IN DEPTH

Spare the universities, please!
Government Must Respect the Act Passed by Parliament on Aligarh Muslim University

Aligarh Muslim University, established by an Act of British Parliament in 1920 through the transformation of Anglo Mohammedan Oriental College run by an all Muslim member Trust (Court), has been the most important center of education for Muslim boys and girls in the country. At that time Trust gave Rs. 38 lakh and 600 acres of land to the government for this purpose. Sir Saiyed Ahmed established it in 1877 in tough circumstances when, in the aftermath of 1857 revolt, Muslims were severely suppressed and Muslim youth were outside the realm of modern education. The university was primarily meant for Muslims but its doors were open to students of other communities as well. As a consequence around 30% non-Muslim students have always been there on its rolls.

In 1952, at the initiative of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, the then Education Minister, Court was open to about 25% non-Muslim members. In 1965, there was unrest against the Vice Chancellor, as a consequence AMU administration was taken over by the Government. In 1981, under the premiership of Indira Gandhi, Indian Parliament passed an Act maintaining the minority status of AMU. Till 2005, there was no reservation for Muslims and the ratio of around 70:30 of Muslim: non-Muslim students was maintained. But in MS, MD programs in medicine, the percentage of Muslims was declining, hence the university introduced reservation in these courses. Two students went to Court. The High Court single Judge, without consulting the affected party, AMU, passed the judgment that AMU was not a minority institution as it accepted funds from the government. This judgment bypasses the supremacy of Parliament to enact a law. Against it, the University went to Supreme Court. Government of India submitted bulk of documents and affidavit supporting the claim of AMU for minority status. Now when the Supreme Court is about to give its verdict, the new Govt of India has told the court to return back the affidavit filed by the previous government. This is the contempt of the Act passed by Parliament. This will be a gross violation of historic rights of minority students to education and a serious danger to arousing sectarian passions.

We urge the Government of India to strengthen efforts by various communities to bring children, according to their backgrounds, in the mainstream of education. The HRD Minister must refrain from making unfounded and emotive statements that may arouse passions.
Isn’t it strange that the BJP-led nationalist government has turned to a hated colonial law that the British repeatedly used to punish thousands of Indian freedom fighters including Gandhi and which Nehru condemned in parliament as ‘highly objectionably and obnoxious’? But stranger things have happened in this country since the BJP came to power. And the latest target of the dispensation in Delhi appears to be students, scholars, writers and all those who dare to think on their own.

At the height of America’s long and disastrous Vietnam war, US campuses were rocked by a powerful anti-war movement. Young people came out on the streets to protest the mindless destruction of a tiny, impoverished country and killing of hundreds of thousands of innocent people at the hands of the most powerful army on earth. Thousands refused to enlist themselves for Uncle Sam’s war, one of them being a certain Mohammed Ali who would reason: “I ain’t got no quarrel with those Vietcong!”

Bob Dylan wrote his iconic protest songs, from “Blowin’ in the Wind” to “Masters of War,” and from “Talking World War III Blues” to “The Times They Are A-Changin’”, during those years, firing up the imagination of an entire generation.

This movement championing peace and universal rights and questioning all authority and received notions of nationalism soon spread to the other side of the Atlantic and around the world. The year 1968 saw Europe swept by a wave of protests. Repelled by new gods of nation state, crassness of western materialism and increasing meaninglessness of the church and the state, many turned to what came to be known as the hippy way of life.

What defined those times was the craving for a better and more just world and a healthy irreverence for authority. Protesting against nuclear weapons, wars and jingoistic policies of their governments, they did not shy away from censuring the state. Flags were freely burnt and individuals did not worry too much about inviting charges of sedition under archaic, colonial laws when they confronted their governments.

Even today look at all that Noam Chomsky, the Leftist philosopher and eminent linguist, gets away with against his own country. Read any of his speeches, essays and interviews at the height of US wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and you would be instantly forced to broaden your horizons.

