

## SRI DEVARAJ URS ACADEMY OF HIGHER EDUCATION & RESEARCH SRI DEVARAJ URS MEDICAL COLLEGE

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Page No.10



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## UGC given 48 hours to respond to pleas

SC refuses to stay circular on exams

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday gave the University Grants Commission (UGC) 48 hours to respond to a series of petitions filed by students challenging the Commission's July 6 circular directing varsities and colleges to complete the final exams by September 30 amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

The court refused to stay the circular but granted an early hearing on July 31.

Appearing before a Bench led by Justice Ashok Bhushan, senior advocate A.M. Singhvi said the circular gave the States no discretion to take a call on the exams even as cases were increasing every day. "This is unreal, forced and harsh. Many States are opposed," he submitted.

Advocate Alakh Alok Srivastava called for an early hearing this week as students were left in a state of uncertainty. The court had initially fixed the hearing on August 10.

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta said the UGC was providing several alternatives for the students, including taking their exams online. "Students can also have a mix of both online and physical exams, wherein 10 students will sit in each room. There are also special exams for those who have been left out," he said.

The court asked Mr. Mehta to file a detailed affidavit by Wednesday.

