

Printed from

THE TIMES OF INDIA

West Bengal: '18 Jadavpur University freshers faced ragging from 1st night at hostel'

TNN | Aug 20, 2023, 08.39 AM IST



KOLKATA: Police have claimed they now have corroborating evidence that proves all the 18 first-year students of Jadavpur University, who had moved into A-2 Block of Main Hostel, were subjected to ragging from the night of August 6, the day several of them had joined. This included the 17-year-old Bengali department boy, who died on the hostel premises on August 9. Following the findings, police have asked the anti-ragging committee of the university to speak to all the first-year students of A-2 Block and to get back to them if they wanted to lodge fresh complaints. "By law, this committee should contact us," an officer said.

Second- and third-year boarders have told police it's been a "tradition" to start "intro" (read ragging) the moment a fresher steps inside the hostel. "Anyone not following the dictat set by seniors were 'counselled'. The seniors made it clear they could not be questioned," police said.

First-year students who join the Main Hostel are asked to pay Rs 1,000-Rs 1,500 a month, preferably digitally, to stay as "guests", police have found. While boarders were officially charged Rs 25 a month and another Rs 2,000-Rs 2,200 as mess charge, the extra Rs 1,000-Rs 1,500 a month went to the seniors to sponsor their parties or to union fund, said cops probing the death of the first-year student. Police added students' financial status decided on their monthly "payments". No fresher was allowed to call home without a senior standing by him," police said.

"Besides buying food and arranging food from the mess for seniors, the freshers had to carry water to seniors' rooms and put up mosquito nets at night. They also have to clean toilets, do the vessels and wash clothes," said police.