

# Vocational varsity proposed in state

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**PUNE:** Maharashtra will soon have a vocational university, which will offer degree programs in the industrial sector.

The vocational committee, constituted by the ministry of higher and technical education, has underlined the need for a single statutory body, which will plan, regulate, develop and coordinate vocational education, training and skill development in the state. To achieve this objective, the committee has recommended the enactment of the Maharashtra Vocational Education and Training Act, under which the proposed vocational university will be established.

On Friday, the vocational committee's chairman, Swati Mujumdar, submitted a report on the committee's recommendations to state higher and technical education minister Rajesh Tope.

The committee studied the vocational education structure of Germany, United Kingdom, Australia, Korea, China and Sri Lanka before preparing the report. "The objective of these recommendations is to increase the employability vocational students," said Mujumdar.

The committee has recommended that Higher School Certificate (HSC) (vocational

**THERE ARE AROUND 4 LAKH STUDENTS PURSUING VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING COURSES IN STATE**

course) students, who currently cannot apply for engineering entrance exams or bachelor programmes in science, should be eligible to apply for these.

If the recommendation is accepted, HSC vocational students will be allowed to apply from next year onwards. Students will have to appear for two additional subjects - science and maths - as electives for the 'bridge course'. The committee has also recommended that vocational courses be included in Class 9 and 10 syllabi, so that students are imparted with industrial skills.

The committee has submitted a draft of the Maharashtra Vocational University Act along with its recommendations' report. "This week, I will present the recommendations to the chief minister. Hopefully, in the coming assembly session, we will be able to table the bill for the Vocational University Act," said Tope. He added that the government would finalise on the location and structure of the university soon.