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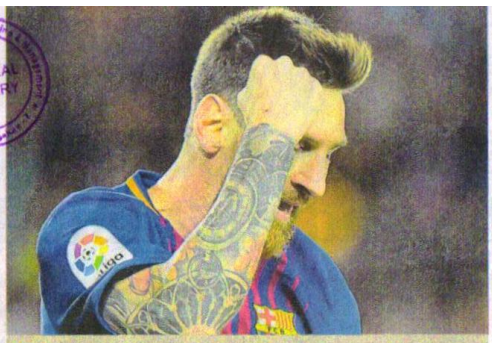

Heavyweights face tough task Page 16

Faculty development programme held

MANGALURU: Department of Business Administration of Sahyadri College of Engineering and Management, Mangaluru, organised a one-day faculty development programme (FDP) on 'The Making of a Teacher and the Art of Teaching' for faculty members of various undergraduate colleges in and around Mangaluru. A total of 53 teachers participated in the programme.

The FDP and Sahyadri Journal of Management (SJOM) with an ISSN 2456-9151, was inaugurated by Dr Yatheesh Kumar, associate professor, University College, Mangaluru. In his inaugural address, Dr Yatheesh urged the teachers to groom students who come with an idea which can take them to greater heights. He said the focus should be on creativity, original thinking, innovation and research which he felt was missing in the current education system.

He urged the participants to utilize the essence of the FDP and transform the current situation to an effective education system.

Dr Umesh M Bhushi, principal, said that Indian kids possess creative thinking till the age of five which dies off by the age of 15. Hence, it is the teacher who needs to introspect and work out measures to overcome this challenge during the ten years of their education.

Dr Vishal Samartha, director, department of Business Administration, in her talk, highlighted the purpose of the day-long event and gave a brief glimpse of the department. She also shared her real life example of how she evolved as an effective teacher.

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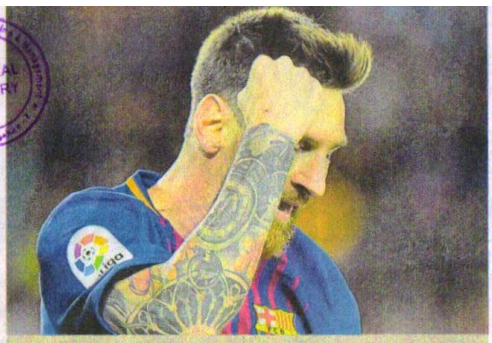

Heavyweights face tough task Page 16

No immediate threat to BE colleges, polytechnics with poor intake

AICTE wants to close down courses, institutions having less than 30% intake

Jagadish Angadi

BENGALURU: There is a temporary respite for engineering colleges and polytechnics from being shut down over poor enrollment and low standards.

The All India Council for Technical Education's (AICTE) decision to close down colleges or courses for these reasons may not be implemented in the academic year 2017-18.

Anil Sahasrabudhe, the chairman of the AICTE, had stated recently that around 800 colleges having less than 30% enrollment for five consecutive years would be shut down.

But H U Talawar, Director, Technical Education, stated that a formal decision was yet to be taken. The department hasn't received any communication about the matter. The process of identifying the colleges and courses will start only after a formal communication comes, he added.

Talawar said it was difficult to close down colleges or wind up certain programmes because the intake was linked to the demand. "The demand for various courses fluctuates. The demand for Information Science, Computer Science and Electronics and Communication Engineering, which were popular until five years ago, has come down this year. Civil Engineering has suddenly become popular," he told DH. "The fluctuating demand for these programmes affects enrollment."

Only less popular programmes would be closed, not the colleges. In the rare case of a college being closed down for poor enrollment in all of its courses, the department will utilise its infrastructure for academic purposes, he added.

Talawar, however, does not foresee any programme being closed down. "The Central government has announced Digital India and Make In India initiatives which require a large number of skilled engineers. In the wake of these initiatives, all engineering programmes will remain in vogue," he said.

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3 colleges wind up every year

On average, 2-3 colleges are shut down every year. Six engineering colleges were closed in 2014 and two each in 2015 and 2016. Nandi Institute of Technology and Management Sciences, Bengaluru, and Prasanna College of Engineering and Technology, Belthangady, Dakshina Kannada, have obtained permission from the Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) to close down.

"We conduct counselling at VTU's regional office in Bengaluru to re-allot the students to the nearest colleges. In fact, students got better colleges after counselling," K Gayathri Reddy, Regional Director, VTU, told *DH*.

AICTE to hear colleges out

- Closure of colleges or courses to improve students' employability.
- Colleges want merger or buyout by other trusts.
- AICTE to hear colleges out before taking a final decision.
- Colleges with low standards and offering low pay face closure.
- Karnataka has 227 engineering colleges and 296 polytechnics.