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Saras debuts at HAL airport

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Lessons on Indian values for B Tech students

Prakash Kumar

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Engineering students will have to undergo a six-week internship, take a paper on environmental studies and also learn Indian values and ethics.

Chapters on traditional knowledge and ancient wisdom in science and technology will also be part of the revised curriculum for B Tech programmes released by the government on Wednesday.

The revised curriculum,

developed by an expert team comprising faculty members from the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and Industry after a gap of more than 15 years, has "drastically" reduced the hours of studies for undergraduate programmes in engineering and provides for more "activity-oriented" courses to enable students to become industry-ready.

The credit hours for all undergraduate engineering and technology programmes have been brought

down to 160 from 200 under the updated curriculum with provisions for "continuous evaluation" of the students' progress.

A three-week mandatory induction program has also been introduced for the first year B Tech students to help them "adjust to the new environment" as they come with diverse thoughts, backgrounds and preparations.

"A novel concept of Virtual Laboratories has also been introduced in the model curriculum for engi-

neering. The concerns over innovation and research have well been addressed under the revised curriculum. It will transform engineering education in India," said Anil Sahashrabudhe, chairman of the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).

A student will now be eligible to get an undergraduate degree (BTech) with honours or additional Minor Engineering degree if he/she completes an additional 20 credits.

AICTE releases new model curriculum

VIKAS PATHAK
NEW DELHI

The All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) on Wednesday formally released its new model curriculum for engineering and technical courses, reducing the credits to be earned for an undergraduate degree from 220 to 160.

The time freed would be utilised for practical and creative activities, including hackathons, an official said.

The AICTE also decided to make internships mandatory for the award of degrees. While there were internships earlier too, an official said, there were no concrete guidelines.

Since all institutions did not have mandatory internships, technical graduates were sometimes found unemployable by the industry.

This was set to change with the new guidelines, it is felt. The internship would

Training for teachers

There may soon be mandatory one-year training for those who want to teach in higher technical institutions.

This was made clear at the launch of the model curriculum for technical education. In the first semester of training, an inductee teacher will have to pass eight modules.

have a minimum of 14 credits. Each credit means 40-45 hours of work.

The new framework would also mandate that all institutions must have a training and placement cell.

While the curriculum had been formally rearranged, a task force would meet in February to facilitate its implementation.