

Printed from

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Uncertainty lingers even after CU syndicate approves exam rules

Dec 13, 2023, 08.20 AM IST

Kolkata: Despite the state's objection, Calcutta University on Tuesday pushed through its syndicate meeting to approve the examination regulations for the four-year undergraduate degree courses, issuing degree certificates to students who passed UG and post-graduate courses in 2022.

Nearly 2.5 lakh students in 169 CU-affiliated colleges are set to appear for the first-semester examination next month. But without a state nod, the examination still remains uncertain. CU, however, claims that its decision to roll out the examination schedule cannot be struck down by the state. Examination schedules ratified by the CU syndicate is required for colleges to frame their examination syllabus and dates.

While CU chose a path of confrontation, Jadavpur University's interim VC Buddhadeb Sau had met the state education minister Bratya Basu on this issue last week. Basu had indicated they are taking legal opinion in JU's case.

At CU, however, the turn of events culminating into a three-hour syndicate meeting started on Sunday with a notice saying that the CU syndicate meeting would be held on Tuesday from 3.30 pm. The state on Monday objected to it citing rule 3(5) of the West Bengal State Universities Rules, 2019 saying the syndicate meeting is illegal. On Tuesday, both the state's nominee and the chancellor's nominee in the syndicate remained absent in the meeting.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting ratified the examination schedule, officiating vice chancellor Shanta Datta said, "As per CU's acts and statutes, a VC can conduct a syndicate meeting. The state higher education department had told us that an interim VC can hold the meeting with their permission. We sent six letters to the state higher education department seeking permission. When we did not get one, we sent a copy of this letter to the chancellor (governor) seeking the road ahead. Based on legal advice, we have been told that any decision taken based on existing statutes cannot be overturned (by the state). Also, as teachers, nothing is more important than student's interests."

A day before the meeting, state education minister Bratya Basu on Monday clearly said that since the appointment of officiating VCs is being heard in the Supreme Court, an interim VC cannot hold a syndicate meeting.

A senior state official said, "An interim VC cannot do this (hold a syndicate meeting) when the case is sub-judice in the apex court. The state rules on this clearly said the interim VCs can only perform routine functions but shall not hold any meeting of the syndicate."