



# NEET aspirants allege discrepancies, urge NTA to hold re-test

**The Hindu Bureau**

NEW DELHI

Citing widespread irregularities in how the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) for admission to medical colleges was conducted, a section of aspirants on Thursday wrote to the National Testing Agency (NTA) and the Union government, requesting for a re-examination.

They highlighted an alleged question paper leak in Bihar, hidden grace marks, “illogically high” scores, an unexpected number of full scores, and very high cut-off scores.

Over 2,000 persons have signed the petition. “We, the undersigned students and concerned citizens of India, are writing to bring to your immediate attention the serious irregularities and discrepancies observed in the recently conducted NEET examination. Our future and the integrity of the education system are at stake, and we

cannot remain silent about these issues,” it said.

“Many students received different marks on their scorecards compared to their OMR sheets. These discrepancies were not due to grace marks.”

Aspirants have also pointed out that the mid-term revision of syllabus added further confusion and unfairness to the examination process.

While students have demanded a re-examination, the NTA in a statement has said the integrity of the exam has not been compromised. However, it has also said that the NTA had registered cases against impersonators, where action against “unfair means cases” has been taken according to the existing rules, including the cancellation of candidature.

The NTA has not commented on students’ grievances of mismatch between OMR sheet scores and the final result score they received. **H**

# 'Changes in NCERT books among reasons behind high NEET scores'

Fareeha Iftikhar

letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** A comparatively easier question paper, changes made in NCERT textbooks, and grace marks provided to students for "loss of exam time" at certain centres — these are some of the reasons officials on Thursday cited behind students getting higher scores in NEET-UG 2024, including an unprecedented 67 all India toppers.

The development came two days after the National Testing Agency (NTA) declared the results of the 2024 National Eligibility cum Entrance Test-Undergraduate, or NEET-UG — a pre-medical entrance examination for admission to all undergraduate medical courses in the country — in which 67 students shared the all India rank one by scoring perfect 720/720 marks, including six students from the same exam centre in Haryana. The results triggered a massive uproar, with several aspirants and parents demanding a probe and seeking a "re-exam", alleging that the paper was leaked at certain centres where students got high scores.

Responding to the allegations, NTA officials told HT that at least four reasons led to high scores



**Sixty-seven students shared the all India rank this year.**

this year.

"The NTA had received few representations from students and some high courts, including Punjab and Haryana, Delhi, and Chhattisgarh, raising concerns over loss of time during exam. Afterwards, a committee was formed to look into the matter," a senior NTA official said, requesting anonymity.

The committee, the official said, stuck to the normalising formula devised by the Supreme Court in a 2018 judgment to address the loss of time faced by candidates. "The loss of time was ascertained and such candidates were compensated with grace marks. Therefore, the marks of students at some centres went up."

In a statement on Thursday, the NTA said a total of 1,563 candidates were compensated for the loss of time and the revised

marks of such candidates vary from -20 to 720. "Amongst these, the score of two candidates also happens to be 718 and 719 marks, respectively, due to compensatory marks," the NTA said.

On a large number of students bagging the top rank, the senior official pointed out that the question paper was prepared using a new and revised NCERT textbook while some students had prepared from old NCERT textbooks. In the multiple-choice question format in Physics, while one option was correct according to the new NCERT book, another was right according to the old one.

"The NTA got representation from the students on the same, due to which NTA had to assign five marks to all students who had marked one of the two options. Due to this, marks of a total of 44 students increased from 715 to 720, which resulted in an increased number of toppers," the official said.

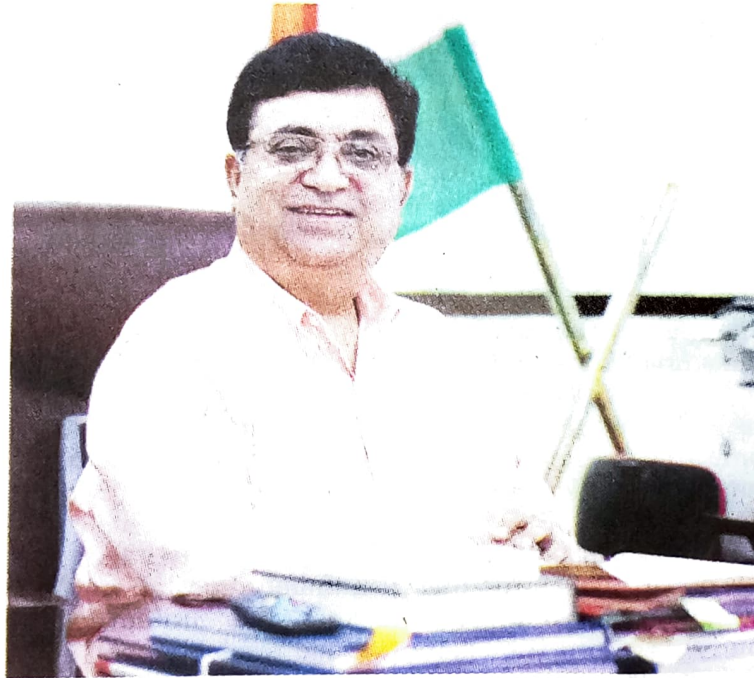
On several toppers coming from the same exam centre, the official said: "This centre in Haryana's Bahadurgarh also had a time loss case. Therefore, it is likely that those students who did well got further benefited by the revised marks they got as compensation for the time loss."

