



JAWAHARLAL NEHRU UNIVERSITY TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION (JNUTA)

BULLETIN NO.1, 2014

FROM THE EDITORS:

These are troubled times. Education, initially the responsibility of the State, is now seen increasingly as a "burden" on the national exchequer, which needs to be streamlined, bureaucratized and then privatized. While JNU earlier set the trend, it must now follow the herd. Intellectuals in JNU and outside must unite to face this onslaught. JNUTA stands to fight!

JNUTA EXECUTIVE

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FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Issues facing JNU and the role of JNUTA

The new team of JNUTA has been in office for 3 months. It has been great learning experience. JNUTA is not only an association of teachers but also a body of intellectuals. It needs to work for the wider interest of the academic body within and outside JNU to influence the ethos in the country and the understanding of the policy makers.

The academic community requires to give a lead in matters pertaining to higher education rather than leaving it to the politicians and bureaucrats who hardly understand these issues. Academic standards need to be raised but this is not possible via standardisation. Essentially qualitative judgements are sought to be mechanically measured quantitatively. JNUTA is raising its voice against such mindless pursuit of numbers.

JNU's academic environment has deteriorated due to the worsening relations between teachers and the administration. There is mutual suspicion and consequent delays resulting in growing bureaucratisation. JNUTA is opposed to this. JNU can frame its own simple rules rather than follow Gol rules. Power can be decentralised.

Our success depends on the cooperation we receive from the JNU faculty.

JNUTA EC MEMBERS RESPONSIBILITIES 2014

- a. **Housing** – Prof. Mujeebur Rahman
- b. **Campus Development** – Dr. Arvind Kumar Mishra
- c. **Security** – Dr. Y.S. Alone
- d. **Admissions** – Dr. Jitendra Uttam
- e. **Guest House**– Dr. Sangeeta Thapliyal
- f. **Library** – Dr. Rakesh Kumar
- g. **Sports** – Dr. Ashish Agnihotri
- h. **GSCASH** – Prof. Sona Jharia Minz
- i. **Finance Matters** – Dr. Ashok
- j. **Health Related issues** – Dr. Md. Qutubuddin
- k. **Wardens' Coordination Committee** – Dr. D. K. Lobiyal, Md. Qutubuddin, Dr. Arvind Kumar Mishra
- l. **Seminar Organisation Committee** – Dr. Ajay Kumar, Dr. Swati Tiwari & Dr. Hari Ram Mishra
- m. **Newsletter & Publications Committee** – Dr. Dipendra N. Das, Dr. Ashish Agnihotri, Dr. Arvind K. Mishra, Dr. A. B. Akoijam, Dr. Ashim K. Pramanik
- n. **Day Care Centre** – Dr. Dipendra Nath Das
- o. **Environment Impact** – Dr. S.C. Garkoti
- p. **Student-Teacher Relations** – Prof. S.N. Malakar
- q. **Communication with the media** – Dr. Neelima Mondal
- r. **Coordination with other democratic bodies on campus** - Dr. Swati Tiwari
- s. **Coordination with Teacher's bodies outside campus** – Dr. Hari Ram Mishra
- t. **Website and computer communication related activities** – Dr. Ashim Kr. Pramanik
- u. **Cultural matters**- Prof. Mujeebur Rahman
- v. **Other matters** – Dr. Dipendra Nath Das

JNUTA's note on the current controversies around issues relating to alleged gender harassment and actions taken or being taken by the various administrative bodies of JNU – Need to strengthen GSCASH by taking steps to prevent its authority from being eroded

February 10, 2014.

JNUTA at an emergency meeting on 8.2.14 to discuss the issue noted the following:

1. Procedures as laid down in the Rules and Procedures of GSCASH are being violated in several ways. We believe that given the sensitive nature of the issue of gender, JNU community has to exercise extreme caution.
2. Unfortunately, JNU community seems to be getting divided because suspicions have crept into the minds of different sections of the JNU community regarding the affairs related to GSCASH. Procedures regarding the functioning of GSCASH were established after much deliberation and with a view to developing a consensus in the University community. If these procedures are not followed, suspicions will grow about fairness both of GSCASH and the University administration which is the final authority to deal with the issues that come up.
3. We would like to emphasise that the time frame of the report of the Enquiry Committee of GSCASH should be as per the rule VI.4(C)(b) which states that delay can only be 'for reasons that the Enquiry Committee shall provide in writing to GSCASH.' We agree that delay leads to denial of justice. However, if delay occurs for any exceptional reasons, it does not mean that procedures can be bypassed since that will lead to distrust and lowering of the prestige of GSCASH.
4. It has come to light that matters relating to GSCASH have reached the Press in a manner that goes against the rules of functioning of GSCASH and which is not fair to the parties involved. We quote from Rule VI.4(C)(u): 'All persons heard by the Enquiry Committee as well as observers/nominees, shall take and observe an oath of secrecy about the proceedings. Any violation of the oath of secrecy may invite the full range of penalties outlined in Section IX.'
5. Further, Rule VI.4(C)(x) is clear that 'In the event that it (meaning *Enquiry Committee*) finds the defendant guilty of sexual harassment, it shall also recommend the nature of disciplinary action to be taken on the complaint as referred in Section IX. It shall also

recommend whether GSCASH and the University authorities should, after disciplinary action has been taken, publicise the identity of the offender, the act and the disciplinary action taken.'

