

# **The Hindu**

## **Recruitment to varsities to be centralised**

The Higher Education Department has stepped in to bring about more transparency in the appointment of teaching and non-teaching staff to State-run universities.

In the past, recruitments had been dogged by controversies, but the department will now set up a universities appointment commission as a safeguard.

Once established, all State-run universities will have to ensure that both teaching and non-teaching staff members are appointed through this commission.

### **Staff crunch**

Currently, a majority of the universities are grappling with staff shortage and in some of them over 50 per cent of teaching and non-teaching posts are vacant. To tackle this, many have appointed non-teaching employees and guest teachers on contract.

Higher Education Minister Basavaraj Rayaraddi said the commission would be modelled on the lines of the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC). University officials will have to collate the list of vacancies and give it to the commission prior to the commencement of the academic year. "Based on priority, these posts will be filled, and since this will be centralised there will be little scope for corruption," the Minister said.

Sources in the department said the proposal was mooted as there were allegations of corruption against heads of several universities in the appointment of faculty members.

The move, however, has not gone down well with the heads of universities as they feel that it will dilute the autonomy of a university. "What is the difference between government colleges and universities if they go ahead with this move?" said a university official on the condition of anonymity. While admitting that there was a need for clear guidelines for the recruitment process, he said: "A centralised process will be detrimental to the independence and functioning of universities."