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Jadavpur University students agree to CCTV cams on campus

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KOLKATA: Students of Jadavpur University made it clear at all-stakeholders meeting that they were not opposed to installation of CCTV cameras at 'strategic' points but wanted to know from officials about the locations where they will be installed. Teachers, non-teaching staff and contractual workers also supported installation of CCTVs at strategic locations.

'REVEAL STRATEGIC LOCATIONS'



➤ Students, scholars, teachers, staff are **not opposed to CCTV installation**

➤ **Students wanted** to know from the authorities the **'strategic' points** where CCTVs will be installed

➤ Majority of students, teachers, staff opposed to hiring of ex-servicemen by **spending ₹2.5 crore annually**

➤ **Internal probe panel** report should be made public

➤ **Security guards**, including **women guards**, should be **increased** on campus

➤ **Vacant positions** of **permanent security guards** should be filled

➤ An officer should



Students after the meeting

exclusively **keep watch** at night. He should deal with **ragging complaints**

➤ **Separate hostels** for **freshers** immediately

➤ Strengthening of **anti-ragging committee and squad**

➤ **Regular counselling** for **freshers and seniors**

But, majority of students, teachers and non-teaching staff opposed the idea of hiring ex-servicemen for 'human surveillance' by spending nearly Rs 2.5 crore annually.

Member of Arts Faculty Students' Union (AFSU), Anustup Chakraborty, said they were not opposed to the idea of

CCTV cameras at strategic points but the authority has to let the students know about their exact locations. He added, "We also proposed an app - ALAAP - with an SOS button which can resist any sort of harassment." AFSU also demanded that representatives from all stakeholders should be included in the CCTV monitoring team. Students from the Faculty of Engineering and Technology Students' Union (FETSU) said they did not have any objections if CCTVs are installed following UGC guidelines but they condemned splurging of money when the varsity was reeling under funds crunch. "We oppose any kind of surveillance measures which might be directed against students by the state and condemn recruitment of ex-servicemen. We demand an increase in number of security guards on campus. The guards should be made permanent," said the FETSU demand letter. General secretary of Jadavpur University Research Scholars' Association Arunabha Sengupta said there should be separate hostels for first-year and second-year students. He added that women security guards should also be hired.

Jadavpur University Teachers' Association (JUTA) general secretary Partha Pratim Ray said, "Most of the proposals and decisions related to ragging that were taken this month are not being implemented. Moreover, we don't support hiring of ex-servicemen."

All Bengal University Teachers' Association (ABUTA) said the anti-ragging squad and committee should be strengthened.

Balaram Saha, general secretary of Jadavpur University Contractor's Workers' Union, said the safety on campus can be strengthened if there are at least 100 to 120 security guards.

Officiating VC Buddhadeb Sau said Webel will start installing the cameras soon. "I will look into the suggestions and discuss them with officials."