The All India Institute of Medical Sciences, at its core, is a culture. Sixty years ago, the founding fathers of the institute developed a culture of excellence, in education, research, academics and patient care, which ultimately depended on its faculty. I am very proud and happy to say that this culture has endured and grown over the years. AIIMS gets a lot of support from the government in terms of funding, but what really sets it apart is its dedicated faculty. Immensely dedicated and involved, they make AIIMS a premier institution.

For students seeking the AIIMS experience, I would like to draw their attention to the rapidly evolving field of medicine. Fundamental changes—never witnessed before in the history of medical science—have taken place in the past two decades. These changes have made it essential for us to change our curriculum and training methods and arm
### Top 5 Colleges

**Cost of the Best**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>College Name</th>
<th>Tuition Fees for the Entire Course (₹)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) New Delhi</td>
<td>2,01,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Christian Medical College &amp; Hospital (CMC) Vellore</td>
<td>76,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Armed Forces Medical College (AFMC) Pune</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Maulana Azad Medical College (MAMC) New Delhi</td>
<td>17,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER) Puducherry</td>
<td>29,350</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Average Tuition Fees Government vs Private**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zone</th>
<th>Govt</th>
<th>PVT</th>
<th>Overall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>₹2,10,340</td>
<td>₹38,89,710</td>
<td>₹18,14,168</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Zone-wise Tuition Fee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zone</th>
<th>Average Tuition Fees (in ₹ for the entire course)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>East</td>
<td>₹9,82,004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West</td>
<td>₹30,20,107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North</td>
<td>₹16,65,446</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South</td>
<td>₹24,70,841</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
<td>10,14,168</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Medical

The 74 years of the average age of top 10 medical colleges.

In medicine, students learn a lot of things through theory, books and lectures, but when we look at students, we look at a number of things. We think that there's an enormous need for skill development. Hence, we have set up a skill lab at AIIMS. A virtual simulation lab, where they can acquire a variety of experiences and procedures by using mannequins and models. From simple procedures like putting an IV line or incising a patient to complex procedures like laparoscopic surgery.

From practicing on cadavers at the wet lab to trying out animal models (say, practicing a key-hole surgery on a pig model), we are trying to make learning a whole new experience for students. We have organs and parts in cold storage. Students can take those out, study, practice and become more confident. Such facilities are open throughout the week and even late in the night. It is possible for students to come after-hours and work. They can even book their slots online.

We are building a new platform to get lectures uploaded online. A core group is developing e-teaching modules. We have the 'Flip classrooms', where we post teaching material online. The anatomy department is already doing this. Students can see the lecture before going to the classroom, where it can then be more of a discussion session than a chalk-and-board talk. Students can see their assignments online and are encouraged to give their feedback.

We also believe that students who are about to become doctors, need to be skilled in patient management. With the rising tension among doctors and patients, from the Emergency to the ICU, we need to ensure that our students are equipped to handle the challenges effectively.

Do not hallucinate.
we have decided to teach our students effective doctor-patient communication. Medicine has always been a noble profession with a service component to it. The bond between doctors and patients is sacrosanct. Our teachers had told us exactly this, but 20 years ago that was considered almost natural in medicine. Now as society becomes more transactional and money-based, we need to introspect and get the values back. At AIMMS, we are working to develop a curriculum keeping this in mind. AIMMS is fundamentally a research institute. At a time when our profession is increasingly focusing on practice, the research component needs to be nurtured—especially, research relevant to India. It is our duty to show students, who are research-oriented, the avenues and opportunities.

Recently, when we organised an open session with our students, on how to develop a curriculum, they expressed keenness about elective courses. We are exploring all the possibilities: can we offer an elective course in humanities, ethics, public health or research methodology? Or, perhaps in biomedical engineering? We are engaging with the Indian Institutes of Technology to find out if we can send our students to the various IITs to get a different exposure. Perhaps, they could work on small projects for some weeks during summer or interact with engineering students or come up with a device or an app for better patient care, along with their peer groups in the IITs? Can we have more integrated courses, perhaps combined PhD programmes with them? These are some of the new things we are looking at.

We would like to encourage our students to join institutes where they can carry on with the AIMMS tradition. A lot of AIMMS-like institutes and teaching hospitals are coming up. Our students can develop similar structures at these places so that the load from AIMMS is distributed to other places. As these are run by trained AIMMS, patients will have faith in these hospitals. That is one career model that we are keen on.

A lot of our students are aware of the demand they have among the general public and in corporate hospitals. Once they get trained at AIMMS, they are the best. If you look around you will find that people doing very well in private and corporate hospitals have either worked in AIMMS or have been trained here.

We have already developed a patient cell at AIMMS. And now we are trying to develop facilities to encourage startups. If a student with a brilliant idea after research wants to take it to the next level, we should be able to help by developing a mechanism to engage the industry and help them become successful entrepreneurs. We are trying to develop a common bio-park with the IITs, where it will be possible to do collaborative work in nanotechnology, new drug delivery system, point-of-care tests, and so on.

Finally, some words of advice to budding doctors: Be a good human being, be empathetic and dedicated to your calling. You need to understand that you must be willing to have a service component in your work if you wish to be a doctor. Medicine demands that. When you go out, put yourself in your patient’s shoes and then take a decision. Above all, it is essential to have basic values in place. That is the foundation of medicine.

The author is Director, All India Institute of Medical Sciences. He spoke to Dineshmani Dutta

### ZONE-WISE TOP PRIVATE COLLEGES

#### NORTH

- **Sri Ram Chandra Medical College & Research Institute, Balasore**
- **Srinivas Medical College, Vizianagaram**
- **Bapuji Medical College, Belgaum**
- **BAMER Medical College, Uttar Pradesh**
- **Bharadwaj Institute of Medical Sciences, Bhubaneswar**

#### SOUTH

- **Apollo Institute of Medical Sciences, Chennai**
- **Apollo Institute of Medical Sciences, Chennai**
- **Apollo Institute of Medical Sciences, Chennai**
- **Apollo Institute of Medical Sciences, Chennai**
- **Apollo Institute of Medical Sciences, Chennai**

#### EAST

- **Sri Ram Chandra Medical College & Research Institute, Balasore**
- **Srinivas Medical College, Vizianagaram**
- **Bapuji Medical College, Belgaum**
- **BAMER Medical College, Uttar Pradesh**
- **Bharadwaj Institute of Medical Sciences, Bhubaneswar**

#### WEST

- **Sri Ram Chandra Medical College & Research Institute, Balasore**
- **Srinivas Medical College, Vizianagaram**
- **Bapuji Medical College, Belgaum**
- **BAMER Medical College, Uttar Pradesh**
- **Bharadwaj Institute of Medical Sciences, Bhubaneswar**

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**NB:** The above tables have been prepared based on objective data submitted by colleges.