

# Apex court quashes common medical entrance, those already in are safe

HT Correspondent & PTI

■ letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court on Thursday scrapped holding of a single common entrance test (NEET) for admission to MBBS, BDS and post-graduate courses in all medical colleges, paving the way for private colleges to conduct their own examination.

The apex court verdict is likely to have an impact on admissions to other professional courses such as engineering and management.

The apex court, however, made it clear that its verdict will not affect the admissions that have already taken place.

The three judge bench headed by chief justice Altamas Kabir in a majority 2-1 verdict

quashed the notifications for NEET. The CJI's view was shared by justice Vikramjit Sen but justice AR Dave disagreed with them and upheld the NEET saying the policy was "legal" and it would stop corrupt practice of undeserving students getting admission by paying huge capitation fee or donation.

The majority verdict said that common test seems "attractive" but it is "fraught with difficulties" and it would "perpetuate" divide between urban and rural students in the name of giving credit to merit.

Justice Dave in his dissenting judgment said the NEET was practical and needed for ensuring more transparency and less hardship to the students eager to join the medical profession.

## States to pay at least ₹3 lakh to acid attack victims, ₹1 lakh within 15 days

**NEW DELHI:** In a bid to curb acid attacks on women, the Supreme Court on Thursday directed that the crime be made a non-bailable offence and compensation be enhanced to ₹3 lakh.

A bench headed by justice RM Lodha gave these directions while asking states and union territories to frame rules within three months to regulate sale of acids and other corrosive substances.

The court said that a

government photo identity card would be required to purchase such substances, which in any case cannot be sold to a person who is below the age of 18 years. The bench, which is hearing a PIL filed in 2006 by Delhi-based acid attack victim Laxmi, also passed a slew of interim directions on the issue.

The court also said that out of the compensation amount of ₹3 lakh, ₹1 lakh will be paid within 15 days of the attack.

PTI