

Major scam suspected in varsity recruitments

Marks Of 9 Candidates For Non-Teaching Posts Changed

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Pune: The University of Pune (UoP) could be staring at a major recruitment scam, following the detection of out-of-turn changes in the marks scored by nine candidates, who were in contention for class III and IV general non-teaching posts. Two of these beneficiary candidates belong to the families of existing varsity employees and the remaining hail from Sangamner in Ahmednagar district.

The chance detection of these irregularities has put a big question mark over the entire recruitment process for the teaching and non-teaching posts, which has been on for more than six months now. Vice-chancellor Narendra Jadhav told a hurriedly convened press conference on Wednesday evening that all these recruitments and appointment processes would now be scrutinised afresh.

The university has initiated legal proceedings against an employee (a probationer) from the administration department, who made an oral confession before Jadhav and the university registrar, to the effect that he had made alterations in the marks of nine candidates for the non-teaching posts. "Today, we issued a show cause notice to the employee, returnable in three days," Jadhav said. The UoP would take a call on lodging a formal police complaint after the suspect gives his reply, he added.

High drama prevailed on the varsity campus on Wednesday evening when



Administration Department Employee Faces Legal Action

members of different employees organisations gheraoed the employee of the administration department, blackened his face and poured ink over him. This happened while the meeting of the varsity's management council was in progress. The university's security staff had to summon the police to see that the situation did not take an ugly turn.

After more than 10 years of a prolonged lull in the recruitments owing to a state ban, which was lifted nearly six months ago, the UoP started the process for filling over 200 teaching vacancies against government sanctioned posts and another 400 non-teaching posts, which were to be filled through the university funds. An elaborate exam, interview and selection has since been on.

The immediate case relates to the recruitment exam for 41 class III and IV

non-teaching posts, which was conducted on February 21 by the UoP's SET department. Over 1,800 candidates appeared in the exam and those who scored above 45 marks were shortlisted for further process of interviews or direct appointments, depending upon the nature of the job the candidate was being considered for.

The marks scored by all the candidates were posted on the university's website and it was at this stage that the changes were prima facie effected by the suspect employee, who was the sole data entry person with proficiency in Fox Pro software work. The changes effected were huge, for instance, in one case a candidate who scored 38 marks was shown to have scored 112 marks on the website.

SET department officials first noticed the discrepancy in the marks and reported to the UoP administration, following which a fact-finding panel was assigned. The panel submitted its report on Tuesday evening, confirming the changes in at least nine cases. The suspect employee was then summoned for questioning by the UoP higher-ups, Jadhav said.

"What he (the suspect) has done is unpardonable and criminal," the V-C said, adding, "We are undertaking a thorough scrutiny to find out whether the suspect was involved in any financial dealing, whether he was backed by any higher authority in the university etc. No one will be spared, if found to be involved in this case."

RECRUITMENT SCAM

University suspends assistant registrar and section officer

REPORTER

reporters@sakaaltimes.com

Pune: The University of Pune (UoP) on Thursday suspended assistant registrar M S Gaikwad and section officer R H Attar for their alleged involvement in recruitment scam.

The scam came to light after UoP received complaints of forging of marks in written tests for recruitment of non-teaching staff. Marks of nine candidates were forged to make them eligible for the posts. Vice chancellor Narendra Jadhav assured of 'strongest action in shortest possible time.'

The suspected section officer replied to the show cause notice on Thursday after which UoP suspended M S Gaikwad and R H Attar.

Vice chancellor Narendra Jadhav while speaking to *Sakaal Times* corroborated that Attar, in his written reply, has confessed that he changed marks of some candidates at behest of Gaikwad. Hence, the latter was also suspended.

Jadhav said, "UoP will serve

RUMOURS FLOAT

■ UoP was abuzz on Thursday with rumours and whispers of scam and involvement of a few more top officials of UoP. Nationalist Vidhyarthi Congress staged protests at V-C office as well as administration section

chargesheets to both by next Tuesday. Suspended officials will have to reply to it within 15 days after legal process will follow."

When asked if any other official is involved in the scam, Jadhav said, "UoP will form a committee headed by an academician, who is not directly associated with the varsity. It will probe all recruitments done in the entire year. Involvement of other officials, if any, will come to light after the enquiry." Attar has denied involvement of money in the scam, he said.

27/2/09

चितन इमेज मेकर्स