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# CU, JU, 12 other varsities function without VCs

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KOLKATA: Wednesday was Jadavpur University vice-chancellor Suranjan Das's last working day. Calcutta University has already been running without a VC for the past month, Presidency VC Anuradha Lohia's interim appointment will end in mid-June and even the RBU VC's tenure is set to end in June.

Other than at JU, the tenures of interim VCs at Cooch Behar Panchanan Barma University, Gour Banga University, Kanyashree University, Bankura University and Baba Saheb Ambedkar Education University also ended on Wednesday. The appointments of interim VCs at Barasat, Purulia, Kazi Nazrul, Burdwan, Sanskrit and Sidho-Kanho-Birsha universities had ended last Friday. Like CU, Dakshin Dinajpur University has also

been functioning without a VC for over a month. The campuses fear the possibility of an administrative deadlock in the absence of a head.

JUTA general secretary Partha Pratim Ray said, "With the four-year UG course set to start, it will be difficult to make policy decisions and other work without a VC." CUTA executive member Parthib Basu termed the situation "unprecedented". "With no VC, there is no one to approve research projects or academic leaves."

Sources said senior professors, pro-VCs and interim VCs at several state universities were called to Raj Bhavan on Wednesday and asked for consent to become officiating VCs. Several VCs appointed ad-hoc had tendered resignations in February-March to governor and chancellor C V Ananda Bose. Bose gave them three-month extension before new VCs were appointed. Recently, Raj Bhavan asked for names of senior professors deemed fit

for the top post. But, the state promulgated an ordinance, reconstituting the search-cum-selection committee for appointment of VCs in compliance with UGC regulations, 2018.

Das's 15-year stint of being a VC-at CU and at JU-was one of the longest in Bengal academics. "I have always held my head high while performing my VC's duties and there has been no curb of freedom of action," said Das. He stressed police should not enter universities to control any situation and that any problem could be solved through discussions .