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Jadavpur University fresher's death: Accused likely to face Pocso charges

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The Kolkata Police top brass on Monday discussed with legal experts the modalities of slapping Pocso charges for the death of the 17-year-old Jadavpur University student who died after a fall from the second-floor balcony of JU Main Hostel early Thursday. The cops also handed over the mobile phones of the three arrested accused - alumnus Sourav Chakraborty and second-year students Deepsekhar Dutta (19) and Manotosh Ghosh (20) - to forensic experts to retrieve deleted videos and chats that could shed light on the mental and physical ragging that took place at the hostel under the guise of "intro" sessions for freshers.

At least 10 first-year students present at the hostel on Wednesday night had their statements recorded by cops. "They were asked to recount their experiences in rooms 79, 104 and 109, where seniors had asked them to assemble after dinner," sources said. Six senior students were also summoned for questioning.

The JU authorities also decided to house first-year students exclusively in the New Boys' Hostel on campus.

The university on Monday came under attack from several fronts with the West Bengal Commission for Protection of Child Rights (WBCPCR) serving a show-cause notice on it for flouting Supreme Court directives and UGC's anti-ragging guidelines, and the National Human Rights Commission seeking a report after taking suo

motu cognizance of the fresher's death. The Calcutta High Court also granted permission to an advocate to file a PIL on the incident.

The university submitted a report to the UGC on the incident and steps taken so far even as the campus remained on the boil through the day with students' and teachers' unions holding meetings inside and political parties staging protests outside.