



# KEA seeks extension of UG-NEET counselling date

## Move To Help Students Of Flood-Hit Kerala

[Aditi.Gyanesh@timesgroup.com](mailto:Aditi.Gyanesh@timesgroup.com)

**Bengaluru:** Ever since natural calamity struck Kerala, Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) has been flooded with queries from students seeking more time to join colleges across Karnataka. KEA has now sought permission from the state government to extend the dates of the second round of UG-NEET counselling.

"Hundreds of students come every year from Kerala to Karnataka for studying medical and dental courses. We've been getting calls from students and parents, saying they won't be able to join colleges by August 18. So, we've sought permission from the government to give more time to the affected candidates," said SN Gangadharaiiah, administrative officer, KEA.

Kerala students are allowed to participate in medical and dental counselling under the 15% all-India quota.

As per the second round of counselling schedule for UG NEET, seats were allotted to students on August 11. After that, they were supposed to pay the fee between August 13 and 16 and report at medical and dental colleges by August 18, 5pm.

"We're unable to reach Bengaluru as all air, rail and road transport services have been suspended. Luckily, I got connected to the KEA

## Lack of clarity on fee refund leaves students in the lurch

**Bengaluru:** Over 200 students and parents, who approached KEA to get their seat allotment cancelled on Thursday were turned down with no assurance on refund of the fee they had already paid.

"We've applied for a medical college for my son via KEA and after allotment, we paid about Rs 5 lakh as registration fee. But being from Maharashtra, we preferred getting a good college in that state. Now that we got the seat cancelled today, we sought for a refund. The administrative officer had no clear idea about it and said 'we'll tell later or you have to take the matter at the government level,'" said Rakesh Wadekar, father of a candidate.

Sapna S, a parent from Thiruvananthapuram, said: "We cancelled the seat here as we got another at a college near our place. We don't have

landline number," said a candidate from Kochi.

"Internet services have been erratic since the state has been hit by floods. There's no connectivity to follow the counselling process online," said another student from Kerala. However, the dates of extension are yet to be decided. "Once we get approval from the government, we'll put out the dates on our website. We are trying to give as much time as possible to students, till the flood situation eases," said a KEA official.

money to pay the fees there. The director is not in the office and when we shared our problem with KEA officials, they were rude and refused to help us. The amount we paid — Rs 5 lakh to Rs 10 lakh — is not meagre."

The amount includes registration fee and other fees paid to the college via KEA. If these candidates are not able to get the seat either via KEA or in their hometown, they'll not be given a second chance in Karnataka.

When asked about the issue, administrative officer SN Gangadharaiiah said: "We're not authorised to do it immediately. They need to move to the directorate of medical education or at the state level. There are a set of rules that need to be revised and as soon as we get a go-ahead from the government, we'll start refunding the money." THE

## Police exam cancelled

**Bengaluru:** The written examination for civil police constable recruitment scheduled for Friday has been cancelled due to heavy rain in the state. Raghavendra H Auradkar, additional director general of police (recruitment), said the decision was taken considering the difficulty of flood-hit candidates to reach centres across the state. The next day of the exam will be announced soon. THE