6. The points 4 and 5 above make clear that every one associated with an Enquiry needs to observe secrecy about the matter under consideration till the disciplinary action is taken by the JNU EC (in case of academics) and then too only if it is recommended by the Enquiry Committee in its report.
7. In the interest of justice, rule VII(ii), should be followed in letter and spirit. It implies that in the case of an accusation of an academic of the University, the EC 'shall convene a meeting with GSCASH in which at least two-thirds of the Enquiry Committee shall be present, to discuss the findings and recommendations of the Enquiry Committee.' We believe that this is necessary since the deciding body, the EC, must be fully satisfied of the report of the Enquiry Committee before it takes a decision on such weighty matters.
8. Finally, in the interest of justice, any punishment can be meted out to anyone only after the decision of the JNU EC on the report of the Enquiry Committee.

Appeal to the JNU community and the wider society:

1. No doubt, justice delayed is justice denied but injustice is worse and should be rejected by all right thinking people.
2. We appeal to the community to not do anything that vitiates the atmosphere of the University and raises mutual suspicions of wrong doing/intentions.
3. We all need to respect the procedures of GSCASH in the interest of both parties.
4. The prestige of GSCASH should not be allowed to be eroded by suggesting bypassing of procedures.
5. GSCASH in its charter emphasised sensitisation and not just punishment and this is feasible if we maintain a consensus amongst all sections of the University community.

For JNUTA EC

Arun Kumar
President, JNUTA

Dipendra Nath Das
Secretary, JNUTA

RESOLUTION PASSED BY JNUTA ON MARCH 5, 2014 AT THE UNTIMELY DEMISE OF PROF G.K.CHADHA

JNUTA has learnt with deep shock about the untimely demise of Prof. Gopal Krishna Chadha, following a massive heart attack in Delhi in the early hours of 1st March 2014. It expresses its deepest condolences and heartfelt sympathy to the family of our learned colleague.

While the faculty deeply mourns the departure of our longtime friend, we also remember fondly and with great respect his strength of character, his goodness and his transparent and straightforward nature, besides his love for his students and commitment to education in general and this University in particular.

While we remember Prof. Chadha's long years in the School of Social Sciences as a colleague, we cannot forget his contribution to building this University, which he nurtured as Chairperson of his Centre, Dean of SSS and also the Vice Chancellor of the University through many rough years. He has been an institution builder in the true sense of the word. Before joining JNU he was in Punjab University and contributed to its development. As the founding head of the South Asia University, he laid the foundation of a strong institution which would serve the interest of peace and cooperation in this region.

We greatly value his substantial academic contribution to the study of Indian Agricultural Economics, which influenced scholars worldwide and benefited the masses of India, thanks to his principled interventions in the formulation of public policies, based on the strength of his intellectual endeavours. His work as a member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister was greatly appreciated by everyone and was important in policy formulations.

JNUTA has been carrying forward the good work that he initiated in this University and we will strive to improve on what has been achieved in the past. Prof. Chadha will remain in our memories forever and we are sure that his memory would be our inspiration for taking JNU to greater heights.

In this hour of grief, our thoughts go out especially to his wife, Mrs. Sunita Chadha, as well as to his son and daughter, Girish & Geetika who grew up amongst us on this very campus and remain members of the extended family that is JNU. May they have the strength to bear this sorrow, and the will to overcome this grief, though the void left by the departure of Prof. Chadha can never be filled.



MINUTES OF JNUTA GENERAL BODY MEETING (GBM) HELD ON MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2014, AT THE JNUTA OFFICE.

1. Report (President/Secretary/Treasurer) of the previous JNUTA.

The reports by the Treasurer and the Secretary of the outgoing team were adopted. The suggestion for handing over of the Day care centre to the University administration was accepted. The suggestion that a part time employee to man the JNUTA office is required was also accepted.

The house recorded its appreciation of the work done by the outgoing JNUTA EC and applauded their many achievements. Prof Arun Kumar assured the house that the tasks and the ongoing issues which could not be completed would be taken up by the newly elected EC of JNUTA.

2. API, Service Conditions and CAS Promotions.

Dr. Dipendra Nath Das and Prof Saumen Chattopadhyay initiated the discussion.

