

Doctors join chorus against Ash smoking in *Guzaarish*

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 19

OVER 1,500 members of the Maharashtra Association of Resident Doctors (MARD) wore black bands today in protest against Aishwarya Rai's smoking scenes in the film *Guzaarish*, marking the film's release as a "black day".

The MNS has already objected to posters on BEST buses showing Rai smoking.

Doctors at the three BMC medical colleges and the state-run JJ Hospital participated in the protest, supported by Indian Med-



ical Association's (IMA) Mumbai branch.

"Aishwarya Rai is a popular youth icon and since she is not a smoker, the film seems to be sending a wrong message to the youth," said Dr Pankaj Nalawade, MARD general secretary.

He added doctors collectively decided to protest to-

day, after a filmmaker made some comments in a television news interview, against certain doctors who had made statements on the dangers of widespread publicity of Rai's smoking scenes. "We are demanding an apology from him, on his remarks that such protests are money-making gimmicks," said Dr Nalawade.

Doctors said they are not against the release of the film. "We only want the smoking scenes removed and the posters depicting Aishwarya Rai smoking taken off immediately," said Dr Nalawade.

Three-member panel to run Prasar Bharati: SC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, NOV 19

THE Supreme Court on Friday confirmed a Delhi High Court order directing the routine work of public broadcaster Prasar Bharati to be handled by a sub-committee consisting of its CEO and two Members (Finance

and Personnel).

A Bench comprising Justices RV Raveendran and AK Patnaik said the panel would run the daily affairs of the public broadcaster until the court decided CEO BS Lalli's appeal against the High Court decision.

The fact that the Prasar Bharati Secretariat had al-

ready issued an office communication on the formation of the committee in August 2009 aided the apex court to take its decision.

In its interim order on August 24, 2009, the SC had allowed a CVC inquiry into the alleged financial irregularity of the corporation as directed by the high court.

Anti-tobacco activists slam 'Guzaarish'

13/11/20 TIMES NEWS NETWORK TOI

Mumbai: Anti-tobacco activists have objected to the posters of the movie *Guzaarish* on BEST buses where Aishwarya Rai Bachchan is seen smoking.

An organization, Doctors for You, has criticized the BEST committee for allowing the smoking campaign and termed it as 'unethical'.

Associate professor Dr Pankaj Chaturvedi of the head and neck department of Tata Memorial Hospital said that it was clearly a case of surrogate advertising. "Aishwarya has been a role model and representative of India at several international and national forums. She should retract from such advertising," he added. "It is absurd to say that smoking in movies adds to creativity and artistic expression."

Defending the ads, Siddharth Roy Kapur, CEO, UTV motion pictures said, "All the outdoor publicity materials of *Guzaarish* has been cleared by AMPTPP (Association of Motion Pictures and Television Programme Producers Association). We don't see anything remotely objectionable in the poster layouts."