From calling the Bushies war criminals who belonged in the International Criminal Court to slamming the US for its hegemonic wars, Chomsky, ensconced in the comforting security of MIT, repeatedly held mirror to his country. And as far as I know, the US government hasn’t as yet put the most influential dissident of our time in the dock for “sedition” or “anti-national activities,” as has been the fate of student leaders of Delhi’s prestigious Jawaharlal Nehru University. Nor has it imprisoned filmmakers like Michael Moore who repeatedly questioned, challenged and mocked their commander-in-chief for the absurdities of a ‘with-us-or-against-us’ worldview.

Some of these dissidents were so angry with the actions of their governments that they renounced their identity, as Arundhati Roy did some years ago declaring her own independence: “I hereby declare myself an independent, mobile republic. I am a citizen of the earth. I own no territory. I have no flag.”
Railing against US wars, popular pastor Rev Jeremiah Wright of Chicago, who was once close to Barack Obama and even baptized his children, would thunder: “Occupying somebody else’s country doesn’t make for peace. Killing those that fought to protect their own homes does not make for peace. We confuse government and God. We believe God sanctioned the rape and robbery of an entire continent. And (they want) us to sing ‘God Bless America.’ No, no, no. Not ‘God Bless America’; God Damn America! That’s in the Bible, for killing innocent people!”

Nobody accused the pastor of being ‘anti-national’. Nor did the US government threaten to teach him a lesson, as India’s powerful Home Minister Rajnath Singh has in response to the harmless slogans of JNU students. Compared to what Chomsky and others have repeatedly said and written against their governments and their policies, what some JNU students reportedly said and did by way of solidarity with Afzal Guru and Kashmiris last week was nothing. But when “government is confused with God” and the country acquires the halo of divinity, anything could be stretched to fall into the realm of ‘sedition’ and ‘anti-national’ activities. Not for nothing had Iqbal argued: In taza khudaon mein bada sabsay watan hai!

Hindutva has appointed itself the sole guardian, defender and interpreter of national interest. Samuel Johnson famously described patriotism as the last refuge of a scoundrel. In the interesting times that we live, it has become the first and foremost tool and a big stick in the hands of the Right, which it uses at the drop of a hat to deadly effect against its adversaries and usual suspects. Rather clever for folks who sat out the national struggle for freedom and repeatedly colluded with the colonial powers! Muslims and other minorities have long been the helpless pawns in this dangerous game. There is something incredibly emasculating when you are accused of not being “loyal” to the land of your birth. Few would know how to respond to the slur. Having lived with the vile accusation for the past 70 years and more, India’s Muslims still haven’t figured out how.

Dalits have suffered in other ways for centuries. But they are fighting back as they try to take charge of their destiny. Which is what Rohith Vemula and his comrades at the Hyderabad Central University were trying to do when the Hindutva wrath was unleashed on them, accusing them of being “anti-national and traitors” for protesting against the hanging of Afzal Guru and Yakub Memon.

But this is not a debate about nationalism, Kashmiri separatism or the independent thinking spaces that great universities like JNU represent. What is unfolding, from Hyderabad to Delhi, is a battle for India’s soul. It is not enough for the BJP to capture the reins of power in the name of universally appealing slogans like development and fighting corruption.

The saffron clan knows it cannot succeed in reining in the independent spirit of the country unless it takes control of its universities and colleges, think tanks, research centers and the media. It has already infiltrated most of them. Most university vice-chancellors picked up by the government are fellow travelers. School curricula are being entirely rewritten through the jaundiced Hindutva prism, in order to raise generations of Indians on a diet of hate and intolerance. Institutions like Indian Council of Historical Research, widely respected for their scholarship, are now headed by RSS men.

Universities like JNU are a thorn in the side of the Parivar because of their very liberal nature and the spirit of free thinking and debate that they encourage. The fact that JNU has always been the stronghold of liberal, progressive groups makes it the most tempting target of the Right. Anyone who does not subscribe to the saffron worldview must be branded ‘anti-national’ and wiped out.

But as the events of the past few days have demonstrated, the liberal, secular India is fighting back. The fact that after JNU, university students in Calcutta marched to the chants of ‘Azadi’ and Afzal Guru goes to prove that this is a protest against the darkness that is fast enveloping India. The brutal attack on JNU students, teachers and journalists inside a Delhi court by BJP goons points to the shape of things to come. Today it is university students, journalists, women, minorities and Dalits who are in the line of fire. Who knows for whom the bell tolls tomorrow? These are critical times for the world’s largest democracy. Fascism is on the march across the land. And it’s time for everyone to stand up and be counted.

