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AICTE APPROVAL PROCESS FOR TECHNICAL INSTITUTIONS

A Practical Guide for Promoters, Trustees & Institution Administrators

Based on APH 2024–2027 | With 2025–26 Addendum/Corrigendum

(Replaces obsolete 2008–09 version)

This guide is prepared by Ravinder Gupta & Associates for educational reference. It summarises AICTE's Approval Process Handbook (APH) 2024-27, the 2025-26 Addendum/Corrigendum, and related circulars as of June 2025. Promoters and institution administrators must verify current norms at aict-india.org and consult professional advisors before acting. AICTE norms are subject to revision.

SECTION 1: AICTE — OVERVIEW AND THE LANDMARK APH 2024–27

The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), established in 1945 and given statutory powers under the AICTE Act 1987, is the apex regulatory body for technical education in India. Its approval is mandatory before any institution can offer programmes in Engineering & Technology, Architecture, Town Planning, Management, Pharmacy, Hotel Management & Catering Technology, Applied Arts & Crafts, and — from 2024-25 onwards — BBA, BCA, and BMS.

In December 2023, AICTE introduced its first-ever three-year Approval Process Handbook (APH 2024-25 to 2026-27), replacing the annual handbook regime that had been in place since the AICTE Act. A 2025-26 Addendum/Corrigendum was issued in November 2024 with further modifications.

1.1 Why This Guide Matters: Comparing Old vs. New Framework

Area	Old Framework (up to 2008-09 document on website)	Current APH 2024-27 Position
Handbook Validity	Annual; re-applied every year	Three-year handbook (2024-25 to 2026-27); annual addenda for adjustments
Land Requirement	Fixed acreage norms (e.g. 2.5 acres for engineering)	Shifted to covered/built-up area + FAR/FSI norms; moratorium on new institutions lifted from 2023-24
New Institutions	Moratorium in place since 2019	Moratorium lifted; new technical institutions permitted from 2023-24 subject to norms
Extension of Approval	Annual compliance filing mandatory for ALL institutions	High-performing institutions eligible for 3-year Extension of Approval (EoA) in one cycle
BBA / BCA / BMS	Not under AICTE jurisdiction	Brought under AICTE from AY 2024-25; existing unapproved BBA/BCA institutions required to obtain AICTE approval
Application Portal	Physical + manual submission to Regional Office	Fully online via NSWS (National Single Window System) + AICTE portal
Intake Cap	Fixed caps (e.g. 300 for engineering)	Cap removed for NIRF-ranked / NBA-accredited institutions; can propose their own intake
Working Professionals	Not covered	New provision: Diploma/UG/PG programmes for working professionals without leaving job
Hibernation	Not available	Institutions can apply for 'Hibernation' during facility upgradation/revamping
Merger of Institutions	Not permitted across different trusts	Merger permitted across different Trust/Society/Company under defined conditions
Off-Campus Provision	Not available	Well-performing institutions can open off-campus centres within the same city
Fee (TER Charges)	Demand Draft to Member Secretary	Online payment through AICTE payment gateway; no DD
Document Submission	Physical copies to Regional Office	Digitally signed documents uploaded on AICTE portal; no physical filing
NBA/NAAC Role	Purely voluntary accreditation	Directly linked to EoA eligibility; NIRF ranking, NBA/NAAC are now approval pathways

1.2 Scope of AICTE Jurisdiction

AICTE approval is required for the following programme categories:

Programme Category	Levels Covered	Notes
Engineering & Technology	Diploma, UG (B.E./B.Tech), PG (M.E./M.Tech), Ph.D	Core AICTE domain; all new and existing institutions
Management	UG (BBA/BMS — new from 2024), PG (MBA/PGDM/PGCM/Exec-PGDM)	MBA/PGDM long-standing; BBA/BMS newly regulated
Computer Applications	UG (BCA — new from 2024), PG (MCA)	BCA newly regulated from 2024-25
Architecture & Town Planning	B.Arch (5 yrs), M.Arch, M.Planning	Dual regulation with Council of Architecture (CoA)
Pharmacy	B.Pharm (4 yrs), M.Pharm, Ph.D	Also regulated by Pharmacy Council of India (PCI)
Hotel Management & Catering Technology (HMCT)	Diploma, UG (4 yrs), PG	Also regulated by NCHMCT
Applied Arts & Crafts	UG (5 yrs — Fine Arts/Fashion/Product Design)	
Design	B.Des, M.Des	Brought under AICTE; also regulated by NID/CoA in some cases
Working Professionals Programmes	Diploma/UG/PG — part-time/blended	New from 2023-24; allows employed persons to pursue technical degrees
ODL / Online Mode	UG/PG in Management, Computer Applications	Separate approval track; also requires UGC ODL approval

	Important: No Admission Authority, University, or State Government can admit students to any programme of a technical institution that does not have prior AICTE approval. Operating without AICTE approval exposes the promoter Trust/Society/Company to legal action under Section 10(k) of the AICTE Act 1987.
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SECTION 2: INSTITUTION GROUPS AND APPROVAL TRACKS

APH 2024-27 classifies all institutions into Groups for the purpose of the approval process. The Group determines the portal used, the timeline, and the TER (Technical Evaluation and Review) charges applicable.

