



SRI DEVARAJ URS ACADEMY OF HIGHER EDUCATION & RESEARCH
SRI DEVARAJ URS MEDICAL COLLEGE
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Clash over seat cut stalls Assam MBBS admissions

Kangkan Kalita | TNN

Guwahati: The admission process to fill up MBBS seats in six medical colleges of Assam came to a halt on Monday after guardians and students clashed with police and government officials over curtailing of seats reserved for OBC candidates. The OBC quota in medical colleges of the state came down to 15% from 27% after a recent Gauhati high court order asking the state government to follow the 2015 norms. Students, who were enrolled in MBBS programmes a couple of weeks ago, are not ready to vacate their seats, even as the state directorate of medical education is firm on implementing the HC order.

"We are bound to follow the HC order which states that 2017 medical admission rules for Assam have to be junked. The OBC quota went up to 27% after the state government approved the 2017 norms before admissions we-

Blow for govt as SC fixes MBBS fee at ₹11L

In a serious setback to the Kerala government, the Supreme Court on Monday allowed all self-financing medical colleges to collect Rs11 lakh/student as fees for MBBS admissions. The college managements had submitted that the fees was Rs 10 lakh last year, following which the court sought a counter from the government. On getting no definite answer, it directed for fixing the fees at Rs11 lakh for all seats (85%) barring those in the NRI quota. The bench comprising Justices S A Bobde and L Nageswara Rao repeatedly asked how the fees could be fixed at a lower rate if Rs10 lakh was collected last year. The managements had also contended that colleges in neighbouring states were collecting Rs15 lakh and Rs20 lakh per year as fees. TNN

re held this year. But since the court has ordered implementation of the 2015 admission norms after hearing a plea from a section of deprived students, the OBC quota has to be curtailed to 15% as per the previous norms," said director of medical education Anup Kumar Barman.

Newly enrolled medical students, whose career aspirations may receive a huge setback, are adamant on not vacating their hard-earned medical seats at any cost. The medi-

cal education directorate's latest decision to cut the OBC quota came in response to writ petitions filed by a section of unsuccessful medical aspirants. "Why should we vacate our seats after fulfilling the entire criterion? The government can continue with the legal battle but we won't surrender our seats after attending regular classes for almost a month now," said a dejected Aparajita Das, who got admission in Tezpur Medical College after NEET this year.

Hospitals asked to declare MRP of knee implants on websites

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New Delhi: The drug price regulator has asked hospitals, nursing homes and clinics to declare on the home page of their website the MRP of knee implant systems at which they are billing patients. The move is aimed at ensuring hospitals do not fleece patients by overcharging on procedures despite the price cap imposed by the government on such products.

Earlier this month, the government slashed prices of knee implants by between 59% and 69% using a special provision in the drug pricing law that enables it to intervene in "extraordinary circumstances" in public interest. The move is expected to benefit over 3 crore arthritis patients in India needing knee replacement surgery.

However, amid concerns that despite the price cap, hospitals and other medical institutions may overcharge consumers, the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has asked hospitals and manufacturers of such devices to act transparently and declare the prices in the public domain. It has also directed hospitals and other such institutions to mention on their website the brand and other specifications of the product like its manufacturer, importer and marketer along with MRP.

Besides adding to transparency, this will give patients the opportunity to evaluate prices of different brands as well as that in different institutions to make an informed decision.

Not many takers for NRI, other quota seats

676 out of 773 seats left vacant even after mop-up round

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The effect of demonetisation is being felt in the field of medical and dental education too with very few takers for seats under the NRI and other quotas.

Experts in the education sector say demonetisation spelt the abrupt end of parents making cash payments to colleges.

According to officials in the Medical Education Department, 676 out of 773 medical seats under the NRI and other quota have been left vacant even after the mop-up round.

Experts also attributed this vacancy to Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) conducting common counselling for these seats using the National Eligibility-



During the mop-up round, NRI seats were converted into other seats. Despite this, there were no takers

MEDICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

cum-Entrance Test (NEET). Prior to this year, all admissions for the 15% NRI quota and 5% other quota were done by the colleges.

Cost of seats high

Officials pointed out that the cost of seats in these quotas was high, and had been increased by more than 40% this year compared to the previous academic year. NRI and other quota seats cost between ₹22.6 lakh and ₹41.9 lakh per annum, while private seats cost ₹6.32 lakh.

On the other hand, government quota seats in private colleges cost ₹77,000, while government seats cost ₹16,700.

"During the mop-up round, the NRI seats were converted into other seats. Despite this, there were no takers," an official said.

As per Supreme Court orders, the vacant seats should be handed over to their respective institutions with a list of unallotted candidates in the order of merit in the ratio of 10 candidates for one vacancy.

