



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



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Four K'taka colleges sold most seats in med admission scam

**Congress Leader
 Parameshwara's
 Colleges Top List**

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Bengaluru: Karnataka has earned the dubious distinction of having four of its colleges among the top five medical institutes which are alleged to have sold seats in the medical seat-blocking scam.

Of the four from Karnataka, three institutes are run by trusts which have Congress leaders G Parameshwara and RL Jalappa as members. The leaders and their institutes were searched by the income-tax department in October in the seat scam case.

Some 70,693 students joined MBBS course this year. According to I-T officers, 1,079 seats in 36 private deemed universities in the country were found abandoned. Subsequently, manage-

258 SEATS FROM K'TAKA INSTITUTES UNDER SCANNER

Total seats
70,693



COLLEGES IN INDIA

Govt colleges	236
Private colleges	213
Deemed varsities	36

COLLEGES IN KARNATAKA

Govt colleges	18
Pvt colleges	30
Deemed varsities	9



TOP 5 COLLEGES WITH VACANT SEATS

Siddhartha Academy, T Begur, B'luru	96
Siddhartha Medical College, Tumakuru	89
Rajarajeshwari Medical College, B'luru	44
Dr DY Patil Medical College, Pune	38
Devaraj Urs Medical College, Kolar	29



G Parameshwara "We're co-operating with the investigators, providing the information they have sought. Let them do their duty"

G Parameshwara | CHANCELLOR, SRI SIDDHARTHA ACADEMY OF HIGHER EDUCATION

ments were suspected to have allotted these seats through institutional quota.

The four colleges from Karnataka are: Sri Siddhartha Academy of Higher Education, T Beguru, Bengaluru; Sri Siddhartha Medical College, Tumakuru (both run by Parameshwara's trust); Devaraj Urs Medical College, Kolar (run by Jalappa); Rajarajeshwari Medical College, Bengaluru. The fifth college is Dr DY Patil Medical College, Pune.

The two Siddhartha colleges, which have a total intake of 300, have sold 185 seats — this means more than 60% of the seats were filled through the management quota. The income-tax sleuths had pegged the scam size in three Karnataka colleges at Rs 300 crore.

College managements have been accused of illegally converting the government-quota seats allotted under the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET)

into institutional quota. Sources explained how the scam works: Managements rope in accomplished students through agents and get them to write NEET. After they secure high ranks and are allotted seats at multiple colleges both at national and state levels, students give up the seats after the mop-up round, allowing the management to sell stray vacant seats for higher prices.

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I-T officials deny claims of political vendetta

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I-T officials claimed the scam involves multiple irregularities, including tax evasion and money laundering. "We'll submit a detailed report once we complete the investigation," said Pathanjali, income tax director general (investigations).

Brushing aside Congress leaders' suggestions of political vendetta, a senior I-T official said: "We searched the three medical colleges in Karnataka because they topped the list in terms of stray vacant seats among the deemed universities after the mop-up round of admissions this year."

The Regional Economic Intelligence Committee will examine the I-T report following which the En-

forcement Directorate and the Central Bureau of Investigation are expected to take up the case. Since the case has multiple dimensions, the state government, too, is expected to commission an investigation.

"We are waiting for the I-T department report to initiate action," said deputy chief minister CN Ashwath Narayana, who holds the higher education portfolio.

The deemed universities under the scanner have denied wrongdoing. N Kumar, chancellor of Sri Devaraj Urs Medical College, said: "Twenty-nine seats were left after the mop-up round and we admitted students from the merit list provided by the Medical Counselling Committee. There is no question of irregularities."



The I-T department has accused the medical colleges of illegally converting government-quota seats allotted under NEET into institutional quota seats and then selling them to ineligible students at exorbitant rates