

AICTE to allow conditional merger of engg colleges

Apart from proximity, a slew of rules laid down to effect the merger

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CONCERNED over the increasing number of engineering seats falling vacant in private colleges, the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has now decided to allow merger of engineering colleges run by the same trust or society or company.

The merger will be permitted if both the colleges are operating within a distance of two kilometres. Post merger one college can act as a main campus and other can act as an off campus, if necessary.

The built-up area requirement needs to be fulfilled and colleges have to maintain students-faculty ratio, says the Approval Process Handbook for 2019-20 academic year released by the AICTE on Friday.

However, the AICTE reserves the right to reject the application for merger, if it finds the reasons given are not justified or commercial or business angle is suspected, or to defeat the provisions of any law.

This was done in addition to AICTE accepting the recommendation of the committee

formed to provide national perspective plan, which advocated for not allowing creation of any new capacity starting from 2020 academic year. The committee also suggested that the creation of new capacity can be reviewed every two years. However, applications made in the current year and the past two years may be considered for starting institutions.



To maintain the quality of Education, All India Council for Technical Education has asked technical institutions to get 60 percent of their courses accredited by National Board of Accreditation in four years

Like last year, the AICTE will reduce the intake by 50 percent, if the admission is less than 30 percent in the last five years consistently. AICTE has invited online application from existing and new technical institutions for starting engineering, technology and other technical education programmes from January 14 to February 3. The approval process will be com-

pleted by April 30. As per the Supreme Court order, Deemed to be Universities were asked to get AICTE approval and this year, the AICTE has also given the option for State and Central universities to apply for the AICTE approval to run technical education programmes.

The handbook also warned institutions not to demand for the original certificate from the faculty members at the time of joining. To maintain the quality of Education, the apex regulatory body for technical education has told technical institutions to get 60 percent of their courses accredited by National Board of Accreditation within four years, otherwise extension of approval will not be issued. All India Federation of Self Financing Technical Institutions secretary TD Eswaramoorthy said, many colleges are interested in going for NBA accreditation. However, around 80 percent of the colleges do not fulfil NBA's criteria of 50 per cent admission and 50 per cent pass percentage and become ineligible to apply for NBA accreditation, he added.

ENGAGEMENTS

- PSG Group of Institutions: Heart Day Celebrations and Marathon, PSG IMS And R, Auditorium, 6:00 am
- Ramakrishna Mission Vidyalaya: Gurupuja, Vidyalaya Campus, 7:00 am
- Vijaya Pathipagam: Book Release Ceremony, Government College of Education for Women, Town Hall, 5:00 am