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NAAC accreditation: none from State gets 'A' grade

K.C. DREPIKA

BENGALURU: None of the higher educational institutions in the State, which got assessed and accredited for the first time, managed to secure 'A' grade from the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC).

The accreditation results of institutions approved by the standing committee, after its meeting on Sunday, were released on Monday. NAAC accreditation has been made mandatory by the University Grants Commission.

Those that applied in the first cycle included the prominent R.V. College of Engineering, Bengaluru, which managed to secure 'B' grade. One among the eight accredited in the first cycle was graded 'C'.

Meanwhile, colleges from the State that applied for the subsequent cycles of accreditation fared marginally better. Of 15 that applied in the second cycle, only one secured an 'A' (Kristu Jayanti College, Bengaluru), while the remaining managed 'B'.

The performance of colleges was best in the more ad-

SCORECARD

No. of institutions accredited in the first cycle **8**

Grades B **7** C **1**

In the second cycle (one cycle is five years) **15**

Grades A **1** B **14**

In the third cycle **6** Grades A **3** B **3**

vanced cycle of assessment and accreditation, with Karnataka having the highest number of colleges accredited in the third cycle this time.

D.P. Singh, Director, NAAC, told *The Hindu* that it was not a given that all institutions applying for the first cycle fare poorly. "Institutions that are good do get 'A' grade. And institutions that have got an 'A' in the first cycle are expected to maintain or improve their quality," he said. Though no parameters of assessment were changed, the NAAC is thinking in that direction, but

Revised timelines, procedures

The timelines and procedures of applying for assessment and accreditation were also revised recently. Accordingly, the Letter of Intent (LOI) will be processed by NAAC within 15 days.

The Institutional Eligibility for Quality

Assessment will be submitted within a week of acceptance of the LOI, after which NAAC will decide on the dates of visit and constitute teams to visit the institutions within three weeks of receipt of the self-study report. The visit will be completed within a month.

Video recording compulsory

In a move to introduce transparency in the assessment process, NAAC has made video recording mandatory. This will be applicable to processes beginning with the onsite

visits, as well as the first and exit meetings. Higher educational institutions have to submit the recording to NAAC after completion of the peer team's visit.

will hold consultations before that, he said.

Of six colleges that went through the third cycle of accreditation, three were stamped with 'A' grade — K.L.E. Society's Jagadguru

Gangadhar College of Commerce, Hubballi, K.L.E. Society's Raja Lakhamagouda Science Institute, Belagavi, and N.M.K.R.V. College for Women, Bengaluru. The remaining three got 'B' grade.