



SRI DEVARAJ URS ACADEMY OF HIGHER EDUCATION & RESEARCH
SRI DEVARAJ URS MEDICAL COLLEGE
Tamaka, Kolar



UNIVERSITY LIBRARY & LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE

Online Newspaper Clipping Service
Dtd-Friday, 26th, January- 2018

Page No. 11

THE NEW
INDIAN EXPRESS

Relief over CBSE promise of uniform NEET paper

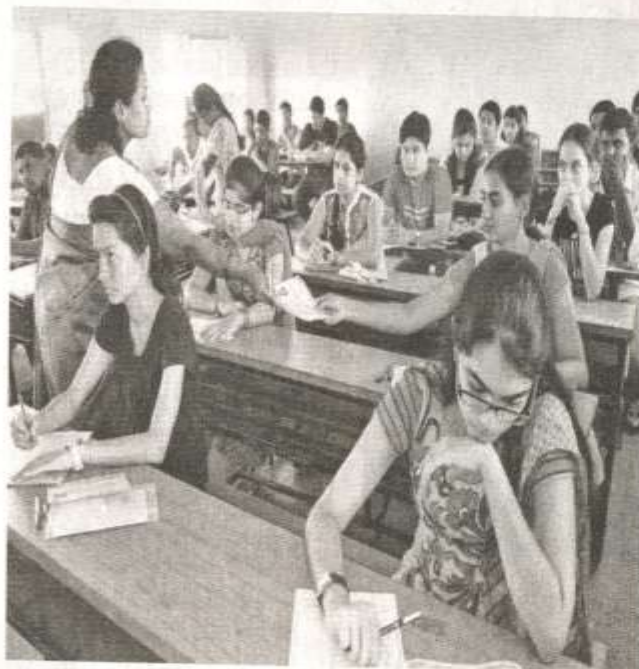
Translation from English to vernacular languages will end discrimination, result in uniformity in difficulty level, say students and teachers

SUMI SUKANYA DUTTA @ New Delhi

THE UNDERTAKING given by the Central Board of Secondary Education, which conducts the National Eligibility and Entrance Test—saying that question papers in vernacular languages will be mere translation of the English paper has brought relief for medical aspirants.

Students and experts said that the decision should lead to a uniformity in the difficulty level and end discrimination faced by examinees in some states.

Last year, NEET (UG), the pre-medical test for admission into MBBS and BDS courses in the country, had seen question papers with different set of questions in



some vernacular languages, leading to charges that the ones in English and Hindi were easier as compared to other languages.

The test was held in 10 languages — Hindi, English, Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Marathi, Tamil, Telugu, Oriya and Kannada—last year and while the Hindi paper was exact translation of the English paper—all other papers were different from the English paper in varying degrees.

"In Bengal and Gujarat, particularly, this difference was starkest as many felt that the question paper in Bengali and was a bit tougher while the one in Gujarati was easier even though some Gujarati students cried foul and approached the High Court,"

a senior official in Medical Council of India, told TNEI.

"The difference became apparent as those who wrote the examination in English in these states faced different level of difficulty," he added.

MCI vice-president C V Bhira-manandam said that NEET will not achieve its aim of a single standard pre-medical test unless there is "exactly the same examination for all examinees."

The board in its submission in the Supreme Court had said last year that different question papers in different languages were aimed at "preventing the leakage aspect as involving subject experts in translation would have increased those chances."

CBSE sources conceded last year, there were issues with finding "authentic translators and therefore we relied heavily on question banks based on old question banks from previous years' pre-medical tests in some states."

"This year though the exam is to be held in one more language, Urdu, this issue of translators shouldn't arise," said an official.

"To prevent leaks, the CBSE can number questions and answer keys differently," suggested Amit Gupta, a NEET teacher in Kota, Rajasthan.

Harshit Nath Gupta, a NEET aspirant from UP said, "It would be unfair if students in some states get easier or tougher questions."

NEET papers to have translated questions

Experts say decision should lead to uniformity in difficulty level and end discrimination faced by examinees

SUMI SUKANYA DUTTA @New Delhi

THE undertaking given by the Central Board of Secondary Education, which conducts the National Eligibility and Entrance Test, saying that question papers in vernacular languages will be a mere translation of the English paper has brought relief for medical aspirants.

