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INDIAN EXPRESS

Online Newspaper Clipping Service
Dtd-Thursday, 12th, July- 2018

Page No. 01

MADRAS HC ORDER

Students confused about ranking, but NEET counselling to go on

NO CHANGE IN SCHEDULE, SAYS MCI

New Delhi: Despite the Madras High Court order to CBSE to stop the process of counselling of NEET, Medical Council of India has decided to continue it saying the order has not been issued to the government agency directly. It plans to move the Supreme Court on the issue.

RASHMI BELUR @ Bengaluru

Confusion and tension prevailed among those selected for medical and dental courses as the counselling process may be stalled following the Madras High Court order asking Central Board for Secondary Education (CBSE) to award grace marks to all students who wrote the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) in

Tamil.

Though the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) and state Department of Medical Education officials insisted that there will not be any confusion, experts in the field said that ongoing allotment of seats will be affected since the court order will change the all India rankings. They advised the KEA to put the process on hold till they receive commu-

nication from CBSE.

However, officials said that they will stick to their schedule. Manjula, Additional Chief Secretary with Department of Medical Education, said, "We have not received any communication from authorities concerned. Till then, we will go ahead with our schedule."

The KEA also published the mock allotment for medical and

dental seats on its official website on Wednesday evening. Dr S Kumar, Executive Secretary, COMEDK, said, "Though this will not affect allotment of seats in government colleges and of government-quota seats in private colleges, it will definitely affect institutional-quota seats and NRI seats. It is better for state officials to wait till further communication." **P6**

KEA: Only applicable in Tamil Nadu

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THE confusion arose out of a recent development in Tamil Nadu, where the High Court asked the CBSE to give grace marks of up to 196 points to all those who wrote the examination in Tamil, which could benefit around 24,000 students.

This could definitely change the rank list throughout the country — one mark could change your rank by 2,000 in all-India level. But, the KEA and the state department officials insisted that it will not since this is applicable only to Tamil Nadu students, who cannot claim seats under the state quota.

When *TNIE* contacted the CBSE in New Delhi, an official said that they are yet to receive a copy of the order, after which they will study and take further action.

Option entry for engineering seats opens

On Wednesday, the option entry for engineering students was opened. An announcement of schedule of events for all the counseling processes was also made.

UGC seeks tougher norms for deemed-to-be varsity status

NEW DELHI: The University Grants Commission (UGC) is planning to amend its 2016 regulations to introduce stricter provisions for the award of deemed-to-be-university status to higher education institutions as well as ensure maintenance of their quality and standards.

According to the draft regulations, a higher education institution with 3.01 and above score by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) in two consecutive years will be eligible for grant of deemed-to-be-university status by the government.

An institution with two-third of its technical programmes at undergraduate and post graduate levels being accredited by the National Board of Accreditation (NBA) in two consecutive cycles will also eligible for being considered for the grant of deemed-to-be-university tag.

Among other prerequisites, the institutions to be seeking the deemed-to-be-university status must also have figured in the top 50 in any specific category or in top 200 of overall ranking of National Institute

Ranking Framework (NIRF) ranking at the time of application "and in immediately previous two years."

They are also required to have demonstrated "the characteristics of a university" through multidisciplinary courses with "high quality" demonstrated research output. They must also have some under graduate courses and at least five post graduate departments in existence for three years with research programmes.

"The annual per faculty publications in SCOPUS peer-reviewed journals shall not be less than 1.5 on an average basis for the last 3 years. The teacher student ratio shall be as per the norms of the UGC or concerned Statutory Council(s)," the draft UGC (institutions deemed to be universities) Regulations 2018 stipulates.

The institutions must also have at least 2,000 students on roll under regular mode and not less than 100 regular teachers. The faculty under the draft regulations would mean regular faculty, adjunct faculty and long-term contract

faculty for at least three years.

The draft regulations also clearly specify that here "shall be" constructed area of a minimum of 30 square meters per student which shall include academic buildings, library, lecture hall, laboratories, administrative, health care and recreational facilities.

"It should have hostel facility for at least 25 % students at the time of declaration of deemed-to-be-university which should be increased up to 50 % after 5 years. The hostel can be within 5 km of radius from main campus," the draft regulations provide.

The draft regulations for deemed-to-be-universities also seek to enable the deemed-to-be-universities open off campuses within the country or abroad with or without inspection as specified for category I and category II institutions under the UGC's regulations for grant of graded autonomy.

The commission has invited comments from the stakeholders, posting the draft regulations on its website on Wednesday.

DH News Service