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HIGHLIGHTS

- Calcutta HC asked the TMC to negotiate with the protesting doctors
- The court asked the government about the steps it has taken to provide security to doctors
- The next hearing in the matter will take place next week

Coming down heavily on the Mamata Banerjee government in West Bengal, the Calcutta High Court on Friday asked the ruling Trinamool Congress in the state to negotiate with the protesting doctors.

During the hearing of a PIL filed by Kunal Saha of People for Better Treatment, who sought that the doctors' strike be declared illegal, the court asked the government about the steps it has taken to provide security to doctors.

Calcutta High Court sought from the West Bengal government details of the attack on doctors and the doctors' strike by next Friday.

The court also said that the government must mediate and find an amicable solution to the ongoing crisis.

The next hearing in the matter will take place next week.

Protests by junior doctors in West Bengal entered the fourth day on Friday, hampering regular services in all government-run medical colleges and hospitals and a number of private hospitals.

Despite Mamata Banerjee's warning of strict action on Thursday, the junior doctors continued with their agitation.

The junior doctors have been agitating since Tuesday demanding security for themselves in government hospitals, after two of their colleagues were attacked and seriously injured allegedly by relatives of a patient who died at Kolkata's Nil Ratan Sircar (NRS) Medical College and Hospital.