The house resolved that JNUTA would endeavour to free these schemes from bureaucratization and work towards having the various infirmities removed.

It was also resolved that JNUTA would follow **a three pronged approach:**

a. *In the long term we reject the scheme and go back to a transparent scheme based on the earlier system that worked well for the University*

b. *A medium term approach of getting a consensus on the matter in the teaching community in the country. Under this an All-India seminar would be organized on Problems faced by Indian Universities. FEDCUTA and others would be invited to participate in the seminar.*

c. *A Committee would be set up to propose changes in the rules which are creating difficulties for the faculty. It was accepted that the committee should produce its report in the next 10 days so that the recommendations can be discussed in the JNUTA GBM and then placed in the next AC meeting of JNU for adoption.*

It was also decided that the growing bureaucratization in the administration would be opposed. It was suggested that rules need to be simplified and their implementation decentralized with power devolved to the Deans and Chairpersons.

It was also decided that JNUTA would strive to have the CAS promotion rules simplified and implemented in a transparent manner and so as not to demoralize faculty.

3. Health issues /CGHS/Cashless treatment, etc.

The house was briefed about matters related to issue of CGHS cards and the proposal for the extension of the cashless facilities to other hospitals. Those members who do not have a CGHS card should apply immediately and those who have applied for the cards can use the old cards till the new ones come. In case of difficulties, members were advised to get in touch with JNUTA representative (Dr. Quttubuddin) on the health committee.

It was also reported that the VC had agreed that Reports are not required to be submitted for claiming reimbursements.

4. Reemployment of the superannuated teachers.

It was decided that everyone desirous of reemployment extension up to the age of 70 years ought to be given extension except if they are not able to continue teaching on health grounds or have charges of moral turpitude. Decision on reemployment should be communicated to the retiring faculty members at least 6 months in advance of the date of retirement. The entire process should be conducted with dignity.

The matter of pay fixation should be the same as followed in the Central Universities; under this, DA and other allowances should be paid.

5. Housing related matters.

Dr. Mujeebur Rehman initiated the discussion. It was decided to ask for immediate action for the construction of more faculty houses given the expansion in faculty.

It was decided that JNUTA would push for quick action on additional facilities and renovation in various places.

It was decided to demand the speeding up of the process of allotment and handing over of houses to faculty members. This process should not take more than 2 months at the outer limit. Responsibility should be fixed for delays.

It was decided to ask for better access to Pashchimabad.

It was decided that JNUTA should demand that the allotment ratio should be immediately changed in the light of faculty expansion and the change in the ratio of faculty to non-faculty.

The case of houses to UGC was discussed and it was decided that since this scheme was not introduced after discussion in the AC, housing to people employed under this scheme should not be the obligation of JNU but of the UGC.

6. Project Cell related matters.

Dr. Neelima and Ashok initiated the discussion on the issue. The hardship to the faculty was pointed to and the needs to simplify rules were brought out.

It was decided that JNUTA demand the immediate implementation of the report prepared by Prof Alok Bhattacharya Committee. It was also decided that the model of Ravenshaw University, Orissa be proposed for further simplification of the running of projects in JNU.

It was also decided that a meeting of all the Project directors/Principal Investigators be called to devise a course of action by JNUTA. It was also decided that JNUTA would demand accountability from the Project Cell and the Finance Branch of the University where delays occur and projects suffer as a result.

7. Day Care Centre.

Dr. Sanjay Pande briefed the house about the running of the Centre.

It was decided that one more person be immediately employed to run the Centre.

It was also decided that the University be asked to run the Centre since it is the obligation of the employer to provide the service to the employees. Further, the University should set up a Committee to look after the affairs of the Centre and have nominees of the various associations in it.

8. GSCASH related matters.

Dr. Arvind Mishra and Prof. Sona Jhariora Minz initiated the discussion.

Everyone present reiterated that the dignity of GSCASH should be upheld and its rules should be followed by all sections of the University community.

9. Any Other Matter.

a. AIRF Faculty members' Case

It was resolved that this case would be taken up with the VC at the earliest.

b. CPF-GPF Case

It was resolved that the University would be requested to intervene with the appropriate authorities pointing to the mistake made in 1987 itself and interceding with the UGC and the Ministry of HRD to agree to not pursue the ongoing case in the Courts.

c. Hostel related issues

It was resolved that the committee under the leadership of Prof. Lobiyal would submit its report at the earliest so that a discussion can take place on the subject in the next GBM and the matter for reform taken up with the VC.

d. Traffic conditions on campus

It was pointed out that in JNU campus, traffic is increasing rapidly and posing various kinds of problems all around. It was resolved that JNUTA would ask for the implementation of Traffic Planning Report at the earliest. For this purpose, the JNUTA would demand the setting up of an independent committee in the University to handle this complex task.

e. Support to the democratic struggle in Delhi University

It was decided to back the ongoing struggle of Delhi University community to resist the undemocratic actions of the Delhi University authorities. A resolution in support would be sent to DUTA.

f. Support to the democratic struggle in IIPA

It was decided to send a resolution to the IIPA Staff Association in support of their fight against the illegal action of the Board of Governors in compulsorily retiring a colleague of theirs.

g. Seed Money provision-

JNUTA supports the representations by new faculty members about the allocation of seed money to them.

