

Times of India (27. 11. 23)

AICTE proposes to remove cap on engineering seats

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Chennai: In a move that will help top engineering colleges attract more students, the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) proposes to remove the cap on seats for individual branches from 2024-25. At present, a college can have a maximum of 240 seats in one branch. The upper limit was introduced following a mismatch between demand and supply.

"As envisaged in the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the nation's proactive initiatives towards enhancement of Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER), the council proposes to remove upper limit on intake allowed for colleges/programmes offered by existing institutions," AICTE said in its draft approval process handbook

for 2024-25. The council also said this was subject to fulfilment of infrastructure availability, readiness and filled faculty positions.

It would ascertain infrastructure and faculty availability through expert committee visits before granting approval for increase in intake. Besides, the seat increase will be allowed only if the institution already offered at least three courses in core branches.

Top engineering colleges are happy with the proposed move. "Colleges providing quality education may be able to increase their intake and expand their campuses by this move. It will help improve the quality of education," said Abhay Meganathan, vice-chairman, Rajalakshmi Group of Institutions.

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