Group	Institution Category	Portal / Route	Key Features
Group 1	Existing AICTE-approved technical institutions (Engineering, Architecture, Pharmacy, HMCT, Applied Arts, Management, MCA)	AICTE web portal (aicte-india.org)	Annual EoA filing; eligible for 3-year EoA if qualifying criteria met; pays TER charges
Group 2	Existing Deemed/State/Central Universities and their constituent institutions running AICTE programmes	AICTE web portal	Deemed to be Universities mandatory to obtain AICTE approval per Supreme Court order (Nov 2017)
Group 3	New Technical Institutions / Universities / New Institutions intending to offer BBA/BCA/BMS for first time	NSWS portal (National Single Window System) — registration mandatory	Separate portal from Dec 2024; DPR required; Expert Committee visit; Letter of Approval issued
BBA/BCA/BMS First-timers	Existing non-technical institutions already offering BBA/BCA/BMS without AICTE approval	AICTE web portal — special window	Special window opened; existing institutions brought under AICTE compliance requirement

2.1 High-Performing Institutions: 3-Year EoA Track

For the first time, institutions with demonstrated quality metrics can obtain Extension of Approval for 3 years in one go (2024-25 to 2026-27), relieving them of the annual compliance burden. Eligibility requires meeting ANY ONE of the following:

1. Figured in NIRF 8th Edition Rankings (announced 5 June 2023) or subsequent editions.
2. Figured in QS World Rankings — Asia 2024 or subsequent editions.
3. Minimum 30% of eligible courses hold valid NBA accreditation (accreditation valid till at least 30 April 2025; institution must continue pursuing NBA).
4. Valid NAAC score of 3.01 and above on the 4.0 scale (under revised NAAC 2.0 framework).
5. Autonomous Status conferred by UGC or Autonomy granted by AICTE.

TER Charges Waiver: Institutions granted 3-year EoA have TER charges waived for the extended period. However, AICTE retains the right to monitor for compliance and can initiate penal action for any norms violation during the 3-year period.

SECTION 3: SETTING UP A NEW TECHNICAL INSTITUTION — COMPLETE PROCESS

Since the moratorium on new technical institutions was lifted in 2023-24, promoters can once again apply for AICTE approval to establish new institutions. The process involves sequential stages and must be completed through the NSWS (National Single Window System) portal.

3.1 Pre-Requisites Before Application

A. Legal Entity — Trust / Society / Company

- The institution must be established by a registered Trust, Society, or Company.
- **Society:** Society registered under Societies Registration Act 1860 or applicable State Act.
- **Trust:** Trust under Indian Trusts Act 1882 or relevant State Public Trusts Act.
- **Company:** Company under Companies Act 2013 (Section 8 Not-for-Profit Company).
- Land and built-up area must be in the name of the Trust/Society/Company (not in individual promoter's name).
- All documents must be digitally signed by the Chairman/Secretary of the Trust/Society/Company.

	Critical Document Requirement: All documents uploaded on the AICTE web portal must be Digitally Signed by the Chairman/Secretary of the Trust/Society/Company. Documents without valid Digital Signature will NOT be treated as valid and the application will be rejected at scrutiny.
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B. Land and Built-Up Area Norms (Major Change from Old Framework)

The old acreage-based land norms have been replaced. Land area is no longer the primary criterion. The new framework is based on BUILT-UP AREA (covered area) along with FAR (Floor Area Ratio) / FSI (Floor Space Index) as per local municipal/state norms.

Programme Level	Minimum Built-up Area (excl. hostel/residential)	Additional Notes
Engineering & Technology — UG (B.E./B.Tech)	Approx. 12.5 sq.m. per student for total approved intake (minimum floor space norm)	Area must be exclusive to the institution; FAR/FSI compliant
Engineering & Technology — Diploma	As per AICTE norms — proportionately lower	
Management (MBA/PGDM)	Norms specified in APH Chapter VI; generally lower than Engineering	Shared campus permitted under some conditions
BBA/BCA/BMS (new from 2024)	Lower norms applicable; separate HoD and faculty required; exclusive building not mandatory for existing non-technical colleges	Note: Existing colleges adding BBA/BCA need separate department head and faculty but not a new building
Architecture	Norms as per both AICTE and Council of Architecture (CoA)	Dual compliance required
Pharmacy	As per AICTE norms; also requires PCI compliance	Dual compliance required
HMCT	As per AICTE Chapter VI norms; includes kitchen/lab area	

	Land Title — Critical: Land must have clear and lawful title in the name of the Promoter Trust/Society/Company on or before the date of application submission. Government leased land is accepted only with an irrevocable lease deed from the competent State authority. Land documents in regional language must be accompanied by a notarised English translation.
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C. Building Plan and Competent Authority Approvals

- Building Plan prepared by a registered Architect (registered with Council of Architecture) or Licensed Surveyor.
- Plan approved by Competent Authority designated by the concerned State/UT Government.
- Land Use Certificate / Land Conversion Certificate (for educational purpose) from designated State/UT Authority.
- State-wise list of Competent Authorities for land/building certificates is given in Annexure-14 of APH 2024-27.

D. Detailed Project Report (DPR) — Mandatory

A Detailed Project Report (DPR) is mandatory for all new institution applications. The DPR must contain:

- Background of Trust/Society/Company — legal status, promoter credentials, prior educational/social activities.
- Vision for the proposed institution — 10-year perspective.
- Development Plan — phased growth of programmes, intake, PG/PhD introduction, infrastructure timeline.
- Resource projections — sources of capital and operating funds; cash flow for 2 years.
- Faculty recruitment and retention policy.
- Academic and administrative governance structure.
- Architectural master plan — land use, circulation, landscaping.

	DPR Quality Matters: The DPR is evaluated by the Scrutiny/Hearing Committee and Expert Visiting Committee. A poorly prepared DPR is the most common reason for rejection or delay. Promoters should engage an educational consultant and a CA for the financial projections section.
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3.2 Stage-wise Application Process for New Institutions

The process for new institutions has been streamlined under APH 2024-27. Applications are filed via NSWS:

Stage	Action	Timeline / Deadline	Key Requirement
Stage 1	Register on NSWS portal; fill online application; upload digitally signed documents (per Annexure-1)	Applications received by 31 December — considered for next academic year	Society registration, land documents, building plan, DPR, fund proof — all digitally signed
Stage 2	Scrutiny of application by AICTE Regional Office Committee	Deficiencies communicated within 15 days	Deficiencies must be rectified; only one rectification opportunity before rejection

