

Ailing engineering colleges get 3-yr 'lifeline' to perform

To Be Closed If Enrolment Remains Below 30% For Three Yrs

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Jaipur: In a major respite to poorly performing engineering colleges across India, the All India Council for Technical Education has relaxed its proposal of closing down such colleges which have an average of 30% and below enrolments in the last three years.

The new proposal, exclusively shared with TOI by AICTE member secretary Alok Prakash Mittal, says these colleges will now be observed for next three years and if their enrolments remain less than 30% in coming academic years too, they will be closed down. In Rajasthan, 50% of the colleges were falling in poor performer category.

"Our earlier proposal was subjected to extreme legal vetting. It was also realised that they (institutions) should be given time to perform for the next three academic sessions. Still, if they didn't meet the benchmark of 30% enrol-



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ments they will face closure. The new proposal will be formally discussed in the executive meeting to be held in this month.," said Mittal, while talking to TOI on the sidelines of his lecture in a private university in Jaipur on Tuesday.

He argued that they (poorly performing institutes) are not generating enough financial resources to meet the quality of education and to provide

facilities to students. "In the present academic session off 36 lakh seats in technical institutes, 20 lakh seats were filled leaving the rest vacant," informed Mittal.

This year 122 engineering colleges have applied for progressive closure including 10 from Rajasthan. The revised proposal will give a new lease of life to the technical institutes facing a dearth of students in Rajasthan and in the country for at least three years.

Elaborating on steps taken by the AICTE to promote technical education in the country, Mittal says that AICTE funded Smart India Hackathon event in 2017 providing a platform for students to provide IT solutions to the Central government ministries.

"It had been a great success as many of the solutions suggested by the students have been executed successfully. It has instilled confidence among the students," said Mittal, who announced that next season-2018 the AICTE

will allow students provide hardware solutions to the ministries in Hackathon. "Our plan is also to add management solutions in the Hackathon to widen its reach," said Mittal, who hinted that in the coming year's states can also hold state departments specific Hackathons.

Keeping in the line with the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to create an ecosystem for job creators, the secretary has informed that AICTE is revising the model curricula by adding 'Start-up' policy in it. The curricula will be ready to be implemented from the next academic session. The secretary believes that every institute follows up 80% of their curricula and will promote the start-ups among students. "The AICTE also gives financial support to Start-Ups on the basis of the merit. A team of experts evaluate the start-up's feasibility before short-listing them for support," said Mittal.