

# Bitter medicine for wannabe doctors

## Plans awry after recent controversy over NEET and delay in results

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**T**his year, medical aspirants had a tough time not just in writing umpteen number of exams but also had to wait for their results pending over many years. In this process, many students opted for engineering and had to choose other degree programs in various universities. The results were earlier scheduled to be declared on June 8, but were delayed after the Madras High Court stayed the declaration on a plea alleging lack of uniformity in question papers.

The total number of candidates who took the examination this year was 11,38,890 out of which 4,97,043 were male and 6,41,839 were female and 8 were transgender. The number of Indians who took the examination were 11,36,206, NRIs were 1,522, persons of Indian origin were 69 and 613 foreigners.

Despite this cut-throat competition, a city boy emerged as a fourth topper in the country. Sankeerth Sadanand, a student of Delhi Public School (South), who also bagged the AIR 27 in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) MBBS 2017 examination results announced recently, secured AIR 4 in the NEET examinations. But he has chosen to opt for AIIMS, Delhi, over NEET counselling.

Sankeerth told BM, "It is a nice feeling to be in the top 5. I expected



**NEET toppers Rakshita Ramesh and Sankeerth S**

**“I want to tell people that they shouldn't feel they can get ranks only if they are smart. Anyone can do it, provided they work hard**

— SANKEERTH SADANAND

to be in the top 200. Though NEET is the ultimate goal, I will most probably stick to my decision of getting into AIIMS.

NEET just gave me many more options to choose from like Kasturba Medical College and others, which I had actually aimed at.

"This on a whole is a learning experience and all my friends are as enthusiastic as I am in studies. We all feel that we should study what we love. It gets boring if one focuses only one thing, but one month

before the exam, it definitely helps if there is focus and hard work. I did take my books everywhere I went, even if it had very little to do with my studies. I just needed them. In fact, I took them even to a cricket match," he added.

Speaking about his mentors, he said, "For this success, I would like to thank BASE faculty for their continuous support and encouragement. BASE puts in a lot of effort to improve fundamentals, which helps in the long run."

Giving some tips to his juniors, Sankeerth said, "I want to tell people that they shouldn't feel that if they are smart, they can achieve ranks. I believe everyone can do wonders provided they work hard. There is nothing such as dumb or smart. One needs to believe in oneself, and then achieve whatever they can."

His father, Sadanand, said, "We are really happy with his achievement. We have really seen him work hard since the last four years, and he has definitely made us proud. He would never come out with us on vacations and even if he did, he would always stick to his books."

Another city student, Rakshita Ramesh, secured AIR 41 in NEET Result 2017. She said, "I am very happy about my results and thankful to all my teachers for their excellent teaching, encouragement and support. Through their concept-based approach, BASE has helped me a lot to prepare for competitive exams. I am very grateful for that."