



SRI DEVARAJ URS ACADEMY OF HIGHER EDUCATION & RESEARCH
SRI DEVARAJ URS MEDICAL COLLEGE
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THE TIMES OF INDIA

Online Newspaper Clipping Service
Dtd- Sunday, 8th, September- 2019

Page No.07

Govt relaxes NEET PG courses cut-off

Sushmi.Dey@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: In an attempt to address the large number of vacant seats in super speciality medical courses, the health ministry has approved relaxing of the eligibility cut off for the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test for post graduation (NEET PG) for 2019-20.

With this, the qualifying marks for super speciality in car-

diothoracic and vascular surgery, cardiology and pediatric surgery has been reduced to 20th percentile, whereas that for other PG courses it has been brought down to 40th percentile. Currently, the cut off for all this super speciality categories is 50th percentile.

"The Board of Governors reviewed the proposal in terms of the vacant seats and the number of additional eligible candidates to be provided for filling the



VACANT SEATS IN COLLEGES

vacancies in Super Speciality Courses. In principle it was decided that the reduction in percentile should provide at least

double the number of vacant seats," a letter from BoG secretary general R K Vats to health ministry said. TOI has reviewed the letter.

Accepting recommendations from the board of governors (BoG), currently regulating medical education under the chairmanship of NITI Aayog member V K Paul, the health ministry approved the reduction in cut off on Friday.

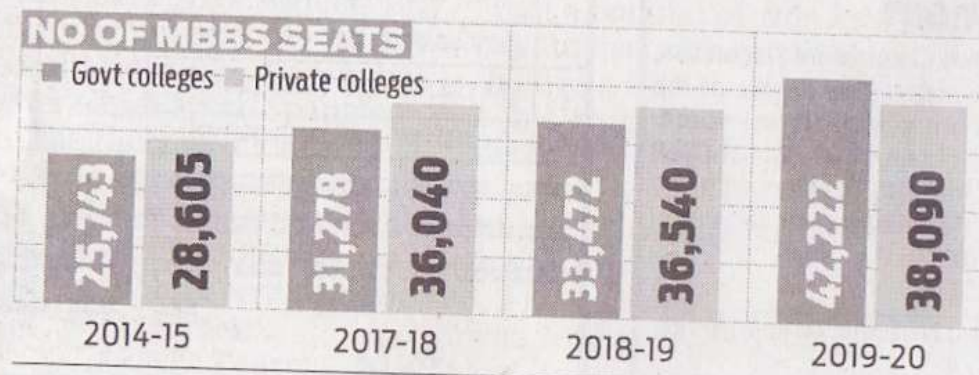
Vacancy in PG medical seats has been a cause of concern for the Centre. This year nearly 700 super speciality medical seats remained vacant in various public and private colleges and deemed universities, leading to a sheer wastage of opportunity when the country is faced with a dire shortage of specialists. Last year, around 500 such seats remained vacant after completion of counselling process.

Number of MBBS seats in govt colleges goes up

SUMI SUKANYA DUTTA @ New Delhi

NUMBER of MBBS seats in government medical colleges is more than those in private ones for the first time this year in over a decade. The data accessed by this newspaper shows that of the total seats on offer this academic session, a record 42,222 were in public-run colleges as against “super expensive” private colleges which offered 38,090 MBBS seats.

The number of government colleges, too, has surpassed the



number of private medical colleges in 2019-20 after several years as over 80,000 have enrolled to study medicine across the country.

“Because of the sharp rise in the number of government medical colleges, more MBBS seats are now available at nominal cost to a large number of

students,” a senior official in the medical education division of the health ministry said.

In last five years, 90 new government medical colleges in various states have come up. There were only 54,348 MBBS seats in 404 medical colleges in India in 2014-15. Sources in the health ministry and medical education regulator also said the government approved 59 new medical colleges in the last three years, 33 of which are in the private sector while 22 are under the government.

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