

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA  
HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**

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No. 28288 /H.E, Date: 02.09.2020

From

Saswat Mishra, IAS  
Commissioner-cum-Secretary

**HE-PTC-MISC-0004-2015**

To

**The Secretary  
University Grants Commission  
Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg  
New Delhi-110002**

Sub: Requesting to shift final semester/year UG and PG examination dateline from 30.09.2020 to 10.10.2020

Sir,

Considering the Covid-19 pandemic situation in the State of Odisha, the State Government had taken a decision on 18.06.2020 to cancel all final semester/year UG and PG examinations of Universities and Colleges. However, in its revised guideline dated 06.07.2020, UGC has stipulated that final semester/year UG and PG examinations must be compulsorily held by 30.09.2020. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has also upheld this revised guideline of UGC; though granting liberty to States to make an application to UGC for extending the dateline of 30.09.2020 in case they do feel so.

Preparedness to conduct the examination was discussed with University Vice Chancellors and Principals of Autonomous Colleges on 31.08.2020 through video conferencing. All of them are of the view that since they had earlier not planned to conduct final semester/year UG and PG examinations, about twenty days-time would be required to make necessary preparation for conducting the examination. Therefore, conduct of the examination can commence from 20.09.2020. Secondly, since there will be multiple examinations (subject-wise and paper-wise), three to four examinations need to be slotted on all days, till 30.09.2020, so as to complete the examinations by 30.09.2020. Conducting multiple examinations on a single day would lead to congregation of a large number of students in the examination centre which will make compliance of Covid-19 prevention protocol difficult. Conducting examinations on everyday, without any gap, will also lead to Universities and Colleges not getting

enough time to sanitize and disinfect the examination centers before next day of examination. All Vice Chancellors and Principals, therefore, requested for extension of the 30.09.2020 dateline by 10 days, i.e. upto 10.10.2020.

The State Government also examined the matter in detail. The State is duty bound under the State Disaster Management Act to prevent Covid-19 pandemic situation getting further aggravated in the State. The State Government is convinced that in order to prevent the prevailing Covid-19 situation from getting further aggravated, the final semester/year UG and PG examinations should be conducted in a staggered manner so that large number of students do not have to come to examination centers on any given day and the Universities and Colleges get a gap of at least one day between examination days so that the entire examination center can be sanitized and all Covid-19 pandemic protocol can be put in place before the next day of examination. Hence, the State Government, in exercise of its power under the State Disaster Management Act, has decided to request UGC for extension of the 30.09.2020 dateline by 10 days, i.e. upto 10.10.2020.

Therefore, as directed by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha and Chairman of the State Disaster Management Authority (Odisha), I, on behalf of the State Government, hereby request UGC to kindly consider extension of the 30.09.2020 dateline, for completion of all final semester/year UG and PG examinations, by ten more days, i.e. upto 10.10.2020 for the reasons mentioned above.

In view of the urgency of the matter, approval of extension of the dateline, as requested above, may kindly be communicated at the earliest.

Yours faithfully,

  
Commissioner-cum-Secretary 02.09.2020