STEPS TO AMELIORATE WATER CRISIS ON JNU CAMPUS; JNUTA'S SUGGESTIONS:

There is need to conserve potable water by preventing waste and initiating other steps to reduce its use:

1. Overhead tanks are often overflowing in School Buildings, Hostels and Guest Houses.
 - a. Stop cocks/balls need to be fitted in all such water tanks.
 - b. Where stop cocks cannot be fitted, the task of shutting off of valves should be done manually after a well-defined time span of pumping of water.
 - c. In the public buildings, sometimes the taps are left on. The Chowkidars of these buildings should be given the duty to check all the taps at a designated time (say 5.30 pm).
2. Pipelines need to be checked for leakages.
3. An appeal to be issued to all residents on campus to see that their taps and overhead tanks do not leak or water does not over flow.
4. Devices can be installed in overhead tanks which tell when the tank is full. These may be installed in tanks.
5. In Science schools water used for cooling of the equipment (e.g. distillation units) may be recycled or stored in separate tanks instead of being drained. This water can be used for irrigation.
6. Pipelines were laid for raw water supply to campus for gardening. These are in disuse. Water through these pipes should be provided so that potable water can be saved.
7. An appeal should be issued to all residents of the campus that they minimise the use of potable water in gardens and for washing cars and so on.
8. JNU gardens should go in for raising plants that require less water.
9. JNU should invest in increasing capacity to harvest rain water for irrigation.
10. More areas can be identified for developing check dams to store water and raise water table.
11. Notice of water shortage should be issued immediately that this information is available so that residents can plan their water use better.

Dr. Satish Chandra Garkoti

Letter to the Vice Chancellor for Setting Up a Traffic Planning Committee In JNU Campus

To
Prof. S.K. Sopory
Vice-Chancellor
Jawaharlal Nehru University
New Delhi

April 21, 2014.

Sub: Setting up of a Traffic Planning Committee for JNU Campus.

Dear Professor Sopory,

In the JNUTA GBM held on March 10, 2014 it was decided that given the increasing traffic on campus and problems related to it there is a need of a permanent body to manage the traffic problems year around. This was suggested in the Traffic Planning Committee Report in 2009. The Report contained a large number of suggestions for improvement of traffic conditions on campus. That report can be a starting point for the new Committee's working.

Road accidents on campus are increasing and given the chaotic conditions, they are waiting to happen as the Traffic Planning Committee Report noted. The tragic case of death of 3 bright young scholars on April 17, 2014 is only a case in point. There is inadequate space for pedestrians to walk, access to public transport for far flung areas in JNU is lacking, like, for Paschimabad, B& C quarters, down campus and Poorvanchal in mornings and evenings. We need to shift away from motorized vehicles to walking, use of cycles, battery operated buses and solar rickshaws so that our environment is not degraded further. There is growing problem of parking in campus as the number of vehicles on campus is increasing. All this requires a full-fledged Committee to go into the problems and provide solution.

Considering all this we would request you to urgently to set up a Traffic Planning Committee to plan for traffic management on campus which at present is ad hoc. This issue has been raised with you several times in the past and has also been raised in the meetings of JNU Court in the last few years but action has not been initiated on this urgent matter. So, we would request you to treat this as an urgent matter for action.

With best wishes,
Yours sincerely,

(ARUN KUMAR)
President, JNUTA.

Summary of Discussion on the Economic Agenda of the Political Parties for the Elections 2014

JNUTA organized a discussion on the economic agenda of the political parties for the elections 2014 on April 2, 2014. The Speakers who participated in the discussion were Mr. Anand Sharma of the Congress (I), Mr. Prashant Bhushan of AAP, Mr. D.P. Tripathi of NCP, Ms Nirmala Sitaraman of the BJP and Mr. Tapan Sen of the CPI(M).

The discussion before a packed hall was moderated by Prof. Arun Kumar, President, JNUTA. Prof. Arun Kumar thanked the political parties for participating in this seminar and suggested that there was a need for a serious public discourse since the discourse in the media is largely personality based and accusations and counter-charges are flying thick and fast. That is why JNUTA decided to organize the discussion among the political parties on the critical economic issues that confront the nation today. To initiate the discussion, Prof. Arun Kumar presented a summary of the country's current economic situation and highlighted the various problems so that the speakers could address these issues and make sharply focused presentations.

