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## TROUBLE BREWING

# INC de-recognises all nursing colleges in state, second time this year

RASHMI BELUR @ Bengaluru

NURSING colleges in the state are again in trouble as the Indian Nursing Council (INC) has removed names of all colleges functioning in Karnataka from its official list. This is the second instance where the INC has removed the names from its website this year.

The INC move technically amounts to it de-recognising the colleges, thus jeopardising the future of over 2 lakh nursing students in the state. In other words, the degrees of students who have studied in Karnataka will not be valid outside the state.

The INC move has come as a huge shock to managements of nursing colleges in the state in the midst of the academic year and just a day ahead of a court hearing on the issue.

Speaking to *Express*, a college representative said, "Things were normal since October. After a series of meetings and representations at the government level, the INC added names of Karnataka colleges to its list in October. But, we were shocked to



I got to know about the issue through some colleges and will verify the same

Dr Ramesh,  
In-charge V-C of RGUHS

see no college name on the INC website on Tuesday evening."

However, the INC has not given any reason for removal of names. "They removed even genuine colleges from the list. While doing so, the authorities must inform the colleges along with a valid reason," said another college principal.

The tussle began way back in December 2016 when the Karnataka government issued an order that said government and private nursing colleges do not require the INC's approval as they are approved by RGUHS and the Karnataka Nursing Council.

In July, the INC struck off all colleges in state from its list. Soon the matter came up in court and college names were reinstated on INC website, following court order and government intervention.

STUDENTS WORRIED: PB

## Worried nursing students approach college authorities

**ENS** @ Bengaluru

Nursing colleges in the state are again in trouble as the Indian Nursing Council (INC) has removed names of all colleges functioning in Karnataka from its official list. Worried students have started approaching college authorities. "We are not in a position to explain to students be-

cause we ourselves are not aware why this has happened," said a nursing college principal from the city.

There are over 400 nursing colleges in the state of which 257 are approved by INC. Classes for the current academic year started in September. Dilip Kumar, chairperson of INC, was unavailable for comments.

# INC again removes list of institutes from site

## Students worried about job prospects

TANU KULKARNI  
BENGALURU

Students of nursing colleges in Karnataka have been thrown into panic mode with the Indian Nursing Council (INC) again removing the list of nursing institutes in the State from its website.

Incidentally in September this year, the INC had been restrained by the apex court from publishing the list of nursing institutes recognised by it.

This move on the part of the INC has students worried about whether they will get jobs outside the State or in other countries. The rift between

the INC and the State government widened by the latter's 2016 order, stating that nursing colleges needed the approval of only Karnataka Nursing College and Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS) to function and not the INC.

With the issue still unresolved, the careers of lakhs of students hang in the balance. Members of several nursing college managements have urged the government to resolve its differences with the INC in the interests of the students.

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# Students worried about job prospects outside State

'Hospitals will not hire us if we don't have Indian Nursing Council backing'

TANU KULKARNI  
BENGALURU

With the Indian Nursing Council (INC) removing the list of State nursing colleges from its website, fear has resurfaced among students who are once again anxious about job prospects outside Karnataka.

"Most of us studying in Karnataka are from other States. We want to go back to our home town for work. Many of us will also look for jobs abroad. Hospitals will not hire us if we do not have the backing of INC," a nursing student told *The Hindu*.

On November 15, 2017, the Indian Nursing Council published a list of nursing colleges operational in States across the country.

However, it failed to include even a single college in Karnataka. This is the second time that the INC has removed its list of colleges from Karnataka from its website.

## The controversy



**December 2016** - State government issues orders, stating that INC approval is not required for nursing colleges in Karnataka. It says approval by Karnataka Nursing College and the RGUHS is enough

**May 2017** - Indian Nursing Council removes list of colleges from Karnataka

**July 2017** - High Court of Karnataka restrains INC from publishing list of institutes on its

website, and says the council has no authority to grant recognition

**August 2017** - Nursing college students from Karnataka protest, demanding approval for colleges from INC

**August 2017** - A Division Bench permits INC to publish list of nursing institutions recognised by it on its website

**September 2017** - SC sets aside interim order passed by Division Bench. It restrains INC from publishing the list of nursing institutes

The first time this was done was in May 2017, following which nursing colleges approached the court.

The controversy began after the State government in December 2016 issued orders that the approval of INC was not required for nursing colleges in Karnataka. The order stated that approvals by the Karnataka Nursing

College and the Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS) would suffice for colleges to run. It was following this that the INC removed a list of 257 colleges from its website.

A management member of the nursing college said that the differences between the State government and INC had led to the situation.



Both the State government and INC should amicably settle the issue in order to protect the interests of lakhs of students

MANAGEMENT MEMBER OF A NURSING COLLEGE

"Both of them should amicably settle the issue in order to protect the interests of lakhs of students," he said.

Another college principal pointed out that the INC was restrained from the publishing list of nursing institutes recognised by the Supreme Court.

"Why are only colleges from Karnataka removed and not others," she asked.

When contacted, INC authorities said that they had removed the list of colleges from Karnataka as the jurisdiction of these colleges is under the purview of the State government.