Sources said that college managements had intentionally fixed the seats at a higher rates so that there would be no takers and they could distribute the seats to candidates of their preference.

State set to roll out universal healthcare

Cabinet approves Arogya Bhagya; people can obtain their Universal Health Coverage cards from November 1

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Creating a sustainable model of healthcare for all, Karnataka will roll out Universal Health Coverage (UHC) from November 1, bringing all government health schemes under one umbrella.

Under UHC, all the 1.4 crore households in the State will be eligible for cashless treatment for up to ₹1.5 lakh in government and private hospitals. Priority and deprived households (BPL card holders), farmers, unorganised sector workers, pourakarmikas, members of SC and ST communities, members of cooperative societies, government employees, accredited mediapersons, and elected representatives (comprising 1.05 crore households) do not have to make any contribution. They will be classified under Category A.

The remaining population can enrol online by paying an annual premium of ₹300 per person in rural areas and ₹700 in urban areas. This population will be classified under Category B.

Other Cabinet decisions

■ Karnataka State Cooperative Marketing Federation to get government guarantee to raise **₹500 crore** for stocking fertilizers for 2017-18

■ **₹117 crore** for modernisation of right bank and canal system of the lower Mullanari project

■ **₹147 crore** for modernisation Harangi Left Bank Canal

■ **₹170.7 crore** for Nagarbetta lift irrigation project in Muddebihal taluk of Vijayapura district

■ **₹112.46 crore** for

modernisation of Almatti Left Bank Canal

■ Transfer of four acres of Cauveri Neeravari Nigam Ltd. to Education Department for construction of a government college at Saraguru town in H.D. Hote taluk

■ **₹70 crore** to lift water from Amanikere tank at Channarayana in Hassan to fill 25 tanks

■ Government guarantee to borrow **₹1,500 crore** by Krishna Bhagya-Jala Nigam Ltd.

and Family Welfare, said funds to the tune of over ₹1,022 crore, allocated for various health schemes, will be pooled under UHC. "Based on disease incidence, we have estimated that implementing UHC will cost ₹869 crore a year," she said.

Enrolment

"While we will largely rely on the data on households available with the Food and Civil Supplies Department, our ASHA workers will go door to door to verify and enrol every person in the State. The enrolment process will be completed be-

1,000 surgical procedures under secondary care can be availed free of charge by the entire population at government facilities. While complicated secondary procedures (estimated at 516) that may be referred to private hospitals will also be free for Category A, those falling under Category B will get 30% of the cost reimbursed by the State. A similar system will be followed in tertiary care.

People can call toll-free helplines 1800-425-8330 and 1800-425-2646 for assistance.

For schools

The new scheme, called Arogya Bhagya, was approved by the State Cabinet on Monday. Briefing reporters after the meeting, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister T.B. Jayachandra said all the seven existing schemes – Vajpayee Arogyasri, Rajiv Arogya Bhagya, Yeshaswini, Jyothi Sanjeevini, Mukhyamantri Santwana Harish scheme, Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram, and Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana – would be merged under UHC. "The idea is to bring all the existing health schemes under one umbrella and avoid duplication in fund release and overlapping of services," he said.

Shalini Rajneesh, Principal Secretary for Health

before November 1 and Aadhaar-linked UHC cards will be issued. People without Aadhaar can also avail benefits as we have put in place a biometric system in hospitals. Such people can later get Aadhaar cards," she said.

Those falling under Category B, estimated to number around 30 lakh, are the ones likely enrolled for private medical insurance. "However, irrespective of their income and social status, they can use UHC by paying a nominal annual premium," Ms. Rajneesh said, adding that the 2.38 crore cooperative society members need not deposit a contribution under the Yeshaswini scheme from now.

Primary care and around

Meanwhile, the Cabinet decided to purchase kits containing powder, soap and oil for pre-metric and residential schools of the Backward Classes Welfare Department for the year 2017-18. A sum of ₹6.5 crore will be released to Karnataka State and Detergents Ltd. for this.

The State Cabinet also gave administrative approval for construction of super-speciality hospitals on the premises of K.R. Hospital in Mysuru (₹164 crore), Belgaum Institute of Medical Sciences, Belagavi (₹194 crore), and Gulbarga Institute of Medical Sciences, Kalaburagi (₹148 crore). This will also benefit students studying in government medical colleges, Mr. Jayachandra said.

Medical fee in Kerala is ₹11 lakh a year

Supreme Court allows self-financing colleges to charge uniform annual fee

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

In a blow to students, the Supreme Court on Monday, in an interim order, allowed self-financing medical colleges in Kerala to charge students ₹11 lakh as uniform annual fee. Besides the base admission fee of ₹5 lakh, students have been allowed 15 days' time to furnish bank guarantees for the balance.

