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# Governor Bose stays away from JU convocation for 2nd year in a row

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Kolkata: More than 4,000 students received their degrees and certificates at the 67th annual convocation at Jadavpur University on Tuesday.

For the second year in a row, governor C V Ananda Bose, ex-officio chancellor of state universities, stayed away from the event, though his nominee at court, Jitendra Nath Roy, a professor at Kazi Nazrul University, and his EC nominee, Kazi Masum Akhter, attended the convocation.

JU's interim vice-chancellor Bhaskar Gupta, in his welcome address, mentioned the chancellor's "absence" and pointed out it would have been great had he attended the convocation.

Following questions from reporters, he said, "It was unfortunate but what can I do if he did not come?" Pro-VC Amitava Dutta said, "We followed all the provisions of rules and regulations."

Controversy broke out with Bose claiming the convocation was "unauthorised" as JU officials did not follow proper rules and regulations to call the executive council (EC) meeting and court meeting before holding the convocation. He even instructed against holding the court meeting, which was scheduled on Tuesday morning before the convocation began. Bose's nominee Roy had attended the court meeting.

Akhter at the convocation did raise questions about violating rules but Roy said, "I got a call from the university and came to attend the event. I am not part of controversy."

The state's nominee and the head of the English department, Monojit Mandal, said, "The university had written to Raj Bhavan multiple times since Oct 1, seeking the governor's permission but he didn't respond. He responded only after the EC meeting was held with the state permission as it was a matter of students' interest. Even since morning on Tuesday, the chancellor called the VC thrice, trying to force him not to hold the convocation. This can't be accepted..."

Jadavpur University Teachers' Association (JUTA) general secretary Partha Pratim Ray said, "We demanded students should get their degrees without trouble. It's sad it has become a tradition of holding convocation in the chancellor's absence."