



Medical seats now available at a hefty 40% discount

Many NRI, management quota seats vacant; today is the last day for admissions

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The year's biggest clearance sale is under way, and it's not electronic items on any e-commerce site, but medical seats under the NRI and management quota in private colleges in Karnataka. With Thursday being the last date to complete admissions in accordance with the deadline set by the Medical Council of India, these coveted seats, for which many would shell out between ₹22 lakh and ₹41.98 lakh a year, are now being given at a hefty 40% discount.

Last year, NRI and management quota seats were given for a maximum of ₹1.3 crore for the entire duration of the course (four-and-a-half years). At the start of the 2017-18 admission season, the same seats were priced at a maximum of ₹1.88 crore. However, there have been few takers for them, and 676 of the total 773 seats in this category are remaining vacant even after the mop-up round. Officials believe this is the result of demonetisation. What's more, this is the first time that management and NRI quota seats were allotted through a common counselling process by the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) based on National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) scores.

Compare this with other category seats: Barring 20 spots, all the affordable seats in government medical colleges and government quota seats and private



Annual fee structure for medical colleges for the academic year 2017-18

Government colleges - ₹16,700
Government quota seats in private colleges - ₹77,000

Private seats - ₹6.32 lakh

NRI and other quota seats - Between ₹22 lakh and ₹41 lakh

NRI and other quota seats cost a maximum of ₹28 lakh a year. Last

year, most medical colleges offered seats as a package for the entire course duration of four-and-a-half years.

After the mop-up round, medical seats on an average are available at



seats in private medical colleges that cost ₹16,700, ₹77,000 and ₹6.32 lakh per seat respectively have been snapped up.

As per orders of the Supreme Court, the vacant NRI and management quota seats were handed over to their respective institutions with a list of un-allotted candidates in the order of merit in the ratio of 10 candidates for each vacancy.

M.R. Jayaram, chairman of the Karnataka Professional Colleges Foundation, said college

managements were in a hurry to fill these seats by Thursday. "Several medical college seats are going abegging and we were given the seats only late on Tuesday evening. So we have just about two days to ensure that these seats are filled. Despite the discounts, we are certain that all these seats may not be filled," he said.

Medical seat aspirants and their parents, however, are crying foul over this as they feel that college managements had

Extended mop-up round

STAFF REPORTER
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With 20 seats under the government, government quota, and private quota being cancelled, the Karnataka Examinations Authority will conduct an extended mop-up round on Thursday. Candidates who have not obtained any medical seat can take part in this offline counselling. A notification by the KEA states that counselling will be stopped once the seats are filled and candidates have to pay this fees in the form of demand draft. For further details, candidates may visit the KEA website.

"fixed deals" prior to the admission process. A parent of a medical seat aspirant who failed to obtain a seat as she did not have a good NEET score said, "We did not pick a seat in a medical college and instead chose an engineering seat as the fees under the other quota was ₹42 lakh a year. The same seats are now available for ₹30 lakh a year. Had we known this earlier, we would have waited for this round."

Medical Education Department officials said they would inquire into the matter and said that colleges had to first exhaust the merit list given to them before admitting any candidates.

Medical college fee: Kerala govt. to stand guarantee

To help students unable to mobilise additional ₹6 lakh

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
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The Kerala government will stand guarantee for students who are unable to mobilise funds for the bank guarantee required during admissions to private self-financing medical colleges.

This was decided at a meeting between Chief Secretary-designate K.M. Abraham and representatives of the State Level Bankers' Committee here on Wednesday.

If, for any reason, the student or the principal guarantor was unable to pay ₹6 lakh, the government guarantee would be invoked and the payment made.

"What we have done is to completely insulate the student and the bank from any risk. I understand that this guarantee would be required for about 2,900 stu-

dents who are seeking admission to private self-financing medical colleges. A government order on this would be issued immediately," Mr. Abraham told *The Hindu*.

The term of the bank guarantee would be for six months and issued from September 5. The student should submit an application to the bank branch along with the document testified by either the college principal or the CEE that he or she has received admission in a particular college.

The guarantee would be given to the Principal of the self-financing college.

If the Fee Regulatory Committee fixed a fee higher than ₹5 lakh, the student should pay the difference or apply for a bank loan for the same.

Under the existing rules,

banks required a "cash margin" of 15% to 100%. However, since the government was standing guarantee there would be no need for such a margin.

Moreover, the banks would not levy guarantee commission from students in the BPL category, the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, and children from the families of traditional labourers such as fishermen, cashew workers and so on.

It was also decided that the nationalised and scheduled banks would provide the guarantee without asking for any collateral.

According to Mr. Abraham, if the student or the principal guarantor failed to repay the money, legal proceedings would be initiated against them even as the government paid the guaranteed money of ₹6 lakh.