# Dr Mahesh Verma re-appointed GGSIPU vice-chancellor

**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE**

NEW DELHI, 6 JUNE

Lieutenant Governor of Delhi Vinai Kumar Saxena, who is also the chancellor of Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University (GGSIPU), on Thursday, re-appointed Dr. Mahesh Verma vice-chancellor of the university for another term.



Professor Dr. Verma, VC of the GGSIPU, Delhi has formerly been the dean of the Maulana Azad Institute of Dental Sciences, New Delhi.

He is also the president of the International Association for Dental Research (IADR) India Division and

the International Association for Disability and Oral Health (IADH) India Chapter.

The GGSIPU on June 4 was given the 'Rising Star' award by the QS World Ranking for showing the highest improvement among Indian institutions during the last 12

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months, an official communiqué had said.

This comes after the IP University debuted in the QS rankings as part of its previous edition. Senior Vice-President of the QS Ben Sowter presented the honour to the university at the QS EduData Summit 2024 in Washington DC, where the "QS World University Rankings 2025" were released on Tuesday.

The IP University is the only university of the government of NCT of Delhi that has been included in this rating system.

The Delhi LG had also congratulated the VC Dr. Verma, the faculty, staff, and the students of the University on this achievement.

A government order of the Directorate of Higher Education read: "The Hon'ble Lt. Governor, Delhi/Chancellor of Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University is pleased to re-appoint Dr. Mahesh Verma, Vice Chancellor, Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University for another term attaining the age of 70 years, whichever is earlier."

"Other terms & conditions of the re-appointment of the Vice-Chancellor shall be as per the statutory provisions of Act/ Statutes of GGSIP University, Delhi," the order further said.

# 6 We Will Join The World's Top 300 Univs Soon By Enhancing Quality 9

**D**elhi University has taken a big leap in the QS World Rankings, going up from 407 last year to an impressive 328 in 2024. What contributed to this feat which has enhanced the university's academic reputation?

■ We are thrilled by this and proud of our consistent improvement in the rankings, rising from 521-530 in 2022 to 407 in 2023, and now to 328. This achievement reflects the dedication of our teachers, students and administration. We aim to join the top 300 universities worldwide soon. To enhance quality, we have recruited top-tier teachers and are eliminating adhocism due to financial instability which hinders research. We are focusing on hiring bright minds with strong research potential and assessing their PhDs, post-doctoral work and experience.

How has DU measured up in the 'international research network' and 'academic reputation' categories?

■ PhD students must now publish in high-quality journals indexed by SCI (Science Citation Index), Web of Science or Scopus, relevant to QS and Times Higher Education rankings. The university will fund one international conference every year if its proceedings are published, enhancing research impact. We are now strictly enforcing these standards to ensure publication in top journals. We will ensure students focus on research projects and apply for grants. The university will award Rs 5 lakh for top journal publications and Rs 1.5 lakh for other quality publications, incentivising both teachers and students to excel. The funds can be used for research.

“**PhD students must publish in high-quality journals. We will fund one international conference annually if proceedings are published. ₹5 lakh will be given for getting published in top journals, ₹1.5 lakh for others**”

*Delhi University vice-chancellor Yogesh Singh discusses with Shreya Ghosh DU's remarkable achievement in going up by 79 rungs in the QS World Rankings and how this was achieved*

Photo: Rajesh Mehta



**TOI INTERVIEW**

**DU has been declared a public Institution of Eminence and received funds for research, innovations and infrastructure. How have these funds been utilised?**

■ Over the past two years, we've invested over Rs 20 crore in the library and significantly upgraded our research infrastructure, supported by govt of India's Rs 1,000 crore Institution of Eminence scheme. This has boosted our rankings. We also offer one lakh monthly grants for postdoctoral fellowships and continue to enhance our facilities.

