

IN BRIEF



Rayaraddi coming

MANGALURU

Minister for Higher Education Basavaraj Rayaraddi will distribute free laptops to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes college and polytechnic students at a function at the Government First Grade College, Car Street, here on January 6 at 12.30 p.m. He will visit Sahyadri College of Engineering and Management at Adyar in the evening. He will return to Bengaluru on January 7 at 11.50 a.m.



Vidarbha wins first Ranji Trophy

Sports P16



Employers asked not to demand AICTE certificate

Ministry examining scope of apex court's decision

Prakash Kumar

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Centre has asked the employers not to demand All India Council for Technical Education's (AICTE) certificate from the candidates with regard to the validity of their degrees.

The AICTE, which is flooded with representations from

both the employers and faculties seeking clarifications on various issues including norms about pay scale, service conditions, eligibility criteria, relevant/appropriate qualifications etc, has also refused to entertain their 'queries and grievances.'

"Since the representations on these issues are large in

number and varied in nature, no individual representation on such issues can be entertained," the Council said in a latest notification.

Each individual case is different and can be dealt with by the respective state governments or university, "as the case may be," the Council said.

"The Council has already issued notifications, clarifications and guidelines on these issues. All concerned are therefore advised to refer to these notices," the member

secretary AP Mittal said issuing a notification. A recent Supreme Court verdict on the technical education through correspondence course has prompted both employers and students to seek clarification from the Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD), University Grants Commission (UGC) and the AICTE on the validity of degrees obtained during 2001-05 and beyond this period.

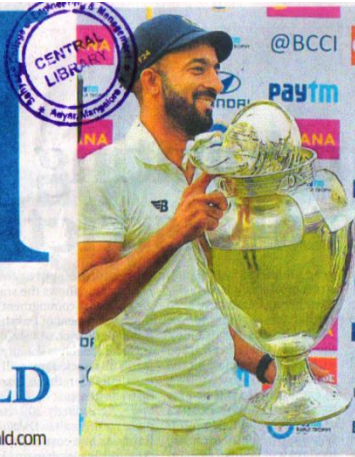
A revised regulations for approval of technical pro-

grammes and institutes, recently issued by the AICTE, has also prompted the faculties to seek clarification from the technical education regulator.

According to sources, the officials in HRD Ministry is examining the apex court's judgement to understand if it is applicable only to the four deemed-to-be-universities — JRN Rajasthan Vidyaapeeth, Udaipur, Rajasthan; Institute of Advanced Studies in Education, Sardarshahr, Rajasthan;

Vinayaka Mission's Research Foundation and Allahabad Agricultural Institute, Uttar Pradesh — against whom a bunch of petitions were filed for granting degrees in technical programmes through distance education without AICTE's prior approval or it will apply to other institutions too.

"In wake of the apex court verdict, a new regulations is being formulated jointly by the UGC and the AICTE for distance education," an official told DH.



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Aadhaar-linked attendance for faculty

Prakash Kumar

NEW DELHI: The Centre has suggested all technical institutes to install Aadhaar-linked biometric devices for recording attendance of their "regular" faculty members online.

The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), however, has left it to institutes to avoid a direct conflict with the teaching community. "The technical institutions may introduce online Aadhaar-linked biometric attendance for

Project Manipur

- HRD ministry successful tested biometric attendance registration in Manipur
- Android-based mobile tablet along with biometric finger scanner was distributed to teachers and staff at government schools in five districts
- Device was built to record attendance of students as well as monitoring use of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan funds

regular faculty members," the council stated in its latest notification.

Earlier, the council made it compulsory for all technical institutes to introduce an online Aadhaar-linked

biometric attendance recording system.

The technical institutions "shall" introduce online Aadhaar-linked biometric attendance for regular faculty members, Clause

5.7 of the AICTE's Approval Process Handbook 2018-19 stipulated.

A source told DH: "This clause has been amended to leave it to the institutions to decide... We do not want to interfere with their autonomy."

The Economic Survey 2016-17 had suggested the introduction of biometric attendance system in "all primary schools," identifying "teacher absenteeism" as one of the main causes of the fall in learning outcome. **DH New Service**