



# THE TIMES OF INDIA

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## Cut-off ranks at engineering colleges go up

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**Bengaluru:** Getting into premier engineering colleges in Karnataka just got tougher. Several private engineering colleges have increased their cutoffs this year, sparking concern among aspirants.

RV College of Engineering has moved its cutoff rank from 450 in 2016 to 310 this year; MS Ramaiah Institute of Technology has gone from 1,084 last year to 675 this year. Remya Joseph (name changed), who expected to study computers at RV College, said, "I am 20 ranks from the cutoff this year for the second round of counselling". "Looking at the last year's cutoff, we were sure to get into RV College of Engineering. Now, we will settle for some other college," her father said.

Colleges say it's imperative to increase cutoffs to maintain quality of education. "The benchmark must be high so that there is a competitive spirit among students," said KN Subramanya, principal of RV College of Engineering.

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## Cutoff rank of PESIT raised from 2,000 to 1,486

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Ajoy Kumar, COO of PES Institutions, said, "It is for the students' good. This is a regular process we follow." The cutoff rank for PES Institute of Technology has been raised from 2,000 last year to 1,486 this year.

Executive secretary of ComedK (Consortium of Medical, Engineering and Dental Colleges of Karnataka), S Kumar, said, "The 2016 (cutoff) ranks given to parents are indicative. Last year, we started counselling rounds with 18,000-plus seats, this year it started with 12,000 seats, which means cutoffs were supposed to be high. The reason behind this is that most of the colleges have handed over maximum or all seats to Karnataka Examination Authority (KEA) and some have closed down. This year's positions depend on peer performance."

### Parents want third round of counselling

Higher cutoffs and COMEDK counselling ending before those of CET and NEET have triggered worry among parents. They want another round of COMEDK counselling to ensure their wards get the seats left by COMEDK UGET candidates who may have secured better seats in CET.

Unlike every year, this year, COMEDK will be holding only two rounds of counselling. Mathew J from Bengaluru said, "There is a huge difference between rank cutoffs

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this year and the past few years. My son wanted to opt for CS engineering but he could not due to the high cutoff. Ultimately, he got a seat in a college he was not very keen on. We want COMEDK to arrange a third round of counselling so that deserving students who missed by a few ranks are given another chance. Otherwise the left-over seats are expected to go in management quota."

Another parent who preferred anonymity said: "We left many good options in our choice list expecting a third round of counselling by COMEDK. My daughter had to change her subject too. This is also because CET counselling has not been declared closed yet."

Executive secretary Kumar, however, ruled out a third round.

"We are following the process of KEA and as per Supreme Court orders, all engineering admissions have to be completed by July 31 and classes must commence," he said.