First, Mr. Anand Sharma was invited to speak. The issue posed to him was how would the Congress party do what it had not done in the preceding five years? Mr. Sharma in his presentation argued that the economic performance in the last five years was good in spite of the 7th year of the global economic crises since 2007. He argued that even though decision making had slowed down somewhat but foreign investment were still coming in which indicated that confidence in the Indian economy had not been lost. He argued that there was an anti-incumbency factor due to which people were not recognizing the achievements of the government in the last five years. He suggested that UPA-II has been trying to revive the manufacturing sector through various means. He stated that poverty had sharply declined in the preceding 10 years and would continue to decline in the coming years. He argued that steps have been taken to check corruption and crony capitalism and bring about transparency in decision making.

Next, it was the turn of Mr. Prashant Bhushan of AAP to make his presentation. The question posed to him was whether corruption alone can be the agenda of a party or more was needed. Further, whether corruption was limited to a few businessmen or was it a general phenomenon. Mr. Bhushan argued that GDP growth cannot alone be an issue. Mindless growth cannot deal with the problems of the country and that is why the social indicators for the poor are in bad shape and in fact, growth has been anti-poor. He criticized round tripping through the Mauritius route and suggested that crime money, hot-money and money-laundering would be severely dealt with. He suggested that employment generation would be revived and the informal sector protected. AAP would focus on the people and get them involved in policies through decentralization. He said that AAP is not against private enterprises but private monopolies. He also argued that inflation would be checked through appropriate policy measures.

Prof. Arun Kumar next invited Ms. Nirmala Sitaraman of BJP and asked her how BJP's policies would be different from those pursued by UPA-I & II and how corruption would be checked by BJP. Ms Nirmala Sitaraman asserted that the BJP's policies would be different from these of UPA-II. She asked why the fundamental of the economy had deteriorated in the last four years. She mentioned high inflation, paucity of job creation, persistence of poverty, high fiscal deficit and the role imposed on RBI to control inflation even though inflation in India is not just a monetary phenomenon. She argued that BJP's policies would tackle these and take the economy to a new high. She also said that corruption would be dealt with strictly.

Dr. D.P. Tripathi of the NCP was asked how his party's approach was different from that of the Congress party, its alliance partner in UPA-II. He was asked to comment on the poor performance of agriculture and civil aviation both of which were in the charge of NCP ministers. Dr. Tripathi responded by saying that the economic perspective depends on the social perspective of a party and NCP had a positive social perspective in favour of the poor and marginalized. He pointed to the rapid expansion of the agricultural sector and the current record production in agriculture. He argued that NCP ministers had worked for the modernization of agriculture and enabled the cropping pattern to shift. He argued that there is no Gujarat model and argued that in Maharashtra Congress and NCP have shown how water can be used properly and conserved. He argued that Kerala and West Bengal where the left had ruled do not present any kind of model for the country. He suggested that China and Vietnam had developed rapidly by allowing the private sector to grow fast.

Therefore, in the Indian context public sector needed to be privatized. He said that peoples' enterprise is needed.

Finally, Prof. Arun Kumar invited Mr. Tapan Sen of CPI(M) to make his presentation and asked him why is it that in spite of the long rule of the Left government in West Bengal and Kerala, these states are not able to create a new model and why in spite of mass poverty in the country, the Left has not been able to expand beyond these two States. Mr. Sen argued that the Left retained confidence in its ideology because the trickle down theories adopted by the bourgeois ruling parties have been completely discredited. He pointed to stagnation of the real wages in the economy and the rising share of profits of the corporate sector. He pointed to casualisation of labour and the presence of a vast reserve army of labour which keeps wages down. He said the Left through its policies would reverse these trends. He also said that the growth of the last 10 years is not sustainable. He stated that the Left has been presenting its alternative to the nation and in this the public sector would play an important role. He went on to say that it is the public sector which had kept the national economy afloat, while the private sector through its corruption has been looting the resources of the nation and taking them abroad through flight of capital and that has brought about the crisis in the economy in the last five years. He also argued that through tax expenditures, the rich in the country are getting a subsidy of Rs.5.5 lakh crore which is far higher than the subsidy to the poor. He argued against privatization and pointed out to the problems because of that. He suggested the need to focus on the domestic market and on increasing the purchasing power of the poor in the economy.

After this questions were invited from the audience. A large number of questions were addressed to the speakers who answered them all together. A majority of these questions related to the problem of corruption and in this context, the pricing of natural gas came up as an important issue to which all the speakers responded. Mr. Anand Sharma defended the policy of pricing of gas while Mr. Prashant Bhushan, Mr. Tapan Sen and Ms Nirmala Sitaraman suggested that there is a lack of transparency in gas pricing.

After two and half hours of discussion the event came to a close with a vote of thanks to the speakers, the audience, the various people who helped organise the event and the three organizations that came together to host the event.

