

## Surgery restores diabetic man's genital

Swapna Tarafdar

NEW DELHI, Sept 19: A man who lost almost 90 per cent of his penis as a result of his diabetic condition remaining unattended has miraculously recovered almost full use of the organ, thanks to penile reconstruction surgery.

When 40-year-old Ganeshan Chandran (name changed) was brought to the Pushpawati Singhania Research Institute here, "He was detected with gangrene of the external genitalia", said Dr Rajesh Taneja, senior consultant, urology and andrology, at the institute. "The option was to either amputate the organ or retain it through plastic surgery," he added.

However, retaining the penis by adding muscle from another part of the body would not have helped, Dr Taneja said. "He would have suffered erectile dysfunction." Therefore, first the whole gangrenous portion was cleaned. "After cleaning, only one third of the organ was left at

his disposal," Dr Taneja said.

A potter by profession, Ganeshan was detected as suffering from diabetes on 15 August. The gangrenous portion of his penis was operated on the same day. After three weeks of dressing and antibiotics, doctors started work on reconstruction.

"Skin from the nearby scrotum was used because, Dr Taneja said, "This did not need reconstruction of blood vessels. And though it was difficult, we preferred it so that the organ retained all its functions".

For an operation that costs nearly Rs 40,000 to Rs 50,000, Ganeshan had to pay only Rs 8,000. "He is a small time potter and the hospital has schemes for people who are not economically sound," said Dr Taneja. On a warning note the doctor said, "Diabetes can affect any part of the body if left unattended. Retaining an organ through plastic surgery is easy but making it functional is a tedious affair."