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Slogan-shouting students, outsiders assault JU pro-VC

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KOLKATA : A section of Jadavpur University students and “outsiders” chanting Jai Shri Ram punched pro-VC Amitava Datta when he tried to break up a scuffle between them and a group of students who were opposing the screening of the consecration of the Ram idol at Ayodhya on the campus. The screening could not happen as the authorities did not allow it.

Three security personnel and an engineering student were injured in the scuffle.

As a section of 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 assembled at the Green Zone and started hoisting saffron flags and chanted Jai Shri Ram slogans. This prompted another section of students, mostly from Left organizations, shouting Inquilab Zindabad. Datta, along with teachers and officials formed a human chain and stood between the two groups.

While they were dispersing, another round of scuffle broke out near gate number 3 where a section of students and ‘outsiders’ pushed the pro-VC and also punched him while he was trying to control the situation. Students, who were witness to the incident, said the pro-VC was punched and assaulted by those who wanted to screen the Ayodhya programme.

Some of the “outsiders” were pushed out of the gate by students. Incidents of altercation happened in JU

throughout the day. One took place in the afternoon when some students with saffron tilaks came to distribute prasad but were resisted by other students.

In the evening, three SFI supporters were reportedly beaten up while returning to their Bijoygarh home. JUTA general secretary Partha Pratim Ray said, "It is unfortunate that our pro-VC along with teachers and security personnel was assaulted by some outsiders and a section of JU students."

History student Biswayan Bhandari said, "When some students organise iftar party, screen the BBC documentary on Modi and Ram Ke Naam, then why can't we screen the consecration of the Ram idol?" IR department's Jahit Khan said, "Most JU students opposed the politicization of the event at Ayodhya."

During the day, the pro-VC, along with teachers, kept vigil across the campus and requested students not to hold any event.

In the evening, a rally of over 500 students walked from gate 3 to Dhakuria and back to Jadavpur 8B to promote communal harmony. They broke the barricades.