In the name of Allah, Most Compassionate, Most Merciful,

The right to sexual fulfilment belongs to both the husband and wife, and it is wrong to assume that in Islam only the husband has this privilege.

The wife has as much right to expect that her sexual needs are fulfilled as the husband. As such, sexual relations are a right of both spouses.

The renowned Hanafi jurist (faqih) Imam Ibn Abidin (Allah have mercy on him) states, ‘Among the effects of marriage is the permissibility of each spouse deriving sexual pleasure from the other.’ (Radd al-Muhtar ala ‘l-Durr al-Mukhtar 3/4)

A husband is religiously obliged to fulfil the sexual needs of his wife and not deprive her of this right.

Refusing sex without a genuine reason or excuse and using it as a weapon against her constitutes a sin in the eyes of God (i.e. in the next life).

Many jurists (fuqaha) hold that it is obligatory for the husband to engage in sexual intimacy with his wife every so often. (See: Bada’i al-Sana’i 2/331)

Sayyiduna Abdullah ibn Amr (Allah be pleased with him) relates, ‘My father married me off to a woman of good lineage, and he used to consult his daughter-in-law (i.e. my wife) and ask her about her husband. She would say to him, ‘An excellent man, [but] a man who has not slept with us in bed nor removed the veil from us since we came to him!’

When that went on for a long time, my father mentioned it to the Messenger of Allah (Allah bless him & give him peace).

The Messenger of Allah (Allah bless him & give him peace) said, ‘Send him to me.’

So I went to meet him soon after, and he said, ‘… Have I not been informed that you fast all day and pray all night?’

I said, ‘Yes, O Messenger of Allah.’

He said, ‘Do not do it. Fast [some days] and do not fast [other days], and pray and sleep, because your body has a right over you, your eye has a right over you, your wife has a right over you, and your visitor has a right over you…”

(Combined from two variations of the same Hadith)
in Sahih al-Bukhari no: 4765 and 1874)

In this Hadith, the Messenger of Allah (Allah bless him & give him peace) advised Abdullah ibn Amr ibn al-Ass (Allah be pleased with him) to be moderate in his worship, and upon learning that he had not slept with his wife, the Messenger of Allah (Allah bless him & give him peace) said to him, ‘Your wife has a right over you,’ clearly defining the husband’s responsibility of fulfilling the sexual and other needs of the wife.

Abu Juhayfa relates, ‘The Messenger of Allah (Allah bless him & give him peace) joined Salman and Abu al-Darda’ (Allah be pleased with both) together in brotherhood.

Salman visited Abu al-Darda’ and saw [his wife] Umm al-Darda’ poorly dressed and thus said to her, ‘What is the matter with you?’ She said, ‘Your brother Abu al-Darda’ has no need of this world [meaning he did not care whether his wife adorned herself for him or not since he was very busy in worshipping Allah].’

Abu al-Darda’ came and made some food for him [i.e. Salman].
Salman said, ‘Eat.’
He replied, ‘I am fasting.’
Salman said, ‘I will not eat unless you eat.’
So he ate.
In the night, Abu al-Darda’ went to stand in prayer and Salman said to him, ‘Sleep!’ and so he slept.
Then he got up again and Salman said, ‘Sleep!’
When it was the latter part of the night, Salman said, ‘Now get up, and they both prayed together.’
Salman then said to him, ‘Your Lord has a right over you, your self has a right over you and your wife has a right over you, so give each rightful person their due right.’

Abu al-Darda’ came to the Messenger of Allah (Allah bless him & give him peace) and mentioned this to him and the Messenger of Allah (Allah bless him & give him peace) said, ‘Salman spoke the truth.’ (Sahih al-Bukhari 1867)

As such, a husband is religiously obliged to have sexual relations with his wife every so often – enough to maintain her outward and inward chastity such that she does not incline towards committing a sin. If a man consistently refuses his wife, he will be sinful in the sight of Allah.

