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AICTE begins exercise to write technical programme books

Textbooks will be written in 22 regional languages

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NEW DELHI, DHNS: The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has begun a mega exercise for writing of engineering and other technical programme textbooks in regional languages, amid a persistent demand from various quarters.

It has invited proposals from the existing faculties with minimum five years experience in teaching at higher educational institutions for writing textbooks in 22 scheduled Indian languages, including Kannada, Tamil, Telugu and Marathi.

The higher education regulator will also accept proposals for translation of the textbooks

available in various technical subjects in English.

Use of mother tongue

This comes almost a year after Prime Minister Narendra Modi supported a suggestion for imparting of technical education in "mother tongues" in one of his tweets on January 8, 2015, saying it required "deeper consideration" to give impetus to "youth-led development of the country".

"Most European countries offer all education, including

technical education, in local languages. There have been demands from various quarters to promote use of regional languages in technical education in India too as it will benefit those hailing from the rural areas," an AICTE official told *Deccan Herald*.

Use of mother tongue in teaching at various levels of education has been a long standing demand from different sections of the society with Hindi speaking states like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar having bat-

ted for it on many of occasions in the past.

RSS affiliates like Bharatiya Shikshan Manch and Shiksha Bachao Andolan Samiti have also been demanding for teaching-learning in schools and colleges in mother tongues.

"Since technical education is dominated by the English language, the council has invited proposals for writing and translation of technical books in all 22 scheduled languages to create a knowledge base in these languages too. Each of

the authors or translators will be paid Rs 50,000 for their contribution," the AICTE official said.

The council will accept proposals for writing and translation of at least 50 text books of engineering and other technical programmes every year.

"While only one author per institution, per year, will be selected for the writing project, a list of experts will be prepared in the beginning of every year to continue the programme," the official said.