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'Goa has potential to become hub for medical tourism'

■ NT Staff Reporter
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The noted cosmetic and image enhancement surgeon, Dr Mohan Thomas today said that Goa has a good potential to become a hub for medical tourism, with the Confederation of the Indian Industries (CII) endorsing the idea.

Dr Thomas, who is the chairman of CII's health-care unit (western region) and runs the Cosmetic Surgery Institute, in Mumbai, interacting with the media said that Goa has a medical infrastructure better than most of the Indian cities, and what the state lacks is the super-speciality part that would come up in due time.

"Presently, Chennai is attracting patients from all over the world for treat-



ment, and other cities are challenging it by trying to provide better medical services," he added.

Dr Thomas, who started visiting Goa for consultancy and surgeries since past three years and visits the state after every two weeks, said that the number of foreign patients as well as local patients approaching him in Goa, are almost same. "Around 1,500 patients approached me in

Goa for treatment during 2006," he pointed out.

Speaking further, the cosmetic surgeon said that in Goa, most of the patients in the younger age group want to do the nose job - the rhinoplasty. "Among other services required by the patients in the state are body contouring surgeries, breast reduction and cleft lip surgeries," Dr Thomas informed.

Dr Thomas further said that gynaecomastia or removal of residual breast tissues and fat in males is also in demand.

Stating that obesity could be brought under control by cosmetic surgery treatment, Dr Mohan said, "however, counselling to the patients and supportive medicines, are also needed to be given to the obese patients who are not benefited by exercises."

Among other cosmetic services provided by Dr Mohan are -- hair transplant, post pregnancy skin and breast lifts in women, and facial wrinkle treatment.

Dr Mohan also informed that the cosmetic surgery treatment is today not restricted to rich and the famous or the Bollywood stars.

"The middle class can afford this treatment depending on their pocket size," he added. Dr Thomas said that although he performs cosmetic surgeries at Vintage Hospital, in Goa, the choice of the hospitals depends on the kind of surgeries to be performed.

Asked about the side effects of cosmetic surgery, Dr Thomas said, "Anything can be used or abused, however in most parts it is safe."