



# SC upholds MCI notification

## Bid to prevent blocking of Post Graduate entrance medical seats

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday upheld the validity of a April 9 notification issued by the Medical Council of India (MCI) making changes in the method of admissions to the postgraduate medical courses to arrest the blocking of seats by certain candidates which was detrimental to the interest of meritorious students in the all India quota.

A Bench of Justices S.A. Bobde and L. Nageswara Rao passed the order on a notification issued by the MCI in the Postgraduate Medical Education (Amendment) Regulations, 2018. Admission to postgraduate courses is on the basis of the merit of the candidates in the Nation-

## Sikh MBBS aspirants can wear kirpan, kara for NEET: HC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

Sikh MBBS aspirants who carry a 'kirpan' or wear a 'kara', will have to report an hour earlier for the

al Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET-PG) conducted every year. Fifty% seats are earmarked for all India quota and the remaining for the State quota.

The court, in an eight-page order, observed that there is "material on record to suggest that devious methods were adopted by certain candidates to block

NEET entrance test for screening after the Delhi High Court on Thursday said that the CBSE cannot bar entry of these "articles of faith" in an exam centre.

the seats in the All India quota and resign thereafter from those seats which resulted in reversion of the all India quota seats to the State quota."

### Illegal practice

"The Medical Counselling Committee identified about thousand candidates who were indulging in such illegal practice and proposes to

take action against them after a thorough inquiry," the order said. The court said there was no infringement in the rights of the petitioners, who had challenged MCI's April 9 notification, in the background of the ongoing counselling for the postgraduate medical admissions after NEET.

The court said "reduction of chances of admission does not entail in violation of any right and added that there was no reason for it to intervene as the intent of the MCI in issuing the notification was to end a devious practice. "The petitioners participated in the second round of counselling. No interference is warranted in respect of the all India quota."



# Niche journals out of UGC list

VIKAS PATHAK

NEW DELHI

Some respected journals from Oxford and Harvard Universities, apart from journals from well-known Indian institutions, have been removed by the University Grants Commission from its list of approved journals.

The Economic and Political Weekly (online), journals from NCERT and Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) and many from the Banaras Hindu Un-

iversity, are also on the 'removed' list.

However, sources said EPW's print edition is still on the approved list.

These instances have come to light with the UGC bringing out its list of 4,305 'removed' publications after "complaints about inclusion of poor-quality or questionable journals".

The *Journal of the Oxford Centre of Buddhist Studies* and the *Harvard Asia Pacific Review* figure among the 4,305 axed journals.