

Five varsities in State headless

Vacancies of Vice Chancellors in the universities will be filled soon, says Rajan Gurukkal

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Five of the 12 universities in the State and one deemed university have been headless for a while now. The latest on the list is Kerala Agricultural University (KAU), with the retirement of Vice Chancellor P. Rajendran last month.

Vice Chancellor's posts have been vacant at Kannur University, Sree Sankaracharya Sanskrit University, Kerala Veterinary and Animal Science University (KVASU), and Thunchath Ezhuthachan Malayalam University apart from the agricultural varsity. Kerala Kalamandalam, a deemed

university, too does not have a full-time VC.

There has been no VC at the Kannur varsity ever since Khadar Mangad retired in April. The VC selection process has been embroiled in controversy after reports that the Syndicate proposed CPI(M) leader M. Prakasan's name on the search panel, apparently violating the UGC provisions that stipulate that only those with academic credentials should be included on the panel.

A similar case

After Governor P. Sathasivam rejected the proposal, academic Rajan Gurukkal, who took over as Kerala State

■ No VCs for Kannur University, Sanskrit university, KVASU, Malayalam varsity, KAU

■ Kerala Kalamandalam deemed university too has no VC

Higher Education Council (KSHEC) vice chairman, was proposed for the Kannur VC post. Mahatma Gandhi University Vice Chancellor Babu Sebastian is holding the additional charge of VC now. Almost similar was the situation at the Sanskrit varsity, as Mr. Sathasivam rejected the proposal to include T.V. Rajesh, CPI(M) MLA, on the

search panel. M.C. Dileep Kumar, the last Vice Chancellor, retired in June. The KVASU has been without a VC for about a year ever since B. Ashok demitted office. Selection process was delayed due to a court case.

After K. Jayakumar, the founding Vice Chancellor, demitted office last month, Usha Titus, Secretary, Education Department, is holding the additional charge as acting VC of the Malayalam varsity. Tikaram Meena, IAS, has been the VC-in-charge at the agriculture university since November 1. Rani George, IAS, is holding the charge at Kalamandalam. Meanwhile, Mr. Gurukkal

told *The Hindu* on Monday that the selection process was under way. "We have unanimously recommended an eminent academic for the post of Kannur varsity VC. The Governor's office is expected to announce the name soon," he said. As the Malayalam university is yet to get a proper institutional structure, it would be handled by a civil servant for some more time. "As Kalamandalam is a unique institution, its head should also be a distinguished person. The search is on for eminent people to head the Sanskrit varsity, veterinary varsity, and agricultural varsity too," he added.