However, as with the case of the husband’s right to sexual intimacy, this obligation is conditional on his physical ability to have sex with his wife. If he is too ill or weak to engage in any sexual activity or fears that having sex with his wife will result in unbearable weakness, then he will not be sinful.

All of the above is at the level of law.

The spirit of marriage is different.

Seeking one’s rights through demands and argumentation contradicts the spirit of marriage, and never solves anything.

Rights should always be understood in light of the following Prophetic guidance:
‘The most perfect of believers are those most perfect in character; and the best amongst you are the best of you to your spouses.’ (Sunan al-Tirmidhi 1162)
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Posted by: Modern Muslim
<modernmuslim@msn.com>
The international years are year-long observances to observe certain issues of international interest/concern. Many of these years have been established by the United Nations General Assembly (UN) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The first year was the World Refugee Year (1959) in the context of the refugees and migration after the Second World War. The science related years include: the International Health and Medical Research Year (1960); the International Year of Physics (2005); the International Year of Astronomy (2009); the International Year of Chemistry (2011); the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All (2012). It is interesting to note that there is yet be an International Year of Mathematics! Year 2014 was the International Year of Crystallography. Year 2016 is the International Year of Pulses. The mechanism of vision and the nature of the accompanying light have fascinated the human race since ancient times, and continue to this day. Light-based technologies have revolutionized medicine and opened up international communication via the Internet, and will continue to underpin the future development of human society. When harnessed, the light-based technologies can promote sustainable development and provide solutions to global challenges in energy, education, agriculture, health and well-being. Hence, in December 2013, the United Nations proclaimed 2015 as the International Year of Light and Light-based Technologies (IYL2015).

Reflecting back, it is interesting to note that the first draft (dated 26 September 2012) prepared by the UNESCO Executive Board (for submission to the United Nations for proclaiming 2015 as the International Year of Light) did not have Ibn al-Haytham in it. This first draft stated:

The year 2015 commemorates a remarkable series of important milestones in the history of the science of light dating back 200, 150, 100 and 50 years. In 1815, Fresnel in France introduced the theory of light as a wave; in 1865, Maxwell in England described the electromagnetic theory of light; in 1915, Einstein in Germany developed General Relativity which confirmed the centrality of light in both space and time; and in 1965, Penzias and Wilson in the United States discovered the Cosmic Microwave Background, an echo of the creation of the universe. Celebrating the scope of these milestones in 2015 will provide a tremendous opportunity for educational activities worldwide.

Ziad Aldrees Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to UNESCO was
ESCO, all committed to raising awareness of how light science and technology provide solutions to the many challenges facing the world today. But the light of these technologies was a tremendously global initiative with thousands of events reaching millions of people in almost hundred countries. United by the interdisciplinary theme of light, IYL2015 brought a diverse range of participants in concert with UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France. The IYL2015 was officially closed with a three-day Closing Ceremony during 4-6 February 2016, in Mérida, Mexico. Both the ceremonial events had speakers and attendees comprising of international diplomats and decision-makers, Nobel laureates, CEOs, and science and industry leaders from across the globe. The outreach programmes initiated during the IYL2015 will continue for many years come.

In proclaiming an International Year focusing on the topic of light science and its applications, the UN has recognized the importance of raising global awareness about how light-based technologies promote sustainable development and provide solutions to global challenges in energy, education, agriculture and health. Light plays a vital role in our daily lives and is an imperative cross-cutting discipline of science in the 21st century. The Opening Ceremony of the International Year of Light and Light-based Technologies was held during 19-20 January 2015 at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France. The IYL2015 was officially closed with a three-day Closing Ceremony during 4-6 February 2016, in Mérida, Mexico. Both the ceremonial events had speakers and attendees comprising of international diplomats and decision-makers, Nobel laureates, CEOs, and science and industry leaders from across the globe. The outreach programmes initiated during the IYL2015 will continue for many years come.

