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High Court stays proceedings against 14 teachers of VTU, Mysuru

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THE Karnataka High Court has stayed the proceedings, including the show-cause notices, against 14 teachers of the Post-graduate Centre of the Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU), Mysuru, subsequent to the appointment of an one-man commission to look into alleged irregularities in appointment of teachers during 2013-14.

Justice L Narayanaswamy stayed all further proceedings and issued notice to the commission headed by retired district judge Ajit N Solapurkar and the VTU.

This came after the court heard a petition filed by S N Thimma Raju, professor of Department of Computer Application, and 13 other teachers serving in various departments of the university in Mysuru.

The petitioners have challenged the resolution dated March 19, 2018, passed by the executive council of the VTU to allow the university to appoint a one-man commission, and take action against those appointed by ignoring the requisite qualification.

According to the petition, the show-cause notices were issued to the petitioners to appear before the commission on September 24 in con-

nection with the alleged irregularities in appointments. The petitioners contended that they have already submitted their response on the issue and clarified that there were no allegations against them.

They further contended that the commission of inquiry was appointed for the third time. It was appointed despite knowing that there is no provision in law to appoint multiple commissions of enquiry.

Earlier, the government had formed a fact-finding committee, headed by Justice K N Kesha- vanarayana, to look into the appointment of 168 teaching staffers, the petitioners claimed.

Cops wait to take ex-VTU VC into custody

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BELAGAVI Crime Branch police are waiting for former Vice Chancellor of Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) Belagavi Prof H Maheshappa to reply to a notice and take him into custody.

In a fresh case filed by VTU a month ago before the Belagavi Crime Branch police about misappropriation

of funds and misuse of power by the then VC, registrar, special officer and resident engineer, the police have filed an FIR and issued notices to all four of them.

As the then special officer Yogananda is named as number one in the FIR, the police have arrested him on Thursday after getting the tip that he was at the university campus in Belagavi.

However, the investigation officers are waiting for the other three, including H Maheshappa, to respond to the notice issued to them. Talking about it, a senior police officer said, "If they don't reply to the notice on time, we will send our people to arrest them."

What is the case?

There are more than three cases filed by VTU against

the former VC H Maheshappa at various police stations in Belagavi division for cheating and misappropriation of funds and power.

However, in a fresh case was filed a month ago, an FIR has been lodged and notices were issued. This FIR was lodged in Connecticut for the misuse of ₹15 crore in setting up of laboratory facilities at Belagavi and Gulbarga campus.



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Low response from rural engg students to centralised placements

2017-18

113
Total drives

1,819
Students placed

2016-17

52
Total drives

1,120
Students placed

RASHMI BELUR @Bengaluru

ENGINEERING students from colleges located in rural parts of the state are responding poorly to centralised placements organised by the Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) Belagavi. This is despite the 165 centralised placement drives, that have been conducted by the university in the last two years that managed to place around 3,500 students at various companies.

The students from rural colleges are not turning up for the drives. In all the 165 drives, no student from rural engineering colleges took part in even 120 drives.

Officials who are taking care of the centralised placement drive at the university said that, despite the drives being organised keeping rural colleges students in mind, they are not taking part. "As the companies aren't showing interest in organising placement camps at rural colleges, we are organising centralised drives through the university, but even for that, rural college students aren't turning up," said an official of VTU.

Students are not confident about clearing some levels of tests conducted by the companies during placements
VTU official

According to VTU officials and placement officers at private engineering colleges in the city, one of the main reasons for rural college students not showing interest is lack of communication skill. "This is what we got to know by interacting with students. They are not confident about clearing some levels of tests conducted by the companies during the placements. It is mainly due to lack of communication skill," mentioned officials.

Considering this, the university has made it mandatory to study English as one of the subjects at engineering courses from the current academic year.