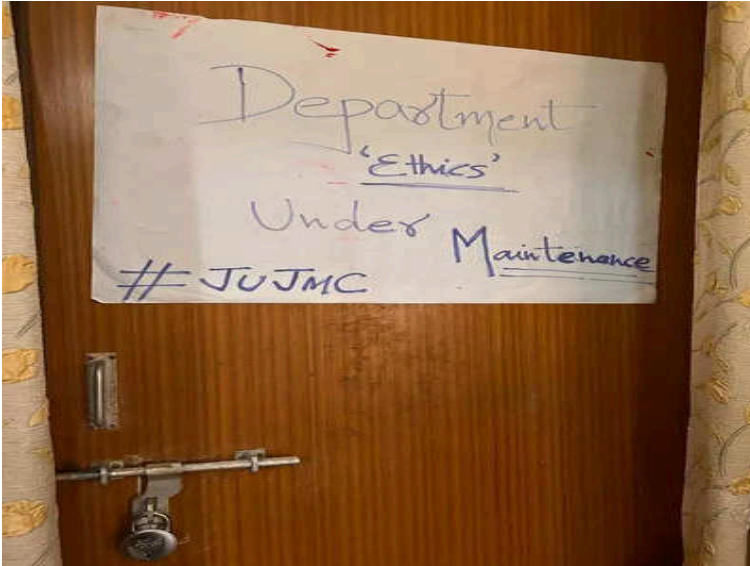


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JU mass comm students lock profs' room, hand over key to VC

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Kolkata: The journalism and mass communication post-graduation students at Jadavpur University on Monday locked the cabin of assistant professor Abhishek Das and professor Santwan Chattopadhyay as a "mark of symbolic protest against the gross irregularities and discrepancy in the evaluation process in both internal and semester exams".

JU authorities on Monday issued a show cause notice to Chattopadhyay, whom students accused of marking them without checking their internal exam papers in first and second semesters. "The show cause notice was issued to Chattopadhyay on Monday," said an official. In the morning, PG students sent an

email to interim VC Bhaskar Gupta, saying, "This lock-and-key proceeding will persist until both the professors are suspended and strict action is taken." But in the evening, they handed the keys to the VC in the presence of the dean and other professors. TOI tried to reach Gupta but he did not respond.

Some teachers claimed during their protest outside the VC's office, some students used abusive language against the professors. A retired judge, who was there, reportedly considered resigning on hearing the students' language. But the students denied the allegation.

Das went to the university on Monday but was not at the department when students locked their cabin. "I do not know anything about the cabin being locked as I was not there. I have replied to the show-cause letter."

Chattopadhyay, who did not go to the university, maintained he had performed his duties. "I welcome all the measures by the university... I have full faith in it. I will not divulge my communication with the university to the media as it will be breach of confidentiality," he said.

Das is accused of marking 50 students without evaluating their media laws & ethics paper in the second-semester exams. Das and Chattopadhyay are accused of not checking the assignments of the same batch during their internal exams.

Several of the students met Gupta on Monday and demanded re-evaluation of all semester exam answer scripts, checked by Das and Chattopadhyay. "After review, the media laws & ethics paper scores have gone up by 12, nine and seven marks. We want re-evaluation of all semester papers," said a student. The HoD, Partha Sarathi Chakraborty, said, "All the answer papers will be placed at the board of studies meet, where next course of action will be decided." Chancellor's nominee to JU EC Kazi Masum Akhtar has written to Gupta for a proper probe. JUTA will submit a memorandum to the VC on Tuesday.