The International Year of Light and Light-based Technologies has been a tremendously global initiative with thousands of events reaching millions of people in almost hundred countries. United by the interdisciplinary theme of light, IYL2015 brought a diverse range of participants in concert with UNESCO, all committed to raising awareness of how light science and technology provide solutions to the many challenges facing the world today. But the IYL2015 had only 94 National Nodes (see Table-1), which organized local campaigns, activities and events. It is to be noted that UNESCO has 195 Member States (see Table-1) and 10 Associate Members (Anguilla; Aruba; British Virgin Islands; Cayman Islands; Curaçao; Faroes; Macao, China; Montserrat; Sint Maarten; and Tokelau). None of the ten Associate Member States participated in the IYL2015. The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) was founded in 1969 and has 57 member states (see Table-2) comprising a Muslim population of over 1.5 billion. Only 19 of the 57 OIC countries registered as the IYL2015 National Nodes. From the six oil rich Arab States constituting the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC, founded in 1981), only four participated in the IYL2015: Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates; the remaining two Bahrain and Kuwait did not.

From the two Tables it is evident that more than half the countries did not participate in the IYL2015. These countries who missed the IYL2015 account for about three-quarters of the world population of over seven billion. It is to be noted that 1.1 billion people do not have access to electricity and are consequently using traditional means for light. The absence of the numerous populous countries, points the limitations of the optics community and scientific community at large. Light science is one of the most accessible themes to promote cross-disciplinary education. IYL2015 was endorsed by the International Council of Science and a number of other international scientific unions. But even that did not induce a wider participation from the developing countries from Africa, Asia and South America. Many of the 94 enlisted countries did not participate actively. This is evident by the small number of programmes registered by the national nodes in the calendar at the IYL2015 website. It also points to the weakness of the learned societies and government organizations, which have failed to work together. Even the central theme of light, without which the civilization could not exist, has failed to operate on a larger scale. It is time for the founding fathers of the IYL2015 and the numerous organizers to reflect on this state of affairs. This aspect of inadequate participation needs to be examined by the organizers of the upcoming international years and other vehicles of outreach programmes. IYL2015 would have been an excellent opportunity to promote national and international collaborations to address the problems faced by the Muslim countries and the developing countries in general. If they could not come together on a consensus theme of light and vision, will these nations come together for delicate and sensitive issues?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participated in IYL2015</th>
<th>Did Not Participate in IYL2015</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Algeria; Andorra; Argentina; Australia; Austria</td>
<td>Afghanistan; Albania; Angola; Argentina; Barbuda; Azerbaijan; Bangladesh; Belgium; Bolivia and Herzegovina; Brazil; Bulgaria; Burkina Faso; Burundi</td>
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<td>Bangladesh; Belgium; Bolivia; Brazil; Bulgaria; Cameroon; Canada; Chile; China; Cuba; Germany; Greece; Guatemala; Guinea; Guinea-Bissau; Haiti; Honduras; Hungary; Iceland; India; Indonesia; Ireland; Israel; Italy; Japan; Jordan</td>
<td>Afghanistan; Albania; Angola; Antigua and Barbuda; Azerbaijan; Bahamas; Bahrain; Barbados; Belize; Benin; Bhutan; Botswana; Cabo Verde; Cambodia; Central African Republic; Chad; Comoros; Congo; Islands; Côte d'Ivoire; Democratic People's Republic of Korea; Democratic Republic of the Congo; Dominica; Gabon; Gambia; Georgia; Grenada; Guatemala; Guinea; Guatemala; Bissau; Haiti; Honduras; Hungary; Iceland; India; Indonesia; Ireland; Israel; Italy; Japan; Jordan</td>
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Table 2: Organization of Islamic Cooperation Countries

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<tr>
<th>Participated IYL2015</th>
<th>Did Not Participate IYL2015</th>
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<tr>
<td>A Algeria</td>
<td>Afghanistan, Albania, Azerbaijan</td>
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<td>B Bangladesh</td>
<td>Bahrain, Benin, Brunei, Burkina Faso</td>
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<td>C Cameroon</td>
<td>Comoros, Chad</td>
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<td>D Djibouti</td>
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<td>E Egypt</td>
<td>Gabon, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea</td>
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<td>F Indonesia, Iran, Iraq</td>
<td>Ivory Coast</td>
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<td>G Jordan</td>
<td>Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan</td>
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<td>H Lebanon</td>
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<td>I Malaysia, Morocco</td>
<td>Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique</td>
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<td>J Niger</td>
<td>Nigeria</td>
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<td>K Oman</td>
<td>Palestine</td>
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<td>L Qatar</td>
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<td>M Saudi Arabia, Senegal</td>
<td>Sierra Leone, Somalia, Suriname, S</td>
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<td>N Syria, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan</td>
<td>Uganda, Uzbekistan</td>
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<td>O Yemen</td>
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Bibliography


