

# A 'NEET' switch

The proposal to hold the NEET exam in online mode has multiple benefits

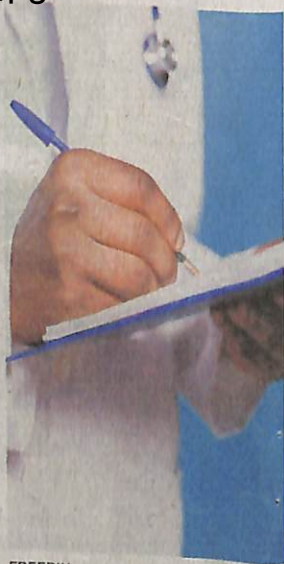
The Hindu, dt:6.10.25, pg.no.4

P.V. Navaneethakrishnan

**A**ccording to a reply from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to a query in the Lok Sabha on August 1, there are 115,900 MBBS seats across 780 medical colleges in the country. An update from the National Medical Commission on September 26, 2025 puts the number of seats at 124,825 across 809 medical colleges). This is expected to grow further in the coming years.

Conducting the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test in paper and pencil mode with such numbers is a Herculean task and several things can go wrong. Apart from the need for a huge number of centres, some chronic issues are tackling impersonation, dress code violations, paper leaks and so on. Conversations on the desirability of switching to a computer-based online test have been ongoing and the Ministry of Education is considering this option.

Given the increasing number of candidates, the online tests can be held across different days and even sessions within a day, which will allow a commotion-free exam. Given that the number of centres will also be fewer, the need for personnel to supervise



FREEPIK

and maintain the integrity of the process will be less. Leaks of question papers will also not happen, as candidates will not answer the same question paper. The computer will generate alternate papers based on the same level of difficulty.

Another big advantage is that the exam can be held at least twice a year, making it easier for those who miss the first test or want to improve their scores. With the offline exam, this was not possible. But, if the exam moves online, the NEET can be held twice a year.

The writer is former Professor and Director, Entrance Exams and Admission, Anna University, Chennai.