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ಇಲಾಖೆ / ವಿಷಯ : DEPARTMENT / SUBJECT: Court Matter

ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಹೆಸರು : NAME OF THE NEWS PAPER: The Hindu

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HC initiates suo motu petition on delay in holding ULB elections

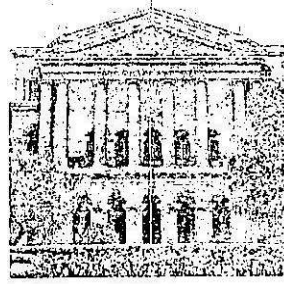
'File plea seeking direction to officials to hold polls as per constitutional mandate'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Taking note of not holding elections to a large number of urban local bodies (ULBs) in the State despite expiry of tenure of the elected body, the Karnataka High Court on Thursday initiated a suo motu PIL petition to ensure that the constitutional mandate is adhered to.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Abhay Shreeniwas Oka and justice S. Vishwajith Shetty passed the order while hearing a petition related to holding of elections to Vijayapura City Corporation (VCC).

FROM THE COURT



It is not only necessary but also duty of the High Court to ensure that mandate of Article 243U of the Constitution, to hold elec-

tions before the expiry of tenure of the elected body, is adhered to, the Bench observed while directing the Registrar-General of the High Court to file a petition seeking direction to the authorities to hold elections as per the constitutional mandate.

The Bench ordered for initiation of suo motu petition after senior advocate K.N. Phanindra, appearing for the State Election Commission (SEC) in the petition related to VCC, pointed out that elections to a few other city corporations like Kalaburagi and some municipal

bodies were also not held.

Earlier, the Bench directed the SEC to declare elections to VCC in five months while directing the State government to notify the delimited wards to enable the SEC to commence the process of preparing electoral roll.

The Bench held that the amendment made to the Karnataka Municipal Corporations Act on October 3, 2020 will not be applicable for the present elections to the VCC as the tenure of the corporation had ended before the new law came into force.