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## Unfilled seats: AICTE won't accredit new colleges for 2yrs

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**Chennai:** Engineering admission has dropped to 50%-55% in the last four years and due to the huge vacancies in colleges, the All India Council for Technical Education will not accredit new engineering and pharma colleges for the next two years, AICTE chairman Anil D Sahasrabudhe said on Sunday. "Colleges with less admissions cannot survive as they are not able to pay salaries and maintain the infrastructure," he said, speaking to reporters on the sidelines of Sathyabama Institute of Science and Technology's 28<sup>th</sup> convocation.

When asked about vacancies, Sahasrabudhe said, "In the last four years, engineering admissions have dropped to 50%-55% and 2.5 lakh seats have been cut. So, there are huge vacancies in engineering colleges". Such colleges are reducing intake or shutting down, he added.

The council is mulling a common entrance test for engineering, twice a year, and the better of the two scores will be considered for admission. "But many states wanted time to make their syllabi on par with CBSE first," he said. In the convocation, Union secretary for ministry of earth sciences M N Rajeevan, Mars Orbiter Mission project director S Arunan, Isro's human spaceflight programme director S Unnikrishnan Nair and senior Isro scientist R Umamaheswaran received honorary doctorates. Degrees were given to 3,029 graduates.