

Maths, physics rule for engineering not mandatory: AICTE

VINAY UMARJI

Ahmedabad, 12 March

After drawing flak for making mathematics and physics optional for engineering admissions, the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) on Friday said the move was only meant to help implement the National Education Policy (NEP). Clarifying that it was not mandatory to exclude these subjects for engineering admissions, the Council said it should be seen as a window of opportunity for universities wanting to open engineering admissions based on the NEP.

Academicians, especially in the engineering stream, had expressed concerns after the AICTE's latest approval process handbook for 2021-22 changed the eligibility criteria for undergraduate (UG) admissions for engineering and technology. Currently, standard 12th level maths and physics are mandatory for getting admission in undergraduate programmes in engineering and technology. In the changed rules, maths and physics are part of a list of 12 optional subjects, of which only three are needed for eligibility.

The AICTE's approval process handbook for 2021-22 states that students have to pass 10+2 with any of the three following subjects - physics/mathematics/chemistry/computer science/electronics/information technology/biology/informatics practices/biotechnology/technical vocational subject/agriculture/engineering graphics/business studies/entrepreneurship. "The universities will offer suitable bridge courses such as mathematics, physics, engineering drawing for students coming from diverse backgrounds to achieve learning outcomes of the programme," according to the handbook. Candidates have to score 45 per cent marks in the subjects they opt for. However, clarifying that the move would not have any immediate impact on admission to most engineering colleges or programmes, AICTE Chairman Anil Sahasrabudhe said it was only made in preparation of future implementation of the NEP.



Clarifying that it was not mandatory to exclude these subjects for engineering admissions, the Council said it should be seen as a window of opportunity for universities wanting to open engineering admissions based on the NEP