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Expel 4, suspend 31 students, Jadavpur University ragging probe panel says in report

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KOLKATA: The final report submitted by Jadavpur University's (JU) internal probe panel has recommended expulsion of four students for being involved in ragging the fresher, who died after a fall from the boys' main hostel on August 10, and suspension of at least 31 students for either ragging other juniors or for indirectly supporting the hostel's "ragging culture".

ACTING TOUGH

- **Expel 4 students**
- **Suspend 5 students for 4 semesters**
- **Suspend 11 students for 2 semesters**
- **Suspend 15 students for 1 semester**
- **Act against hostel super**

The periods of suspension varies between one and four semesters. At least five students have been recommended for a four-semester suspension, 11 for two semesters and 15 for a semester each.

The panel's interim report had suggested that the 17-year-old boy was a victim of ragging. It had also highlighted a ragging culture at the main hostel. After speaking to numerous hostel boarders and freshers, the panel observed in its final report that it was not only freshers, but even some second-years, who were being ragged on August 9.

"The panel submitted its final report on Monday," said acting vice-chancellor Buddhadeb Sau, confirming its recommendations. "The panel has also recommended that all students, except freshers, be expelled from the A2 block of the hostel, which is notorious for ragging, as none of them can evade responsibility. A final decision on the punitive measures will be taken by the executive council."

Panel finds lapses in EC's functioning

Sources said JU's internal probe panel has also called for the university authorities to lodge an FIR against six ex-students, while saying around 25 former students, currently staying at the hostel, should be made to leave immediately. Some current students have also been recommended for hostel expulsion.

The panel has also called for disciplinary action against the main hostel's super because of dereliction of duty, sources claimed. The report also contains warnings - to senior officials, including the dean of students, the registrar and a section of teachers - for administrative lapses and not paying much heed to ragging complaints in the past.

In its preliminary report, the panel had mentioned administrative failure. In the final report, it has observed some lapses in functioning of the EC in dealing with past ragging cases.

A source said the panel has recommended that two student leaders - a PhD scholar and a fourth-year engineering student - be restricted from the campus after completion of their degree for not doing anything against ragging. The panel also recommended separate administrative steps to decide on the research scholar's

fellowship, as his signature was found in department attendance register on August 11, when he had himself claimed on social media that he had left for Kashmir on August 10.