

WE WANT TO BRING ALL 1,000-PLUS UNIVERSITIES ON THE COMMON ENTRANCE FORMAT FOR ADMISSIONS: HIGHER EDUCATION REGULATOR

UGC Encourages All Varsities to Opt for CUET

Centre will work towards developing a common admissions system and counselling for all 45 central universities at a later stage

Our Political Bureau

New Delhi: The University Grants Commission (UGC) will soon recommend to all state-run and private universities to adopt the recently announced common university entrance test (CUET) for admissions to undergraduate courses.

To begin with, the 45 central government-funded universities will move to the CUET admission format from the 2022-23 academic session.

M Jagadesh Kumar, chairman of UGC, the country's higher education regulator, told ET that a communication will be sent out immediately

to the vice-chancellors of all private and state universities reminding them of their "social responsibility" to work towards the benefit of the student community and, therefore, consider switching to the CUET starting from the 2022-23 academic session.

"We will be writing to the VCs of all state and private universities as well to urge them to use the CUET for admissions," he said. "We will remind them of their social responsibility to ensure a level playing field to all students and to ease the pressure on students. This is applicable even in institutions admitting mainly local students, as it will help get feedback on the overall education system."

While students will need to pass their class XII board exams to appear for the CUET, the marks obtained in the board exams will not be factored in the CUET score. However, universities and institutions may use the board exam score for final selection.

Kumar said that UGC will also consider a centralised admissions process and a central counselling system for all central universities, but at a later stage.

"A centralised admission process for all central universities is quite desirable. However, we need to take everyone on board for the same, understand the challenges, if any, and address them before moving on it. We will be holding discus-

All varsities to admit students for reserved seats also based on CUET scores

sions on the same with the VCs", the chairman said. While concerns have been raised by some on the decision to not give weightage to board exam scores in the CUET, the view in the government is that admissions based purely on the entrance exam will allow for a level playing field and equal access and opportunity to students from remote areas and across all school boards.

The UGC has so far not received any formal representations on the issue, but concerns have been raised by minority and other institu-

tions which reserve seats for certain segments.

The higher education regulator has said that no changes will be made in reservation policies but has asked all institutions to admit students for reserved seats also based on their CUET scores.

"The idea is that everyone who is admitted has come through a national-level testing system. Reservation policies will not be affected," the UGC chairman clarified.

The CUET will be held in July this year in two sessions. The computer-based test will be held in 13 languages. Candidates will choose up to six subject domains from a total of 27, besides a language and general test.