Department of Mathematics and Sciences
College of Arts and Applied Sciences (CAAS)
Dhofar University
Salalah, Sultanate of Oman
(rohelakkhan@yahoo.com,
http://SameenAhmedKhan.webs.com/)

Bakhabar : March 2016
By V.K. Tripathi

The sloganeering (related to azadi of Kashmir and Afzal Guru) by a handful of youth (20 or so) in Jawahar Lal Nehru University, New Delhi on February 9, 2016 has been construed by the Central Government as treachery and the provisions of sedition law have been evoked to haunt those not in line with the version of nationalism preached by those in power. The president of JNU Students Union, Kanhaiya Kumar, who had nothing to do with the slogans (he only tried to avoid the altercation between the slogan shouters and others), was arrested on charges of sedition. Days later when he was produced in the court, he was badly thrashed by ultra-nationalists in the presence of passive police. Professors, students and journalists were also beaten up in court premises by radical lawyers.

There are two distinct forms of nationalism in the world – the people centric nationalism and the imperialism centric nationalism. The former (practiced by freedom fighters, ranging from Gandhi to Bhagat Singh in India and numerous others across the world) strives to strengthen unity of masses and bring them at the forefront of polity and economy. The latter nationalism thrives on polarizing people on racial or religious lines and acts as subservient to imperialism/capitalism. The likes of Hitler and Mussollini used it to the hilt. In other countries it served colonialism with great devotion whenever the latter faced challenges from mass uprisings for freedom. In the post liberalization and globalization period, it has become much dearer to market forces and media.

Much prior to February 9 episode, the MHRD minister had made her intentions clear when she carried a veiled attack on liberal JNU culture and environment. JNU is one of the most enlightened campuses in the world where learned professors and students sit together and debate serious issues with an open mind. The students, while pursuing academics seriously, develop sensitivity and understanding of national and global issues. JNU attracts students from across the classes through the deprivation points approach in admissions.

On February 18, I visited the JNU campus and talked to a cross section of students. I didn’t find a single one who condoned or supported the slogans. Every one felt the slogans were questionable and so was the identity of those who raised them. But the students were hurt by the spineless actions of administration and oppression by the state. It is most remarkable that the entire student community and faculty of JNU have risen resolutely and peacefully against the blatant branding of JNU as den of anti-nationals by the state and the organizations that thrive on sectarian polarization. Even three office bearers of ABVP (the student wing of BJP) have parted ways from ABVP. On February 18, 2016, JNU students and faculty carried a massive march from Mandi House to Jantar Mantar in which they were joined by over ten thousand students from Delhi University, JMI and other universities.

It is not a struggle for freedom of speech but for freedom of action and thought, thwarted by state repression. It is a struggle for people centric nationalism.

In the present day world, borders are becoming less relevant, as foreign dominance comes through the markets, and conflicts between neighbours are minor concerns. Major concerns are security of masses against internal violence and to safeguard interests of the masses against market onslaught. Jay Prakash Narain in mid sixties lent support to right of Kashmiri people to plebiscite in Kashmir despite violent opposition by RSS activists. However, in changed scenario a few years later he, as well as the leader of Kashmiri masses Sheikh Abdullah, moved ahead of this demand and settled on political and economic empowerment of masses. An important pre-requisite is to build affinity between Kashmiri masses and masses of the rest of the nation and free the people from heavy presence of army. Slogan shouters of azadi of Kashmir must restrain themselves to avoid terminology used by militants. State may mete out the same treatment to supporters of Afzal Guru as meted out to supporters of Godse. The cult of violence is destabilizing many developing countries. All freedom lovers must shun violence and hatred even under extreme provocation.
I By Deeptiman Tiwary I

NIA is hell bent to drop MCOCA from the cases against Hindu Terrorists after over nine years of crime, either under govt pressure or on their own to please their political bosses and thus to win laurels or medals or some other advantages. From day one of formation of the present govt, NIA is trying to save these Hindu terrorists from the punishment of the crime, they committed. As Salian, the then Public Prosecutor and now removed from the case, publicly exploded by saying "NIA ‘(is) asking’ to go soft:" (against Hindu Terrorists) she further added "I am a criminal lawyer, not stupid to say this without proof". Either way it is not only very dangerous but suicidal for the safety, security, integrity and unity of the country.