A Bench led by Justice S.A. Bobde said the interim fee structure would continue only till the Justice S. Rajendra Babu Committee finally decided on the fee structure. The Kerala High Court had permitted the colleges to fix the base admission fee of ₹5 lakh and ask



Pinarayi Vijayan

the students to execute a bond for payment of the remaining ₹6 lakh. The High Court had ordered the completion of the allotment of seats in self-financing medical colleges by August 31.

However, the manage-

ments, which had moved the SC against the order, argued that students could drop out mid-way and leave them in dire straits with no way to make good the bonds executed by them.

Attorney-General K.K. Venugopal argued that over 50% of the students admitted in these colleges belonged to the SC, ST and backward categories, and they had no means to provide bank guarantees for ₹6 lakh, that too in 15 days.

Justice L. Nageswara Rao, the puisne judge on the Bench, noted that only 5% of the students might be without means to provide the bank guarantee. The court said ₹11 lakh was fixed

because last year's annual fee was around ₹10 lakh. Justice Rao asked the State to offer financial help to the 5% students who might need its assistance.

"We are inclined to extend the bank guarantee to all colleges. Can the government provide financial support for the students," the Bench asked. However, the State expressed reluctance, saying these were self-financing colleges. "Then let the students bear the burden," the Bench responded.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said the government would ensure not a single poor student who has qualified for MBBS will lose the opportunity to study.

Parents upset about MBBS, BDS mop-up round

Say seat selection 'chaotic', 'unfair' to meritorious students

BENGALURU: Many parents have cried foul at the mop-up round that concluded on Monday to fill vacant MBBS and BDS seats.

Students who had already been allotted medical seats in the second round were not allowed to take part in this round. But those who were allotted dental seats were allowed to try for medical seats. Parents of medical aspirants were upset that seats in better colleges were being given to students with lower ranks.

"My daughter got an all-India rank of around 78,000 but she could not get a seat in MS Ramaiah Medical College. She got admission in a different college in the city but we would have preferred MS Ramaiah. Now they are giving away these seats to



Students who had already been allotted medical seats in the second round were not allowed to take part in this round.

students having ranks beyond one lakh. How fair is it to meritorious students?" the parent asked.

A total of 757 medical and 683 dental seats were available for allotment in the mop-up round.

"If there were only a hand-

ful of seats left for the mop-up round, it would have been okay. But here, over 1,000 seats were left. They should have conducted a third round," another parent said.

The parents also demanded why the round was being conducted offline. "They

could have made a facility to conduct it online, as they did the other rounds. There is so much chaos here. It's difficult to even enter the gate," a third parent said.

The Department of Medical Education clarified that it was just following the rules. "It's a policy decision of the Central government that whoever has already been allotted seats cannot take part in the mop-up round. We are just following that. Further, there is a Supreme Court ruling that says there can only be two rounds after which only a mop-up round can be conducted," Dr S Sachidananda, director, medical education, explained.

Some parents are now considering legal remedies and may approach the high court. **DH News Service**

Note ban and NEET kill demand for NRI quota medical seats



I can say the trend towards professional education is changing. First, demand for engineering went down, next was dental and now it is medical. Imagine, there are over 10 seats vacant in my college and I am not able to find a particular reason. I can say, professional education is not attractive anymore and colleges are running a huge loss

M R Jayaram, Chairman of
Gokula Foundation which runs
MS Ramiah Medical College

RASHMI BELUR @ Bengaluru

THERE have been almost no takers for undergraduate medical seats offered under the NRI quota this year. Only 10 per cent of the seats under the quota have been filled so far. Experts are citing demonetisation and NEET ranking for this unprecedented turn. With only three days left for admissions to close on August 31, colleges are unsure if the rest of the seats will be filled.

Even after the mop-up round, which is the final round for allotment of seats for 2017-18, only 81 of

the available 757 seats were filled. The mop-up round concluded on August 27 while August 31 is the last date to fill all medical seats and complete admission procedure as per the Supreme Court's directions. With 676 seats left, these are now being handed over to various medical colleges to be filled under management quota but colleges are unsure if it will be filled in three days.

According to authorities in the state medical education department, people didn't want to pay the

fee by DD and wanted to do so by cash. Dr Sachidanand, director, medical education department, said, "This trend is due to demonetisation. During the 2016 academic year, admissions to medical courses was through Common Entrance Test (CET) in the state but this year, it was done through NEET ranking. Both demonetisation and NEET ranking are the major reasons for so many vacancies."

"As the parents/candidate must pay the fee for the seat only through Demand Draft and colleges not ac-

cepting cash even for management quota, it is reflecting in the number of seats getting filled," said the principal of a city-based medical college.

