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Mohan Reddy Committee Recommendations Accepted

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All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has accepted the recommendations of the committee headed by **BVR Mohan Reddy**.

The committee was set up to provide **Short and Medium Term Perspectives for Engineering Education**.

Committee Recommendations

- **No new engineering institutes** should be allowed to set up **from 2020**.
- Concessions should be made for applications already in the pipeline.
- Only requests from existing engineering institutes to either **start programmes in new technologies or convert current capacity in traditional engineering disciplines to emerging new technologies like artificial intelligence or robotics** should be entertained.
- Creation of **new capacity in colleges should be reviewed** every two years.
- Committee found that the **current capacity utilization in traditional disciplines is just 40% as opposed to 60% seat occupancy in branches such as computer science and engineering, aerospace engineering and mechatronics**.

The committee had urged the AICTE to **introduce undergraduate engineering programmes** in emerging technologies like **artificial intelligence, the blockchain, robotics, quantum computing, data sciences, cybersecurity, 3D printing, and design**.

- The committee found that the **innovation, incubation, and start-up ecosystem is lacking in educational institutions**. Thus, every education Institution should be mandated for the following:
 - **Entrepreneurship should be a minor elective for Undergraduates**.
 - Tinkering Laboratories similar to **Atal Innovation Laboratories** to be in every educational Institution.
 - Educational Institutions need to set up **incubation centers, mentoring clubs, and accelerator programs**.

- As for approving additional seats in existing institutions, the committee has suggested that the AICTE should only give **approvals based on the capacity utilization of concerned institute.**

Background

- Over the last couple of decades primarily in the post-liberalization phase, **India faced the challenge of meeting the fast-growing demand of skilled workforce** emanating from various key sectors of the economy.
- Since the requirement could have been met only through **widening the infrastructural base of the education sector by increasing the number of specialized technical institutions**, the country went into institution overdrive.
- The **government took the lead by setting up several technical institutions.** The policy continued unabated for about two decades, without any meaningful appraisal or evaluation of institutions being established, **resulting in mushrooming of engineering institutions.**
- In 2003, the **UR Rao committee** had warned of the rise in the number of engineering colleges and **suggested that a five-year moratorium on approving undergraduate technical institutions** be put in force in states where the annual student intake exceeded the national average of 150 per million population.
- A 2017 study by **Aspiring Minds** found that **95% of engineering graduates were unemployable for the software industry, which accounts for the bulk of engineering jobs.**
- In December 2017, an **investigation by The Indian Express** has found there were **no takers for 51% of the 15.5 lakh B.E/B.Tech seats in almost 3,200 engineering colleges** in 2016-17.
- The investigation found glaring **gaps in regulation**, including alleged **corruption**; a vicious circle of **poor infrastructure**, labs, and faculty; **non-existent linkages with industry** and the **absence of a technology ecosystem** to nurture the classroom. All this led to **low employability of graduates.**