Stage 3	Evaluation by Hearing Committee (constituted by AICTE Chairman)	Meets at least once a month	Presentation by applicant with original documents; Hearing Committee may recommend LOI or visit or rejection
Stage 4	Letter of Intent (LOI) issued	Within 7 days of Hearing Committee meeting	Valid for 3 years; applicant must obtain LOA within this period
Stage 5	Expert Committee Visit (physical inspection of premises)	Within 15 days of applicant's readiness intimation after LOI	Processing fee + Joint FDR must be submitted before visit; full infrastructure must be ready
Stage 6	EC Sub-Committee review; Letter of Approval (LOA) issued	LOA issued before 21 May ideally; valid for 2 academic years	LOA enables admission; applicant must obtain University affiliation and State Govt. permission separately
Stage 7	Commence institution; file Compliance Report annually (or 3-yearly if qualifying)	Within 30 days of commencement; annual/3-year thereafter	Annual Mandatory Disclosure on institution website; TER charges; any non-compliance triggers penal action

3.3 Joint Fixed Deposit (FDR) — Mandatory Security Deposit

Before the Expert Committee visit, the applicant must create a Joint Fixed Deposit as a security against non-performance. Key parameters:

Programme Category	Joint FDR Amount (New Institution)	FDR Joint Names / Tenure
Engineering & Technology	₹35 Lakhs	Joint: Chairman/President of Trust/Society AND Concerned Regional Officer of AICTE; 8 years; interest credited annually for student scholarships
Management (MBA/PGDM/PGCM)	₹15 Lakhs	Same joint structure; 8 years
Architecture/Town Planning	₹15 Lakhs	Same
Pharmacy / HMCT / Applied Arts & Crafts / MCA	₹15 Lakhs	Same
Minority Institutions (all categories)	20% reduction on above amounts	Same joint FDR structure

	FDR Cannot Be Encashed Unilaterally: The Joint FDR cannot be encashed, modified, or used as loan collateral without prior written consent of AICTE. An affidavit on non-judicial stamp paper confirming this is mandatory. AICTE instructs the bank accordingly. Violation = forfeiture + withdrawal of approval.
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3.4 Documents Required for Expert Committee Visit (Annexure-1 of APH)

The following are the key documents the Expert Visiting Committee will verify (physical originals + uploaded copies):

S.No.	Document Category	Specific Items
1	Society/Trust/Company Registration	Original registration certificate; MoA/Trust Deed with educational objects; resolution earmarking land/building/funds for proposed institution
2	Land Documents	Registered Sale Deed / Irrevocable Gift Deed / Irrevocable Govt. Lease (min 30 years); Land Use Certificate; Khasra/Village Map;

		Topo sketch
3	Building Documents	Approved Building Plan; Floor Plans, Sections, Elevations; Area details; Phase-wise construction plan; Electrical load sanction
4	Financial Documents	Joint FDR (original); Affidavit re: FDR; Audited accounts of Trust/Society for last 3 years; Cash Book; 2-year projected cash flow; Fund position (FDRs + Bank Statements)
5	Faculty Documents	Copy of recruitment advertisement; Interview attendance list; Selection Committee composition + proceedings; Appointment letters issued; Bio-data with photograph of each faculty; Joining reports
6	Infrastructure Proof	Equipment list vs. syllabus requirements; Stock Register of Equipment, Computers, Software; Library Accession Register; Invoices/Cash Memos for equipment and books
7	Programme Documents	Copy of affiliating University's syllabus; AICTE-approved programme list with course codes
8	Physical Evidence	Colour photographs of building (front, back, classrooms, labs, computer room, library, principal's room, amenities) attested by Chairman/Secretary; Video/CD of premises (compatible with Windows Media Player) — still required in current process
9	DPR and LOI	Original Letter of Intent; Copy of DPR submitted to AICTE; Copy of Joint FDR affidavit
10	Administrative Documents	Supporting staff appointment details; Acquaintance Register if any

SECTION 4: EXTENSION OF APPROVAL FOR EXISTING INSTITUTIONS

Every existing AICTE-approved institution must file for Extension of Approval (EoA) annually (or every 3 years if eligible). Non-filing or non-compliance results in reduction of intake, suspension, or withdrawal of approval.

4.1 Annual EoA Process (Standard Track — Group 1 Institutions)

6. Institution logs in to AICTE web portal and submits Compliance Report online by the prescribed deadline (typically 31 August).
7. Soft copy of Compliance Report + Mandatory Disclosure uploaded along with TER Charges payment (online via AICTE payment gateway).
8. Undertaking submitted: institution certifies that all information is factual; false information = withdrawal of approval + legal action.
9. Compliance Report processed by Appraisal Committee (3 Expert Members + 2 Regional Committee members).
10. Appraisal Committee recommendations placed before Vice Chairman/Chairman AICTE.
11. EoA communicated to affiliating University/State Govt./Trust by 31 March each year.

4.2 TER (Technical Evaluation and Review) Charges

TER Charges replaced the old Demand Draft to 'Member Secretary AICTE' system. Payment is now made online through AICTE's payment gateway. Key points:

- TER Charges are programme-category-specific and revised periodically.
- Late filing attracts a penalty fee; applications submitted after the deadline with penalty are accepted only up to a secondary cut-off.
- For institutions getting 3-year EoA, TER charges are waived for the extended period but TER charges for the initial qualifying year must still be paid.
- In case of eligible refund, the excess amount is refunded to the institution after processing.

Always Verify Current TER Charges: TER Charges are revised and notified via Public Notice on aicte-india.org at the beginning of each approval cycle. Do not rely on figures from previous years. Check: aicte-india.org → Approval Process → Public Notice.

