

The Indian Express 09/08/2019

## AICTE to fund rural colleges' lab modernisation

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Coimbatore

THE All India Council for Technical Education has decided to fund technical education institutions in rural areas to modernize their laboratories. The apex regulatory body for technical education will be providing ₹20 lakh to institutions which were selected under the Modernisation and Removal of Obsolescence scheme. The AICTE invited online application for the scheme and last date was fixed as August 28.

Under this special drive, AICTE will be providing funding to modernize laboratories, workshops, computing facilities, so as to enhance the functional efficiency of technical institutions in rural areas and difficult areas like North-East and Jammu and Kashmir for teaching, training and research purposes.

The financial assistance is provided to support development of lab instructional material and appropriate technology to ensure that the practical work and project work to be carried out by students is contemporary and suited to the needs of the industry.

Eligibility for availing of the funding from AICTE is that the institution should have a minimum enrolment of 60 percent of approved intake during the last three years in the discipline in which the proposal is made. Apart from this, institutions which desire to get the funding should have at least five years of existence. While government and aided institutions were allowed to give maximum of five proposals, self financing institutions were allowed to make maximum of three proposals. The proposals submitted by the institutions would be assessed by a three member's expert committee not below the rank of associate professor.

The fund could be used for upgrade of equipment in existing laboratories, AICTE said.