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CBSE's clarification on the Kannur incident during NEET UG 2017

CBSE conducted the first integrated NEET UG examination on 7th May 2017 for admission to 95,000 seats in MBBS and BDS courses across the country.

The incident reported at TISK English Medium School, Kannur came to the notice of CBSE through media reports as the CBSE officials present in the city were neither informed by the Principal of the concerned school nor by the parents of the candidate.

The dress regulations came into force after Police reported attempts to use micro bluetooth-enabled devices hidden in the ears and inner wear of the candidates during the conduct of All India Pre-medical and Dental Test (AIPMT) in 2015. As a result, CBSE had to re-conduct the examination on the direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in the whole country due to such malpractice resulting in huge inconvenience to the candidates and wastage of resources. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India directed CBSE to develop mechanism for fair and transparent conduct of examination. In compliance, CBSE issued the "**guidelines for frisking and dress code**" of the candidates appearing in the re-conduct of AIPMT 2015, which was appreciated by stakeholders and also by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. The same guidelines are followed by CBSE in NEET 2016 and 2017 as well.

In 2016 the examination was conducted in two phases (NEET-I and NEET-II) as per decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court under the supervision of the high powered Oversight Committee headed by Justice R.M. Lodha, former Chief Justice of India. During these exams the frisking of candidates was done to prevent cheating using high end electronic gadgets such as miniaturized bluetooth microphones, other sophisticated electronic communication devices and possibility of impersonation.

CBSE has followed exactly the same "**protocol of frisking**" for NEET 2017 also as was done in 2015 and 2016. This year more than 11.38 lakh candidates registered for the examination including PIOs, foreign nationals, OICs and NRIs out of which there were 6.42 lakh female candidates. The examination was simultaneously held at 1921 exam centres between 10.00 am to 1.00 pm on 7th May 2017 in 103 cities across the country under supervision of 124 city coordinators. For fair, smooth and transparent conduct of examination, more than 1, 50,000 invigilators, 3500 external observers, 490 CBSE

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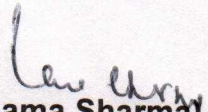
officials and 10,000 police personnel were deployed at these centres. The overall attendance in NEET 2017 exam was approximately 95% with highest appearance of 97.10% in Srinagar (J&K).

The candidates were informed well in advance about the “**frisking guidelines and dress code**” and wide dissemination was made through NEET Information Bulletin 2017(Chapter 11), CBSE NEET website, printed instructions on the admit card of the candidates including an “undertaking from the candidates on the issue of frisking, prior knowledge of barred items and dress code” and individual communication through emails and SMS to sensitize the candidates. This is necessary in the interest of the candidates for such high value and high stake examination. To ensure that bonafide and deserving candidates are selected in NEET 2017, it is imperative to take suitable pre-examination precautions such as dress code and frisking and candidates are advised to adhere to such guidelines in their larger interest.

The incidence reported at TISK English Medium School, Kovvapuram, Kannur (Kerala) is very unfortunate and apparently due to consequence of few overzealous female frisking staff of the school (exam centre) involved in the process. CBSE has advised the school Principal to tender an unconditional apology to the candidate. The agony and inconvenience caused to the candidate inadvertently is deeply regretted by CBSE.

The Board would further sensitize the frisking staff to obviate such incidence in future. However, it is important to mention that there were more than 6.42 lakh female candidates registered for the NEET 2017 examination, which went off peacefully and smoothly across the country due to full cooperation and patience of the parents and students, which is highly appreciable.

CBSE would take all necessary measures to ensure that students appear for examination in relaxed mood without compromising the sanctity of the examination at the same time.


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