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# Why's Jadavpur University unable to implement its own statute on campus: HC

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KOLKATA: The Calcutta High Court on Monday questioned Jadavpur University's inability to implement its own statutes on its own campus and said the matter needed to be discussed with all stakeholders, including students.

"What happens when the university throws up its hands and says that it has a statute (governing hostel admission) but can't enforce the provisions? We have to reason it out with all the stakeholders," the HC said and added that the students needed to be heard before passing any order on the public interest litigation filed following the death of a fresher after a fall from the boys' main hostel.

A division bench of Chief Justice T S Sivagnanam and Justice Hiranmay Bhattacharyya directed Kalyan Bandyopadhyay, senior counsel for petitioner Sudip Raha, to add the students' unions of the three JU faculties as respondents.

"Students who you (Bandyopadhyay) claim to become violent/indisciplined need to be heard. You can implead them. Nothing can change overnight. Every institution has a bad patch. I am hopeful that things will change. The university is becoming famous for the wrong reasons," the chief justice observed. Students should not have unpleasant memories of ragging and humiliation while graduating from the university but come back with loving memories when visiting the campus as an alumnus, the chief justice said.

The division bench directed the university to submit a compilation of the Jadavpur University Act, 1981, the

regulations and rules relating to student welfare and hostel admission along with a plan over ways to deal with the menace of ragging during the next hearing after two weeks.

'Parents filed plaint, not univ or students'

Kalyan Bandyopadhyay, senior counsel for petitioner Sudip Raha, said neither the students nor the university had lodged a complaint reporting the fresher's death. "The parents filed the complaint. The students even prevented the police from entering the Main Hostel premises after the incident," he submitted. He recalled that a JU VC (Abhijit Chakraborty) was gheraoed by students for 53 hours and was forced to resign and his successor in 2016 ordered removal of the CCTV cameras from the campus.

Advocate-general S N Mookherjee said: " Students' freedom... has gone beyond limits and some harsh measures have to be taken."

When senior counsel Soumya Majumdar drew the court's attention to the hunger strike in some hostels on grounds that they were inconvenienced by the varsity's decision to shift freshers from the main hostel to hostels on the campus, the CJ observed, "This is an in-house problem and has to be tackled in-house."