

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU UNIVERSITY

30th December 2019

Dear Students:

Let me begin with extending my warm greetings to you all on the occasion of the New Year. It is the time to celebrate the dawn of 2020 as also to contemplate on 2019: what we have achieved, how we should have done better and how we should plan the year ahead to do better, to make our University a more promising institution in terms of its academic excellence and contribution to the society. My firm conviction is that students, staff and teachers of JNU ultimately shape its future and craft its present. The legacy of any academic institution rests only on its stakeholders.

Over the past three years and more, JNU has achieved many milestones in its academic excellence: you are aware of our standing in the country and the world, whether it is a NAAC rating or NIRF, JNU has maintained its top position among all the Central Universities of the country. All this has magnified JNU's image and attracted students and scholars alike. The number of researchers getting large grants to expand their laboratory projects has been significant. From January 2019 to December 2019, project funding sanctioned to JNU faculty members by different funding agencies has touched Rs. 190 crore. The University has also introduced a number of new study programs such as the Schools of Engineering, Management and Entrepreneurship, Special Centres of Disaster Research, and National Security. We are working on building new academic complexes and hostels. Indeed, none of this would have been possible without the full support and hard work of our students, staff and teachers.

While we are all happy about our University's achievements, there are certain recent incidents which have deeply impeded the forward march of our University. It is difficult to fathom what prompted our students to take the path of confrontation and disruption affecting the teaching and research work towards the end of the Monsoon Semester 2019. Although the University administration and the relevant bodies followed the statutory process for revising the room rent and hostel charges, a false impression was created as if the administration were bringing about these changes to harm the students. Nothing can be farther from the truth. The nominal increase in the hostel charges was necessitated owing to a mounting fiscal pressure on the University budget, and to maintain a comfortable and conducive hostel accommodation. The administration made several attempts to establish meaningful dialogues with the agitating students to explain the rationale behind the new hostel charges.

Agitating students prevented the teachers and non-agitating students from entering few school buildings. This has put enormous pressure on the bonafide students as their future was at stake. Fortunately, in several other schools and special centres examinations were conducted as per the academic schedule. The winter semester of 2020 will start as per the academic schedule. However, many students who could not complete their academic requirements in the monsoon

semester of 2019, need to be helped. Today there was a meeting of all the three Rectors, Registrar, the Deans of Schools and Chairpersons of Special Centres. After due deliberations, they have collectively decided that

- a) All the students who have completed their “academic requirements of Monsoon semester 2019” will register from 1st Jan to 5th Jan 2020.
- b) Those who have not completed their “academic requirements of Monsoon semester 2019” will be allowed to provisionally register from 1st Jan to 5th Jan 2020.
- c) All the provisionally registered students are required to complete their “academic requirements of Monsoon semester 2019” by 20th January 2020 to keep their registration valid.
- d) All Deans and Chairpersons will ensure that all evaluations, examinations and grading of all the provisionally registered students are completed on or before 20th January 2020.
- e) For all the students, including the provisionally registered students, winter semester will start as per the academic calendar.

As the Chairman of the Academic Council, I have approved the above recommendations of the Deans of Schools and Chairpersons of Special Centres. Keeping the future of the students in mind, the University is giving yet another chance to the students to complete their academic requirements of Monsoon semester 2019.

In view of the above, I appeal to the agitating students to call off their strike and lockdown of certain school buildings. Let us make a new beginning in the New Year to take our University forward.

I once again wish you a very happy, fruitful and prosperous New Year.

With regards,



M. Jagadesh Kumar