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Verdict on NEET

Why in news?

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The Madras High court quashed the Tamil Nadu Government's Order that provides 85% reservation in State Quota seats for students from State Board schools.

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How admission for medical college is being done?

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- The National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET-UG) is an entrance exam for any graduate and postgraduate medical course in India.

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- Medical colleges in a particular state have 85% seats reserved for the native students and 15% (All India Quota) seats for the students from other states.

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- For instance, a student from Delhi wants to pursue MBBS from a college in Mumbai, he would be choosing from from 15% seats of total seats of that college.

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What is the Tamil Nadu government's stand?

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- Tamil Nadu had abolished entrance tests in 2006.

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- Since then has been admitting students based on their marks in the qualifying school examination.

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- The State government still opposes NEET exam.
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- Two Bills had been passed in the State Assembly exempting students from Tamil Nadu from the exam. The bills were awaiting President's assent.
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- In Tamil Nadu, around 88,000 students had appeared for NEET, of which only 4,600 were from the CBSE.
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- According to the government, if a NEET-based merit list is drawn up, 72% of medical seats in government colleges and government quota seats in private colleges would go to CBSE school students.
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- So the State government notified an order providing 85% reservation in the UG medical seats available in the State quota to the students from State Board syllabus and 15% to students from other boards.
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- The NEET might be beyond the potential for students from rural and underprivileged backgrounds.
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- There is a concern that the government may not get committed doctors to serve in rural areas if most of the seats are cornered by CBSE students.
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What was the court's rationale?

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- The Madras High court quashed the Tamil Nadu Government's Order that provides 85% reservation in State Quota seats for students from State Board schools.
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- The petitioner submitted that powers to regulate admission to medical courses lie exclusively with the Medical Council of India (MCI) as per the provisions of the Indian Medical Council Act.
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- The MCI has stipulated that admissions to medical courses shall be based on the marks obtained in NEET.
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- The merit list prepared on the basis of such marks, and it does not distinguish between students from the CBSE and State Boards.
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What is the way ahead?

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- In a country with regional, economic and linguistic disparities, uniformity is no virtue.

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- The political leadership at the Centre as well as in the States would do well to work together to evolve a flexible admission policy

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- At the same time fairness, transparency and freedom from exploitation in admissions should be achieved.

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Source: The Hindu

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