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# Campuses in West Bengal plan to beef up security, replace defunct CCTVs

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KOLKATA: Several campuses in the city - Presidency, Calcutta University and Rabindra Bharati University - have already had a taste of what Jadavpur University is going to experience as it attempts to install CCTV cameras once more.

## SAFETY CHECKS, REVIEW MEETINGS

**Presidency** | CCTV installed in 2016 and a proper register maintained at the entry point of campus



A CCTV camera in front of Maulana Azad College



A graffito at Presidency in 2015, protesting against CCTV camera installation

**CU** | CCTV installed at every campus and 16 hostels in 2017-18; CU reconstructed board of residents committee that was approved by the Syndicate meeting held on Thursday

**St Xavier's College** | CCTV installed 10 years ago and covered every important point, including classrooms

**RBU** | Most of the CCTVs got damaged due to Amphan. They will be reinstalled, said officials

Several universities are also taking a re-look at the measures taken in the last few years and the need for a beef-up in the light of the death at the hostel in JU.

Calcutta University has reconstructed a board of residents to monitor 16 hostels which was approved in the syndicate meeting held on Thursday. After this incident, the Calcutta University authority conducted a review of whether the CCTV cameras were working or not. Calcutta University officiating vice-chancellor Shanta Dutta said, "We have CCTV cameras across all the campuses and 16 hostels. After this incident we conducted a two-day visit across all hostels and our engineers checked whether these were functional or not. Very few have been identified

as not functioning properly which we will repair soon."

CU's former vice-chancellor Sonali Chakravarti Banerjee had issued an order to install CCTV cameras across campuses and 16 hostels in 2017. It took two years to complete the installation. Sources said, the university took this decision for proper vigilance over all the campuses, specially hostels, where they had complaints about incidents of intoxication and to restrict entry of outsiders in the hostels. The university is again going to conduct a review whether outsiders or passed out students have been staying at any of the hostels or not.

Rabindra Bharati University has CCTV cameras on its BT Road and Jorasanko campuses, but most of them had got damaged during Amphan. Recently, the university's executive council has decided to reinstall CCTV cameras. An official said, "We maintain a proper register for visitors and vehicles and CCTV cameras will be reinstalled soon."

Presidency University has CCTV cameras and a proper security arrangement on both its College Street and Rajarhat campuses. There will be CCTV coverage at the upcoming third campus in Kurseong, too. The varsity had installed CCTV cameras in 2016. There was huge agitation, gherao and protest movements at Presidency University in 2015 over this. University registrar, Debojyoti Konar said, "The CCTVs were installed for the purpose of safety and security of the stakeholders and high value equipment of different laboratories. This was a unanimous decision and our students didn't have any problem as they understood that these were installed for safety and security and not for policing."

St Xavier's College has had CCTV cameras on the campus for many years. Principal Father Dominic Savio said, "We have CCTV cameras at every important point on the campus and in the hostel as well to keep an eye on the safety and security of the campus."