

UNIVERSITY NOTE ON THE INCIDENT THAT TOOK PLACE ON 9TH FEBRUARY 2016

Four students, namely, Umar Khalid, Komal, Anirban and Awasthy sought permission of the Dean of the Students for organizing an event called "Poetry reading – The country without Post-Office" on 9th Feb, 2016 at 5.00 pm at Sabarmati Dhaba.

On 9th Feb, around 3.00 pm, it came to the notice of administration that the poster for the event was captioned "Against the Bramanical Collective conscience, against Judicial killing of Afzal Guru & Maqbool Bhat in Solidarity with the struggle of the Kashmiri people for their democratic right to self determination". The Vice-Chancellor immediately convened a meeting of the Registrar, Chief Security Officer, Dean of Students and the Chief Proctor. Following the meeting, the Dean of students told the CSO to inform the students organizing the event that the permission for holding the event has been withdrawn. In spite of being informed by the security staff that the permission has been withdrawn and repeated requests not to go ahead with the event, the organizers went ahead and organized the programme where allegedly certain objectionable slogans were raised. The organizers invited the media to cover the programme without permission from the university authorities.

Considering the gravity of the incident that took place on 9th Feb, the university authorities constituted a High Level Enquiry Committee of three senior faculty members on 10th Feb, 2016 to enquire into the whole incident. The committee is expected to submit its final report by 25th Feb, 2016.

On 11th Feb, 2016 the Deputy Police Commissioner, South Delhi contacted the Security officer and sent a letter stating that anti-national sentiments were voiced by some students of the University on 9th Feb, 2016. He also sought permission to the police to enter the premises to take necessary steps. Considering the serious nature of the alleged offence, permission was given to the Police to investigate the matter as per law of land.

The Vice-Chancellor apprised the Deans of Schools and the Chairpersons of the Special Centers about the situation on the ground on 11th Feb, 2016.

On 12th February, the Enquiry Committee comprising Professor Rakesh Bhatnagar, Professor Himadri Bohidar and Professor Suman K. Dhar submitted a preliminary report and recommended that eight students identified by them should be debarred from academic activities while allowing them to stay in hostel as guest. The report was accepted by the Vice-Chancellor and the Chief Proctor was asked to implement the recommendations. Press was briefed about the Preliminary Enquiry Report.

The apprehension of Faculty members about the police presence on campus was discussed with the Faculty representatives and a letter was sent to the Police requesting them to take utmost precautions before entering the University Campus if required under law. The police officers also gave the assurance that police will enter the University Campus only if absolutely necessary as per law and the university authorities will be informed in advance.

Dr. K. Kasturirangan, Chancellor, JNU visited the University on 13th February, 2016 and met with the Vice Chancellor, faculty members, senior officials, staff members and karmacharis . He expressed concern about the unfortunate incident that took place on 9th February, 2016 in JNU Campus which led to disturbance of peace and tranquility, affecting its academic programme. He appreciated the quick response by the Vice Chancellor and his team, in dealing with this matter in setting up the enquiry committee and also many other follow up actions. He emphasized the need for all sections of the JNU community to extend full support to the JNU Administration and expressed confidence that effective steps would be taken to restore normalcy on campus and to ensure that such incidents do not recur.

The University authorities are doing everything possible to maintain peace and tranquility on the campus so that normalcy is returned and we get back to academics which is the main function of the University. On 14th February, the Vice-Chancellor issued an appeal through the press requesting everyone to help create a conducive academic atmosphere. The entire JNU community is supporting the Administration in our efforts to restore peace and normal academic functioning of the University.

Sd/-

(Bupinder Zutshi)
Regsitrar