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SRI DEVARAJ URS MEDICAL COLLEGE
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CET counselling may be delayed

Meghana Choukkar

BENGALURU: The second round of CET counselling is likely to be delayed by a few days. It was to begin on July 4 with the announcement of a fresh matrix of seats.

The online counselling, for those who have cracked the Common Entrance Test (CET), precedes allotment of seats for engineering, architecture and other professional courses in Karnataka.

“Though we had scheduled it for July 4, we will postpone it by two or three days,” said a senior official of the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA).

The KEA is waiting for a High Court decision on B Pharma seats. The court had passed an interim order, in response to a writ petition filed by the Karnataka Pharmacy College Management Association, to keep out B Pharma seats from the counselling process.

Also, the KEA has not yet received the seat matrix for Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy (abbreviated to Ayush) courses from the Ayush department.

“Many students want to opt for B Pharma and Ayush courses. So we may wait for those seats to be available during counselling,” the official said.

The ‘option entry’ for the

second round was scheduled for Tuesday, and publication of the allotment for July 8.

Students who have written the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) may have to register for counselling for MBBS seats from July 5 or 6.

On Monday, officials of the KEA and department of medical education met to discuss the process. The government is expected to announce the schedule within two days.

Students who exercised ‘choice 2’ in the first round of CET counselling but wish to participate in NEET counselling may opt for ‘choice 2’ again in the second round.

DH News Service

K'taka stares at a crisis, asks docs to quote pay package

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: While inviting bids for executing infrastructure projects is routine, Karnataka's health department is now resorting to online bidding to attract specialists for government hospitals.

Doctors can quote the pay package they expect to serve in government hospitals in rural areas. This comes in the backdrop of the government having exhausted all alternatives to overcome the shortage of specialists.

Health minister KR Ramesh Kumar told reporters here on Monday: "What can we do if specialists are not willing to work in government hospitals despite being offered salaries up to Rs 1.25 lakh a month? Since they are not keen on the pay package we offer, we want them to suggest how much they want. If their bids are approved by the government, they will be appointed."

The minister said the doctors can quote their pay pack-

1K POSTS VACANT

➤ Karnataka faces a shortage of 1,035 specialists in government hospitals

➤ Shortage is well over 1,000 for the past several years

➤ The total number of sanctioned posts is 3,435

age on the department's website — www.karhfw.gov.in

Kumar said there's a shortage of 1,035 specialists in government hospitals. This figure has been over 1,000 for the past few years. The total number of sanctioned posts is 3,435.

"We have invited applications many times for specialists but they don't seem to be keen on serving in rural areas. We have upgraded district and taluk hospitals by pumping in thousands of crores of rupees, but doctors are not ready to practise there. The badly affected are poor patients," he added.

► Continued on page 5

Doc shortage: Govt tried to invoke legal provisions

► Continued from page 1

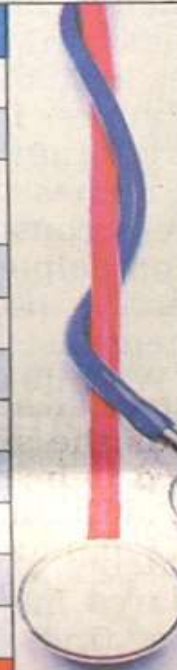
The government had tried to overcome the shortage by invoking legal provisions against post-graduate doctors who studied under the government quota and have refused to do their mandatory service in rural areas, but in vain. Another solution was to hire doctors for short term, but the response was poor. "We're running out of options and now we want doctors to quote their price," a senior health department official said.

The government issued advertisements with the tagline 'Nimma Quote Namma Post' (Your quote, our post) and offered a pay package of Rs1.3 lakh (negotiable) per month for high priority districts and Rs1.1 lakh (negotiable) per month for non-priority districts. As bids come in, the government will negotiate with applicants and finalise the appointment.

At least one practising paediatrician is not enthused by the move. "This

SHORTAGE OF SPECIALISTS

SPECIALTY	VACANCIES
General physicians	99
General surgeons	64
Gynaecologists and obstetricians	177
Paediatricians	220
Anaesthetists	224
Ophthalmologists	66
Orthopedicians	37
ENT specialists	43
Dermatologists	63
Radiologists	37
Psychiatrists	5
TOTAL	1,035



is a mockery of a noble profession. If the government focuses on improving infrastructure and working conditions, then doctors will like to go and work there," he said.

Only doctors must sign diagnostic reports: MCI

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New Delhi: Only persons holding an MBBS degree and registered with the Medical Council of India (MCI) or with the state medical councils can now sign diagnostic reports, as per a new order issued by MCI. The move is aimed at regulating quality and standard of reports generated by diagnostic chains, which are fast mushrooming across the country. "It was decided by the Executive Committee that 'All lab reports to be signed/countersigned by persons registered with MCI/State Medical Council,'" the Council said.

