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THE TIMES OF INDIA

End VC impasse for JU's sake: Sau to govt, guv

Jan 10, 2024, 08:21 AM IST

Kolkata: Jadavpur University officiating VC Buddhadeb Sau on Tuesday requested the governor, who is also the chancellor of state-run universities, and the state, to solve the “impasse” over his appointment so that normalcy in JU’s academic and administrative ambience is restored.

“My humble request to both chancellor sir and state government is that please come forward together and solve this impasse to bring about normalcy in academic and administrative ambience of our beloved JU,” said the press release issued by Sau.

He also made it clear that he will abstain from exercising the powers of VC and will wait for the Supreme Court’s verdict or the consensus of the chancellor and the state government as there is an legal and administrative confusion, caused by a series of communications, especially from the chancellor’s office and related communications from the state government, regarding the functioning of the interim VC. “Amid such confusion, I am not signing files as it would lead to legal complications. I do not want others to face trouble in future because of my signature on documents,” Sau added. According to him, it was because of the state’s letter on December 23, it was possible to hold the convocation on December 24.

Raj Bhavan on December 23 terminated Sau’s tenure as JU’s officiating VC, though the higher education department said Sau “may continue to exercise and perform the duties...” On Thursday, a letter was issued by the governor to JU stating that Sau was “no more the authorized VC” and asked pro-VC Amitava Datta and registrar Snehamanju Basu to ensure that Sau did not exercise any unauthorized authority in the administration of the university. A day after the governor’s letter, the state iterated its earlier stand.

State nominee to JU's executive council and English HoD Manojit Mandal said, "State had cleared the air that Sau can continue as the authorized VC. If he doesn't come, that is his problem. But the whole fiasco was created by the chancellor."

Teachers and officials said the university was the worst sufferer.

President of Jadavpur University Officers' Association Rajat Ray said, "We want a smooth functioning of the university."

JU has convened a meeting on Wednesday to discuss payment of wages and appointment of guest faculty and guest non-teaching staff.

JUTA general secretary Partha Pratim Ray said, "We will write to the chancellor and state seeking appointment. We will also stage a protest next Tuesday." Convenor of ABUTA, JU local chapter, Debabrata Bera, said the chancellor should take responsibility and the state should also take appropriate steps.