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Uniformity in NEET papers from next year

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) questions in regional languages will be similar to those in English from 2018.

The Centre has decided to maintain uniformity in the test papers in all languages from next year in the wake of a controversy over difference in questions that appeared in Hindi and those in some of the regional languages, including

Tamil and Bengali, this year.

"The vernacular question papers for NEET will just be a translation of the question paper in English," a news agency quoted Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar as saying in Kolkata on Saturday.

The NEET is conducted by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) in coordination with the Medical Council

of India (MCI) and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for admissions to medical and dental colleges in the country. Over 11.38 lakh students took the test across the country this year following a Supreme Court order. The test papers came in 10 regional languages, including Kannada, Gujarati, Assamese, Telugu, Marathi and Oriya, besides English.

» **NEET, Page 8**

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NEET, from Page 1

A controversy erupted as students in Tamil Nadu approached the Madras High Court claiming that there was a difference between the question papers in English and Tamil, though the papers in English and Hindi were same. Hearing the petitions, the high court stayed the declaration of result which was scheduled on June 8.

Students and a coaching institute in Gujarat also claimed differences in the questions in English and Gujarati. The West Bengal education minister claimed that the questions in Bengali were tougher than those in English and Hindi.

The result of the test was later declared on June 23 after the Supreme Court lifted the Madras High Court's stay.

NEET sees multiple domicile claims

**Hemali Chhapia
& Bhavika Jain | TNN**

Mumbai: One India, many states. This year's medical admissions may have given it a new meaning. Wanting to improve their chances in state government colleges, aspirants are claiming domicile of multiple states.

While **TOI** has refrained from printing the names and the exact NEET (National Eligibility cum Entrance Test) and state ranks of hundreds of such aspirants, the list of such dubious applicants has

been provided to the Directorate of Medical Education and Research (DMER).

Ramesh Rai, with a unique NEET rank also has an in-state rank in Maharashtra, Delhi and UP. In south India, candidates have applied in one state with their full names (first name and surname) and in other states with their first name and their father's name as the second name; with one common NEET rank, it was not particularly difficult for **TOI** to track them down.

► **Continued on page 11**

'Linking ranks with students' Aadhaar cards'

► Continued from page 1

Picture this: Mahi Iyengar on the Maharashtra list is Mahi Srinath on the Delhi list as also on the Uttar Pradesh state merit list; but her NEET rank of 63,000+ is common across these rank lists. Candidates are vying for state quota seats in multiples parts of India: Karnataka, Maharashtra, Goa, Gujarat, Telangana, MP, Delhi, Rajasthan and UP.

The blatantly unfair move translates into double the options for a fraudulent candidate who claims domicile of more than one state. It opens the doors of all government colleges and 85% seats of all private colleges of the states s/he claims domicile in. Moreover, this candidate, like others, can also apply under the 15% all-India quota filled by the DGHS and for the 85% seats in all deemed universities across India.

On the other hand, if the student follows the rules and has the domicile of one

NEET ROW

state, s/he would be categorised as an out-of-state candidate in all other states other than the one s/he has a domicile of, and would not have access to government medical colleges of other states or to the 85% seats in private colleges elsewhere either.

On Sunday, parents and students met Maharashtra medical education minister Girish Mahajan who assured them of corrective action. "We want to know how these students got multiple states' domicile. So now we are trying to link these NEET ranks with the students' Aadhaar cards," said Sudha Shenoy. With absolutely no coordination among states, most government officials were clueless about candidates applying for multiple in-state quota seats. It is the parents of medical aspirants who had to dig up this information after poring over pages of states' merit lists. "This puts so many genuine candidates across several states at a disadvantage," said Rajesh Jain, member of the Parents Association of Medical Students, Maharashtra.

Full report: www.toi.in