Another principal said: "Now, as cash transactions are not allowed and people have to pay through DD, they will be answerable to Income Tax department. Also, most colleges have been charging between ₹25 lakh to ₹40 lakh as fee per year. This is more than ₹1.5 crore for the entire course. As a result, many are not coming forward to take up medical seats in NRI quota."



ನಾಳೆ ಕೋಲಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಹೃದಯ ತಪಾಸಣೆ

ಕೋಲಾರ: ಇಲ್ಲಿನ ಅಂತರಗಂಗೆ ರಸ್ತೆಯ ಜಾಲಪ್ಪ ಹೊರ ರೋಗಿಗಳ ವಿಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಉಚಿತ ಹೃದಯ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ತಪಾಸಣೆ ಶಿಬಿರವನ್ನು ಆ.30ರಂದು ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ 10 ರಿಂದ ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 2 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ ನಡೆಯಲಿದೆ.

ಎದೆ ಉರಿ, ನೋವು, ಎದೆ ಚುಚ್ಚುವುದು, ಆಯಾಸ ವಾಗುವುದು, ಉಸಿ ರಾಟದ ತೊಂದರೆ ಇರುವವರು ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. ಉಚಿತ ವಾಗಿ ರಕ್ತದೊತ್ತಡ, ಇ.ಸಿ.ಜಿ, ಎಕೋಸ್ಟ್ರೀನಿಂಗ್, ರಕ್ತದಲ್ಲಿನ ಸಕ್ಕರೆ ಅಂಶಗಳ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆ ನಡೆಯಲಿದೆ. ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಶಶಿಧರ್ (9538923784) ರನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು.

ಕೋಲಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ನಾಳೆ

ಹೃದ್ರೋಗ ತಪಾಸಣೆ

ಕೋಲಾರ ಆ ೨೯

ಆರ್.ಎಲ್.ಜಾಲಪ್ಪ ನಾರಾ
ಯಣ ಹಾರ್ಟ್ ಸೆಂಟರ್‌ನಿಂದ
ನಗರದ ಅಂತರಗಂಗೆ ರಸ್ತೆಯ
ಆರ್.ಎಲ್.ಜಾಲಪ್ಪ ಹೊರ
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ರವರೆಗೆ ಹಮ್ಮಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗಿದೆ.

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ನೋವು, ಎದೆ ಚುಚ್ಚುವಿಕೆ,
ಆಯಾಸ, ಉಸಿರಾಟದ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ
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ಮಾಡುವರು.

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ಜಾಲಪ್ಪ ಹಾಟ್ ಸೆಂಟರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನಾಟಿ ಉಚಿತ ಹೃದಯ ತಪಾಸಣಾ ಶಿಬಿರ

ಕೋಲಾರ

ಆರ್.ಎಲ್.ಜಾಲಪ್ಪ ನಾರಾಯಣ ಹಾಟ್ ಸೆಂಟರ್ ವತಿಯಿಂದ ನಗರದ ಅಂತರಗಂಗೆ ರಸ್ತೆಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಆರ್.ಎಲ್.ಜಾಲಪ್ಪ ಹೊರ ರೋಗಿಗಳ ವಿಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಉಚಿತ ಹೃದಯ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ತಪಾಸಣೆ ಶಿಬಿರವನ್ನು ಆ. 30ರ ಬುಧವಾರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 10 ರಿಂದ 2 ರವರೆಗೆ ಹಮ್ಮಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಎದೆ ಉರಿಯುವುದು, ಎದೆ ನೋಯುವುದು, ಎದೆ ಚುಚ್ಚುವುದು, ಆಯಾಸವಾಗುವುದು, ಉಸಿರಾಟದ ತೊಂದರೆ ಇರುವವರು ಶಿಬಿರದಲ್ಲಿ

ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. ಶಿಬಿರದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂದರ್ಶನ, ರಕ್ತದೊತ್ತಡ, ಇ.ಸಿ.ಜಿ, ಎಕೋಸ್ಟ್ರೀನಿಂಗ್, ರಕ್ತದಲ್ಲಿನ ಸಕ್ಕರೆ ಅಂಶವನ್ನು ಪರೀಕ್ಷಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ವಿಶೇಷ ಪರಿಣಿತಿ ಪಡೆದ ವೈದ್ಯರಿಂದ ಉಚಿತ ಹೃದಯ ತಪಾಸಣಾ ಶಿಬಿರವನ್ನು ಹಮ್ಮಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರು ಶಿಬಿರದ ಸದುಪಯೋಗವನ್ನು ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ಶಶಿಧರ್ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 9538923784 ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸುವಂತೆ ಕೋರಿದ್ದಾರೆ.