



SRI DEVARAJ URS ACADEMY OF HIGHER EDUCATION & RESEARCH  
SRI DEVARAJ URS MEDICAL COLLEGE  
Tamaka, Kolar



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# 400 more MBBS seats in govt colleges

45	Number of medical colleges in Karnataka
16	Government colleges
29	Private, including minority

## A fee hike?

There is a buzz that managements of private medical colleges are seeking a 15 per cent hike in the fee for under-graduate courses. Though there is no official communication to the government, the news is doing the rounds within member colleges of the Consortium of Medical Engineering and Dental Colleges of Karnataka (COMEDK), said sources.

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In what could be good news for under-graduate medical seat aspirants in the state, the Medical Education Department is all set to add 400 more medical seats in government medical colleges.

The proposals submitted by government medical colleges for enhancement of seats have been cleared by the Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS), Bengaluru. The Department of Medical Education is waiting for the nod of the Medical Council of India (MCI).

Dr Sachidanand, Director Medical Education Department, told Express, "For the coming academic year, for admissions through NEET 2017, we have submitted proposals for enhancement of seats in seven government medical colleges and we are also trying to develop the infrastructure at the new college announced at Bowring Hospital in Bengaluru."

Along with government colleges, some private colleges have applied for enhancement and for fresh affiliation. "Basaveshwara Medical College, Chitradurga, Ambedkar Institute of Medical Sciences and BVB Nijalingappa Medical College, Bagalkot, have applied for fresh affiliation. Rajarajeshwari Medical College, Bengaluru, has applied for enhancement of seats. All these proposals are pending before MCI since 2016 and are expected to be accepted," he said.

Sachidanand added, "The infrastructure, staff and all the necessary facilities are available at the colleges where we have applied for enhancement of seats and we are confident of getting the MCI approval."

There are 16 government-run medical colleges in the state with an intake of 2,200 seats. This is expected to go up to 2,600 for June 2017 admissions.

# No CET to enter central varsities

## Idea not practical, says HRD minister

**NEW DELHI:** The human resource development ministry is unlikely to introduce a common entrance test (CET) for admissions to all central universities.

"It is not practical because different universities are offering different kinds of programmes," HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar told DH, when asked about the status of the proposal to conduct the CET.

The minister's remarks comes four months after he presided over a meeting of central university vice chancellors at the Banaras Hindu University in Uttar Pradesh to review the functioning of the institutions.

Nearly 40 central universi-

ties function under the HRD ministry. However, only nine, including those in Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Punjab, admit students through a common entrance test.

"The core content of the programmes offered by the central universities is the same, but their focus is different. For example, the focus of one university offering an economics (honours) programme may be on the mathematics portion, while the other is on the theory part of the course. When there is no uniformity in the orientation of the courses conducted by them, it is difficult to admit students through a common entrance test," a ministry official said.

Besides, the central universities also have varying criteria for admissions. For example, students admitted to MPhil programmes at JNU are not required to take another test for admissions to PhD. In contrast, an MPhil student at the Delhi University has to take a test for admission to a PhD programme, he added.

The proposal to conduct a common entrance test for all central universities was under consideration of the HRD ministry for several years.

A committee of central university vice chancellors, headed by the then VC of the Jawaharlal Nehru University B B Bhattacharya, had favoured the idea in 2011.

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