

ALL INDIA COUNCIL FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Moratorium on Opening New Institutions in Traditional Areas of Engineering & Technology

AICTE had announced moratorium on opening new institutions in traditional areas of Engineering & Technology at Degree, Diploma and PG Level from 2020-21 onwards for two years in 2019. A committee was constituted in Oct, 2021 for “Reviewing Moratorium on Approval to New Engineering Institutions from Academic Year 2022-23 onwards” under the chairmanship of Shri BVR Mohan Reddy. The committee has gone through the intake capacity, trends of enrolment and placements in UG, PG and Diploma Level in AICTE Approved Institutions and after thorough data analysis submitted its report on 31.12.2021. The report was approved by the Executive Committee in its 148th emergent meeting dated 13.01.2022

The following are the decisions of the Executive Committee

1. Undergraduate (B.Tech.) Programmes:

New institutions: Moratorium on new engineering institutions shall continue up to 2023-24 with a few exceptions such as:

- a) AICTE shall allow well-meaning philanthropists, educationists or educational foundations to create new institutions of excellence. Such institutions should create a capacity of 3000 seats in line with NEP 2020 guidelines. Further, these institutions should have large owned campus and student amenities comparable with that of globally reputed institutions. AICTE shall suitably frame the financial and infrastructure requirements for creating such institutions. These should offer core and interdisciplinary courses with emphasis on emerging technologies and employable skills, have collaborations with reputed foreign educational institutions, partner with corporates, and gain an NIRF ranking of <100 in the first five years and <50 in 10 years of their founding.
- b) As per Government of India guidelines, every aspirational district in the country(220 of them) should have an engineering college. Currently, only 180 districts are covered. The State governments shall be given the flexibility to start engineering colleges in the remaining 40+ districts. The State governments must provide necessary budgets for infrastructure, faculty and labs before seeking approval to set up an engineering college in districts that do not have one.
- c) **Facilitate conditional capacity creation in existing institutions:** While the situation of low enrolments is concerning, continuing a blanket ban on new capacities may be detrimental to the future sustenance of quality engineering education. It will be prudent to facilitate limited and conditional capacity creation based on the following guidelines:
The institutes with NIRF ranking (<100) and
 - i) => 95% enrolments – additional capacity of 25% shall be permitted
 - ii) =>80%- less than 95% enrolments – additional capacity of 15% shall be permittedColleges that have more than 50% of enrolments shall be allowed to start new courses in emerging technologies within their existing capacity. At the same time, the capacity in core engineering disciplines such as mechanical, electrical, electronics and civil engineering cannot be reduced by more than 50% of the approved capacity. All existing institutes shall shift focus to quality education to enhance foundational skills and industry-linked internships.

2. Post Graduate (M.Tech) Programmes:

Based on the enrolment trends in post-graduate programmes in all states, disciplines and institution category (government/private) the moratorium on PG programmes in engineering shall continue. Existing PG programmes need to be restructured and made R&D and Industry Centric. Institutions /universities shall replace the courses that have lost relevance with those in demand from the industry and those in line with government vision.

3. Diploma Programmes:

- i) The enrolment trends in diploma programmes confirm that about 50% of existing capacity lying vacant. Hence there shall be moratorium on new diploma programmes.
- ii) There is an urgent need to review the curricula of diploma programmes. In the Western world, diploma holders, who primarily graduate from what are known as community colleges, find a lot of relevance in the industry. Indian industry is suffering on account of the non-availability of such relevant and well-trained manpower. Hence all diploma programmes shall be made industry relevant.
- iii) Laboratory equipment is poorly maintained and is outdated. For India to emerge as a globally competitive nation across sectors, it is essential to strengthen this stream of basic engineering talent.
- iv) Industry-academia connect is critical for diploma holders. Internships and apprenticeships need to be used extensively.