

Printed from

THE TIMES OF INDIA

JU internal probe report placed at EC but no decision on anti-ragging steps

TNN | Sep 27, 2023, 06.50 AM IST



KOLKATA: The Jadavpur University internal panel report on the fresher's death at Main Hostel was placed at the Executive Council meeting on Tuesday, following pressure from students and teachers.

No anti-ragging measure was initially part of the meeting's agenda despite being the first EC meet after the fresher's death. The meeting, which started around 2pm on Tuesday, continued till 11pm. Despite the long discussions, no decision on the panel report was taken till the last report came in.

During the meeting, two opinions were placed. While a section felt the punitive measures should be decided after the anti-ragging squad, to which the report has been sent, has sent its observations,

others felt 35 students, named in the report, should be debarred from the hostel so that they cannot influence the process of investigation. The report has recommended expulsion of four students and suspension of 31 students for one to four semesters.

Earlier, JU officiating VC Buddhadeb Sau had called the probe report "inconclusive" and raised questions on the panel, describing it "biased", even after the panel submitted its report. He had hinted the report would not be placed at the EC meeting, which teachers and students had claimed was his attempt at delaying the process of justice and shielding the guilty.

Ahead of the EC meeting on Tuesday, Jadavpur University Teachers' Association wrote to Sau, demanding the probe report be placed for discussion. JUTA general secretary Partha Pratim Ray said, "We want the EC to take steps, based on the probe report to avert a repetition of ragging-related incident on the campus." Arts Faculty Students' Union, Faculty of Engineering and Technology Students' Union and Science Faculty Students' Union also demanded the report be placed and the guilty be punished.

The all-stakeholders' meeting, which was held before the EC meeting, did not yield any result as Sau did not attend the meeting. Sources said some pointed out the panel was formed after the fresher's death but before any ragging complaint was lodged. So, the panel was valid, and its report should be placed at the EC, like any other report.

The UGC report, which stated UGC norm violation, was discussed. Hostels for first-years were discussed but no solution came out. AFSU member Shourjyadipta Roy said, "We demand the guilty be punished. It should not stop at debarring 35 students."