

All-out effort to banish ragging from campuses

Debashis Konar | TNS

Kolkata: Several institutes in the city have geared up to make their campuses ragging-free as engineering courses took off on Wednesday.

The report on ragging by former CBI director R K Raghavan mentioned 19 cases of ragging in the state between 2001 and 2007.

Already, the vice-chancellor of Jadavpur University has alerted his departmental heads on ragging. "He has even asked them to file an FIR against every incident of ragging," said Rajat Bandyopadhyay registrar of JU. "We are even giving freshers mobile numbers of contact persons, whom they can call if ragged."

The registrar said the authorities had recently thwarted an attempt at ragging in one of the hostels. "We are keeping a close watch and have asked officials to step up vigil during odd hours," Bandyopadhyay said.

But a JU student alleged that ragging took place in one of the hostels on July 13 when students were forced to dance with belts around



A poster on the JU campus

their necks and pants down. Yet, no complaint was lodged, he said.

Asbok Ranjan Thakur, V-C of the West Bengal University of Technology, has asked all the engineering colleges to be on guard. "I have asked

all colleges to display anti-ragging posters at every 100 m this time so that senior students can understand the penal measures they have to face. Right now, three students of Malabhum Institute of Technology are in jail for being named in an FIR for ragging," he said.

Heritage Institute of Technology principal B B Poira said they have held a meeting among teachers to curb ragging. He said teachers and officials have been asked to keep tabs on various places in and around the college, with special focus on the canteen.

Naturally, freshers are being targeted outside the campus. An eyewitness said some seniors on Wednesday forced some freshers to beg on the road. The Raghavan Committee report mentioned college hostels, vacant classrooms, toilets, stadiums or gymnasiums as the most probable places of ragging.

Calcutta High Court lawyer Tapas Kumar Bhanja said IPC should be amended to include ragging. Or else, it would be difficult for police to book the offenders.