

Printed from

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Fresh ragging charge against seniors by JU student

TIMESOFINDIA.COM | Nov 29, 2023, 06.07 PM IST



KOLKATA: A postgraduate student from Jadavpur University in West Bengal, which garnered attention following the tragic death of a fresher due to suspected ragging, has come forward on Wednesday, accusing certain senior students at the boys' main hostel of harassment.

The allegations made by the arts department student surfaced a week after the university took action by prohibiting the entry of six students, reportedly implicated in the incident that resulted in the fresher's death in August.

These six individuals have been banned from entering the campus indefinitely.

According to a senior faculty member, the postgraduate student from the philosophy department filed a complaint via email to the Dean of Arts.

The student alleged experiencing various forms of mental torture and verbal abuse, citing that the mistreatment

began when tasked by the hostel mess committee to purchase essentials from the local market.

The contention reportedly revolved around the size of fish and vegetables.

"I am not feeling safe as I am being subjected to physical gestures and cold glares by some boarders. Neither is it possible for me to carry on my study from outside. Please take me out of the particular block where I stay now and shift (me) to another hostel in the campus," PTI quoted the student as adding.

Jadavpur University's acting vice-chancellor Buddhadeb Sau said, "I have been made aware of the student's email. I urge the convenor of the anti-ragging committee to thoroughly investigate the matter."

Expressing apprehension regarding the complaint, Partha Pratim Roy, the general secretary of the Jadavpur University Teachers Association (JUTA), urged the university authorities to conduct a swift investigation. He emphasized the need for prompt and effective measures to eradicate the menace of ragging.

The incident of ragging, followed by the tragic death of a first-year undergraduate Bengali student in the same hostel building on August 9, sent shockwaves through both the campus and the state.

The fresher had reportedly fallen from a second-floor balcony of the JU Main Hostel after experiencing severe ragging.

Unfortunately, he succumbed to his injuries at a private hospital the following morning.

A total of 13 individuals, including six undergraduate students, have been arrested in connection with the incident.

Among those apprehended are postgraduate students and a PhD researcher.

In response to the incident, the university established an anti-ragging committee composed of faculty members.

This committee conducted an investigation into the matter and put forth recommendations to prevent the recurrence of such incidents.

The decision to prohibit the entry of the six students into the institute was implemented nearly two months after the anti-ragging committee of the university made its recommendations.

All six individuals, who are seniors in various undergraduate disciplines, are presently in judicial custody at Presidency Jail.

With agency inputs