

Ketan Desai made president of World Medical Association

Rema Nagarajan,TNN | Sep 21, 2014, 12.39 AM IST

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Dr Desai was president of the MCI in 2010 when the government disbanded the regulatory body on the grounds that there was widespread corruption in its functioning.

Dr Ketan Desai, a former president of the Medical Council of India (MCI), has been confirmed as the president of the World Medical Association (WMA) for 2016, four years after the MCI had suspended his licence for alleged corruption. His confirmation as WMA president comes after the Indian Medical Association (IMA) told the world body that all charges against Dr Desai had been withdrawn.

In December last year, the MCI ethics committee is learnt to have revoked the suspension of Dr Desai's licence on similar grounds. However, details of the status of cases filed by the CBI

against Dr Desai, provided by Dr K K Aggarwal, secretary general elect of the IMA, show that while several of the cases initiated by CBI had either been closed or did not have Dr Desai as an accused, there are two which remain pending. In one of these cases, the CBI has filed a charge sheet against several accused including Dr Desai, but further proceedings have been stayed by the Supreme Court. In another case, no court has yet framed charges.

Dr Desai was president of the MCI in 2010 when the government disbanded the regulatory body on the grounds that there was widespread corruption in its functioning. He is now a member of the MCI following the revocation of the suspension of his licence.

Details of the process by which the WMA decided to confirm him as its president for 2016 have been published in the official journal of the WMA, the World Medical Journal. These reveal that one Dr. Ajay Kumar appeared before WMA Assembly and submitted an application on behalf of IMA demanding that Dr Desai be reinstated as WMA president-elect since all charges against him had already been dropped. Interestingly, Dr Ajay Kumar happens to be a member of the MCI's ethics committee.