



JAWAHARLAL NEHRU UNIVERSITY TEACHER'S ASSOCIATION

PRESS STATEMENT

5 October 2016

The teachers of JNU today observed the joint action programme of the FEDCUTA-AIFUCTO on International Teachers' Day by going on mass casual leave and organizing a dharna/sit-in at the University's Administrative Block. While normal academic activity came to a complete standstill, a large number of teachers assembled at the Administrative Block to voice their support for the FEDCUTA-AIFUCTO demands on teachers' service conditions, the protection and strengthening of university autonomy, improving the quality of education, for public funding of higher education and against commercialisation.

As per the decision of the JNUTA GBM, the protest at JNU was also directed against the sustained and conscious attempts of the JNU Administration headed by the VC to subvert the University's autonomy and its democratic ethos, to undermine the institutional processes which protect these and to centralize decision-making. The JNUTA has been continuously highlighting and battling this deeply authoritarian tendency of the current JNU Administration which is being reflected in issue after issue - the undue and illegitimate interference in and obstruction of the functioning of the GSCASH, the continuation of the practice of 'interviewing' of prospective Chairpersons of Centres, the unilateral announcements on creation of new schools for Management and Engineering before any process of consultation and discussion within the University and its statutory bodies, and the attempts to use non-statutory bodies to legitimize what is the Administration's agenda – being the latest examples.

Today's JNUTA protest has sent out a clear message that JNU teachers will not tolerate the assault on the University and the larger attack on higher education of which it is a part. The JNUTA expresses its resolve to resolutely fight the attempts of the JNU Administration to change the democratic character of the University and in the process subvert the institutional processes.

Sd/-

Prof. Ajay Patnaik
President, JNUTA

Sd/-

Dr. Bikramaditya Choudhary
Secretary, JNUTA