

# Firms can now set up engineering colleges

MHRD gave its approval to public and private sector organisations

PIC FOR REPRESENTATION

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**P**ublic and private companies can now set up engineering colleges in the state, according to the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), which gave the go-ahead.

This comes at a time when there is a lack of demand for engineering courses in Karnataka.

Answering a question in the Lok Sabha, Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank', the Union HRD minister said, "Yes, approval has been given to private and public sector companies to open engineering colleges in the country. [sic]"

He also justified his stand and said that the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) was established under the AICTE Act, 1987, with a view to properly plan and coordinate development of the technical education system throughout the country and maintain norms and standards in the system.

## Expert speak

Reacting to the development, an expert from Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) said, "This will be a boon rather than a bane. Companies can directly handhold the institutions and allow them to run according to the latest technologies and industry standards."



However, the University Grants Commission (UGC), which has been asking all universities to have a link with the industry, has now come up with a new policy.

A team has studied the nuances and submitted the 'Enabling and Enhancing University linkage programme', which will be implemented across all higher education institution.

The policy states that university programmes must be reoriented to suit industry requirements with dedicated courses such as 'Entrepreneurship', 'Intellectual Property Rights' and 'Technology Commercialisation'.

## Closure of institutes

Over the last few months, two engineering colleges shut down due to low admission rates — Yellamma Dasappa Institute of

Technology (YDIT) and Sri Vidya Vinayaka Institute of Technology (SVVIT). VTU had re-allotted students in these two colleges.

A senior official from VTU said, "Colleges are coming forward voluntarily and demanding that they be shut down. The seats lie vacant and they cannot afford to run the institution."

Over the last two years, six engineering colleges have shut down due to low admission rates.

Over the last one and a half year, institutes like Nandi Institute of Technology, Sri Pillappa Institute, PNS Institute and SIET shut down.

Meanwhile, across the nation, AICTE had recommended the closing of up to 800 institutions (of which 200 are engineering colleges).