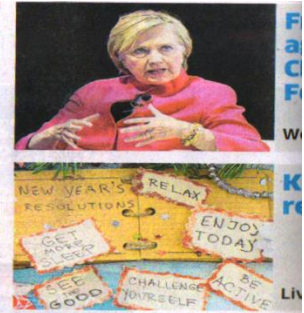




Bowlers call the shots on Day 1

Sports 18



Aadhaar linking exposes scam in higher education

80k faculty work for many institutions

Prakash Kumar

NEW DELHI: The Ministry of Human Resource Development's move to link Aadhaar data of faculty in higher educational institutions with a central database has exposed a scam.

About 80,000 teachers have been found to be on the payroll of more than one higher educational institution as their regular faculty members in a gross violation of the University Grants Commission's (UGC) regulations.

While it remains a matter of investigation as to how many teachers primarily employed with government institutions are working with other institutions too, discrepancies in the appointment of regular faculties have been found in private universities and colleges only.

Officials in the Ministry of Human Resource Development say that such private universities and colleges are operating in various states, including Karnataka, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.

Over 90% of such private institutions are those offering various technical programmes, officials told DH.

They, however, refused to share the names of these institutions saying it will "jeopardise" the investigation.

The ministry is conducting "a thorough probe" into the irregularities on an instruction

All for money

- HRD ministry began seeding of Aadhaar of faculty at higher educational institutions in 2017
- **12.5 L** of the **15L** teachers gave their details
- About **80,000** were found to be on the list of regular faculty of more than one institution
- Discrepancies were found only in private institutions
- Over **90%** of the institutions offer various technical programmes

UGC rules

- In no case, a regular faculty member of an institution can work as a regular faculty member of some other institution at the same time.
- A regular faculty member of an institute can be a visiting faculty in other institutes



from HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar. "On the basis of the probe, befitting action will be taken against such irregularity," Javadekar said.

The minister said 12.5 lakh of the 15 lakh teachers have submitted their Aadhaar details for seeding into the central database.

As per the rules, neither can an institution appoint a teacher as its regular faculty member when he/she is already working as a regular faculty elsewhere nor can such a teacher join another institute.

In case a regular faculty member has an offer of "a

term-post" at some other institution, such a teacher will have to take permission from his parent institution.

Such a faculty member will have to resign from his parent institution if he/she wants to accept the offer to continue with his job there beyond the term he was earlier appointed for, a Delhi University professor said.

A few years ago, a CBI probe exposed how some medical colleges maintained ghost faculty members to retain their approval and obtain permission for increasing their intake.

DH News Service