

Punjab vice-chancellor refuses to appear before probe panel

The vice-chancellor of the Guru Nanak Dev University in Amritsar, Jairup Singh, Friday refused to cooperate in a state-level probe set up against him by the Punjab government for financial, recruitment and other irregularities.

Singh continued to work in his office on the university campus even as he was asked by the government to appear before the principal secretary (home), B.C. Gupta, Friday for the probe.

The vice-chancellor made it clear that he would not join the probe as he was only answerable to the university chancellor and Punjab Governor S.F. Rodrigues. He met the governor earlier this week in this connection.

The Guru Nanak Dev University Teachers' Association and members of its government body have openly supported Singh, saying that the Akali Dal government was unnecessarily trying to interfere in the functioning of the university.

They said as vice-chancellor, Singh held the rank of minister of state and a junior official of the state government could not conduct a probe against him.

Singh, who was appointed to the post by the previous Congress government, has been at loggerheads with ruling Akali Dal leaders.

Akali Dal legislator Virsa Singh Valtoha complained against Singh and recently even raised the matter in the state assembly, following which the government marked a probe against him.

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