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## Minister praises Sahyadri's 'Calling bell' Swachchatha initiative

**MANGALURU:** Union Minister of State for Drinking Water and Sanitation Ramesh Chandappa Jigajinagi visited Sahyadri College of Engineering and Management recently.

During his visit to Sahyadri, he viewed the 'Calling Bell' with Swachchatha tone in the presence of Chairman Manjunath Bhandary and Raghav Shetty, CEO, RDL Technologies and appreciated them for their interest shown in the project. 'Calling bell,' an initiative by DK ZP CEO Dr M R Ravi is to spread awareness of the Swachch abhiyan.

This unique concept was presented by Dr M R Ravi to the Sahyadri Management, in the presence of faculty members and the Start up Team during his visit to Sahyadri.

As a response to the concept, a team of experts from the institute converted the concept into an end product



**Union Minister of State for Drinking Water and Sanitation Ramesh Chandappa Jigajinagi takes a look at the model on calling bell initiative on cleanliness, at Sahyadri College of Engineering and Management.**

by designing a calling bell with Swachchatha tone built into it.

These calling bells have already been installed on a pilot basis in Kalligé Gram Panchayat. As a part of the pilot programme, Sahyadri College of Engineering and Management has expressed its

willingness to partially sponsor the cost of manufacture of such calling bells. The Minister lauded the college's efforts to support students develop their talents, their innovative ideas and the progress in a just a decade.

**DH News Service**



RESPIRATORY ISSUES SPIKE AS DELHI AIR 'UNBEARABLE'

As air pollution reached alarming levels in Delhi, city hospitals saw a surge in the number of patients with respiratory problems

ALL DELHI SCHOOLS SHUT TILL SUNDAY

The Delhi govt announced that all schools in the national capital would remain closed till Sunday in view of the "unbearable" pollution. "Can't compromise with the health of children," said Manish Sisodia, Deputy CM. Some school principals argued that shutting schools was not the solution

DON'T SMOKE, USE PUBLIC TRANSPORT

The Delhi govt issued a health advisory urging residents to use carpooling & public transport, stay indoors, and not to smoke. It also urged people to avoid going for walks early in the morning and late in the evening. The busy Yamuna Expressway saw multiple pile-ups (in pic)

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FEW TAKERS

50% seats vacant, VTU mulls scrapping MCA course

RASHMI BELUR @ Bengaluru

ONCE, one of the most sought after courses — Masters in Computer Applications (MCA), is now facing a threat of closure in the state.

As per the information received from the Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU), at least 10 affiliated colleges have requested for withdrawal of the course in the last three years due to less demand.

Even the admission data for the last three years shows how low the demand for the course has reduced.

According to the statistics from VTU, at least 50% of the seats were left vacant in the last three years for MCA, both at VTU post graduate centres and affiliated colleges.

Considering the decline in admissions, the authorities of VTU have decided to write to All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) to reduce the course duration to two years instead of three. "All other Masters courses are for two years but only MCA is for three years. This is also one of the disadvantages as students opt for a similar course which can be completed in a shorter duration," explained an official from VTU academic section.

Speaking about it, Prof Karisiddappa, Vice Chancellor of VTU said, "The admission and unfilled seat status is being sent to AICTE every year. This time, we will also write about bringing down the course duration from three years to two."

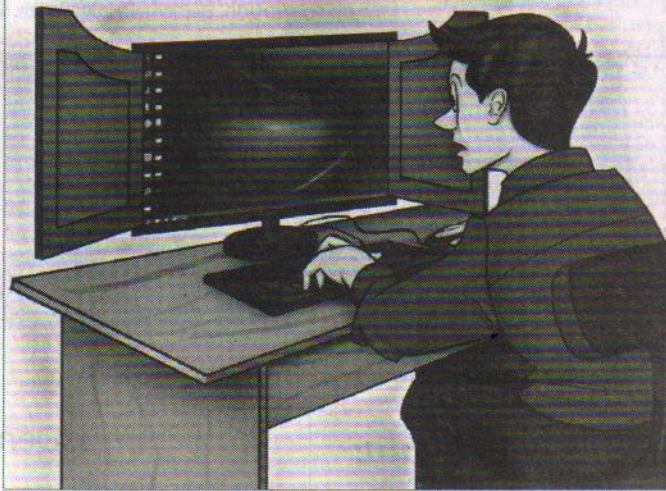
According to Karisiddappa, AICTE allows admissions to MCA even under lateral entry scheme where one can directly get admission into the second year and get their MCA certificate in just two years. "This is also one of the issues that needs to be addressed. If it is lateral entry or through direct admission, it should be of the same dura-



All other Masters courses are for two years but only MCA is for three years. This is also one of the disadvantages as students opt for a similar course which can be completed in a shorter duration

A VTU official

Year	Colleges offering course	Available seats	Filled seats
2014-15	45	4,825	2,913
2015-16	45	4,450	2,850
2016-17	43	4,135	2,655



tion," mentioned Karisiddappa.

However, experts say MCA was a stop-gap arrangement made in the country when IT industry was booming.

"There was a time when demand was more than the supply. The engineering graduates in computer related courses were less in the country, and that is when MCA was launched. Any graduate with science background will be eligible to take up the course," explained a principal of a city based engineering college.

When VTU authorities were asked whether they prefer scrapping the course, Karisiddappa said, "I don't think scrap-

ping the course is a remedy. If affiliated colleges want to drop the course, then we have to accept it. But, being a university we need to run the course and think about alternatives."

Even the candidates who have done MCA feel that they are not treated at par with engineering graduates. "I did my MCA from one of the prime colleges in the city and my over all percentage is 86. But, to get a job I had to do an additional computer course and even the salary which I get cannot be compared with those who have done engineering," said Spoorthi who completed her course in 2016.