PRESIDENT(JNUTA)

JNUTA List of Letters written to VC between 2014 February and mid- April

14.3.14 Representation from AIRF faculty.
 14.3.14 Letter from faculty regarding GSCASH matters.
 18.3.14 Letter from faculty member regarding reemployment.
 18.3.14 Representation regarding seed money to new faculty.
 20.3.14 Letter regarding taking over of Day Care Centre by the University.
 20.3.14 Letter regarding pay fixation for re-employed teachers.
 22.3.14 Letter regarding University's position on the CPF GPF case.

22.3.14 Letter from faculty regarding GSCASH matters.
 28.4.14 Note on water crisis on JNU campus and suggestions to resolve it.
 14.4.14 Minutes of Meeting on March 28, 2014.
 21.4.14 Letter re the setting up of Traffic Planning committee and accidents.
 21.4.14 Letter to VC re the AC resolution on simplification and decentralization.
 28.4.14 Letter to VC re GSCASH and EC leakage of decisions and posters.

The teaching and research community of universities in Delhi demands that the political parties commit themselves to the following agenda for the education sector and appeal to the higher education community in the country to support these demands.

March 28, 2014.

Preamble:

1. Education is the mother of all professions and crucial for solving the nation's problems. So, it deserves the highest priority of the nation.

2. There is a crisis in higher education in the country because of the attack on public institutions of higher learning by businesses and its allies in government. This is resulting in the country lagging behind in knowledge generation.

3. Parliamentary and Legislative Acts and processes under which universities are formed are being ignored. The UGC Act and Schedule VII of the Constitution of India are being ignored and violated for narrow/bureaucratic ends. The 247th Joint Parliamentary Committee of MHRD makes a case for shifting of decision making processes in the universities from the paradigm of 'efficient' governance to the paradigm of democratisation of decision making involving all stake holders (teachers, students, 'academics', professionals, etc.).

4. The establishment is seeking to resolve the problem by treating the problem as one of law and order and by resorting to autocratic functioning at the top or via bureaucratization. Consequently, many non-academics are appointed to the top positions in institutions of higher learning. This is curtailing autonomy in academia.

5. This is contrary to the spirit of higher education where 'dissent is the essence' to be celebrated and not a malaise to be eradicated. The decision making bodies of the Universities like the AC and EC and Staff Council should be democratized. Large scale academic restructuring without caring for democratic and statutory procedures and academic concerns have been undertaken, starting with Delhi University, like, the introduction of the four year undergraduate Honours programme in DU. It was introduced hastily despite widespread protests and in contravention of the 10+2+3 national policy. It has been widely reported as having severely diluted academic standards and compromised the interests of marginalised sections.

6. A part of the reason for the crisis is that education faces a funds crunch because the state is abdicating its responsibility to the people, resulting in its rapid privatization and decline of public education. This is leading to a variety of problems like, restriction of access to education, undermining of equity and decline in quality.

7. Therefore, we demand that the state should spend at least 6% of GDP on education as suggested by the Kothari Commission in 1964. This should be the first charge on the nation's budget given its long term impact on the nation's well-being via productivity increase, creation of productive employment and reaping of the youth dividend.

8. Education should become an instrument of social justice for the marginalized in society – women, dalits, tribals and others.

9. There is a need for high quality education to all sections of the population and implementation of the neighbourhood school idea.

10. An important reason for the crisis in institutions of higher education is their weak leadership due to the interference of political and money power in the appointment of VCs, principals and directors. This reduces their commitment to autonomy and accountability to the academic community and the public. Appointments are often delayed for political reasons and this leaves the institutions prone to greater outside interference and bureaucratization.

11. Modern universities work with diverse personnel (like staff in IGNOU or Library personnel) who need to be recognised equally as teachers contributing to the teaching/learning processes. There is a need for both flexibility and reduction in hierarchy which is not conducive to teaching and research.

12. In order to maintain and improve academic standards, it is imperative to attract and retain talent in academia. For this the service and working conditions of teachers need to be comparable with those of other career options before graduating students. Salaries should be commensurate with the higher level of qualifications required.

13. While there is a great need to increase enrolment in education this has to be planned and not ad hoc and not at the expense of existing public institutions. Setting up of a large number of Deemed Universities is creating a variety of problems relating to autonomy of academia and funding. For instance, some aided Deemed Universities (like, Jamia Hamdard of Delhi), project themselves as private organisations and violate the Deemed Universities Regulation (2010).

14. The higher education community in India is conscious that it has to be accountable to the long term interest of society. For this, the following demands are being made:

Continued in page 7



Photo: Discussion of the political parties on economic agenda for 2014 Elections in session, April 2, 2014 at SSS Auditorium, JNU.

