

# Admissions kick off in city colleges amid stiff competition

**Sruthy Susan Ullas**  
@timesofindia.com

**Bengaluru:** Bugged down by huge demand and neck-and-neck competition, many popular colleges in the city have kickstarted their undergraduate admissions for 2025-26 academic year.

Some colleges say they begin admissions as early as Jan because it becomes difficult to process all the applications and conduct interviews in the last two months of the admission season. Others say with a few colleges setting this trend, more are forced to follow suit.

"We've started admissions so that we can manage

the applications. Faculty members also need a break after the semester ends and can't be engaged in the admission process, like holding interviews," explained Fr Victor Lobo, vice-chancellor, St Joseph's University.

For the first time, St Joseph's is holding entrance tests at centres outside the state. The tests for the first cycle are being held in Chennai, Kolkata, Ranchi, Kochi and Bengaluru. The exams are held in three cycles across three months.

"This is the first time we're holding exams in different cities. These are the states from where we receive a large student population. Instead



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of getting thousands of students to Karnataka, we're trying to make it convenient for students by choosing the centres closer to them," he said.

Kristu Jayanti College has completed one round of counselling. "There'll be a round of counselling every month. Documents are verified first, followed by an interview with a panel of two

faculty members. The exam marks of class 10 and 11 will be considered, as class 12 marks are yet to be announced. Admissions will be given to eligible candidates now only," said principal Fr Augustine George.

"The competition among private universities and colleges has forced institutions to start admissions as early

**“The competition among private universities and colleges has forced institutions to start admissions as early as possible so that they get the best students**

Faculty of private college

as possible so they get the best students. It all started with one university starting the process as early as Dec. The others didn't want to lose out and joined the race," said a faculty member of a private college. The institution received around 600 applications in the first week of inviting

applications.

"However, these are all provisional admissions. While students have a sense of security in having these as a backup plan, the real decision-making mostly happens only after class 12 results come out," she added.

"The rush is for a few popular colleges and universities. The other colleges make use of agents, who are paid commissions for bringing in children. But these few colleges get the maximum number of applications ranging from 30,000 to a lakh, leaving the smaller colleges and those that start late with not many applicants," said another college principal.