

Printed from

**THE TIMES OF INDIA**

# I am a victim of ragging and conspiracy, says JU interim VC

Sep 24, 2023, 08.21 AM IST



Kolkata: Jadavpur University's officiating vice-chancellor Buddhadeb Sau on Saturday said he was himself a victim of ragging and demanded a "high-level probe" into the conspiracy to remove him from the post. He said he would write to the state government and the governor.

"There is a conspiracy going on to remove me from the post of the vice-chancellor. I will write to the government and the governor, demanding a high-level probe so that the persons behind it can be identified," said Sau, who was appointed as the officiating vice-chancellor by governor C V Ananda Bose, who is also the chancellor of state universities, on August 19. "I can't implement

decisions, impose restrictions and work as a section of students are always targeting me and protesting against different issues. Some students gheraoed me on Friday, demanding an all-stakeholder meeting and to place the report of the internal committee probing the students' death at Main Hostel before the EC on September 26. I was not allowed to leave to pick my son from school. The dean of students had to be hospitalised due to the students' movement. I am also a victim of ragging."

Describing the internal probe panel's report as "inconclusive", he said, "There are many names recommended for punishment. Among them, some may be innocent. If punishment is given now, it can create mental disbalance among them. We have to be careful." He pointed out that according to UGC guidelines, a ragging complaint can be investigated by the anti-ragging squad but in this case, the squad was made inactive. "There is bias in the

probe panel's formation as only two squad members are part of it," Sau said, adding the squad had been given time to review the probe report.

Many at the university felt that at a time when police were asking for the internal panel's probe report to help in their investigation, the VC's attempt to raise questions about the panel and its report was a way to "delay the process of implementing the recommendations" and it would in a way "shield the guilty". Barsha Baral, secretary of AISA JU unit, said, "It is a matter of concern for the university that the VC is resorting to lies. He is blaming students for ragging when we had gone to talk to him but he intentionally avoided and refused to listen to us."

The university's internal probe panel was formed after the Bengali department fresher's uncle lodged a complaint with the university, demanding an investigation into the death of the 17-year-old boy, who had died following a fall from the second-floor balcony of Main Hostel. At that time, no official ragging complaint was lodged. Later, UGC lodged a suo motu complaint. A source said when the UGC team had visited JU, they had granted validity to the probe panel. They said the anti-ragging committee and squad was not formed according to UGC guidelines and so, had the squad investigated the incident, the report would have been questioned and led to further complications.