Contd. from page 6 **Demands of the Academic Community from the political parties to commit to.**

1. Education should get the highest priority in policy making.
2. Education should be recognized as the key to achieving equity and removal of poverty in the country.
3. State should not abdicate its responsibility to its people and do everything to improve public education in the country.
4. The role of public education in achieving greater democratization should be recognized because it is here that the rich and the poor come together.
5. Public sector expenditure on education should be raised immediately to 6% of GDP and public sector funding should not be diverted to the private sector.
6. Debureaucratization of education through paying scrupulous attention to the Parliamentary and legislative Acts and processes under which universities are formed and ought to work under. Parliamentary scrutiny so as to ensure that the broad spirit of parliamentary or legislative acts is not violated for narrow/bureaucratic ends.
 - a. Minimization of the role of Ministry of HRD, State Education bureaucracy and UGC in the functioning of institutions of higher learning
 - b. Stopping the role of political and money power in appointments of VCs, Directors and Principals.
 - c. Appointment of only academics to the leadership positions in institutions of higher learning and these appointments should be timely.
7. Service Conditions of academics need to be improved to attract talent:
 - a. Make the service and working conditions of teachers comparable with those of other career options available to graduating students. Recognize that academics need to have higher levels of skills than others so that their salaries also need to be higher than those of others.
 - b. Reduce hierarchies in academia. Introduce flexibility rather than rigidity in the systems. Recognize that institutions of higher learning today work with a variety of teaching/learning personnel who ought to be treated as academics.
 - c. Regularise the services and hold timely interviews for promotions.
 - d. Contractualisation should be discontinued and lakhs of posts lying vacant must be filled up soon through due process.
 - e. A proper pension scheme that has been denied to new entrants since 2004 must be restored.
 - f. Problems of Deemed Universities need to be immediately resolved and they be compelled to adopt and follow in its entirety the UGC (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations-2010.
8. Restoration of democratic functioning in institutions of higher learning and an end to autocratic and arbitrary actions in higher education.
 - a. Immediate implementation of the recommendation of the 247th Joint Parliamentary Committee of MHRD that the 'paradigm of efficient governance' be changed to the

'Paradigm of democratisation' of decision making processes involving all stake holders.

- b. It is necessary to recognize that 'dissent is the essence of higher education' and is not a malaise to be eliminated.
 - c. The decision making bodies of the Universities, Colleges and Institutes like, the AC and EC and Staff Council should be democratized.
 - d. Standards cannot be achieved by standardization in higher education which is resulting in mediocrity and sycophancy and not excellence.
 - e. The recent debilitating experiments in Delhi University be halted and reviewed.
9. Promotion of autonomy at every level and recognizing that different people have different ways of producing research. So mechanical means of judging academics via API scores, etc., can only produce mediocrity and sycophancy.

Signatories:

1. Prof. Nandita Narain, *President, DUTA*
2. Prof. B S Saraswat, *President, IGNOUTA*
3. Prof. S H Mahmood, *Secretary, Jamia Teachers' Association*
4. Prof. M S Bhatt, *President, Jamia Teachers' Association*
5. Prof. Mahmooduz Zafar, *President, Hamdard University Teachers' Association*
6. Prof. Anup Dhar, *President, Ambedkar University Delhi Faculty Association*
7. Prof. Dipendra Nath Das, *Secretary, JNU Teachers' Association*
8. Prof. Arun Kumar, *President, JNU Teachers' Association.*

Seminar organised by JNUTA

Higher Education in India: *Critical Issues and - Challenges.*

VENUE: Convention Centre, JNU

DATE: Saturday, May 10, 2014

TIME: 9.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.

SPEAKERS AND CHAIRPERSONS

- Prof. Deepak Nayyar (JNU).
Prof. S.K. Sopory, VC (JNU).
Mr. Ashok Thakur, Secretary, HRD.
Prof. S.K. Thorat, (JNU and ICSSR).
Prof. Anil Sadgopal, Bhopal.
Prof. Sudha Pai, Rector, JNU.
Prof. G.D. Sharma, N Delhi.
Prof. Avijit Pathak, JNU.
Prof. Satish Deshpande, DSE, DU.
Dr. Raghuram, I.P. University.
Prof. Sudhanshu Bhushan, NUEPA.
Prof. C.J. Daswani, Retd. JNU.
Prof. Rizwan Qaiser, JMI.
Prof. Roopmanjari Ghosh, Shiv Nadar Univ.
Prof. Ivaturi Ramabrahmam, CU, Hyderabad.
Dr. Saumen Chattopadhyay, JNU.
Ms. Nandita Narain, President, DUTA.
Prof. S. Bhatt, President (JMI-TA).
Dr. Jaipal Singh, Gen Secy, PG Govt. College TA.
Dr. Nihal Farooque / Dr. MV Laxmi Reddy, IGNOU.
Dr Laxmi Narayan, CU, Hyderabad.
Prof. A.P.S. Chauhan, Jiwaji University, Gwalior.
Dr. (Mrs). Manpreet Kang, IPUTA President, Delhi.
Dr. Arvind Mishra, JNUTA.
Representatives of other Teachers' Unions.
Prof. Arun Kumar, JNUTA.

