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Fresher death: JU engineering student, two alumni arrested

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KOLKATA: One more student - studying computer science engineering - and two ex-students of Jadavpur University were arrested on Friday in connection with the death of the 17-year-old fresher on August 10.

SLEUTHS VISIT MAIN HOSTEL



Cops with accused Saptak Kamilya at the JU Main Hostel on Friday



- Three more arrested – Satyabrata Rai, 4th-year computer science engineering student, Himangshu Karmakar, a PG in mathematics currently pursuing PhD in data science at TCG and Sk Nasim Akhtar, a postgraduate in chemistry
- Investigators reconstruct the sequence of events that

had reportedly taken place between 9pm and 11.45pm on Aug 9 at the JU Main Hostel

- The police team spends 70 minutes at the hostel with accused Saptak Kamilya
- Cops get a clearer idea about the GB meetings on August 9 after the victim was rushed to KPC Hospital after midnight

The student arrested on Friday, Satyabrata Rai, was on the JEE top-50 list. Cops said he was appearing in campus

placement interviews. This takes the number of arrests in this case to 12. Six of the arrested are current students while the rest are former ones.

"Rai, a fourth-year computer science engineering student, is from Nadia's Haringhata. The other two are Himangshu Karmakar, a postgraduate in mathematics who is from Shamsherganj in Murshidabad and is currently pursuing PhD in data science at TCG, and Sk Nasim Akhtar, a postgraduate in chemistry who is from Memari in East Burdwan," said joint CP (crime) S S Chakrabarty.

Sources said it was Rai who had called dean of students Rajat Roy at 10.04pm and informed him about the victim being "politicized" following the script of the fake complaint letter masterminded by co-accused Sourav Chowdhury and Saptak Kamilya. Rai also informed a few union members about the hostel developments too. The police said all three accused were present on the floor from where the victim fell. "They were among the eight students whose presence on that floor has been confirmed," said a source.

Investigators on Friday reconstructed the sequence of events that had reportedly taken place between 9pm to 11.45pm at the JU Main Hostel on August 9. It was based on the findings that the three accused were questioned and later arrested.

One of the key accused, Kamilya, a former environmental science student who was arrested last Wednesday along with five others and who, along with Chowdhury allegedly forced the victim to write a fake complaint related to hostel ragging, was taken to the main hostel on Friday afternoon. "We wanted to know how the intro sessions were organized, who called the victim to room 104, what transpired within before he was called to the second floor for another round of introductions. We wanted to know the names of those present on this floor when the student fell and where they were at that moment," said a source.

The police team led by DC (Jadavpur) Bidisha Kalita Dasgupta spent 70 minutes at the spot from 1.30pm before leaving with Kamilya. "The analysis of Kamilya's laptop will be crucial," a source said.

Fresh interrogation revealed that all freshers were expected to follow certain rules set by seniors. "Besides buying food and arranging the food from the mess for seniors, they were expected to put up mosquito nets each night.

The first-year students were asked to regularly clean toilets. No fresher was allowed to call home unless a senior stood by to 'guide' them," said an officer.

Police sources said they have evidence it was Chowdhury who had convened the meeting immediately after the victim fell. "Chowdhury was the one who said the victim was disturbed and ran around shouting that he was not gay. Deepshekhar Dutta, another accused in police custody, had supported Chowdhury, showing a letter to boarders claiming the victim had written it. It was Dutta who had written the letter. The diary was deliberately put in the room the victim was staying in. The meeting was held a little after midnight," a source added.

Police, meanwhile, are also ascertaining if there is a mismatch in statements provided by the nine arrested students. They are likely to be questioned together for the first time this weekend, hinted sources.

"The accused are finally breaking ranks and junking the tutored statements made initially. Now, a few are trying to blame the others. It is their joint questioning that will fix the role of at least two other boarders currently under scanner," said a source.

Those arrested on Wednesday were questioned multiple times to know more about the intro sessions, said joint CP (crime) Chakrabarty.