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Lack of resources restrict IITs from mentoring local engineering colleges

IITs were asked to mentor atleast five colleges but new IITs might face difficulty in doing so

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With decreasing enrolment of students in Engineering courses at undergraduate level and lakhs of colleges shutting down, evaluating the standard and quality of engineering education should be the priority for the education sector. In its 52nd meeting held on August 21, Council of IITs decided that all the 23 IITs will mentor atleast five engineering colleges in to improve the quality of engineering education.

Under the mentorship programme, IITs will encourage joint student activities, collaborative

research projects, open lectures and increase the number of PhD pursuing faculty members of local colleges under the Quality Improvement Program (QIP).

"IITs are ahead of the rest of colleges in terms of research, resources, and quality faculty. The focus will be more on enhancing teaching techniques and sharing the resources with other colleges," said Pradeep Mathur, director, IIT Indore.

The IITs will have to carefully select the Engineering colleges that need to be mentored. "We are ready to mentor over five colleges, provided these colleges show eagerness to upgrade their standards. Geographical pro-

ximity will definitely be one of the major parameters while selecting the colleges." V Ramgopal Rao, director, IIT Delhi, stressed on the need to have proper mechanism to decode the parameters of selection and the first batch of mentorship programme can be started in the next three months. "Recently established IITs do not have infrastructure and research equipment, as they themselves are in the formative stage, but few of them can rely on the experienced faculty members recruited recently," added Rao.

"We are not as good as old IITs in terms of infrastructure but as the mentorship programme will be more about building capacity of teachers of mentee institutes, we will be able to contribute with excellent faculty," said BK Mishra, director, IIT Goa.