

Printed from

THE TIMES OF INDIA

JU may form panel to probe new ragging plaint

Dec 1, 2023, 08:26 AM IST

Kolkata: The Jadavpur University's anti-ragging squad (ARS) that is to meet on Friday to clarify points raised by the anti-ragging committee regarding its recommendations on the case in which a first-year student had plunged to death in the Main Boys' Hostel three and a half months ago will also discuss the fresh ragging case that was lodged on Wednesday along with two other cases that had been reported to the UGC helpline in October.

In the latest instance, an inquiry committee may also be formed on Friday to probe into the allegations.

Friday's ARS meeting had originally been scheduled to address issues raised by the anti-ragging committee in the JU student death case in which the ARS had recommended expulsion of four students and suspension of 31 others. The ARS is expected to furnish a conclusive report on the case on Friday or thereafter.

Sources said that with three more ragging complaints being made, including one by a post-graduate student of the philosophy department on Wednesday, these cases would also be discussed. JU officiating vice-chancellor Buddhadeb Sau said the university had asked ARS to look into the latest complaint of ragging and submit a report within 72 hours. Sau further said the university was yet to receive any report on the matter.

The dean of students and convener of the anti-ragging committee Rajat Ray said the complaint has been sent to the chairperson and the convener of ARS. "After receiving the ARS report, the anti-ragging committee will take its decision," he said.

The philosophy PG student has complained that he faced “mental torture and abuse” over the quality of food served at the Main Hostel and left his room in the D-block on Wednesday morning. He is staying at a friend’s place and said he would continue to do so till the university authority found an alternative arrangement for him.

SFI arts unit on Thursday staged a protest at the Aurobindo Bhawan and submitted a memorandum to the officiating V-C demanding that PG first year students be immediately shifted to a hostel on the main campus. SFI arts unit secretary June Guhathakurata said, “The university has failed to take action against the accused in the past three and half months that helped a section of students revive the old ragging culture again in the Main Hostel.”

On Thursday, the officiating V-C also questioned the role of the 56-member ARS and asked why it was unable to curb such incidents. “After reconstructing the ARS, why should such things happen? It is their duty to keep a close watch to prevent such incidents,” he said.

An ARS member countered that and said: “There is no use doing this blame game. If the university could take proper action, then such incidents would not happen.”

The ARS recommendations on the case in which a student died is yet to be accepted by the anti-ragging committee which has raised questions over the “nature of the involvement” of the students against whom action has been suggested.