

Cancelled Pre-Medical Test may force students to choose other courses, experts warn

Following the cancellation of the May 3 All-India Pre-Medical/Pre-Dental Entrance Test (AIPMT) by the Supreme Court on Monday due to exam fraud and ongoing investigation, experts feel that students will now opt for non-medical and medical courses in government-run and private universities.

Chances are also high that students who were earlier planning to seek admission through AIPMT will fight to secure a seat in Delhi University.

“Not many students will wait for AIPMT. It is extremely difficult to secure a seat in any medical college. Students will now move to state medical colleges and other private universities. Only those who are willing to wait will keep the option of AIPMT,” a Delhi University professor told Mail Today.



“Everything has been put on hold now. The central board is not willing to re-conduct the entrance examination while the apex court, in its judgment, has ordered to hold the examination in the next four weeks. Students can’t decide till there is clear information,” another DU professor said.

“The entire session will be delayed this year. Every year, admissions in medical courses are over by September 30, but this year, everything will change. Also, a large number of seats will remain vacant this year,” Sharda University deputy registrar Ajit Kumar told Mail Today.

Experts added that with this, the number of dropouts will increase. The SC had directed the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) to hold fresh examination within four weeks.

But, the apex court’s decision has not only created confusion among the students, but also raised the level of competition at other universities. The medical entrance test is

conducted for the 15 per cent merit positions in the medical/dental colleges as specified in the SC directives and are governed by the rules and regulations specified for the same by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare from time-to-time.



A Bench of Justices RK Agrawal and Amitava Roy had held that if the court allowed the May 3 exam to survive, a wrong message would be sent out that crime pays and students would be encouraged to resort to unfair means.

Any attempt to save the exam will “leave merit a casualty and generate frustration among genuine students”, the apex court had said in its 41-page judgment.

The court exhorted the authorities to consider conducting the fresh exam as a “collective challenge”.

It said the fresh exam should be in compliance with the norms and “mind” the fact that the academic session is scheduled to start from August 1.

The court dismissed the CBSE’s suggestion to segregate the exam results of genuine students from the 44 candidates identified by the police as “beneficiaries” in the scandal. It also disagreed with the Board that a re-examination would see a delay of three to four months.

“It is extremely sad to see that young aspirants dreaming of becoming doctors are beginning their journey by cheating. Not only have they messed their own future, but also spoilt years of hard work of genuine students. Harsh punishment should be imposed to show to others that this is unacceptable,” Manipal Hospital Vice-Chairman and Director Sanjeev Bagai said.

“Everything will change now. I had appeared for AIPMT and was keeping it as a main option. Now, either I will have to look for non-medical course or wait till the final dates for AIPMT are out,” aspirant Vanshika Shrivastav told Mail Today.

“We welcome the bold decision taken by the SC,” a parent Ratan Dhir said.

The application process for DU’s undergraduate courses ended late on Monday with more than 3 lakh students applying for 54,000 seats. The CBSE was to declare the results of AIPMT on June 5.

Government plans 14 new medical colleges

Grappling with a shortage of teachers and crumbling infrastructure, the Union health ministry has allowed the opening of 14 new medical colleges and increased the number of seats in six existing institutes across India.

The decision was based on the recommendation of the Medical Council of India (MCI).

Health ministry officials said that at least five private medical colleges will be established in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, along with nine government medical colleges in Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The medical colleges will have 100 to 150 seats.



At least six private medical colleges have been granted permission to increase 50 seats each in Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, Bihar, Maharashtra and Uttarakhand.

“When there is already a shortage of teachers in Indian medical colleges, the additional strength of students may suffer with limited infrastructure and facilities in these colleges. Only a few private medical colleges do well as per past reports. The MCI recently inspected several medical colleges and found major shortage of facilities and teachers. Only a few medical colleges fared well and granted permission to increase seats because the government has been planning to do the same,” said a senior official in MCI.

“Increasing seats and establishing new medical colleges would not serve the purpose, there has to be ensured quality education and ample opportunities after the students step out of medical colleges. In a recent meeting of MCI, officials were mooting increasing the retiring age of teachers in medical colleges in order to deal with shortage of teachers. In fact, the MCI would soon write to all the states to consider the proposal,” the official added.

The decision of establishing more medical colleges and increasing the number of seats was proposed and done during the UPA government.

The objective was to improve the availability of doctors by ensuring a doctor-patient ratio of 1:1000 as against the current 1:2000 ratio.

According to estimates, despite a growth of 15 per cent in supply of medical teachers and specialist doctors every year, the demand for medical professors will not be fully met before 2025.