

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

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In yet another shocking instance of high-handedness and intolerance by the JNU Administration, the tent and other materials for JNUTA's Hunger Strike were prevented from being brought into the campus by the oral order of the VC/Registrar in the early hours today. The administration also barricaded the roads to the Administration Block and posted large number of security personnel to try and prevent the hunger strike from taking place at the designated venue. If any more proof was needed to establish that the current JNU administration's intention of "mutual dialogue" is hollow and that they are only interested in throttling all dissent, this is it!

However, a large number of teachers assembled at the Administrative Block in the face of the intimidatory tactics of the administration and began the hunger strike as scheduled, demanding the restoration of academic and institutional functioning of the University.

We would like to reiterate that the decision to go on hunger strike by JNUTA was taken because the administration is hell bent on destroying the teaching-learning process in JNU. Teachers and the students of this University have been continuously fighting this sinister design of the administration for more than two years now. However, the onslaught continues. JNUTA demands that arbitrary circulars regarding the rescheduling of the Academic Calendar (dated Nov 5, 2018) and Compliance of Faculty Attendance (dated Nov 13, 2018) be immediately withdrawn. The installation of biometric machines in the University be immediately stopped. Threatening teachers for biometric attendance is a violation, in letter and spirit, of the Right to Privacy provided by the judgments of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. These diktats seek to burden teaching-learning in JNU with bureaucratic rules, and make it undignified and disrespectful to the teachers. JNUTA has consistently rejected the policy of making teachers mark attendance everyday, which was neither legitimately introduced in the Academic Council nor approved with due process. It certainly does not flow from the UGC Regulations that the JNU administration has quoted in its press release of 25 November 2018. A signature in a JNU administration's register is irreverent to the intellectual traditions of JNU and we will not dignify this sacrilege. The JNUTA remains steadfast in its opposition to compulsory attendance of students and in upholding the orders of the Hon. High Delhi Court that no coercive steps can be taken against students with respect to attendance. The JNU administration's attempt to make teachers agent of their coercive tactics towards students is reprehensible and will not be legitimised by JNU teachers. JNUTA will not accept any compromise of the entrance examination and will not allow it to be derailed in the way the JNU administration is planning to do. We demand that the JNUEE must be held on the designated dates using the offline pen and paper test.

The JNUTA is also shocked to read the press release by the Finance Officer which is utterly misleading the public about the state of JNU finances, in order to beg off paying Merit-cum-Means (MCM) scholarships. This scholarship scheme flows directly from the mandates of the Second Schedule of the JNU Act, and must be fulfilled. The fact of the matter is that JNU has, in 2017-18, received a total of 10.99 crores as various kinds of academic receipts. Any shortfall on the MCM scholarships could therefore easily be remedied. Instead of taking the necessary steps in this direction, we are saddened that the Finance Officer has chosen to misinform the public at large.



Atul Sood  
President, JNUTA



Avinash Kumar  
Secretary, JNUTA