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Opposition to move SC to postpone JEE, NEET

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee suggests joint review petition by all CMs in the Supreme Court

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

AMID a rising chorus against holding JEE/NEET in the midst of a pandemic, the Chief Ministers of seven Opposition-ruled states met on Wednesday to discuss the prospect of filing a joint petition in the Supreme Court to postpone the exams.

The development comes a day after the Centre decided to increase the number of examination centres for JEE and NEET to ensure social distancing. Both the exams are scheduled to be held in early September.

During a virtual meeting called by Congress chief Sonia Gandhi to discuss issues faced by the Opposition-ruled states, West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee mooted the idea of filing a joint petition before the apex court seeking a review after it rejected a plea on August 17 to postpone the exams. The SC had said, "Life cannot be stopped

and the career of students cannot be put in jeopardy."

"Let us go to the Supreme Court and talk about this matter. This is a mental agony for students and, with limited trains and flight operations, I don't know how they will commute to sit for the exams. The situation is very serious with cases rising, we have to speak up for the children," said Banerjee.

Supporting Mamata's suggestion, the other CMs present in the meeting said they should approach the court keeping in mind that the JEE (Main) is to be held from September 1-6 and NEET on September 13.

Keeping in mind the urgency of the matter, Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh tweeted after the meeting: "I have asked Advocate General, Punjab to coordinate with his counterparts in other States and to file a review petition in Supreme Court on NEET/JEE issue. In the midst of the ongoing



Students protest Centre's move to hold JEE, NEET exams amid Covid | PARVEEN NEGI



6.8L NEET students downloaded admit cards: Govt

New Delhi: 6.84 lakh NEET candidates downloaded their hall tickets within five hours after its allocation began on Wednesday, the Centre said. A total of 15.9 lakh students have registered for the exam

ing Covid19 pandemic, it is not safe for lakhs of students to appear for these examinations."

Addressing the Chief Ministers, Sonia said the government is indifferent to the difficulty students will have to endure if they have to write the exams amid Covid-19 induced restrictions. She also accused the government of handling the whole

issue in a careless manner.

Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot, Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel and Puducherry CM V Narayanasamy agreed that they are ready to approach the apex court on the matter.

However, Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal reiterated that both the exams will be held as per schedule.

Oppn politicising issue, says DyCM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE state government is determined to go ahead with the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) and National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) on the dates fixed by the National Testing Agency (NTA). Deputy CM Dr C N Ashwath Narayan, who is also Minister for Higher Education, on Wednesday accused the opposition parties of politicising the issue.

He termed the opposition to JEE/NEET as an "attempt by some vested interests to disrupt the exams" and iterated that "Karnataka is well prepared to conduct the exams smoothly with all necessary facilities in the backdrop of Covid-19." P3

How the pandemic has made JEE-NEET 2020 a challenge

Floods, Social Distancing, No Transport Give Students Jitters

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

After months of uncertainty over when they will finally be able to get done with their career-defining exams, JEE and NEET aspirants are still unsure of two things — how they will get to their exam centre and how safe it will be.

Calls to postpone the exams have been trending on social media for two days now — climate activist Greta Thunberg and actor Sonu Sood are among those who have amplified the demand. Students, meanwhile, are concerned. "I live in Idaraganj and my centre is in Varanasi, nearly 130km away. Where I live is a containment zone. How am I supposed to get there? Will it be safe?" asked Shriyansh Jaiswal, a NEET-UG aspirant.

Parents from outside

TOI LINE OF NO CONTROL

SANDEEP ADHWARYU



Chennai, have urged the Tamil Nadu government to ask hotels to open bookings for those travelling for the exams. They also want a transport plan. "The NTA and state transport departments could coordinate a plan for the day," said N Vijayan, principal of a Chennai school. The process could be streamlined.

But this is a limited possibility in some cities. In Telangana, incessant rain for the past two weeks has damaged road connectivity to many districts. It's the same

in the flood-hit areas of Assam and Bihar. "Many students who take the exam in Bengal come from Bihar and Jharkhand," Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee told the media. The state has kept the exam dates out of the total lockdown schedule.

As for safety, the broad guidelines have been laid down by the National Testing Agency (NTA), which conducts the exams — fresh masks at the entrance, thermal screening, sanitisers, social distancing and separate

rooms for those with Covid-19 symptoms. But those appearing are still worried, and not all states have notified any. The Assam health department, for instance, is yet to announce rules for applicants from containment zones. Goa has not come up with specific guidelines either. UP, too, will follow the central directives.

And space remains a concern. Odisha has exam centres in just seven cities, bound to lead to larger gatherings. Assam, too, is facing a challenge in finding more exam centres.

Some have come up with workarounds. "We will separate outstation students so that the post-exam exit strategy is in place," said a principal at a school in Nagpur. In Kerala too, all applicants will have to contact their exam centre before time and inform them if they are coming from a containment zone, a hotspot or are yet to finish quarantine. Rajasthan — where all six districts which will host NEET and JEE exams have been witnessing a surge in Covid cases — has mandated buffer areas near exam centres.

