



Vishal Olwe

Sabil was referred by a relative," says Dr D Srinivas, consultant orthopaedic surgeon who performed the surgery. "He came with complaints of severe pain in both his knee joints, deformity of both legs, inability to stand or walk normally since last two years and was almost crawling."

As no medications would help to relieve the patient's pain or make him walk normally, the doctors attending him decided to reproduce the knee joint as normal as possible by carrying out an operation on his knee.

"We had to order for the prosthesis based on his x-ray findings. After having admitted him and carrying out the relevant tests we conducted the three hour long surgery under regional anaesthesia," informs Dr Srinivas.

The surgery involved a thorough cleaning up of the joint, reconstruction of bony defects in the joint, and replacing the damaged articulating surfaces with new prosthesis. Sibal underwent physiotherapy for his leg, six days after the surgery and remained as an in-patient for two weeks.

According to Sibal's relatives, the Omani watchman settled for Nirmaya Hospital due to its affordable cost-around Rs 1.5 lakhs, seven times less compared to what a UK-based hospital had asked for. "The cost

varies according to the type of accommodation a patient chooses, the type of prosthesis (Indian or imported) used and the place where the surgery is performed," informs Dr Srinivas.

Having performed a first in Chembur Dr Srinivas emphasises that with changing scenario in the medical practice and availability of cheaper prosthesis, knee replacement surgery is a good option for those suffering from severe osteoarthritis of the knee joints.

Doc performs suburb's first knee replacement surgery

■ Hiren Kumar Bose *Maitri Park*

FIFTY-five-year-old Hassan Sabil crawled into Maitri Park's Niramaya Hospital but walked away a walking stick in hand, a fortnight later! And thus created a history of sorts for Chembur-this Omani national had a knee replacement surgery.

"Working as a watchman in a Muscat-based firm