Last week, the NIA informed a special court that it intended to drop charges under the stringent MCOCA against the 11 accused in the 2008 Malegaon blasts case. Indian Express explains the case, the one of two years earlier, and their many twists and turns.

The blast took place near a hotel in Bhikku Chowk. The bomb was placed in a motorcycle. (Express archive)

Two bomb blasts – one in September 2006 and the other in September 2008 – in the Muslim-dominated powerloom town of Malegaon in Maharashtra have together come to be known as the Malegaon cases. The two blasts killed over 40 people. Both cases were initially investigated by the Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) but are now with the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

In the first case (2006), the state agency chargesheeted 13 Muslim men who were alleged to be operatives of SIMI (the banned Students Islamic Movement of India) and connected to the Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT). Of the 13, only nine were responsible for this irresponsible, inhuman, illegal and communal act. If MCOCA is taken back against Hindu terrorists after more than nine years of the crime, the citizens of the country will lose their faith in govt and its governance, it will give way to Jungle Raj, which will not be only very dangerous but suicidal for the safety, security, integrity and unity of the country.
arrested as four were shown as absconding. Immediately after the ATS filed a chargesheet, acting on protests from Muslim groups, the state government transferred the case to the CBI in February 2007. The CBI agreed with the ATS investigations and filed a supplementary chargesheet supporting the ATS probe.

Meanwhile, on September 29, 2008, another blast ripped through Malegaon. The ATS once again took up the case. In October 2008, the ATS, under joint commissioner of police Hemant Karkare (who died in the 26/11 attacks a month later), for the first time unraveled a conspiracy by right-wing Hindu groups to spread terror in the country.

The agency first arrested Sadhvi Pragya Singh Thakur, a former ABVP activist. This was followed by arrests of army officer Lt Col Shrikant Prasad Purohit and retired Major Ramesh Upadhyay. The role of the right-wing outfit Abhinav Bharat, along with that of self-proclaimed Hindu seer Sudhakar Dwivedi, also came to light.

The ATS subsequently chargesheeted 14 accused in the 2008 Malegaon case before a special MCOCA court in Mumbai – Pragya Singh Thakur, Ramesh Upadhyay, Shrikant Prasad Purohit, Sameer Kulkarni, Rakesh Dhawade, Sudhakar Dwivedi a.k.a. Dayanand Pandey, Sudhakar Chaturvedi, Pravin Takalki, Shivnarayan Kalsangra, Shyam Sahu, Ajay alias Raja Rahirkar, Jagdish Mhatre, Ramchandra Kalsangra and Sandeep Dange. Of the 14, Shivnarayan Kalsangra, Shyam Sahu, Ajay alias Raja Rahirkar and Jagdish Mhatre are on bail while Ramchandra Kalsangra and Sandeep Dange are absconding.

Enter NIA
In December 2010, the CBI arrested Naba Kumar Sarkar alias Aseemanand. In a confession made before a magistrate, Aseemanand said both the Malegaon blasts were the handiwork of radical Hindu groups as a “revenge against jihadi terrorism”. He said the plan to target Muslims was hatched by a group led by former RSS pracharak Sunil Joshi. He said the group was also behind the 2007 blasts in Samjhauta Express, Ajmer Dargah and Hyderabad’s Mecca Masjid. Aseemanand later retracted his statement.

In early 2011, the Centre transferred both Malegaon cases, apart from the Mecca Masjid and Ajmer Dargah blast cases, to the NIA. The agency had already been investigating the Samjhauta Express blasts since 2010.

In November 2011, all nine Muslim men chargesheeted by ATS in 2006 Malegaon blasts case were granted bail. NIA did not oppose the bail and maintained it had no evidence against the nine accused.