ಬಿಜೆಪಿಯೇತರ ಸರ್ಕಾರಗಳಿರುವ ಏಳು ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳ ನಿರ್ಧಾರ ಜೆಇಇ-ನೀಟ್ ವಿರುದ್ಧ 'ಸುಪ್ರೀಂ'ಗೆ ಮೊರೆ

ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ ವಾರ್ತೆ

ನವದೆಹಲಿ: ಸೆಪ್ಟೆಂಬರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆಯಲಿರುವ ನೀಟ್-ಜೆಇಇ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಸುಪ್ರೀಂ ಕೋರ್ಟ್‌ಗೆ ಮರುಪರಿಶೀಲನಾ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಬಿಜೆಪಿಯೇತರ ಪಕ್ಷಗಳು ಅಧಿಕಾರದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಏಳು ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು ಸಜ್ಜಾಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಕಾಂಗ್ರೆಸ್ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷ ಸೋನಿಯಾ ಗಾಂಧಿ ಅವರು ಬುಧವಾರ ನಡೆಸಿದ ವಿಡಿಯೋ ಕಾನ್ಫರೆನ್ಸ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗಿಯಾದ ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ ಬಂಗಾಳ, ಮಹಾರಾಷ್ಟ್ರ, ಜಾರ್ಖಂಡ್, ಪಂಜಾಬ್, ರಾಜಸ್ಥಾನ, ಛತ್ತೀಸ್‌ಗಢ ಮತ್ತು ಪುದುಚೇರಿಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು ಈ ನಿರ್ಧಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಬಂದಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಸುಪ್ರೀಂ ಕೋರ್ಟ್ ಮೊರೆ ಹೋಗುವ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವವನ್ನು ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ ಬಂಗಾಳ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿ ಮಮತಾ ಬ್ಯಾನರ್ಜಿ ಮುಂದಿಟ್ಟರು. ಸಭೆಯಲ್ಲಿ

ಅಂಕಿ-ಅಂಶಗಳು

9.53 ಲಕ್ಷ

ಜೆಇಇ ಮೇನ್‌ಗೆ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರು

15.97 ಲಕ್ಷ

ನೀಟ್‌ಗೆ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರು

ಭಾಗಿಯಾಗಿದ್ದ ಇತರ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು ಅದಕ್ಕೆ ಒಪ್ಪಿಗೆ ಸೂಚಿಸಿದರು.

'ಸುಪ್ರೀಂ ಕೋರ್ಟ್‌ಗೆ ಹೋಗಿ ಈ ವಿಚಾರದ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮಾತನಾಡೋಣ. ಇದು (ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಯ ನಿರ್ಧಾರ) ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಮಾನಸಿಕ ನೋವು ನೀಡುತ್ತದೆ. ಪ್ರಜಾಪ್ರಭುತ್ವದಲ್ಲಿ ಇಷ್ಟೊಂದು ದೌರ್ಜನ್ಯವನ್ನು ನಾನು ಕಂಡೇ ಇಲ್ಲ. ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಅತ್ಯಂತ ಗಂಭೀರವಾಗಿದೆ. ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ನಾವು ಮಾತನಾಡಲೇಬೇಕಿದೆ'

ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆ ಬರೆದು ಉತ್ತೀರ್ಣರಾಗಲಿ ಎಂಬ ಇಚ್ಛೆ ಇದೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಈ ಪಿಡುಗಿನ ನಡುವಲಿಯೇ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಗಳನ್ನು ನಡೆಸುವುದು ಹೇಗೆ? ಅಮರಿದರ್ ಸಿಂಗ್ ಪಂಜಾಬ್ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿ

ಎಂದು ಮಮತಾ ಹೇಳಿದರು.

ಭೀತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬದುಕಬೇಕೇ ಅಥವಾ ಹೋರಾಡಬೇಕೇ ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ವಿರೋಧ ಪಕ್ಷಗಳು ನಿರ್ಧರಿಸಬೇಕಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಮಹಾರಾಷ್ಟ್ರ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿ ಉದ್ಧವ್ ರಾಕ್ತೆ ಹೇಳಿದರು.

ಸುಪ್ರೀಂ ಕೋರ್ಟ್‌ಗೆ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಮೊದಲು, ಪ್ರಧಾನಿ ನರೇಂದ್ರ ಮೋದಿ ಅಥವಾ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರಪತಿ ರಾಮನಾಥ ಕೋವಿಂದ್ ಅವರನ್ನು ಭೇಟಿಯಾಗಿ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಹೇಳಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು ಎಂಬ ಸಲಹೆಯನ್ನು ಜಾರ್ಖಂಡ್ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿ ಹೇಮಂತ್ ಸೊರೇನ್

ಮುನ್ನೆಚ್ಚರಿಕೆ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದರೂ ಹಲವರಿಗೆ ಕೋವಿಡ್ ಬಂದಿದೆ. ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಬರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂಬ ಭರವಸೆ ಕೊಡಲು ಸಾಧ್ಯವೇ? ಮನೀಶ್ ಸಿಸೋಡಿಯಾ ಡೆಹಲಿಯ ಉಪಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿ

ನೀಡಿದರು. ಆದರೆ, ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಇನ್ನು ಒಂದು ವಾರವಷ್ಟೇ ಇರುವುದರಿಂದ ಸುಪ್ರೀಂ ಕೋರ್ಟ್‌ಗೆ ಹೋಗುವುದೇ ಸೂಕ್ತ ಎಂದು ಮಮತಾ ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯಪಟ್ಟರು. ಎರಡೂ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಗಳನ್ನು ಮುಂದೂಡಬೇಕು ಎಂಬ ಅರ್ಜಿಯನ್ನು ಸುಪ್ರೀಂ ಕೋರ್ಟ್ ಕಳೆದ ವಾರ ವಜಾ ಮಾಡಿದೆ. ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳ ಒಂದು ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ ವರ್ಷವನ್ನು ಸುಮ್ಮನೆ ವ್ಯರ್ಥ ಮಾಡಲಾಗದು. ಜೀವನ ಮುಂದುವರಿಯಲೇಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿದೆ. ಸೆ. 1-6ರವರೆಗೆ ಜೆಇಇ ಮತ್ತು ಸೆ. 13ಕ್ಕೆ ನೀಟ್ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆ ನಿಗದಿಯಾಗಿದೆ.