



जवाहरलाल नेहरू विश्वविद्यालय शिक्षक संघ
Jawaharlal Nehru University Teachers Association
New Delhi-110067

Press Statement after meeting with the MHRD High Power Committee

“JNU VC is the root cause of the crisis in JNU”

November 21, 2019

The JNUTA Executive Committee (13 members) met the high powered committee set up by the MHRD and placed before them the background to the current crisis at the Jawaharlal Nehru University. The JNUTA remains focused on resolving the situation in the campus which requires withdrawal of the hostel fee hike, a demand for which there is widespread and near unanimous support of teachers. The JNUTA informed the three member committee that the present crisis is the culmination of mis-governance of the University since the present Vice Chancellor, M. Jagadesh Kumar took office. The JNUTA informed the HPC about how the current Vice Chancellor has been violating the JNU Act and has put the future of the University at stake. The JNUTA's understanding of University autonomy is rooted in the conception of democratic self-governance and not the freedom of the VC to run amok and destroy the institutional framework for such governance. The VC is guilty of having compromised the University autonomy and sought to run the administration in an authoritarian manner, and his continuation stands in the way of restoring normalcy in JNU.

The JNUTA appraised the HPC about the details of mismanagement, neglect of academic spending in favour of a manifold increase in spending on non-academic heads (such as security, the outsourcing of the JNU entrance examination), massive seat cut, repeated violations of reservation policies, and lack of transparency in JNU governance. We outlined the ways in which the present administration was being run by cronyism, where established practices in appointments of Deans and Chairpersons have been set aside so that individuals of the VC's choice may be installed in all decision making bodies of the University, thus paving the way for an entirely autocratic method of functioning.

The JNUTA made the following three points very clear:

1. There is no possibility of normalcy being restored on the JNU campus unless the hike in hostel charges is withdrawn.
2. The current fee increase impasse has been created by the current administration to legitimise their wasteful expenditure and financial mismanagement.
3. The possibility of addressing the recurrent problems arising from the way JNU is being governed is impossible while the current Vice Chancellor continues in office.

The memorandum submitted to the High Power Committee is attached.

Sd/-

D K Lobiyal, JNUTA President

Surajit Mazumdar, JNUTA Secretary