



## Private medical colleges to press State govt. for fee hike

The institutions are citing increased costs

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Private medical colleges in the State have decided to press the government to increase fees for the 2019-20 academic year. Managements of these colleges will meet with officials from the Medical Education Department on Saturday.

They are planning to ask the government to hike the fees for both undergraduate and postgraduate courses. M.R. Jayaram, president of the Karnataka Professional Colleges Foundation, said, "We have made a detailed presentation explaining all our expenditure to show them why a fee hike is inevitable."

For the 2018-19 academic year, the annual tuition fees for MBBS seats was ₹50,000 for government medical colleges, and ₹97,350 and ₹6.83 lakh for government quota and institution quota seats in private medical colleges.

Students who wish to obtain medical or dental seats have to write to the UG and PG National Eligibility cum

### Cost factor

Annual tuition fee for MBBS course in private colleges (2018-19)

■ ₹50,000 for government seats	■ ₹97,350 for government quota seats	■ ₹6.83 lakh for institution quota seats
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Managements to meet with Medical Education Department on Saturday. Student organisations are opposing fee hike.

Entrance Test (NEET).

After the increase in fees last year, several student organisations opposed the move arguing that it is becoming increasingly difficult for students from middle-class families to pursue a medical career.

### Plan protest

Mohammed Khalandar, member, Medical Students' Struggle Committee said the committee would protest and intensify their struggle if the State government decides to increase fees yet again.

"While some students give up their ambition to become a doctor, others from lower economic families take education loans," he said.

The students are also

protesting against the State government's proposal to introduce Non-Resident Indian quota in government medical colleges.

### Dental colleges undecided

However, private dental college managements are divided on whether they would ask for an increase in fees, as many of the dental seats have been going vacant over the past few academic years.

"If we increase the fees further, then we will have no takers. However, some college managements are batting for hike as they are anticipating vacancies and feel increasing the cost for every seat will help them meet their expenses," the principal of a private dental college said.