

GMCH-32 takes a leap forward

■ Sets CT scan centre, will start operations from January; limit on waiver to be uncapped

RITIKA JHA PALIAT
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 22 Twenty years after its establishment, Government Medical College and Hospital (GMCH), Sector 32, has started its own CT scan centre.

The centre is currently under trial (having performed tests on over 20 patients in the past couple of days). It will become operational in January (2014). The service until now was available via a centre running on a public private partnership mode where the costs were 40 per cent higher (Rs 500 for head) than government hospital rates and the condition of one poor-free test per 10 poor patients existed.

Now, the cost will be lesser and the waiver for poor patients will no longer be



The CT scan centre at the GMCH-32 is under trial. TRIBUNE PHOTO: PARVESH CHAUHAN

limited. "The rates will be on a par with the PGI," said Director-Principal of the GMCH Dr Atul Sachdev.

The hospital first floated

the tenders for starting its own CT scan centre in 1999, but it failed to complete the process. Sources in the GMCH administration

revealed that the case was never pursued.

In 2004, the hospital outsourced the service to a private company without

charging any rent. The centre that was being run by private players courted several controversies ranging from fleecing patients to violating terms of the agreement pertaining to poor patient funds.

Last year, for instance, an inquiry conducted by a committee found that instead of providing free service to 10 per cent of the total number of poor patients, as mentioned in the agreement, the private centre had been waiving 10 per cent of the cost obtained from services availed of by the poor patients.

There was no check on whether the waived amount ever reached the poor patients. Set up in the department of radiology, the Rs 14-crore project has raised high hopes.

HINA ROHTAKI
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

PANCHKULA, DECEMBER 22 Panchkula remains to be unsafe for women. Leave aside the presence of police personnel, not even a single PCR vehicle is seen in isolated areas.

The correspondent visited several such areas and found that there was nothing in the name of security. This despite the fact that there are 18 PCR vehicles. At the Sector 6 roundabout, where a PCR vehicle was stationed, a policeman was seen lazing around. There were no PCR vehicles on the border of Panchkula-Chandigarh near the MDC T-Point, in front of girls' college at Sector 14, MDC T-Point, Sector 11 roundabout and Golf Club in Sector 3, Panchkula.

"The presence of police personnel in markets and the other sensitive areas can give women a sense of security," said Priya Chopra, a resident of Sector 12. Commissioner of

Dark days, even darker nights

WOMEN UNSAFE IN PANCHKULA

A resident of Mansa Devi Complex, Sector 5, narrated her ordeal while returning home at 10.30 pm. The girl is a call centre employee. "As I reached the MDC T-Point near Mansa Devi Singh Dwar, two youths appeared from nowhere in front of my car. They were in an inebriated state. Had I not tried running them over, they would have harmed me."

Police Rajbir Deswal said the vehicles were deployed as per priority on Sundays. Tarsem Garg, chairman, Nagar Sudhar Sabha, Panchkula, said, "We were told that two PCR vehicles would be stationed in the market, but we have never seen policemen

patrolling the area. Anti-social elements keep frequenting the market." He stated: "There should be a check on PCR vehicles and officers." Vishakha Dhiman, a resident of Sector 6, said, "Senior police officers should visit such areas every week."

MAYORAL ELECTIONS

Councillors divided over choice of candidate

AMIT SHARMA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 22 A majority of nominated councillors are expected to support the Congress in the forthcoming Mayoral elections, but most of them are divided over the choice of candidate.

With two names doing the rounds, the party will have to face a tough time choosing the candidate.

As the Mayor's seat for the next term of one year is reserved for an SC candidate, Congress councillors HC Kalyan and Satish Kumar Kainth are the top contenders for the post.

One of the nominated councillors stated that they were ready to vote for

With two names doing the rounds, the Congress will face a tough time choosing the candidate for the post of the Mayor

the ruling party, but they wanted that the candidate should be of their choice. "I have decided to vote for the candidate of my choice but if the party fields some other candidate, I will have to rethink my decision," he stated.

Echoing similar views, another nominated councillor stated that he was waiting for the Congress to finalise the candidate. If the name of his choice was picked up, he would vote in the favour of the party, he said.

During the last Mayoral elections, all nine nominated councillors had told Pawan Kumar Bansal about their preferences. Sources said the Congress would be finalising the candidate keeping in view the Lok Sabha elections to be held in 2014. "A popular candidate will be considered for the elections," sources stated.

The nominated councillors are expected to meet in the coming days to chalk out their strategy.

There are 36 MC house members, 13 from the Congress, including the MP, 11 from the SAD-BJP alliance, two from the BSP, an Independent councillor and nine are nominated councillors.

The last date for filing the nominations is December 28 and the elections will be held on January 1.

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VENUE

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Sector 31-A, Chandigarh

Prior registration is mandatory

KEY SPEAKERS

Mr K K Sharma, IAS
Adviser to the Administrator UT Chandigarh

Mr Satya Gopal, IAS
Secretary - Science & Technology Chandigarh Administration

Dr Arun Kumar Tripathi
Director Ministry of New and Renewable Energy Government of India

Mr Santosh Kumar, IFS
Director - Science & Technology Chandigarh Administration & CEO, Chandigarh Renewal Energy, Science and Technology Promotion Society

Mr Man Mohan S Kohli
Chairman CII Chandigarh Council & CEO, Aroma group

Mr Vikram Hans
Past Chairman CII Chandigarh Council & Managing Director Multi Overseas India Private Limited

Mr R K Verma
Chief Engineer (I/C) Central Electricity Authority

Mr Amit Kumar
Director The Energy and Resources Institute

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