

# V-CS MUST HAVE SERVED 10 YEARS AS PROFESSOR, BE PICKED FROM PANEL

Relevant for: Developmental Issues | Topic: Education and related issues

A Vice-Chancellor should have a minimum teaching experience of 10 years as a professor in a university and his or her name should be recommended by the search-cum-selection committee. The appointment of a Vice-Chancellor (V-C) is to be made from the names recommended by the search-cum-selection committee, the Supreme Court held in a judgment on Thursday.

A Bench of Justices M.R. Shah and M.M. Sundresh referred to Section 10(3) of the University Act, 2019, which provided that the committee should prepare a list of three persons for appointment as V-C based on their qualification and eligibility.

The judgment dealt with a challenge by Professor Narendra Singh Bhandari, whose appointment as V-C of Soban Singh Jeena University was set aside by the Uttarakhand High Court last year.

The contention against Mr. Bhandari's appointment was that he did not have the requisite 10-year teaching experience as professor.

He had only eight-and-a-half years' experience until he was appointed a member of the Uttarakhand Public Service Commission in 2017.

## Long leave

However, he made the case that while serving in the commission he was on long leave and his lien continued on the post of professor. He was appointed V-C in 2020.

"Merely because his lien was continued on the post of a professor, it cannot be said that he continued to teach and/or he was having the teaching experience during the period of lien," Justice Shah, who wrote the judgment, held.

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