

# Med students protest re-exam

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Mumbai:** "Book the culprits but don't punish us with a re-exam. Cracking the test was tough and we are completely drained out now," said Dr Abhishek Wadkar, who ranked 198th in the All India Post Graduate Medical Entrance Exam-

in a t i o n (AIPGME) held on January 8, 2006.

## POST-GRAD ENTRANCE

W a d k a r echoes the anguish of scores of medical students from Mumbai, Maharashtra and across the nation who have cracked the exam, but may be forced to sit for it a second time after cases of cheating and forgery came to light.

Investigations had revealed that a group of doctors had scanned the question papers with the help of docu-pens and sent it as SM-

Ses with the help of blue tooth technology. The answers were text-messaged to them.

The post-graduation exam conducted by the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, on January 8 was taken by 57,000 students. Of these only 4,000 cracked the exam

and were to receive counselling from March 3 for post-graduate courses nation-

wide. However, on March 27, after the instances of forgery and cheating came to light, the matter was handed over to the CBI. The admission process came to a halt and the government mooted the idea of a re-examination.

The students who have cleared the test on Sunday launched a protest against a re-exam. "I have put in two

years of hard work. The exam is tougher than a CAT or a JEE. Having a re-examination is unfair," said Wadkar, who worked his way up to improve his rank-

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ing from 3,225 in 2005 to 198 in 2006. Wadkar had almost made it to Delhi for counselling when the news of the cheating case came to light.  
Students say they are al-

ready stressed out, having written several entrance exams. "I had put in all my efforts for the exam. Why should I be punished for the mistakes of others? I do not have the stamina and inclination to take an exam again," said student Sonal Bhatia. For Bhatia, her 330th rank is important as she had failed to crack the exam in 2005.

On the other hand, Rueta Athalye had let go of her seat and Rs 50,000 as fees paid to a private medical college after being ranked 706. For Sameep Sohani, his ranking of 34 is important as it gives him the privilege of choosing any college. "I have worked for my ranking. Last year I was 158th. This year my 34th rank will help me get into the faculty of my choice. I cannot guarantee a similar or better ranking after a re-examination," said Sohani.