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## Now, fee hike in pvt engg colleges too capped at 8%

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**Bengaluru:** After medical and dental courses, the Karnataka Fee Regulatory Committee has capped the hike in engineering fees too. Private engineering colleges in the state are allowed to increase fees by a maximum of eight per cent over the previous year's amount, the panel headed by Justice D V Shylendra Kumar said on Monday.

A formal announcement to this effect will be made on Tuesday. Last year, the course fee for government quota seats in private colleges ranged from Rs 49,500-Rs 55,000 and for admissions through ComedK counselling, the figure was between Rs 1.2 lakh and Rs 1.7 lakh.

Sources said most of the unaided colleges had sought around 50% hike in fees for admissions in 2018-19 but a few had asked for a whopping 400% jump. "The committee was of the view that such a steep hike was nothing but an exaggeration of capital expenditure made or to be made by colleges in the name of infrastructure and facility upgradation. If 'X' amount was workable in the last year's fee hike proposal, the same will not be undersatisfactory for the management to run the same facilities this year. Also, as per Supreme Court's order last year, educational institutions cannot be profiteering under the guise of fee hike for infrastructure added or plan-

### Lack of clarity on deemed-to-be varsities

Deemed-to-be universities which offer engineering, medical and/or dental courses remain a grey area. While the state committee sought information from the varsities on how they are exempt from furnishing information about their fee structures to the panel, the institutions said they report to the directorate general of health services and aren't bound by the state panel.

ned in campus," sources in the committee said..

The Karnataka Unaided Private Engineering Colleges Association (KUPECA) said it has sought an appointment with chief minister H D Kumaraswamy regarding the committee's move.

"We met officials in the education department and they weren't aware of any decision made by the committee. If the panel fixes an eight per cent fee hike, private colleges may have to shut down," said sources.

Just a couple of days ago, the fee regulator had capped the fee hike for medical/dental undergraduate and postgraduate programmes at 8%.