

JU cheers anti-ragging ads

Seniors Welcome Innovative Campaign But Resent Segregation Of Freshers

Jhimli Mukherjee Pandey | TNN

Kolkata: Freshers walking into Jadavpur University on Tuesday were greeted by the new anti-ragging teaser ads that are meant to inspire seniors to act like elder brothers or mentors, and not tormenters.

The JU authorities have made it clear that they will



give no quarter when it comes to ragging. Senior students had to do some pretty hard convincing for the authorities to allow an "orientation" programme for freshers at Gandhi Bhavan on Tuesday.

The nod came only after

seniors pledged to behave responsibly with juniors and ensure harmony prevails on campus.

This time, the orientation programme focused on wiping out any fear of ragging among freshers. The seniors filmed a documentary to help newcomers get acquainted with life at JU.

The seniors requested the administration not to "create divisive walls" with freshers.

"We are not even allowed to visit first-year classrooms and get familiar with them," said Rajarshi Maitra, a fourth year civil engineering student and Fetsu member. "We are happy that we could convince the administration and speak to the freshers in the orientation programme," said Maitra.

"Juniors are warned against going to the union room or even talking to seniors since the administration feels that will attract ragging. This creates an atmosphere of animosity,"



The teaser ads were launched in JU on Tuesday, triggering much excitement on campus. (Below) A notice against ragging



said Sumit Ghosh, a mechanical engineering student.

Seniors insisted that physical or mental torture

does not happen on campus. However, simple leg pulling — "chatachati" — of freshers is common. "These boys

are just out of school and are entering a professional arena. They need to re-orient themselves and that is what seniors help them do," said Ronodip Sikdar, a fourth year mechanical engineering student.

The university, however, feels that by policing seniors and keeping freshers segregated, ragging can be kept at bay. Huge posters listing penalties for ragging have been put up all over campus.

"We have been able to control ragging on our campus through stringent measures. This year two new measures have been taken — the teaser campaign and a mentor programme. Freshers will be divided into groups under faculty mentors who will be their on-campus guardians," said Rajat Ray, dean of students.

Pro-VC Siddhartha Dutta said, "Ragging is on the wane and we at JU have to set an example. Senior students have pledged to make life easy for freshers."

“While we welcome the teaser campaign because of the subtle way in which it seeks to bring seniors and juniors close, we do not like the way in which the administration plans to forcibly keep us away from them



Rajarshi Maitra
FOURTH-YEAR CIVIL ENGG

“Do you think asking a junior to rub his smile off the wall is a form of ragging? The administration feels that even if we ask the name of a junior, it can be called ragging. This is not right



Ronodip Sikdar
FOURTH YEAR MECHANICAL ENGG

“We have been able to control ragging through stringent measures. This year, we have two new measures — the teaser campaign and a mentor programme. Freshers will be divided into groups under faculty mentors



Rajat Ray
DEAN OF STUDENTS, JU

“Ragging is on the wane and we, at JU, have to set an example. Senior students have pledged to make life easy for freshers



Siddhartha Dutta
PRO-VICE-CHANCELLOR, JU