

JJ hostel mess: Rights body pulls up lax officials

State Human Rights Commission slams senior officials for not filing affidavits explaining their side, as it seeks accountability for crumbling hostel



The ailing JJ hostel in Byculla

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THE Maharashtra State Human Rights Commission on Tuesday severely reprimanded top government officials and JJ hospital dean for showing a lackadaisical attitude to its summons over the

crumbling hostel building for resident doctors. Earlier, the Commission had acted on a mid-day report and issued summons to the senior officials. Sources said the Commission was aghast that none of the respondents came with an affidavit explaining their side. » P08

'We live in misery'

JJ resident doctors say chunks of ceiling collapse frequently, walls leak, stairs are broken at this three-decade-old hostel building where hundreds of them live; officials say it's not dangerous

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RESIDENT doctors at Grant Medical College and Sir JJ Group of Hospitals, one of the most prestigious medical colleges in the city, live in fear as the hostels are on the verge of collapse. mid-day accessed the premises and found out how the 500 postgraduate medicos live in the hostel despite reports of broken beams and staircases and leaking ceilings. The latest structural audit report also stated that there was a need for structural repair work.

Tiles on the floor and on the side wall have crumbled down. Chunks of plaster from ceiling had fallen off in many places, including rooms and lobbies. The doctors even erected plastic sheds inside the rooms to escape the leakage.

A senior resident doctor on the condition of anonymity said, "We have no other option but to stay here. You can see that a part of the ceiling had collapsed. Fortunately, we were on duty at that time, so nobody was harmed."

"We live in misery. There is no floor, plasters are falling down. There are big cracks on pillars and iron rods, all rusted, are visible from the damaged wall. There is leakage issue too, which leads to fungal growth. Even the stairs are broken," said another resident doctor.

A representative from Maharashtra State Association of Resident Doctors (MARD) said, "We have informed the administration about the bad condition of the building many times. But no decisions are being taken by the government. They have applied nets all around the building because the outside structure is falling. Is the government waiting for any mishap to take place?"

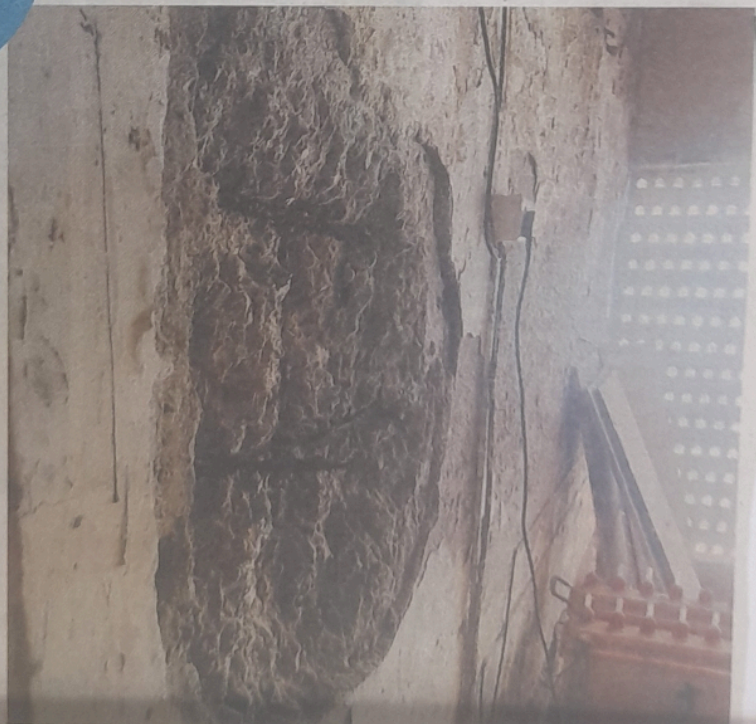
A senior official from JJ hospital said, "The hostel was built around three decades ago to accommodate students. Now

500

No. of resident doctors living in the hostel



The entrance of the hostel where nets have been strung to catch falling plaster; (below) plaster from the wall has fallen off, exposing the iron rods which are completely rusted



During the visit, mid-day found that chunks of plasters & ceiling had fallen off in several parts of the hostel at Grant Medical College and Sir JJ Group of Hospitals; (right) broken floor



"I hate such comparisons and do not like to talk about them. In fact, she [Fatima Pathak] has inspired me," Kinjal Dave

ration. » P09