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800 engg colleges to be shut down over falling admissions

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Bengaluru: The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) wants to close down about 800 engineering colleges across India as there are no takers for their seats, and admissions are plunging in these institutions every year, AICTE chairman Anil Dattatraya Sahasrabudhe told TOI.

There are approximately 150 colleges which are closed down voluntarily every year due to stricter AICTE rules. According to a rule of the council, colleges that lack proper infrastructure and report less than 30% admissions for five consecutive years will have to be shut down, he pointed out.

Sahasrabudhe was in Bengaluru on Friday to inaugurate the 'Green Hand' sculpture, signifying the pivotal role humankind plays in preserving and nurturing the environment, at New Horizon College of Engineering, Marthahalli.

According to its website, AICTE has approved the progressive closure of more than 410 colleges across India, from 2014-15 to 2017-18. Twenty of these institutions are in Karnataka. A maximum number of institutions was approved for closure in 2016-17.

Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh have the maximum number of colleges which have sought progressive closure. Failing to survive, private engineering colleges either seek progressive closure and ultimately shut down or turn into polytechnics or science and arts colleges.

Progressive closure means the institute cannot admit students to the first year in that academic year, for which progressive closure

is granted; however, the existing students will continue.

He also advised engineering colleges and universities to revise and renew their syllabus, which is the major cause behind the fall in the number of admissions and quality of education they impart.

With the quality of engineering education and balance in the number of engineering students and their employability being big challenges, AICTE has introduced the plan for teachers' training. "Most engineering college professors or lecturers are MTech or PhD holders. They don't usually have experience in teaching aspiring engineers. Now onwards, any engineering college lecturer joining anew will have to undergo six months of exclusive and compulsory training so that they can train future engineers better. Existing engineer lecturers have three years to undergo this training compulsorily," Sahasrabudhe said.

AICTE is also looking at making engineering students industry-ready so that they are hired on time. From this year onwards, every second- and third-year student will have to undergo internship compulsorily so that they are hired even before campus placements.

"Internship is the time when most students are observed by companies and have a fair chance of being absorbed. So it's better to be hired that way instead of depending on just five minutes of interview at campus placements. My advice to budding engineers is that they should be attentive and hardworking during internship," the chairman said.

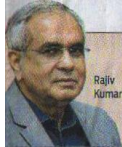
Addressing first-year BE students of New Horizon College, Sahasrabudhe asked them to take up green technology based projects. He also called for converting college campuses into green campuses.



THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS



Kaushik Basu



Rajiv Kumar

GDP WILL CROSS 7% IN Q2, CLAIMS NEW NITI CHIEF

Incoming chairman Rajiv Kumar says growth will soar in second quarter because of monsoon & clarity on new tax regime

RAJIV KUMAR'S POINT

Growth in the first quarter was at a 3-year low, showed data released on Thursday. While analysts blamed it on demonetisation, Rajiv said it had nothing to do with note ban. "Demonetisation's impact was primarily for six weeks — from November to January," he claimed

KAUSHIK BASU'S COUNTERPOINT

■ In a strongly contradicting opinion, former World Bank chief economist Kaushik Basu said "growth rate is the price India had to pay for demonetisation"
■ Q1 growth implies India lost 2.3% due to demonetisation, added the senior economist

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Over 800 engg colleges asked to shut down

RASHMI BELUR @Bengaluru

OVER 800 engineering colleges across the nation have been asked to shut down from next academic year. Following low admissions over the past five years, the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has asked these colleges to close down and submit a report by the second week of September.

AICTE authorities said colleges with less than 30% admissions in the last five years have been asked to close down. "We have also given them an option of getting merged with nearby

colleges," said AICTE chairman Dr Anil Sahasrabudhe. "The decision to close down colleges was taken after studying details of intake at all colleges across the country in the last five years," he added. While Karnataka has 600 colleges, the list of colleges asked to shut down has not been made public.

The listed colleges have been asked to submit a report on their choice of closing down or merging with another college as the change will be effective from 2018-19 academic year.



"This is one of the many steps planned towards improving the quality of engineering education. Some institutions failed to improve admissions and hence we had to do take a tough call," said AICTE authorities.

There are 10,361 engineering colleges in the country. Maharashtra has maximum of about 1,500 colleges, followed by Tamil Nadu (about 1,300), Uttar Pradesh (1,165), and Andhra Pradesh (about 800). Of the 37 lakh engineering seats, over 27 lakh have been lying vacant.

Colleges seek time

Some colleges in the state have requested the authorities for at least one more year to improve. A representative of a college from Bengaluru said, "We are trying to improve the admissions, but as the demand is less, we are struggling."