Seminar Organizing Committee:

Ajay Kumar (Convenor), Hari Ram Mishra and Swati Tiwari.

I. The following resolution was passed in the JNUTA GBM held on March 10, 2014, after a thorough discussion lasting two hours.

JNUTA Resolution on GSCASH Related Issues Currently Facing the JNU Community

In view of the recent controversies related to some cases of alleged sexual harassment currently being investigated on campus, JNUTA unconditionally supports the need for an autonomous, strong and independent GSCASH in JNU.

In the same spirit, JNUTA disapproves of any pressure tactics against any party, be they complainants, respondents, investigating officers or other members of the GSCASH. JNUTA considers any such attempts by any party to be against the spirit of GSCASH.

It was decided that even though the discussion lasted close to two hours, there was need for further discussion about the various aspects of GSCASH at another GBM.

Arun Kumar
President, JNUTA

Dipendra Nath Das
Secretary, JNUTA.

II. At the JNUTA GBM held on March 10, 2014, it was decided to send a resolution in support of the struggle launched by IIPA Staff Association against the illegal action of the Board of Governors of IIPA in compulsorily retiring Prof. R. K. Barik.

JNUTA Resolution in support of the IIPA Position:

JNUTA strongly supports the democratic struggle in IIPA against the illegal action of the Board of Governors in compulsorily retiring a senior colleague, Prof R. K. Barik. JNUTA sees in this move an attempt to demoralize the academic community in IIPA and condemns it in no uncertain terms.

JNUTA fears that such actions and consequent demoralization can only cause harm to the long term interest of the Institute and therefore, urges the IIPA Governing Body and its Director to immediately take back this illegal order.

JNUTA also urges all sections of the academic community in the country to support the democratic struggle of IIPA Staff Association lest such arbitrary actions take place in other institutions of higher learning in India.

Arun Kumar
President

Dipendra Nath Das
Secretary

III. At the JNUTA GBM held on March 10, 2014, it was decided to send a resolution to DUTA in support of the democratic struggle of Delhi University community against the undemocratic steps initiated by the Delhi University authorities in its EC meeting of March 6, 2014.

JNUTA Resolution in support of the DUTA:

It has come to light that at the Delhi University EC meeting of March 6, 2014, major changes to the Statutes and Ordinances have been approved. For the following identifiable reasons, the changes being set in motion will have a long term adverse impact on Delhi University by changing its fundamental character and its ethos as an institution promoting critical thinking:

First, by approving changes in the ordinances of the University to allow the VC to seek a second term. This change should not take place when the term of the VC is about to end and he still presides over the EC. This is especially important since the current VC has been acting in an undemocratic manner and contrary to the spirit of functioning of a university wherein he should be accountable to the university community. He has constantly worked to curtail the autonomy of the academic bodies of Delhi University. Thus, he has been singularly responsible for vitiating the atmosphere in Delhi University and causing large scale demoralization of teachers and students of the University.

Secondly, it is reported that the proposal to impose a Code of Conduct on teachers has been approved. This militates against the spirit of democracy and liberalism which are essential for the smooth functioning of a university. It appears to be a part of a move to impose the UGC's Code of Professional Ethics that would enable the VC to unilaterally target dissenting academics.

Thirdly, apparently a proposal has been approved to vest all authority for initiating action against teachers found guilty of 'misconduct', with the VC. Given the past conduct of the present VC, this will only reinforce authoritarian trends in Delhi University and lead to curtailment of autonomy by instilling a sense of fear in the academic community of the University.

Fourthly, we also hear that threats were held out to teachers who wanted to record their dissent with these proposals in the EC. We believe that dissent is the essence of higher learning. We deplore this attempt to curtail the democratic functioning of a body like the EC.

JNUTA also urges all sections of the academic community in the country to stand up in support of the democratic struggle of Delhi University community lest such changes begin to be initiated in other institutions of higher learning in India.

Arun Kumar
President

Dipendra Nath Das
Secretary

An Appeal

JNUTA deeply sympathises with the 5000 families of Masoodpur village, Vasant Kunj, whose houses were burnt down in a fire on Friday, April 25, 2014.

Also, in view of the large scale of destruction caused by the accident, which has completely destroyed the meagre assets of our fellow citizens, many of whom are employed on our own Campus as domestic staff, JNUTA strongly appeals to all our members to kindly donate clothes, household items, food, medicines, and a day's salary, in support of our neighbours in distress.

Please contact the undersigned for modalities regarding donations.

Arun Kumar
President

Dipendra Nath Das
Secretary