Students and experts said that the decision should lead to a uniformity in the difficulty level and end discrimination faced by examinees in some states.

Last year, NEET (UG), the pre-medical test for admission into MBBS and BDS courses in the country, had seen question papers with different set of ques-

tions in some vernacular languages leading to charges that the ones in English and Hindi were easier as compared to other languages.

The test was held in ten languages -Hindi, English, Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Marathi, Tamil, Telugu, Oriya and Kannada- last year and while Hindi paper was exact translation of the English paper—all other papers were different from the English paper in varying degrees.

“In Bengal and Gujarat, particularly, this difference was starkest as many felt that the question paper in Bengali and was a bit tougher while the one in Gujarati was easier even though some Gujarati students cried foul

and approached the state High Court,” a senior official in the UG section of the Medical Council of India, the medical education regulator, told The New Indian Express.

“The difference became apparent as those who wrote the examination in English in these states faced different levels of difficulty,” he added.

MCI vice president C V Bhira-manandam said that the NEET will not achieve its aim of a single standard pre-medical test unless there is “exactly the same examination for all examinees and some students will also feel discriminated against.”

The board in its submission in the Supreme Court had said last

year that different question papers in different languages were aimed “preventing the leakage aspect as involving subject experts in translation would have increased the chances of proliferation.” The argument however did not cut ice with many.


Sources in the CBSE conceded that last year, there were issued with finding “authentic translators and therefore we relied heav-

ily on question banks based on old question banks from previous years’ pre-medical tests in some states.”

“However, this year even though examination is to be conducted in one more language—Urdu—this problem of translators should not be there this year,” said an official.

Teachers and students, too, said that it made more sense to have similar level of difficulty for all examinees.

“To prevent leaks, what the CBSE can do is different numbering of questions and answer keys—that should solve the problem to a large extent,” suggested Amit Gupta, a NEET teacher in Kota, Rajasthan.

 The difference became apparent as those who wrote the examination in English in these states faced different levels of difficulty

A senior official, UG section of the Medical Council of India

Same sets of question papers for all NEET examinees: CBSE

Students Allowed To Take Exams In Regional Languages

AmitAnand.Choudhary
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The current practice of preparing different sets of question papers for students taking the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) in regional languages is set to go with the CBSE telling the Supreme Court on Thursday that from this year only one question paper will be set, and that it will be translated into different vernacular languages.

The decision was taken after the board found itself in a fix following allegations that the question papers in regional languages for NEET 2017 were more difficult than the English and Hindi papers and a bunch of petitions was filed in the apex court by students seeking quashing of the exam. The students also alleged that some questions in regional languages were wrong, hampering their chances in the entrance test.

The CBSE, which con-



Photo for representation only

EXAM TIME: Around 11.35 lakh students appeared for NEET in 2017 and around 6.11 lakh candidates qualified

ducts the medical entrance test, was forced to take the decision after the SC termed the practice illogical as there would be no uniformity in the entrance examination and students would be asked different questions.

Appearing before a bench of Justices Arun Mishra and S Abdul Nazeer, CBSE's

counsel, Tara Chandra Sharma, told the court that only one question paper would be set for all students and those who opted for vernacular languages would be provided translated question papers in their preferred medium. Students are allowed to take the exam in 10 languages — Hindi, English, Gujarati, Ma-

rathi, Odiya, Bengali, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Assamese. From this year, Urdu will be added as a medium.

The SC had earlier said there would be no uniformity in the entrance examination if students were provided different question papers. It had asked the CBSE to get the same question paper translated into different languages.

"It is an illogical practice. How will you evaluate the competence of students when their questions are different? There is no reason for setting different question papers. There must be the same question paper for all students who take the exam in Hindi, English or other language," the court had said.

The board had contended that if the level of difficulty of all papers was the same, then it served the purpose of uniformity in the examination process and there was nothing wrong in having multiple papers. But the court was not convinced and asked it to do away with the practice.