



THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS



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A THOUSAND UNTOLD STORIES
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FRIENDS OF THE FELINE
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COVER STORY

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VTU 4th sem paper leaked, students to write exam again

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

THE authorities of Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU), Belagavi have been stumped again as the question paper for the fourth semester civil engineering exam held on Friday had been leaked on Thursday.

The incident came to light on Saturday, a day after the examination was held across the state. After verifying the question paper circulated on social media, the authorities announced cancellation of the exam conducted for the Structures determinate paper on Friday. The dates for re-examination will be announced soon.

According to information available from VTU, information about the paper leak was received by authorities late on Friday night. When the authorities concerned compared the leaked question paper with the one given to students, the content of both were same.

However, during verification, university officials realised that the paper was leaked by one of the senior professors of a private engineering college located in Belagavi region. He had prepared the question paper. "When we verified, we got to know that a paper set by one of the professors from a private college affiliated to us had circulated the paper. Following this, we have decided to conduct re-examination for that paper," said Prof H N Jagannath Reddy, registrar of VTU.

Meanwhile, the university has asked the college concerned to suspend the professor till further communication. "We are also verifying the involvement of people from the university because it is impossible for the person who prepared the question paper to know that his paper was selected," said the registrar.

VTU'S PAPER SETTING PROCESS

The paper setting process in VTU is a little different. As the paper needs to be set for various subjects, VTU selects 10 experienced professors from different engineering colleges across the state and assigns them the task. All of them prepare the question paper from the place they are working and send it to the university by post. Of the 10 question papers, VTU chooses one without revealing whose paper was selected. According to sources, in this case, the leak would only be possible if the university staff is involved.

Flashback

A week back, the 2015 scheme paper of Mathematics II (repeaters paper) was allegedly leaked and circulated on WhatsApp. Even in this case, the incident came to light only a day after the exam was held. But, after verifying, the university said it was fake and also conducted an inquiry. A case has been filed with the cyber police.





On Bill Clinton's bookshelf Sunday Herald

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Paper leak: VTU chemistry re-test

The VTU will hold a re-examination of its Chemistry paper after a paper leak was confirmed, *DHNS* reports from Bengaluru. However, VTU is yet to announce fresh dates for the re-exam.
Details on Page 4

VTU to conduct re-exam for chemistry after paper leak

University yet to announce fresh dates for the re-exam

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) will hold re-examination for chemistry after a paper leak was confirmed.

Officials in the university said that the fourth semester chemistry paper, the examination for which was held on Friday, leaked a day before the examination. However, the VTU is yet to announce fresh dates for the re-exam. Students appeared for the

exam between 2 pm and 5 pm on Friday. It was only at 7 pm that the university officials got confirmation that the paper was leaked. "Students told us that the leaked question paper was circulated on social media and WhatsApp groups. Some of them had received the paper on Thursday itself," said Prof H N Jagannath Reddy, Registrar, VTU. According to top officials, VTU suspects that someone who was part of drafting the question paper could have possibly leaked the paper and



hence, a police complaint has been lodged. "The paper that was circulated among students

was allegedly a manuscript of the actual question paper that was given to the students. The handwritten paper also had the same set of questions identical to the one that had been sent to the varsity as a draft copy," said one of the officials at the evaluation wing of the university. However, the paper that was circulated had differed from the original, in that the questions were not in order. "This is not as same as the one at the university. Uni-

versity manuscripts are not on plain paper but follow a different format. While the original begins with a declaration, the leaked one had only questions," said yet another official. A week ago, there were allegations that the mathematics paper for repeater students was leaked on WhatsApp. However, after examining the messages that were circulated to students, the VTU vice chancellor had dismissed the rumours and had said re-exam would not be conducted.



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AICTE plans to do away with year-out system in Kerala engg colleges

KRISHNACHAND K @TPuram

IN what could be a breather for engineering students in Kerala, the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) is planning to reform the engineering education discarding the controversial 'year-out' system in all engineering colleges from the academic year starting 2019.

Top AICTE sources said the plan was to make a uniform pattern of education system in all the universities in the country. However, state-owned Kerala

Technological University (KTU) has apprehensions about the proposal and the university plans to proceed with the system.

Many universities in other states, including neighbouring Tamil Nadu, have already scrapped the system to attract students from Kerala. The system led to a drastic drop in the academic performance of students as they failed to achieve the minimum credits.

According to sources, the AICTE wants engineering colleges in the state to upgrade the insti-

tutions in line with the system used in IITs and NITs.

