

VTU paper leak an outsider job: V-C

VTU claims papers were leaked to tarnish the image of the university

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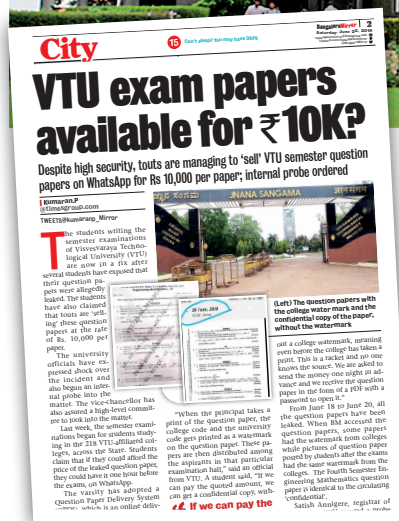
Several students from Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) had alleged that their recent semester question papers were leaked, by 'touts' allegedly selling the question paper for Rs 10,000 per paper. The University has now completed the first round of inquiry and the Vice-Chancellor (V-C) admits that it was leaked, but by 'outsiders' who did it to tarnish the image of the University.

The V-C in June had promised a formation of a high level committee which will inquire into this matter. Three months later, Professor Karisidappa, V-C told BM, "The case is really big and we have finished one round of investigation and we have found that it is the job of an outsider. We will not reveal any names, until the investigation is completed."

Students alleged that it must be the affiliated colleges who would be involved in this process and one section of students even alleged the examination department who would have been involved in this act.

In June, during the semester, if a student could afford to cough up the expensive fee for leaked paper, they would receive the question paper via WhatsApp messages, an hour before the examination.

As the varsity had adopted Question Paper Delivery System (QPDS) which has an online delivery of question paper from the central station in Belgaum, to all the



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engineering colleges in the State. Mainly, once the question paper is set, a digital question paper is sent Principals of the colleges just an hour before the commencement of the examination. The Principal and an external superintendent open the question paper with a password and they take a print out of the question paper.

"While taking the print out, College Code and the University Code gets printed as a watermark

on the question paper which will be distributed to students in the examination hall," said an official from VTU.

A student said, "We were getting the 'Confidential Copy' even before the college takes a print out, an hour before the exams, provided we pay the price. Apparently, the pdfs were sent on WhatsApp, with a password to open it."

Criminal complaint will be lodged, says V-C

"We have completed with the first round of checking, we know certain facts, but we will wait for the entire investigation to finish. Once the investigation is over, we will be filing a criminal complaint. There will be a logical conclusion to this case," added Karisidappa.

However, the V-C did not disclose who are the members involved in this inquiry committee and stated it as a 'confidential' work of the varsity.