

## SIMPLY GUJARATI

trend

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## Medical Capital

**Bouncing back**  
**Former Fiji**  
**Prime Minister**  
**S. Rabuka**  
**with Dr. Bharat**  
**Modi at CKS after**  
**undergoing a knee**  
**replacement surgery**



Early this year when General Sitiveni Rabuka, 61, former prime minister of Fiji Islands found that he was suffering from osteoarthritis in both his knees, he started weighing his medical options. Rabuka had three : Dr. Wui Chung, a renowned knee specialist in neighboring Australia, University of California's Los Angeles Medical Centre and Dr. Bharat Modi's Centre for Knee Surgery (CKS) in Vadodara. The last name had been recommended by many Gujaratis settled in Fiji who had undergone similar surgeries.

Rabuka's bill was to be footed by the Fiji Government so there was no question of cost cutting in his case. Still he chose to fly to Vadodara, wife in tow, bearing a 60-hour air journey to get both his knees replaced at the CKS. Rabuka, who is perhaps the first former head of state to come to India for medical treatment, said after the surgery :

"Not only did the surgery go very well but the treatment I got was at par with anywhere else in the world. The personal touch we experienced was simply superb". The surgery, performed by Modi, an expert from the Royal College of Surgeons, England and Harvard Medical School, cost the Fiji Government Rs 4 Lakh while it would have cost around Rs 12 lakh in Australia and Rs 30 Lakh in America.

Modi carries out around 150 to 200 surgeries every year on foreign patients, out of which around 40 to 50 are foreigners, a majority from African countries. "Many more foreign patients are coming to Gujarat, drawn by the quality of treatment," says Dr Anil Jain, a cardio thoracic surgeon at SAL, a super-speciality hospital in Ahmedabad, who has made a name for himself in complicated heart surgeries.

GUJARAT, WITH ITS SUPER-SPECIALITY HOSPITALS THAT PROVIDE WORLD-CLASS FACILITIES AT MODERATE EXPENSES AND SHORTER WAITING PERIODS, IS FAST EMERGING AS A LEADING MEDICAL HUB FOR SCORES OF FOREIGN PATIENTS