

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU UNIVERSITY

PRESS RELEASE

5 December 2018

The annual court meeting of Jawaharlal Nehru University successfully concluded on 5 December 2018. The JNU Court is the supreme statutory body of the university which meets once in a year and the Chancellor of the university presides over this meeting.

Dr. V. K. Saraswat, the Chancellor of JNU highly appreciated the performance of JNU and said that JNU is in the right direction in bringing about transformation of education to make it socially more relevant. Innovative steps taken by the university can address the challenges of the contemporary era. By praising the “enormous amount of progress”, he advised the concerned faculty and students against rushing to the media and making “unfounded statements” that ruin the prestige of the university. He underlined that demand for democracy should be made with responsibility and accountability in actions.

The Vice Chancellor underlined major steps taken by the administration to modernize procedures and systems for the benefit of all stake holders. Some of those include student registration under one roof, prompt allotment of hostels to students, and the decision to hold JNU Entrance Examination through computer-based online examination, introduction of non-polluting e-rickshaws, and bicycles—measures that are student friendly. Setting up of incubation centre, assisting researchers in commercialization of their patented findings, developing an interface with the industries, promoting socially relevant research are additional measures the JNU Administration has attempted. The JNU court was informed that the Golden Jubilee celebrations of JNU would start on January 12th, 2019 with the installation of Swami Vivekananda statue. It was made clear that no university funds are used for the statue.

The Vice Chancellor also apprised the court members that several loopholes in implementation of rules of the university have been plugged; processing of leave and other applications have been expedited by the use of e-office, appropriate measures have been taken to simplify viva voce examination of research scholars with the use of the internet and grievance redressal mechanisms to deal with the problems and concerns of students, teachers and staff have been put in place.

One of the external members of the JNU Court pointed out that the teachers and the students unions are feeding misinformation to media and social media and thus bringing down the image of the university in the society at large. When disciplinary action is taken against violation of rules, it is depicted as illegal “punitive measures”. Without an iota of evidence, allegations are made by JNUTA that financial irregularities are being made by administration, whereas there is transparency on all financial matters and the expenditures are regularly audited by the CAG.

“Whereas JNU Ordinances authorize the Vice Chancellor to make leave rules, such efforts are depicted as illegal. A massive misinformation campaign has been launched by JNUTA that does nothing but tarnish the image of the university and that may dissuade prospective students from across the country from applying to JNU”, the Court was told.

The Vice Chancellor in response to allegation of unaccountability pointed out that the faculty, who did not cooperate with the admission branch and refused to provide information on intake, are the ones who are lamenting reduction of number of students in previous academic years! If reserve seats were not filled, he suggested, the Centres that are responsible for informing the vacant seats, setting the question papers for Entrance Examinations, evaluating the answer scripts and holding viva voce are to be answerable. He read out a letter from a Dean to the Chairpersons seeking their non-cooperation with the admission office of the university.

The JNU Court took special objection to observation made by some members that some teachers are not following the attendance rules of the university and expressed its strong displeasure. In addition, the Court expressed its dismay over teachers and students associations blatantly violating the JNU rules and defying even the order of the Honourable High Court of Delhi which prohibit holding protests of all kinds, including hunger strike, demonstrations and sit-ins within one hundred meters of the Administration Building and academic complexes. Under the JNU rules, an area for staging of protests has been clearly earmarked and all the stakeholders of the university have a legitimate place in the campus to exercise their freedom of expression and speech.



Registrar

Dr. Pramod Kumar