According to the Council, PhD scholars in different medical streams such as



HAVING FINAL SAY

medical microbiology or medical biochemistry, professional medical lab technicians are not authorised to sign medical test reports issued by laboratories.

The decision was taken in a recent meeting of the MCI executive council following recommendations by its ethics committee.

While reputed and established diagnostic laboratories, mainly in metros, often get reports signed and coun-

tersigned by persons with MBBS degree, smaller laboratories particularly in tier II and III cities or in rural areas use lab technicians and PhD scholars to sign test reports.

Diagnostics industry in India is pegged at Rs 37,000 crore annually, growing at around 17%. There are over 100,000 diagnostic laboratories across the country, whereas 80-90% of the market is dominated by unorganised players, with only 1% of them accredited.

Though appreciating the MCI's move, experts say this alone is not enough to ensure quality and standard or care as MCI does not have the power to regulate diagnostic chains, particularly those not run by doctors registered with it.

MCI order on signing med reports causes stir

ENS @ Bengaluru

A communication by the Medical Council of India (MCI) saying that only those who have registered with MCI and state medical councils will be allowed to sign on medical reports has received opposition from the hospital sector.

This recent decision by MCI will keep all pathologists and those with MSc or MD in biochemistry, microbiology, medical microbiology away from signing certificates, health and medical reports.

At present, MSc and PhD holders in medical microbiology, medical biochemistry, life sciences, applied biology, cytogenetics and biotechnology are allowed to sign medical test reports. But this new decision by MCI will restrict MSc and PhD holders to only teaching.

A senior professor of a medical college in the city said, "These are allied sciences and MCI can't restrict them to teaching. If MCI says only those registered with MCI can sign health and medical reports, then only MBBS doctors can sign."

"These pathology lab reports are system generated and they don't need an MBBS holder to sign them," said another senior pathologist.

This latest communication by MCI to the secretary of Union ministry for health and family welfare has been forwarded to all medical universities and medical education departments of states.

However, many in the sector have raised the issue with Union health minister J P Nadda on Twitter and some have even asked HRD minister Prakash Javadekar to remove MSc in biochemistry and microbiology courses from the purview of University Grants Commission.

'We want you; now quote your price'

Govt. plans online bidding for specialist doctors to serve in rural areas

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU**

In another desperate bid to attract specialists to its hospitals, the State Health Department has asked doctors to quote the price at which they are ready to serve in community health centres, taluk and district hospitals.

Although the department had fixed a monthly contract rate of ₹1.2 lakh for specialists, a mere 150 have applied for the 1,221 vacant posts so far. Assuming that the doctors' expectation of remuneration may be higher for service in remote areas, the department has now asked them to quote their price. However, the contract will be performance linked remuneration.

Giving details about "online bidding", Health Minister K.R. Ramesh Kumar told presspersons on Monday over 1,221 specialists posts are vacant in various health centres, including district hospitals, in the State. Several specialists rejected the government offer to join the service citing several reasons, including inadequate salary, he said. As a last resort, it was decided to invite applications online and allow doctors to quote their salary, Mr. Kumar said.

Shalini Rajneesh, Prin-

Government's offer to specialists to fill posts on contract basis
₹1.3 lakh per month (negotiable)



Number of vacant posts
1,221

cial Secretary (Health and Family Welfare), said the National Health Mission is ready to give the top remuneration over and above the State government rates in public interest. "However, the said contract will have performance-linked remuneration," she said.

Bill referred for review

The Karnataka Private Medical Establishments (Amendment) Bill, 2017, a legislation aimed at regulating the functioning of private hospitals and clinics, has been referred to the Joint Select Committee of Legislature headed by Congress MLA K.N. Rajanna for review. The committee will hold its first meeting on July 6, Mr. Kumar said.

Private hospitals and medical practitioners have strongly opposed the Bill citing it has imposed several restrictions on discharge of medical service.

ಕೋಲಾರ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಗೆ ಡಿಎಚ್‌ಒ ಭೇಟಿ ಪ್ರಕರಣಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿ ವಿಶೇಷ ತಂಡ | ಮೆಡಿಕಲ್ ಬೋರ್ಡಿಗೆ ವರದಿ

■ ವಿಜಯವಾಣಿ ಸುದ್ದಿಜಾಲ ಕೋಲಾರ ಅತಿಯಾದ ಅರಿವಳಿಕೆಯಿಂದಾಗಿ ಮೂರು ತಿಂಗಳಿನಿಂದ ಅರೆಪ್ರಜ್ಞಾವಸ್ಥೆಗೆ ಜಾರಿ ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ ಆರ್.ಎಲ್. ಜಾಲಪ್ಪ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಚಿಕಿತ್ಸೆ ಪಡೆಯುತ್ತಿರುವ ದಿವ್ಯಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಕುರಿತು ಡಿಎಚ್‌ಒ ಡಾ. ವಿಜಯಕುಮಾರ್ ನೇತೃತ್ವದ ತಂಡ ಸೋಮವಾರ ವೈದ್ಯರಿಂದ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಕಲೆಹಾಕಿದೆ.



