain the roads ac-

cording to national highway standards even if no bypass is constructed.

Justice Vineet Kothari was hearing a batch of petitions filed by liquor licence holders who had moved the court following the Excise department's refusal to renew their licences following the Supreme Court order. The Apex Court, in its order on December, 2016 had prohibited the functioning of liquor outlets on highways and directed the Excise department not to renew liquor licences of outlets on highways.

The state government has proposed to denotify the roads within the city and has placed a proposal before the Union government. The judge adjourned the next hearing of the matter on August 3.

OCI medical seats case

The High Court of Karnataka on Thursday dropped contempt proceedings against Manjula V, principal secretary, Medical Education and Manjunath D, executive director, Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) after the state government informed the court that they would allow Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) students to apply for medical seats in all categories except in government seats.

OCI students had moved the court contending that KEA was not allowing them to apply for medical seats in all categories and were insisting on allotting only NRI quota seats.

The students questioned the government notification dated July 19 wherein it said that 15%

of the total intake of medical colleges will be filled by students including NRIs, OCIs, PIO (Persons of Indian Origin) and foreigners. These students will not be eligible for admissions in any other category of seats.

Despite the high court directing the state government to allow OCI students to apply for medical seats in all category of seats other than NRI and government seats, the KEA failed to comply with the court orders.

A division bench comprising Justice Jayant Patel and Justice S Sujatha disposed of the petition following the state government's submission allowing OCI students to apply in all categories other than government seats.

Will follow court order on INC: Govt

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THE state government has decided to follow the High Court's recent judgment that nursing colleges in the state do not need recognition from the Indian Nursing Council (INC).

In the wake of the judgment, Medical Education Minister Dr Sharan Prakash Patil on Wednesday convened a meeting where the decision was taken. The meeting was attended by department officials as well as the INC president.

In the three-hour long meeting, the minister also requested the INC to take measures to upload the list of nursing colleges in the state on its official website.

After the meeting, Patil said, "We have to follow the court order and, at the same time, we have to follow the INC Act. Section 12 of the Act permits INC to

ROOT CAUSE

In May 2017, the INC had withdrawn recognition for all nursing colleges in Karnataka and removed their names from its website. This was following a state government order on December 2016 that INC recognition was not necessary for state nursing colleges.

have control over nursing colleges when it comes to quality issue. So we have to look at that angle also."

The minister also said he will call both groups — one who wants INC and the other who do not want it — for a meeting. "We are hoping to arrive at a common ground to resolve the issue as students are anxious. We do not want any confrontation and want to resolve this confusion. We will

do it as per law," the minister said. Earlier this week, a section of nursing college managements approached the High Court which passed an order that the INC had no authority to grant recognition to nursing colleges and had restrained the INC from publishing on its website that institutions have to obtain recognition from it. However, another section of nursing colleges are insisting on INC recognition.

Vinu Thomas, general secretary of the Karnataka Pravasi Congress, who was part of a nursing college delegation who met the minister and CM a few weeks ago, said they would approach the apex court against the verdict of the High Court. "We cannot let the interests of the students suffer. If our colleges do not have INC approval, then these students will not have a degree that is valued globally. Their job prospects will dwindle," he said.