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THE TIMES OF INDIA

Helpless, can't solve problems: Jadavpur University VC a month after fresher death

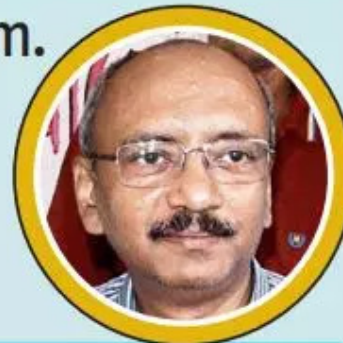
TNN | Sep 12, 2023, 09:44 AM IST



Buddhadeb Sau, who took over as the Jadavpur University's interim VC following the death of a fresher allegedly due to ragging on August 10, speaks to TOI about security measures on the campus a month after the incident

FOCUS ON **CAMPUS SECURITY**

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“ I have seen a tendency to unnecessarily delay implementation of positive steps on campus

Buddhadeb Sau | JU INTERIM VC

When will you start installing CCTVs on campus?

We have issued a work order to Webel Technology which is a government firm. But, we don't have any information about when they will start the process. If they are not paying heed to it then what can we do? They told us several times that the installation will start soon but we have no clue when it will start. We will send a reminder. Even, we decided to pay the initial cost at least to start the process but we want clear communication from the company.

When will you allot separate hostel to freshers ?

We have identified New Block Hostel for freshers but 15 existing boarders opposed to shift. They told us they were in fear but couldn't show a reason. The staff quarters, beside the New Boys' Hostel, have been designated for the freshers but it's yet to be vacated. Hostel boarder's reallocation panel has been formed to reshuffle present boarders of hostels. Our final goal is to segregate boarders according to year but this will take time. We have asked them to cooperate but they want an instant solution and the whole process is getting delayed just because of a small number of boarders. If this continues, first-year engineering students will suffer in getting hostel allotments as we can't set up new hostel building now.

How have you planned to increase security on campus?

We wanted to hire ex-servicemen for human surveillance on campus as they have proper training and the cost will not be much. We sent a proposal to defence ministry and recently they sent a representative to discuss it.

When do you plan to implement disciplinary measures recommended by internal probe panel?

Internal probe committee has made a set of recommendations which need to be ratified at the executive council meeting first.

When will the executive council meeting be held?

Date is yet to be finalized but it will be held this month. In last few days, I have seen there is a section on the campus who are trying to delay the process. Particularly, one student body has been creating trouble since I have joined to perform my duties as VC. I saw a tendency to unnecessarily delay implementation of positive steps. I wanted to form a committee to discuss their issues but they opposed.