

Join JNUSU's call for

## **PROTEST DEMONSTRATION**

**in front of Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment**

**against the Murder of Social Justice in JNU**

- *Why 90% Reserved seats are remaining Vacant in MPhil/PhD for last 2 years?*
- *Why there is a blanket 50% Cut-off Criteria for clearing the written exam and No Relaxation for Deprived Communities?*
- *Why there is 100% Weightage for VIVA against Supreme Court directives?*
- *Why JNU Administration has Stopped bringing the Admission Result in Public purview?*

### **Ministry of Social Justice must take immediate measures to**

- Ensure fulfilment of Constitutionally mandated Reserved seats in admission policy.
- Direct JNU Admin to Withdraw Draconian UGC Gazette 2016 in Toto.
- Bring the weightage of Viva to 10-15% as per Supreme Court directives.
- Publish & bring the Admission Result in Public Purview.

**6 April Friday Assemble at Ganga Dhaba @ 1:00 PM**

For the past two years, JNU has been facing an unprecedented assault on everything that it stands for. Apart from systematic assaults on its democratic decision-making processes and institutions, one of the most serious assaults has been on JNU's admission policy. This assault, as we know, have already spelt serious repercussions on JNU's demographic composition, and on future research in this institution. From massive seat cuts, to complete scuttling of legally mandated reservations, every inclusive facet of JNU's admission policy has been smashed into smithereens, decimating social inclusion and social justice in JNU in every possible manner. The concerted attack on statues of Periyar and Ambedkar was not merely symbolic; rather it was part and parcel of a larger game plan to destroy the vision of an inclusive, just and egalitarian society. We are seeing attempts to dilute the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act which was enacted in 1989, even as violence against Dalits and other marginalised groups is only increasing. From Una to Bhima Koregaon, from Asifa to the young Dalit man killed for riding a horse, violence shows no signs of abetting.

**In JNU, for students from marginalized sections, policy changes over the last two years have meant a double whammy – in the form of seat cuts and scuttling of reservations.** After being excluded from education for generations, at the time when the first generation learners started to make headway in the arena of education, this government's policies have sounded a death knell to collective dreams. To say the least, JNU which is one of the last few centres remaining in the country for affordable, quality and inclusive education, is being systematically dismantled.

### **Multiple Tricks to Cut Seats and Decimate Reservations**

The **first attack** on reserved seats came when the JNU administration arbitrarily **imposed the 5 May 2016 UGC Notification**, overriding the number of MPhil-PhD seats fixed through the CEI Act 2006 (93rd Constitution Amendment). This led to drastic reduction in the number of overall as well as the reserved seats. In smaller centres, reserved seats got completely wiped out.

The **second trick** to curtail reservation was the imposition of a **uniform cut-off of 50% for clearing written** for all categories. The reservation policy requires that students from reserved categories be given relaxation in cut-off (minimum eligibility) at EVERY stage of elimination (both written and viva) in the exam process. So a uniform eligibility criteria of 50% in written – without the mandated relaxation for reserved categories– is against the law of land and a brazen ploy to ensure that enough number of reserved category students do not cross the first barrier itself! Indeed it is a sure shot formula to scuttle the mandated SC/ST/OBC/PWD reservations from the very start.

The **third trick** to scuttle reservation is the arbitrary rule of **100% Viva-Based selection**. Through a mischievous misinterpretation of the 5 May 2016 UGC Notification, the JNU admin has imposed 100% Viva Based selection in MPhil/PhD admissions. The UGC Notification says that to be called for viva, students must qualify the written.

However, the UGC notification, **in no way** can be interpreted to imply that the written is *just* a qualifier and that the score in written exam shall not be counted for final selection along with viva score. The non-counting of written score in final selection makes the final selection 100% viva-based, opening the doors for 100% discretion, discrimination and nepotism in the selection process. Two committees of JNU, Prof. Rajiv Bhatt Committee (2012) and Prof Nafey Committee (2016), have shown the arbitrariness and discrimination in viva; and Prof. Nafey Committee report (2016) to reduce weightage of viva to 15%! So a 100% viva-based admission process is the surest recipe for keeping reserved category seats unfilled.

The **fourth trick** to further curb reservation came in the form a **circular by Rector-I on 2 January 2018**, which suddenly imposed yet another eliminative criteria of a **minimum score (cut-off) for clearing the viva!** With this additional bar in place, there are high chances students will be deliberately marked below that minimum eligibility bar (cut-off) to keep both the unreserved (UR) and reserved (R) seats unfilled. We are all too aware how the excuse of 'none found suitable' is routinely invoked to keep the seats, particularly the reserved category seats unfilled. So, this *combo rule* of 100% viva based selection plus the bar of a minimum score in viva will act as easy and additional tools for seat cut and decimation of reservation!

**Scrapping of JNU's iconic Deprivation Points:** In addition to systematic scuttling of reservations, the VC's move to remove deprivation points at the MPhil/PhD level struck a huge blow to JNU's academic and social commitment for an inclusive education. Whose interests is this administration serving by scrapping deprivation points, which has allowed women students and students from (socially, regionally and economically) deprived backgrounds to come to JNU? The administration has only created multiple barriers and compounded woes for the poor, the marginalised and women. Moreover, over the last two years there is utmost lack of transparency in bringing the admission results in the public purview. **JNUSU holds the VC and his team squarely guilty for calculated mischief and making a travesty of country's reservation policy and provisions.**

**How Reservation Stands Decimated:** In reply to an RTI query, regarding the implementation of reservation, it was found that no reservation was provided in the programmes with a small intake (see Table below). Out of 42 programmes of study advertised, only 3 programmes have SC reservations, 2 programmes each have ST and PH reservations, and only 15 have OBC reservations. Moreover, the JNU administration has converted 19 reserved seats to unreserved ones. Of the 159 seats offered, only 31 seats were reserved—reservation is therefore just 20.75%, in complete violation of the CEI Act and Constitutional provisions. Shockingly, the bulk (76.33%) of the 131 seats that were NOT offered (100 seats) are the reserved seats. Moreover by lowering the intake, through the implementation of the UGC gazette notification 2016, the offered seats have been reduced well below the levels before the passing of the *Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Act, 2006*, which mandated a 54% increase in the intake of seats, thus a clear violation of the National/State-level reservation policy.

Year	MPhil/Phd/MTech/Mph/Phd	Intake	Offers (Quota)	Quota left UNFULFILLED
2017-18	SC	37	6	96.63%
	ST	16	2	99.31%
	OBC	76	24	91.73%
	PH	2	1	50%
2016-17	SC	141	131	7.09%
	ST	75	65	13.33%
	OBC	265	237	8.67%
	PH	21	29	0

Overall, this is a huge assault on JNU's admission policy, and on generations of students who see JNU as one of the rare spaces where they can acquire an education. Besides this, recent policy changes by the government regarding **reservations roster in teaching positions** have once again meant scuttling of reservations. Now, government policy allows for filling faculty seats at the level of each department, rather than by clubbing all the seats together at the university level, which means a drastic shortfall in the number of seats available for reservation. **JNUSU appeals to you to participate in large numbers in the Protest Demonstration TOMORROW (6 April 2018) at the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. Assemble at Ganga Dhaba at 1 pm tomorrow.**