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THE TIMES OF INDIA

Pro-VC assaulted in Kolkata over screening of Ayodhya event

TNN | Jan 23, 2024, 03.41 AM IST



KOLKATA: Some Jadavpur University (JU) students keen to live-stream the Ayodhya consecration on the campus and a few “outsiders” chanting Jai Shri Ram allegedly punched pro-VC Amitava Datta when he tried to break up their scuffle with a group opposed to the screening. The screening didn’t take place as the authorities did not allow it.

Three security personnel and a student were injured in the scuffle, one of many consecration-linked altercations at JU during the day.

As some students were preparing for the screening, the pro-VC, along with some teachers, requested them not to go ahead, saying it could disrupt the campus atmosphere. Soon, these students hoisted saffron flags and chanted Jai Shri Ram slogans.

This prompted another section of students, mostly from Left organisations, to scream Inquilab Zindabad.

Datta, along with teachers and officials, formed a human chain and stood between the two groups. While they were dispersing, another scuffle broke out where the pro-VC was punched and shoved. JUTA general secretary Partha Pratim Ray called the attack on the pro-VC “unfortunate”.

In the afternoon, some students with saffron tilaks came to distribute prasad but were resisted by others.

Later in the day, over 500 students took out a rally to promote communal harmony.

As some students were preparing for the screening, the pro-VC of Jadavpur University barred them, saying it could disrupt the atmosphere.