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Kolkata doctor's stir: 'Kashmir azadi' punctuates justice slogan near Jadavpur University gate

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KOLKATA: Doctors are watching with apprehension as 'Kashmir azadi' slogans allegedly punctuated 'We want justice' calls near Jadavpur University, right at the 8B bus stand crossing, on Sunday evening. Kolkata Police has now started an investigation into the incident. An FIR was lodged on Monday evening at the Patuli police station. Cases have been registered under Sections 152, 285, 3(5) of the BNS.

Junior doctors, who are leading the RG Kar rape-murder protest, questioned the need to bring other "controversial issues" in their univocal demand for justice. "Many people and organizations are involved in the protest now. While we thank the public for their solidarity, we appeal to the masses not to digress from the

demand for justice. We are focused on getting justice and nothing can divert us from our mission," said Soumyadip Roy, a junior doctor.

Senior doctors echoed the sentiments. "This slogan was absolutely uncalled for at a time when the movement is for delivering justice in the heinous crime at RG Kar. Since this protest is a mass movement, there would be individuals and organizations with distinct political and ideological agenda," said head and neck onco-surgeon Sourav Datta of IMA West Bengal.

Sajal Biswas of Service Doctors' Forum said: "No person, no organisation should get the real issue diverted by raising political or communal slogans. Such slogans will harm the movement."

The police have collected the CCTV footage. Video footage of the protest have gone viral. Sources said that a cop, who was on duty next to the sloganeering protesters, has been summoned to Lalbazar.

According to police sources, the video of the procession in Jadavpur that has surfaced shows participants holding either candles or torches. Those in the front row were carrying a banner that read in Bengali: "Don't think the fire will be extinguished, Tilottama." In the bottom right corner, written in English were the words, "We want justice". Allegedly, slogans like "Kolkata demands freedom", "RG Kar demands freedom", and "Kashmir demands freedom" were raised during the procession. Cops are ascertaining if any slogan linked to Palestine was also made, an allegation denied by the organizers.

Politicians have also criticized the Azadi slogan. Former Trinamool Rajya Sabha MP, Kunal Ghosh said, "Let the anarchy behind the mask stop." BJP claimed that such attempts are being made to divert attention from the real issue. BJP state president Sukanta Majumdar said, "From the beginning, I have been saying that there is an attempt to hijack this movement."