

## A Story of Determination and Courage

### Aakash Institute student Pradeep Naim from Kaithal defies odds to prepare for NEET and fulfil his dream of becoming a doctor

- *Despite losing his Father at the young age of 2.5 years, Vikas has not lost hope and has kept his vision of becoming a doctor strong.*
- *Vikas wishes to eradicate the financial struggles of his family by clearing NEET and he wants nobody in his neighborhood to suffer from serious ailments and lack of monetary assistance*

**Kaithal, June 14, 2021:** The Second Wave of the Covid-19 pandemic has had a lasting impact on almost everyone. For students particularly, the lockdown has caused deep distress – the constant worry about exams being rescheduled, preparing for competitive exams online as well as the fear of an uncertain future. But this period of grief and struggle has also given rise to many stories of courage among the student community that are a true inspiration for all. Of fighting against a situation and overcoming it and finding opportunity in adversity.

One of such story is that of **Aakash Institute student 16-year-old Pradeep Naim**, son of a single mother from the city of Kaithal in Haryana, who is preparing for his NEET entrance exam.

His father's untimely demise when Pradeep was just 2.5 years was a major setback in his life and devastated his family. He was the sole bread earner and his death due to cancer jolted the family and made them strive really hard to make two ends meet. However, with the support from his mother and sister, Pradeep continued to strive for excellence while defying all the odds.

His mother showed exemplary courage by taking up responsibilities of the entire household while also taking care of the two kids (Pradeep and his younger sister) and constantly working on the farm, which is the only income source of the family. With the availability of only one smart phone and unstable internet connection, Pradeep continued his study with utmost dedication to achieve his dream of becoming a doctor.

**Says Pradeep,** "Time came to a standstill when I lost my father when I was only 2.5 years old. It was a devastating time for my family to see my father suffer from cancer and we were unable to do much for his treatment. I have seen my mother work relentlessly all these years to support the needs of my family. I dream to become a successful doctor not only to provide a

better lifestyle for my family but also to make sure that the people in my neighborhood get treated for their ailments and do not suffer from lack of monetary assistance.”

Aakash Institute has made special efforts to ensure that students from Tier 2 cities and rural areas who were badly hit when the lockdown struck, are able to continue their studies and are not left behind. Teachers across all branches in India are making constant efforts to mentor the student, solve their doubts and help them so as to overcome their infrastructure needs and any problems thereof.

**Says Mr. Aakash Chaudhry, Managing Director, Aakash Educational Services Ltd** *“The pandemic has been tough for everyone. While students are safe at home, the importance of regular study is extremely important to clear high stakes examinations like JEE and NEET. However, for students from rural background and smaller cities, it’s a bigger challenge. We strive to provide the best possible learning environment for students like Pradeep irrespective of their geographical location or their financial capabilities. I am sure the courage that Pradeep has shown in overcoming obstacles in his life will enable him to fulfil his dream of becoming a doctor as well. I wish him all the best for his NEET exam.”*

Students who wish to take admission in Aakash can either take the instant Admission cum Scholarship Test (iACST) or register for ANTHE (Aakash National Talent Hunt Exam). iACST is a recently launched scholarship program conducted for students in Class 8th to 12th which offers them a chance to win upto a 90% scholarship on tuition fees.

#### **About Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL)**

Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL) provides comprehensive test preparatory services for students preparing for Medical and Engineering Entrance Examinations, School/Board Exams and Competitive Exams such as NTSE, KVPY, and Olympiads. AESL believes that the “Aakash” brand is associated with quality coaching and a proven student selection track record in various Medical and Engineering Entrance Examinations, Scholarship exams & Olympiads.

With over 32 years of operational experience in the test preparatory industry, the company has a large number of selections in Medical & Engineering Entrance Exams and several Foundation level Scholarship exams/Olympiads, a pan India network of 200+ Aakash Centers (including franchisee), and a student count of more than 250,000.

The Aakash group also owns famous K-12 EdTech brand, Meritnation.com as well.

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