3 Trichy colleges may turn varsities
Find Place In List Of 45 Colleges Prepared By The HRD Ministry Recently

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Trichy: True to its status as an education hub, three colleges from the city figure in the list of 45 colleges identified by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) to be accorded the power to grant degrees, a privilege that is hitherto reserved for universities. The 45-college list has 11 from the state.

Colleges with the triple qualifications of autonomous status, 'A' grade from NAAC and identification as “a centre for potential excellence” are eligible to receive the status of State universities.

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The principals of all the 45 institutions had been invited to New Delhi on October 7 and were briefed about the major policy initiative that comes in the wake of the government clearing the Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), a central government initiative for higher education in India. Under the scheme run by the MHRD, autonomous colleges desirous of converting themselves into universities will be provided with funding up to Rs 55 crore each for infrastructural development.

The total amount earmarked for this scheme in the 12th Five-Year Plan is Rs 2,475 crore.

After informing the principals about the government initiative, the principals were also asked to give their feedback to the government.

Principal of St Joseph’s Dr F Andrew welcomed the central government’s initiative to improve higher education.

“We welcome the idea so long as the government funding would continue and our minority rights would not be compromised,” Dr Andrew said.

Former principal of Jamal Mohammed Dr Khader Mohideen, who retired in May this year and now heads the science department, said, “If all the grants are continued after the one-off grant of Rs 55 crore, then it should be welcomed.

All the present facilities given to autonomous colleges, including post-retirement benefits to the staff, should be continued. If so, then we will welcome the initiative.”

National College principal Anbass, speaking in the October 7 meeting, said, “In the October 7 meeting we were told that the State funding will continue and we hope for the best. The one-time grant for infrastructure development is welcome.”