4.3 Grounds for Reduction of Intake / Withdrawal of Approval

Violation	Consequence
Non-filing of Compliance Report by deadline	Show-cause notice; failure to respond = suspension or reduced intake
Faculty norms not met (Student-Faculty Ratio, qualifications)	Reduction in intake proportionate to deficiency
Infrastructure norms not maintained	Reduction in intake; direction to comply
Misrepresentation in Compliance Report / false information	Withdrawal of approval + legal action under AICTE Act
Ragging incidents — failure to prevent or take action	Penal action under AICTE Regulation 2009 on Curbing Menace of Ragging; can include withdrawal
Admitting students to unapproved programmes	Withdrawal of approval for the programme; refund of fees to affected students
Failure to publish Mandatory Disclosure on website	Show-cause; withdrawal if persistent

Violation of fee norms (charging excess fee/capitation)	Inquiry; withdrawal of approval + direction to refund
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4.4 Introduction of New Courses / Increase in Intake

Existing AICTE-approved institutions can apply for new programmes or increased intake. The process:

12. Online application via AICTE portal with Compliance Report, DPR, and relevant documents.
13. Application may be submitted any time; applications received by 31 December considered for the next academic year.
14. Hearing Committee evaluates the proposal: recommends approval, Expert Committee visit, or rejection.
15. If Expert Committee visit is required: committee constitution is same as for new institution; costs borne by applicant.
16. Approval valid for 2 academic years; must be used within this period to obtain University affiliation and admission authority permission.

	Three Core Branches Requirement: For an existing engineering institution applying for new courses, the institution must already be running at least three core engineering branches. New courses can only be added if this condition is satisfied, unlike earlier where only one branch was sufficient.
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SECTION 5: FACULTY NORMS AND QUALIFICATIONS

5.1 General Faculty Requirements

Faculty norms are a critical compliance area. AICTE has issued revised FAQs on Faculty Norms (April 2025). Key principles:

- Qualifications as per APH Chapter VI for each programme level.
- Student-Faculty Ratio (SFR) is monitored; non-compliance triggers intake reduction.
- Faculty must be on regular pay scales — not on consolidated/contractual pay as the primary employment mode.
- Cadre Ratio (Professor:Associate Professor:Assistant Professor) must be maintained.
- Faculty must hold Ph.D. (for senior positions) or be enrolled in Ph.D. programmes.

5.2 Qualification Norms by Programme Level

Position / Programme	Minimum Qualification	Additional Notes
Director / Principal (Engineering Inst.)	Ph.D. in relevant Engineering/Technology + minimum 10 years teaching/research/industry experience (5 years at Professor level)	Must have at least 2 publications in reputed journals; administrative experience preferred
Professor (Engineering)	Ph.D. in relevant area; First-class or equivalent at Bachelor's and Master's level	Minimum 10 years teaching/research/industry (3 yrs post-Ph.D.)
Associate Professor (Engineering)	Ph.D. in relevant area; First-class at UG and PG level	Minimum 6 years teaching/research/industry experience
Assistant Professor (Engineering)	First-class M.E./M.Tech (or equivalent) in relevant discipline	May be recruited without Ph.D. but Ph.D. enrollment encouraged; NET/GATE not mandatory but preferred
Director / Principal (MBA/PGDM)	Ph.D. with First-class at UG and PG level + minimum 10 years experience (5 yrs at Professor/senior management level)	Industry experience at senior management level also acceptable
Professor / Associate Professor (Management)	Ph.D. from recognised university with relevant specialisation	
Assistant Professor (Management)	First-class MBA/PGDM/M.Com/M.A.Economics + NET (UGC) or relevant experience	
Faculty for BBA/BCA/BMS (new 2024)	As per relevant UG management/computer science norms	Separate HOD required; faculty dedicated to the department
Director / Principal (Pharmacy)	Ph.D. in Pharmacy + experience; PCI compliance also required	Dual regulation: AICTE + PCI norms both apply
Faculty (Architecture)	B.Arch or M.Arch + experience; CoA registration	Dual regulation: AICTE + CoA norms both apply

Supreme Court Ruling — January 2026: The Supreme Court ruled in January 2026 that AICTE Career Advancement Scheme (CAS) norms are not mandatory for direct faculty recruitment by State Universities and Private institutions. The UGC/AICTE qualification norms (Ph.D., experience) remain the baseline for

	eligibility; CAS-based promotions are separate from fresh recruitment qualifications.
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5.3 Student-Faculty Ratio (SFR)

Programme	Permissible SFR	Consequence of Exceeding SFR
Engineering & Technology — UG	1:15 (per department)	Intake reduction proportional to faculty shortfall
Engineering & Technology — PG	1:12	Intake reduction
Management (MBA/PGDM)	1:15	Intake reduction
Pharmacy	1:15 (UG); 1:10 (PG)	Intake reduction
Architecture	1:15	Intake reduction; CoA may act independently
BBA/BCA/BMS	As per APH norms — generally 1:20 for management-type programmes	

5.4 Mandatory Disclosure — Faculty Information

APH 2024-27 (Annexure-18) requires institutions to publish on their website:

- Department-wise name, designation, qualification, tenure, and total experience of all faculty.
- Student-Faculty Ratio — department-wise.
- Cadre Ratio — department-wise.
- Approved courses and intake approved by AICTE — department-wise.

SECTION 6: MANDATORY DISCLOSURE — ANNUAL WEBSITE OBLIGATIONS

Every AICTE-approved institution must publish detailed Mandatory Disclosure on its website and keep it continuously updated. AICTE cross-verifies this against Compliance Reports during annual reviews.

Disclosure Category	What Must Be Published
General Institution Info	AICTE approval number; EOA validity; address; type of institution; courses and intake approved; University affiliation details
Governance	Board of Governors/Governing Body composition (Annexure-17 of APH); Trust/Society registration details
Academic Information	Department-wise approved courses; intake; syllabus source (University website link); academic calendar
Faculty Details	Department-wise: name, designation, qualification, total experience, tenure; Student-Faculty Ratio; Cadre Ratio
Infrastructure	Department-wise infrastructure availability — classrooms, labs, library; computer-to-student ratio
Financial	Fee structure for all programmes; refund policy; scholarship details
Student Data	Intake vs. admitted strength; SC/ST/OBC/EWS student data; placement statistics (last 3 years)
Accreditation Status	NBA accreditation status (programme-wise with validity); NAAC grade if applicable; NIRF rank if applicable
Anti-Ragging	Anti-ragging committee details; helpline numbers; UGC/AICTE anti-ragging compliance status
Grievance Mechanism	Grievance Redressal Committee details; online grievance portal link
Results	Last 3 years' University examination results — programme-wise, year-wise

	Non-Disclosure = Penal Action: Failure to maintain Mandatory Disclosure or suppression/misrepresentation of information can lead to show-cause and ultimately withdrawal of AICTE approval. Random audits of website disclosures are conducted by AICTE.
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SECTION 7: SPECIALISED APPROVAL CATEGORIES

7.1 BBA / BCA / BMS — New from AY 2024-25

AICTE brought BBA (Bachelor of Business Administration), BCA (Bachelor of Computer Applications), and BMS (Bachelor of Management Studies) under its regulatory ambit from AY 2024-25. This is a major change from the old framework where these programmes were entirely outside AICTE's scope.

- Existing colleges offering BBA/BCA/BMS without AICTE approval are required to obtain approval — a separate window has been provided.
- New institutions intending to offer BBA/BCA/BMS must apply as Group-3 institutions through NSWS portal.
- Special relaxation: Exclusive building and Director/Principal are NOT required for existing non-technical colleges adding BBA/BCA/BMS; however, a separate Head of Department (HoD) and dedicated faculty are mandatory.
- TER charges are separately notified for BBA/BCA/BMS and are generally lower than Engineering/Management PG charges.

Practical Warning: Any college currently offering BBA/BCA/BMS without AICTE approval that does not regularise its status within AICTE's provided window risks being treated as operating an unapproved programme, which can affect University affiliation and student degree validity.

7.2 Working Professionals Programmes

From AY 2022-23 onwards, AICTE allows existing approved institutions to run programmes specifically designed for working professionals (Diploma/UG/PG level in Engineering, Management, etc.) without requiring participants to leave employment.

- These programmes can be conducted in blended/online/weekend/evening mode.
- The institution must obtain specific AICTE approval for the Working Professionals version of a programme; general EOA does not cover this.
- Separate admission criteria apply: typically 2-3 years of relevant work experience.
- Applicable to: B.Tech (Lateral Entry), MBA, M.Tech, Diploma programmes.

7.3 ODL / Online Mode Programmes

Management and Computer Applications programmes in Open and Distance Learning (ODL) or Online mode require AICTE approval in addition to UGC ODL/Online approval:

- UGC's ODL/Online Regulations 2022 must be complied with independently.
- AICTE approval is additionally required for the technical education component.
- Hybrid approvals are applied for on the AICTE portal under a separate track.
- NAAC score of 3.26 and above (or equivalent NIRF rank) is a prerequisite for UGC ODL approval; AICTE coordinates with UGC for these.

7.4 Hibernation Facility

A new provision in APH 2024-27 allows an AICTE-approved institution to apply for 'Hibernation' status when it needs to temporarily suspend admissions to undertake major facility upgradation or revamping:

- Hibernation application submitted to AICTE Regional Office with justification.

- During Hibernation: No admissions; TER charges may be waived or reduced.
- Period: Typically 1-2 years; institution must demonstrate readiness to resume before Hibernation ends.
- Resumption requires Expert Committee verification and fresh EOA.

	Hibernation vs. Closure: Hibernation is NOT closure. Institutions on Hibernation retain their AICTE approval number and history. Students already enrolled must continue to be served. Hibernation cannot be used to avoid compliance; AICTE monitors for misuse.
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7.5 Off-Campus Provision

Well-performing existing institutions can open Off-Campus centres within the same city (not inter-city). Key conditions:

- The institution must qualify under the high-performance criteria (NIRF/NBA/NAAC 3.01+).
- Off-campus centre can offer selected programmes already approved at the main campus.
- Infrastructure and faculty norms applicable separately to the off-campus centre.
- Off-campus approval is granted by AICTE separately and must be obtained before commencing classes.

7.6 Merger of Institutions

APH 2024-27 introduces a framework for merger of AICTE-approved institutions, including across different Trusts/Societies/Companies:

- Application for merger filed with AICTE Regional Office with merger agreement, trust/society documents of both entities, and evidence of State Govt./University notification.
- AICTE approves the merged entity's programme and intake structure.
- Useful for consolidating multiple small institutions into a single financially viable entity.

7.7 Admission of Foreign Students / NRI / PIO

Institutions seeking to admit Foreign Nationals, NRI, or PIO students must obtain specific AICTE approval. Eligibility criteria:

- Institution must have been functioning for at least 5 years post-AICTE approval.
- Not been placed under 'No Admission' or 'Reduced Intake' in last 3 years.
- Final year results not below 75% for last 2 years (based on students who appeared in exams).
- Teacher-student ratio not below 1:15 in relevant department.
- Modern library with multimedia facilities; adequate hostel/residential accommodation.
- Compliance Report + Undertaking + Expert Committee visit at institution's cost.
- Annual renewal via Compliance Report.

SECTION 8: NBA ACCREDITATION, NAAC, AND THE QUALITY FRAMEWORK

8.1 National Board of Accreditation (NBA)

NBA is the principal accreditation body for technical programmes in India, initially set up by AICTE and now autonomous. NBA accreditation has moved from voluntary to strategically mandatory under APH 2024-27:

- Institutions with $\geq 30\%$ eligible courses NBA-accredited can avail 3-year EoA.
- NBA accreditation is linked to removal of intake cap for high-performing institutions.
- AICTE strongly encourages (and effectively mandates for competitive institutions) ongoing NBA accreditation.
- NBA accreditation is programme-specific and level-specific (separate accreditation for B.Tech, MBA, etc.).

NBA Tier	Applicable To	Tier Criteria (Simplified)
Tier-1 (NBA Accreditation — Full)	Well-established programmes with consistent outcomes	Outcome-Based Education (OBE) fully implemented; PO/CO attainment; industry connect; research output
Tier-2 (NBA Accreditation — Developmental)	Programmes in growth phase	Partial OBE implementation; improving on self-assessment parameters
SAR (Self-Assessment Report)	Prerequisite for all NBA applications	Submitted online on NBA portal (nbaind.org); Tier 1 or Tier 2 track based on programme vintage

8.2 NAAC — National Assessment and Accreditation Council

NAAC 2.0 (revised framework from 2023) is increasingly relevant for AICTE institutions:

- NAAC score of 3.01 and above on 4.0 scale = eligible for AICTE 3-year EoA.
- NAAC score of 3.26 and above = prerequisite for UGC ODL/Online programme approval (relevant for institutions offering MBA/MCA online).
- NAAC 2.0 scoring has changed — institutions previously graded A+ under old framework must reapply under NAAC 2.0 to maintain their grade.
- The NAAC assessment cycle is now data-driven; Annual Quality Assurance Reports (AQAR) must be filed regularly.

8.3 NIRF Rankings

National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) ranking is now directly tied to AICTE compliance benefits:

- Appearance in NIRF 8th edition (2023) or subsequent editions = eligible for 3-year EoA.
- NIRF ranking also removes the intake cap — institutions can propose their own intake if NIRF-ranked.
- Ranking methodology: Teaching, Learning & Resources (TLR); Research and Professional Practice (RPP); Graduation Outcomes (GO); Outreach and Inclusivity (OI); Perception (PR).
- New institutions should build towards NIRF ranking from Year 1 — placements, research publications, and alumni outcomes are key parameters.

8.4 Institution's Innovation Council (IIC)

APH 2024-27 places heavy emphasis on innovation through the INDOVATION program and Institution's Innovation Council (IIC):

- All AICTE-approved institutions are encouraged to establish IICs.
- IIC activities feed into NIRF ranking scores and NAAC assessments.
- AICTE's INDOVATION programme provides grants, mentorship, and recognition to innovative institutions.
- IIC portal: mic.gov.in — registration and annual activity reporting.

SECTION 9: STUDENT WELFARE, ANTI-RAGGING AND NEP 2020 ALIGNMENT

9.1 Anti-Ragging Compliance — Zero Tolerance

AICTE's Regulation on Curbing the Menace of Ragging in Technical Institutions 2009 (amended) casts strict obligations:

- Anti-Ragging Committee: Mandatory; must include senior faculty, police representative, students, parents.
- Anti-Ragging Squad: Separate from the Committee; conducts surprise checks in hostels, canteen, common areas.
- Complaints mechanism: Institution must display anti-ragging helpline number (1800-180-5522) prominently.
- Zero-tolerance: Any ragging incident must be reported to AICTE and Police within 24 hours.
- Failure to prevent or act on ragging = penal action including withdrawal of AICTE approval.
- Annual Anti-Ragging affidavit: Submitted by institution and each student/parent at time of admission (Affidavit format in APH).

	Criminal Liability: Ragging is a cognisable offence under various State laws and UGC regulations. AICTE regulations complement but do not replace the criminal law. Institutional administrators can face personal liability if ragging is covered up.
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9.2 Student Induction Programme

All newly admitted students must undergo a Student Induction Programme within the first few weeks of joining. AICTE and UGC's 2019 Guidelines on Student Induction require:

- Duration: 3 weeks (minimum) for UG students.
- Contents: Physical activity and fitness; Creative arts; Universal human values; Literary; Proficiency modules; Lectures by eminent persons; Visits to local areas; Familiarisation with institution.
- An Undertaking from the institution on conducting the Induction Programme is included as Annexure-10 of APH 2024-27.

9.3 Examination Reforms and Internship Policy

APH 2024-27 (Annexure-10) requires institutions to submit an undertaking on:

- Examination Reforms: Adoption of Outcome-Based Education (OBE); Internal assessment aligned with course outcomes.
- Internship Policy: Mandatory internship of at least 4-8 weeks for all UG students; Industry-linked internships preferred; Internship records maintained and reflected in transcripts.

9.4 NEP 2020 Alignment in Technical Education

APH 2024-27 explicitly aligns with NEP 2020 through the National Credit Framework (NCrF) 2023:

- National Credit Framework (NCrF): All programmes moving to credit-based system aligned with NCrF; 1 credit = 30 notional learning hours.
- Multiple Entry/Exit: Students can exit after 1 year (Certificate), 2 years (Diploma), or 3 years (UG Degree) with appropriate credits; institutions must establish pathways for this.

- Academic Bank of Credits (ABC): Institutions must register with ABC (abc.gov.in); students accumulate credits across institutions; mandatory for NEP-aligned institutions from 2023-24.
- 4-Year UG Programme with Research: AICTE institutions offering 4-year B.Tech with Honours/Research option must provide research tracks from Year 3.
- Multidisciplinary Education: Elective subjects from other disciplines encouraged; interdisciplinary programmes supported.
- Skill Integration: Technical institutions must offer skill-based short courses and vocational programmes; PMKVY-TI (NSDC partnership) available.

SECTION 10: APPROVED PROGRAMME NOMENCLATURE (UPDATED 2024-27)

10.1 Engineering & Technology — UG (B.E./B.Tech)

Key additions and changes from the 2008-09 list:

New/Changed Programmes (post-2008)	Notes
Artificial Intelligence (AI)	Separate B.Tech AI approved; high demand; often combined with ML, Data Science
Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning (AI & ML)	Most popular new branch nationally
Artificial Intelligence & Data Science (AI & DS)	
Data Science	Distinct from Computer Science
Cyber Security	Approved as separate branch
Internet of Things (IoT)	Often listed as IoT & Embedded Systems
Robotics & Automation	Earlier 'Automation and Robotics' — name updated
Electric Vehicle Technology	New addition reflecting EV industry demand
Smart Manufacturing	Industry 4.0 aligned programme
Full Stack Development (B.Tech)	Introduced for vocational-technical hybrid programmes

10.2 Management — UG and PG

Programme	Level	Duration	Notes
BBA (Bachelor of Business Administration)	UG	3 Years	Newly under AICTE from 2024-25
BMS (Bachelor of Management Studies)	UG	3 Years	Newly under AICTE; primarily Maharashtra and a few states
MBA (Master of Business Administration)	PG	2 Years	Long-standing; all specialisations
PGDM (Post Graduate Diploma in Management)	PG	2 Years	Autonomous institutions only; not university-affiliated
Exec-PGDM (Executive PGDM)	PG	Min 15 months (full-time)	For executives with min 5 years management experience
PGCM (Post Graduate Certificate in Management)	PG Certificate	1 yr to < 2 yrs	Not PGDM; candidates get Certificate not Diploma
MBA Innovation, Entrepreneurship & Venture Dev (IEV)	PG	2 Years	Specific AICTE approval track; Annexure-9 of APH
Fellow Programme in Management (FPM)	Doctoral	4 Years	Doctorate equivalent; Annexure-15 of APH; for IIMs and top B-schools

10.3 Computer Applications

Programme	Level	Duration	Notes
BCA (Bachelor of Computer Applications)	UG	3 Years	Newly under AICTE from 2024-25
MCA (Master of Computer Applications)	PG	2 Years	Long-standing AICTE programme; entry: any

			graduate with Maths at 10+2
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10.4 Duration and Entry Qualifications Summary

Programme	Duration	Entry Qualification
B.E./B.Tech (Engineering)	4 Years	10+2 with Physics & Maths + Chemistry/Biotechnology/Computer Science/Biology
B.Arch (Architecture)	5 Years	10+2 with Mathematics; National Aptitude Test in Architecture (NATA)
B.Pharm (Pharmacy)	4 Years	10+2 with Physics & Maths + Chemistry/Biology/Biotechnology
B.Tech (Lateral Entry)	3 Years (from 2nd year)	Diploma holders in relevant discipline from AICTE-approved institutions
HMCT (Hotel Management)	4 Years	10+2 (any stream)
B.Des / Applied Arts & Crafts	4-5 Years	10+2; entrance test
MBA / PGDM	2 Years	Any bachelor's degree (min 3 years); national entrance test (CAT/MAT/CMAT/XAT)
BBA / BCA / BMS	3 Years	10+2 (any stream); state-level or institution-level entrance
MCA	2 Years (revised from 3 years from 2021)	Any bachelor's degree with Maths at 10+2
M.E./M.Tech	2 Years	B.E./B.Tech in relevant branch; GATE score (for GATE-based admissions)
M.Arch	2 Years	B.Arch or equivalent
M.Pharm	2 Years	B.Pharm or equivalent
Exec-PGDM	Min 15 months (full-time)	Bachelor's degree (min 3 yrs) + min 5 years relevant managerial/supervisory experience

SECTION 11: TAXATION ASPECTS FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

This section is relevant for CA practitioners and promoters structuring or advising technical education institutions.

11.1 Income Tax Exemption Framework

Provision	Applicability	Threshold / Conditions
Section 10(23C)(iiiab)	University/educational institution wholly or substantially financed by Govt.	No receipt limit; automatic exemption
Section 10(23C)(iii ae)	Educational institution NOT substantially govt.-financed	Annual receipts ≤ ₹5 crore (raised from ₹1 crore by Finance Act 2023); auto-exemption no approval needed
Section 10(23C)(vi)	University/educational institution of public importance approved by prescribed authority	Receipts > ₹5 crore; approval from PCIT/CCIT; 5-year approval validity
Section 12AB	Charitable Trust/Society running educational institution	Mandatory registration; replaces old Section 12AA; fresh application needed if previously under 12AA

11.2 Key Tax Compliance Points for Technical Institutions

- Section 12AB registration is mandatory for Trust/Society model institutions. Application via Form 10A (new) or Form 10AB (renewal). Provisional registration is valid for 3 years; convert to final registration before expiry.
- Section 80G: Donors to AICTE institution trusts can claim 50% deduction. Trust must file Form 10BD (statement of donations) annually; issue Form 10BE to each donor.
- Corpus donations: Since Finance Act 2023, corpus donations to a trust are taxable if not invested within a specified time in prescribed modes.
- Section 115BBC: Anonymous donations above ₹1 lakh or 5% of total donations (whichever is lower) are taxable at 30%.
- Section 115TD: Exit Tax applies if a registered trust converts, merges, or dissolves without following prescribed rules.
- Forfeiture of exemption: If AICTE institution's activities are found to be for profit (commercial exploitation, diversion of funds), Section 13 violations can result in loss of Section 11/12AB exemption.

11.3 GST for Technical Institutions

Transaction	GST Treatment
Education services by AICTE-approved institution (B.Tech, MBA, etc.)	Exempt — Notification 12/2017-CT(Rate), Sl. No. 66; excludes coaching/commercial training
Hostel accommodation for students of the institution	Exempt up to ₹20,000/month per person (raised from ₹10,000; verify current limit)
Canteen/mess within campus for students and staff	Exempt if provided as part of the institution's services
Short-term commercial training / certification courses NOT part of approved programme	Taxable at 18%; no exemption
Construction of institution building (contractor charges)	Taxable at applicable rate; institution cannot claim ITC (blocked credit)

Purchase of lab equipment, computers, furniture	Taxable supply; ITC not available since output (education) is exempt
Renting out campus facilities for events/conferences	Taxable at 18%; institution becomes taxable supplier for this activity

	GST Registration Trigger: An AICTE institution providing only exempt education services does not need GST registration. However, if the institution also rents out facilities, sells goods, or provides taxable services, it must register for GST if aggregate taxable turnover exceeds ₹20 lakhs (₹10 lakhs in special category states). Consult a CA before assuming full exemption.
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SECTION 12: PRACTICAL TIMELINE FOR SETTING UP A NEW TECHNICAL INSTITUTION

Phase	Activity	Typical Duration	Key Risks / Watch-outs
Phase 1	Form Trust/Society/Section 8 Company; draft educational objects; register with Registrar/Registrar of Companies	2-4 months	Objects must be educational; non-proprietary structure; all promoters' details to be documented
Phase 2	Identify and acquire land; ensure title is clear; convert land use to educational if required from State authority	6-18 months	Land in Trust/Society name before application; no private leases; Govt. lease preferred for compliance safety
Phase 3	Appoint registered Architect; prepare Building Master Plan; obtain plan approval from municipal/local authority; construct Phase 1 of building	6-24 months	FAR/FSI must support required built-up area; all construction approvals from competent authority mandatory
Phase 4	Apply to State Government / affiliating University for NOC / recognition	3-12 months	State-specific; in some states, University affiliation is only possible post-AICTE LOA; check the sequence
Phase 5	Register on NSWS portal; prepare DPR; recruit Principal and core faculty; assemble document package	2-4 months	DPR must be comprehensive; CA certification of financial projections; all documents digitally signed
Phase 6	Submit application online (NSWS) by 31 December; pay TER charges	Online — 1-4 weeks	All documents must be uploaded at once; incomplete applications returned; one chance for rectification
Phase 7	Scrutiny + Hearing Committee evaluation; respond to deficiencies	2-4 months after submission	One reconsideration opportunity; if rejected by Hearing Committee, can appeal or re-apply fresh
Phase 8	LOI issued; submit readiness + Joint FDR; Expert Committee visit	1-3 months post-LOI	Infrastructure must be fully ready for visit; faculty must be present; all equipment installed and operational
Phase 9	LOA issued; obtain University affiliation; obtain State Govt. admission permission; commence admissions	1-2 months post-visit	LOA valid for 2 years; must be used — allowed to go to waste
Phase 10	Commence academic session; file Compliance Report; set up anti-ragging, IQAC, IIC; publish Mandatory Disclosure	Ongoing from Year 1	Annual compliance filing by 31 August; work towards NBA/NAAC accreditation from Year 1

	Realistic Total Timeline: From Trust/Society formation to first batch of students: typically 3 to 5 years for a new technical institution. Promoters who underestimate the timeline or infrastructure investment often find themselves in compliance trouble after LOA is issued. The Joint FDR is at risk if the institution fails post-LOA.
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12.1 Appeal Mechanism

If AICTE denies a Letter of Intent, Letter of Approval, or Extension of Approval, the following remedies are available:

Remedy	Condition	Appellate Authority	Timeline
Reconsideration	Rectify stated deficiencies; submit fresh compliance	Regional Office forwards to Hearing Committee	One opportunity only; fee applicable (submit to Regional Office)
Appeal to Appellate Committee	After reconsideration rejection or if directly appealing LOA/LOI denial	Appellate Committee: Educationist/Academician (Chairman) + IIT/NIT/IIM Director + VC of University + AICTE Advisor	Meets as required; decision within 7 days; Chairman AICTE ratifies
High Court (Article 226)	If Appellate Committee decision is unsatisfactory or procedurally flawed	High Court in the relevant State jurisdiction	Civil writ proceedings; AICTE decisions are generally upheld unless procedural violations proven

SECTION 13: REGULATORY LANDSCAPE — WHAT'S AHEAD

13.1 Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan Bill 2025 — Potential Single Regulator

In December 2025, the proposed Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan Bill 2025 was introduced, which contemplates replacing multiple education regulators (UGC, AICTE, NCTE) with a single Higher Education Commission of India (HECI). Key points:

- The Bill is under Parliamentary consideration as of June 2025 — it has NOT yet been enacted.
- If enacted, AICTE's functions would be subsumed into HECI; APH-based approvals would continue under HECI until fresh norms are notified.
- Critique: The Bill grants more penalty powers but critics note it does not give HECI independent funding powers, limiting its effectiveness versus the current AICTE structure.
- Promoters planning new institutions should proceed under current AICTE norms; any transition provisions will be announced if/when the Bill becomes law.

Status as of June 2025: AICTE remains the operational regulator for all technical education. The APH 2024-27 (with 2025-26 Addendum) is fully in effect. Institutions should NOT delay compliance actions in anticipation of HECI.

13.2 Key Regulatory Websites and Portals

Portal / Resource	URL	Purpose
AICTE Official Website	aicte-india.org	APH download, EoA filing, Public Notices, circulars
AICTE Approval Process Portal	aicte-india.org → Approval Process	Group 1 & 2 EoA filing
NSWS Portal (New Institutions)	nsws.gov.in	Group 3 — New institution application registration
AICTE Document Upload Portal	documents.aicte-india.org	Uploading documents for approval process
NBA (National Board of Accreditation)	nbaind.org	Accreditation applications, SAR submission, grades
NAAC	naac.gov.in	Institutional accreditation, AQAR filing
NIRF	nirfindia.org	Ranking participation; data submission
Institution's Innovation Council	mic.gov.in	IIC registration and activity reporting
Academic Bank of Credits	abc.gov.in	ABC registration — mandatory for NEP 2020 compliance
DIKSHA (Teacher Training)	diksha.gov.in	Faculty training modules recognised by UGC/AICTE
Atal Innovation Mission (ATL)	aim.gov.in	Tinkering Lab grants; innovation ecosystem
PMKVY-TI (Skill programmes)	pmkvyoofficial.org	Skill-based short courses under NSDC partnership
UGC ODL/Online Approval	ugc.gov.in → ODL	For institutions seeking ODL/Online programme approval

*This document is for educational and guidance purposes only. Verify all norms at aicte-india.org before taking action.
For professional advice, consult Ravinder Gupta & Associates.*