**What has been the impact of National Education Policy 2020 on the rankings? Students are finding it difficult to navigate the multiple courses prescribed under NEP.**

■ The full impact of NEP will be seen in the coming years as it has been only three years since its inception. NEP emphasises research and innovation. We've launched the Udhmodhya Foundation to support student startups with seed money and resources. NEP also aims to reduce study load, cutting credits from 200 to 20 for holistic development. While it offers curricular flexibility, proper implementation is still evolving. For

“**To enhance quality, we have recruited top-tier teachers and are eliminating adhocism due to financial instability which hinders research. We are focusing on hiring bright minds with strong research potential and assessing their PhDs, postdoctoral work and experience**”

instance, we've addressed the mismatch in teaching assignments by hiring professional sports coaches. Adapting will take time but we encourage self-study to manage syllabus completion.

**In the QS rankings, DU topped the 'employment outcomes and sustainability' category. What specific measures and initiatives have been implemented to achieve this distinction?**

■ DU's Central Placement Cell has successfully organised job fairs, greatly aiding student employment and enhancing employer reputation. We host over 1,000 international students and 20 adjunct international faculty teaching online for postgraduate and PhD courses. Despite India's tight job market, we will focus on recruiting Indian faculty though we are allowed to hire

international teachers. With the end of the pandemic, recruitment will resume. DU ranks first in sustainability as a zero liquid discharge campus and we are committed to more green initiatives like installing solar panels.

**Several senior teachers have voiced their concerns about the alleged arbitrary removal of adhoc teachers and political appointments. With 75% already displaced by April 2023, they question the fairness of this system. What is your take on that?**

■ We recruit teachers solely based on academic credentials. Recruitment is challenging and often criticised as only a few are selected from thousands of candidates. While academic experience is paramount, we are sensitive to certain subjects as a university.

**Both students and faculty have said that the tradition of dissent within DU is diminishing. Is this true?**

■ Peace is required for research or any other academic accomplishment. As a VC, it's my duty to ensure there is peace in the university. There are fewer protests in DU now.

**DU has increased its annual fees by 46% to Rs 2,350 across various categories, prompting accusations from some teachers that it is just a ploy to use students' funds to repay interest on Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA) loans.**

■ HEFA is a crucial government scheme that should have been utilised by the university much earlier. With an expenditure of Rs 1,300 crore and only Rs 5-6 crore raised from fees, the university's finances depend heavily on external support. Under HEFA, Centre provides 100% interest and 90% of the principal with the university responsible for only 10%. It's a comfortable arrangement aimed at enhancing accountability. This scheme is exclusive to DU and we must utilise such opportunities for growth. Additionally, University of Delhi Foundation aims to mobilise funds, targeting Rs 1,000 crore from alumni and various stakeholders for the university's development.

**What has been the progress on infrastructure development at DU?**

■ We're gearing up for significant infrastructural upgrades. Construction of the Faculty of Technology building will commence shortly along with plans for two hostels, each accommodating 1,000 students. Funding has been secured and construction will begin soon. Additionally, expansion projects are in the pipeline for the Dhaka campus and academic buildings.

**The university was unable to fill around 7,000 seats in the common seat allocation system (CSAS) last year. What steps have been taken to ensure a smoother process this time?**

■ We are in discussions with the principals of peripheral colleges that struggled to fill seats last year. We are prepared to offer an additional 30% of seats, with 50% available in the first round itself, to ensure seat occupancy. Additionally, we will conduct mop-up rounds this year.

# थिअरी-प्रैक्टिकल के अंकों Theory Practical में बड़ा अंतर, CBSE सख्त

■ विशेष संवाददाता, नई दिल्ली

CBSE ने अपने स्कूलों को आंतरिक मूल्यांकन प्रक्रिया की समीक्षा करने की सलाह दी है। बोर्ड ने लगभग 500 स्कूलों में स्टूडेंट्स के थिअरी और प्रैक्टिकल अंकों के बीच बड़ा अंतर देखा। बोर्ड ने एक अडवाइजरी जारी कर स्कूलों से कहा है कि प्रैक्टिकल एजाम के गहन मूल्यांकन की जरूरत

बोर्ड ने स्कूलों से कहा, पारदर्शिता की जरूरत

है। CBSE ने कहा है कि AI टूल के माध्यम से पिछले साल के रिजल्ट के आंकड़ों के आधार पर, लगभग 500 CBSE के स्कूलों में 50% या उससे ज्यादा स्टूडेंट्स के कुछ विषयों में थिअरी और प्रैक्टिकल अंकों के बीच एक बड़ा अंतर पता चला है। बोर्ड ने स्कूलों से कहा है कि प्रैक्टिकल के मूल्यांकन में सटीकता और पारदर्शिता लाने की जरूरत है।

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