



Adjourned AC Meeting Reconvened on 31st March! EC Meeting On 6th April :
Resist Administrative Machinations to Stall Reservations in Faculty Positions
at the AC Meeting of 31st March and EC Meeting of 6th April!

Join Protest Demo and Dharna
in front of the Reconvened AC Meeting
on 31 March 2.00pm SSS I

Ever since the OBC Reservations Act came into force, casteist forces in JNU and beyond have tried every trick in the book to stall its implementation, including regular lamentations on “lack of infrastructure”. In JNU, we have seen how the administration used a devious interpretation of the cut-off criteria for OBC candidates, in blatant contravention of MHRD as well as Supreme Court directives, to scuttle its proper implementation. Now shockingly, our Vice Chancellor has gone on record to state that getting an extra three years to implement the mandated 27% OBC quota in JNU would be “wonderful”! AISA strongly condemns this attitude and demands that JNU implement the full 27% OBC reservations for OBC students this year itself.

The JNU administration is also refusing to implement the legally mandated reservations for SC/ST candidates in faculty posts. At the AC meeting held on March 18th, the balance of forces was in favour of implementing SC/ST reservations in faculty posts. The meeting, however, was adjourned, preventing a decisive vote on this crucial issue. **The AC is now slated to meet again on 31st March, and the anti-reservationist forces within the JNU administration will definitely once again come up with new tricks and floor management tactics to engineer an anti-reservation ‘verdict’ from the floor of the AC.**

Also, JNU’s Executive Council will be meeting on 6th April where again the agenda of reservations will be put up. Several pending appointments in faculty positions are being held up on this pretext. The progressive and democratic sections in the entire JNU community will have to remain vigilant, and ensure that at both these meetings, the JNU administration is forced to properly implement reservations. **Any further machinations to stall OBC reservations for student admissions and SC/ST reservations in faculty posts will NOT be accepted and will be stiffly resisted tooth and nail.**

Resist UPA’s Foreign Universities Bill ! Defend Sovereignty, Social Justice
And Inclusion in Higher Education!

The Foreign Educational Institution (Regulation of Entry and Operation) Bill 2010 was recently cleared by the Union Cabinet presided over by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. This is a bill with dangerous implications, for it allows foreign educational providers to set up campuses in India and offer degrees. The UPA will in all likelihood get it ratified, as it is on its way to being tabled before both houses of the Parliament.

Behind The Smokescreen of ‘Choice’, ‘Competition’ and ‘Quality’

The Minister for Human Resources Development, Kapil Sibal his cohorts would have us believe that this Bill will ‘enhance choices’, ‘increase competition’ and ‘benchmark quality’.

But this smokescreen of ‘choice’, ‘competition’ and ‘quality’, hides the real truth behind this Bill. This is a bill that will pave the way for virtually unrestricted entry of foreign private players in higher education. It will only hasten the process of converting education into a commodity available to a select few who can afford it. **Above all, it essentially absolves the state of its responsibility to provide affordable, quality education to its citizens and to ensure social inclusion in institutions of higher education in the country.**

We need only remember that according to a story published in the *Indian Express*, the aggressive advocate of the liberalization policy, Manmohan Singh, objected to an earlier version of the Foreign Universities Bill on two counts: 1) fee regulations by the UGC and 2) the modalities of giving approval to these universities. The PMO apparently argued that if the UGC regulates fee for foreign varsities, Ivy League institutes would not set up their campuses in India! In other words, the PMO made an all-out attempt to dilute even the minimalist restrictions that had been inserted in the bill to curtail the foreign education providers.

P.T.O.