ತಿಂಗಳ ಹಿಂದೆ ಕೋಲಾರದ ಆರ್.ಎಲ್.ಜಾಲಪ್ಪ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಚಿಕಿತ್ಸೆ ಪಡೆಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಉಸ್ತುವಾರಿ ಸಚಿವ ಕೆ.ಆರ್. ರಮೇಶ್‌ಕುಮಾರ್ ಸೂಚನೆಯಂತೆ ಡಿಎಚ್‌ಒ ಡಾ.ವಿಜಯಕುಮಾರ್ ಹಾಗೂ ಡಾ. ಜಗದೀಶ್ ನೇತೃತ್ವದ ತಂಡ ಜಾಲಪ್ಪ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಗೆ ಭೇಟಿ ನೀಡಿ ಸಂತ್ರಸ್ತೆಯ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಕುರಿತು ಸಂಬಂಧಿಕರಿಂದ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಕಲೆಹಾಕಿದರಲ್ಲದೆ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಸ್ಥಿತಿಗತಿ ಕುರಿತು ಚಿಕಿತ್ಸೆ ನೀಡುತ್ತಿರುವ ವೈದ್ಯರಿಂದ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆದರು.

ಮಾಲೂರು ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ದೊಡ್ಡ ಕಡತೂರು ನಿವಾಸಿ ರಘುಪತಿ ಪತ್ನಿ ದಿವ್ಯಾ ಮಾಲೂರಿನ ಸೇಂಟ್ ಮೇರಿಸ್ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಗೆ ಹೆರಿಗೆಗೆಂದು ದಾಖಲಾಗಿದ್ದ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಿಸೇರಿಯನ್ ಶಸ್ತ್ರಚಿಕಿತ್ಸೆಗೆಂದು ನೀಡಿದ್ದ ಅರಿವಳಿಕೆ ವ್ಯತ್ಯಾಸವಾಗಿ ಕೋಮಾಗೆ ಜಾರಿದ್ದರು. ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನ ಸೇಂಟ್ ಜಾನ್ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಗೆ ದಾಖಲಿಸಲಾಗಿತ್ತಾದರೂ ಚಿಕಿತ್ಸೆ ಫಲಕಾರಿಯಾಗದ ಹಿನ್ನೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಎರಡು

ನಂತರ ಪ್ರತಿಕ್ರಿಯಿಸಿದ ಡಿಎಚ್‌ಒ ಡಾ. ವಿಜಯಕುಮಾರ್, ಪ್ರಕರಣಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ತಂಡ ರಚಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ತಂಡ ಪ್ರಕರಣದ ಎಲ್ಲ ವಿವರ ಕಲೆಹಾಕಿದ ನಂತರ ಸಮಗ್ರ ವರದಿಯನ್ನು ಮೆಡಿಕಲ್ ಬೋರ್ಡ್‌ಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ಬೋರ್ಡ್

- » ಮೂರು ತಿಂಗಳಿನಿಂದ ಅರೆ ಪ್ರಜ್ಞಾವಸ್ಥೆಗೆ ಜಾರಿ ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ ಆರ್. ಎಲ್. ಜಾಲಪ್ಪ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಚಿಕಿತ್ಸೆ
- » ಹಿಂದಿಗಿಂತ ತಕ್ಕಮಟ್ಟಿಗೆ ಸುಧಾರಣೆ ಕಂಡಿರುವ ದಿವ್ಯಾ
- » ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಉಸ್ತುವಾರಿ ಸಚಿವ ಕೆ.ಆರ್. ರಮೇಶ್‌ಕುಮಾರ್ ಸೂಚನೆ
- » ಚಿಕಿತ್ಸೆ ಕುರಿತು ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಸಂಗ್ರಹ

ಸೂಚನೆ ಆಧರಿಸಿ ಕ್ರಮ ಕೈಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗುವುದು. ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಎರಡು ತಿಂಗಳಿಂದ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ದಿವ್ಯಾ ಚಿಕಿತ್ಸೆ ಪಡೆಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ಹಿಂದಿಗಿಂತ ಸ್ವಲ್ಪ ಸುಧಾರಣೆ ಕಂಡುಬಂದಿದೆ. ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ವೆಚ್ಚ ಕಡಿಮೆ ಮಾಡುವಂತೆ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ಮುಖ್ಯಸ್ಥರ ಜತೆ ಚರ್ಚಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿದರು.