

From: AICTE <noreply@aicte-india.org>

Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2026 5:18 PM

To: vcoffice.srtmun@gmail.com <vcoffice.srtmun@gmail.com>

Subject: Compliance as per the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court regarding Appointment of Principal/Director & filling up of vacant faculty/non-faculty positions in AICTE approved Institution-reg.

Circular

To,

- i. Principal Secretary/ Secretary of State/UTs Higher & Technical Education
- ii. Vice Chancellors of Technical Universities
- iii. Directors/ Principals of AICTE Approved Institutions

Subject: Compliance as per the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court regarding Appointment of Principal/Director & filling up of vacant faculty/non-faculty positions in AICTE approved Institution-reg.

Respected Madam/ Sir,

As you are aware, the AICTE Approval Process Handbook (APH) 2024-27) lays down detailed norms and procedures governing the appointment of Principal/Director and faculty/non-faculty personnel. Institutions are required to ensure transparent, merit-based, and regulation-compliant recruitment, and to update all such information on the AICTE Web-Portal. It is imperative that any vacant post of Director/Principal in an institute be filled strictly in accordance with the provisions of APH, ensuring compliance with minimum qualifications, pay scales, and other prescribed norms.

However, it has been observed that a number of institutions continue to operate with vacant leadership positions and significant faculty/non-faculty shortages, or have adopted non-compliant appointment practices, adversely affecting institutional governance, academic standards, and student well-being.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court, in its judgement dated 15.01.2026 in Amit Kumar & Ors. vs. Union of India & Ors. (C.A. No. 1426/2025), has unequivocally emphasized that:

- All vacant teaching and non-teaching posts must be filled within a period of four (4) months;
- Key administrative positions (including Principal/Director) must not remain vacant, and should ordinarily be filled within one month of vacancy arising;
- Priority must be accorded to filling posts reserved for marginalized and underrepresented groups, ensuring inclusive and equitable institutional environments;
- Institutional deficiencies, including staff shortages, directly impact student well-being, academic quality, and institutional accountability, and therefore cannot be treated as mere administrative lapses.

In light of the above, all AICTE-approved institutions are hereby directed to avoid prolonged vacancies and initiate recruitment processes well in advance of anticipated vacancies to fill up all vacant posts of Principal/Director, faculty, and non-faculty staff within the timelines mandated by the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The

Institutions are also required to ensure that process of all appointments is initiated strictly in accordance with APH norms and the same are conducted in a transparent, fair, and merit-based manner complying with reservation policies and statutory requirements.

Further, all AICTE approved Institutions are required to maintain and regularly update complete and accurate data regarding staffing positions on the AICTE web-portal. Please note that adequate staffing is integral to ensuring student welfare, mentoring, grievance redressal, and a supportive academic environment, as emphasized by the Hon'ble Court. Non-compliance with the above directions will

be viewed seriously, and may attract strict regulatory action.

Institutions are required to submit a compliance report and ensure full update on the AICTE portal within the stipulated timelines.

PFA: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1OAJ9qfir9YVwQVysehVMxkRIsC3tCuvd/view?usp=sharing>

**With warm regards,
Regards
Prof. Shyama Rath
Member Secretary, AICTE**