"Primarily, many states have withdrawn the year-out system, as it could create a huge disparity in engineering education among states. So we are planning to unify withdrawal of the year-out system in national level. If things go well, it will be implemented from next year," said a top officer of AICTE on condition of anonymity.

An exam reforms committee by the AICTE submitted its draft report in March. Over 3,500 institutes are approved by the AICTE.

The 'year back and credit system' system results in students losing one year if they fail to obtain the prescribed number of credits. Last year, KTU relaxed norms of year-out system following protests from students. As per new norms, the credit system was relaxed from three to two levels. The minimum credits will be in-

sisted only in Semester 5 and 7. Earlier, it was insisted for Semester 4, 6 and 8. Students with 26 credits in Semester 1 and 2 can join semester 5. For that, they need to pass at least 6 papers.

To join semester 7, students should have a minimum of 52 credits, which can be achieved by clearing 12 papers. Initially, a stu-

dent needed a minimum of 35 credits out of 47 to enter third semester. The minimum credit for third-semester entry was lowered to 26 following protests.

For admission to the sixth semester, minimum 71 credits out of 94, is required. Examinations under the new norms were completed and the results would be declared by July end.



Primarily, many states have withdrawn the year-out system, as it could create a huge disparity in engineering education among states

A top officer of AICTE





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SEAPLANES CLOSER TO BEING INDIA'S NEXT BIG THING

Water aerodromes are likely to be a reality soon, with aviation regulator DGCA issuing licensing norms for setting up such facilities

WHAT ARE WATER AERODROMES?

A water aerodrome is a defined area on water where seaplanes — also known as amphibian aircraft — can land and take off. An aerodrome cannot be used for scheduled air transport services, among others, unless there is a license, as per aviation rules. Last year, SpiceJet unveiled plans to buy over 100 amphibian planes

INITIAL CLEARANCE ONLY FOR 6 MONTHS

- During the first six months, a provisional license will be issued and water aerodrome operations will be monitored
- A regular license will be accorded after the monitoring period and completion of corrective action, the DGCA said
- Licence to be applied 90 days before intended operations start

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VTU gets I-T exemption from paying dues, interest

RASHMI BELUR @ Bengaluru

IN a major relief to Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU), Belagavi — which has been facing a financial crisis — the Income Tax department has exempted the university from paying dues and interest amounting to ₹127 crore. The I-T Department also plans to release the ₹441-crore corpus fund in phases, which it had seized during a raid six years ago.

The department had earlier issued a notice to the university to pay the interest on income tax

dues (₹127 crore). Even the Supreme Court had passed an order in favour of the I-T Department, which was challenged by VTU at the I-T Tribunal. Highly placed sources in the department told *The New Indian Express* that the hearing has now been concluded and the order was in favour of VTU. Sources told *The New Indian Express* that this order will be applied retrospectively.

As per the information available with *TNE*, the university has got exemption from paying I-T under Sec 12 (A) of the I-T

Act, which reads, “An educational institution is entitled to exemption of its income if it is registered as a charitable trust or institution under Section 12-AA (originally section 12-A) of the Income Tax Act, 1961.”

When the department seized the university's accounts earlier, it is said that the amount which VTU was getting as interest on the corpus fund was liable for taxation. The notice by I-T department had then stated, “The assessee university is self-sufficient and generating surplus funds from the financial

year 1998-99 itself by collecting different kinds of fees...The VTU is thus depositing huge deposits in the bank accounts for earning profit on account of interest on these, instead of spending for the objects of the university.

Thus, the VTU failed to prove that it is a non-profit organisation set for the sole purpose of education. It was also noticed that the assessee university is neither approved under Section 10 (23c) nor registered under Section 12AA of IT Act 1961.”

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Sr prof leaks question paper, VTU orders re-examination

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Visvesvaraya Technological University on Sunday announced re-examination for a fourth-semester civil engineering subject after the question paper was partially leaked two days before the June 22 examination.

PLAINT FILED

“Our inquiry said a senior professor part of the team that set the question paper is involved in the leak. A complaint has been filed with police

HN Jagannath Reddy |
VTU REGISTRAR

A senior professor involved in preparing the question paper for the subject, Structures, has been accused of leaking a question on WhatsApp. VTU registrar HN Jagannath Reddy said the date for the re-exam will be announced soon.

“The Structures exam was held in the afternoon of June 22. In the evening, it came to our notice that the picture of a part of the question paper scribbled on a white sheet had been circulated on WhatsApp before the exam,” he said.

The professor from a private college in Bellary was suspended on Saturday. A mobile phone has been seized from him, Reddy said.