The NIA’s findings
Through 2012, the NIA arrested four Hindu men in connection with the 2006 Malegaon blasts probe. In a chargesheet filed in May 2013, the agency named Manohar Narwaria, Rajendra Chaudhary, Dhan Singh and Lokesh Sharma (all in jail now). The chargesheet also mentioned Sunil Joshi, Ramchandra Kalsangra, Ramesh and Sandeep Dange as those involved in the blasts. Joshi is dead while the others are absconding. Ramchandra Kalsangra and Sandeep Dange were common accused in the chargesheets filed by both the NIA (in the 2006 case) and the Maharashtra ATS (in the 2008 Malegaon blasts). Status of 2008 probe

It’s been four years since the blast case of 2008 came to the NIA, but the agency is yet to file a chargesheet. The delay has been largely attributed to a string of petitions filed by the lawyers of
Pragya Thakur and Purohit, besides others, in various courts, including the Supreme Court. Apart from seeking bail for the accused, these petitions have challenged the invocation of the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA) against the accused, the need for their custodial interrogation and the jurisdiction of the NIA over the case.

It was only towards the close of last year that all the petitions were disposed of by the apex court and all bail applications rejected by a MCOCA court, thus clearing the way for NIA to complete investigations and file a chargesheet.

Although the agency has not got permission as yet to conduct custodial interrogation of the accused, it has decided to go ahead with filing a chargesheet.

The current controversy

Even as the NIA reels under allegations that it isn’t moving fast enough in the 2008 case — its former special public prosecutor Rohini Salian told The Indian Express in June 2015 that the agency put pressure on her to go slow in the case — it has written to the law ministry through the Ministry of Home Affairs for opinion on whether it can drop MCOCA charges against the accused in this case.

Dropping of MCOCA charges is likely to weaken the case as, under the Act, a confessional statement made in front of an SP-rank officer is admissible as evidence. The NIA has sought the ministry’s opinion because last year, the Supreme Court had cast doubts over the application of MCOCA against the accused. It had even said that there was not enough evidence against the accused to suggest that they could be charged under MCOCA.

Application of MCOCA requires the accused to have been chargesheeted twice earlier in criminal cases. Also, the Act requires the probe agency to prove that the accused were part of an organised crime syndicate and were committing the crime for pecuniary gains. NIA says such conditions are applicable to only one accused, Rakesh Dhawade. NIA sources say Maharashtra ATS invoked MCOCA against the other accused as they were associates of Dhawade. This, NIA sources say, may not stand the scrutiny of court.

Why the legal opinion

NIA is being cautious. Legal experts say NIA could have simply filed a final report before the court and said that in its findings, it did not see any reason to invoke MCOCA against the accused. In fact, framing of charges against the accused under any particular Act is the prerogative of the court and not the agency.

In a December 2012 order in Vinay Tyagi vs Irshad Ali case, Supreme Court had said: “Once a Report (chargesheet) under Section 173(2) of the (Criminal Procedure) Code has been filed, it can only be cancelled, proceeded further or case closed by the court of competent jurisdiction and that too in accordance with law. Neither the Police nor a specialised investigating agency has any right to cancel the said Report.”

In the present case, the NIA is virtually seeking opinion on MCOCA charges slapped by Maharashtra ATS in its chargesheet.

What happens now

If the law ministry gives an opinion in favour of dropping MCOCA charges and the NIA accepts it, the agency can file a chargesheet under sections of the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act that deals with acts of terrorism.
Over the last few months it has become quite evident that the NDA government at the Centre is hostile to the life of the mind that universities signify. The government’s thinking on the subject is an extension of the Sangh’s thinking, like in other area of life. The government seems to represent the RSS, not the people of India.

From the very beginning, the Sangh has been hostile to the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) at Delhi because of its Left-liberal orientation. The university has always been on the target of the Sangh as an article published recently (and quoted by supporters of JNU) in the RSS mouthpiece Panchjanya amply demonstrates.

The government has unleashed a reign of terror against a number of JNU students, including the students’ union president Kanhaiya Kumar, on flimsy charges. The students have been booked under charge of sedition, a ridiculous colonial law meant to intimidate freedom-loving Indians. Already the Supreme Court has, in its great wisdom, read down the law, which is least likely to persuade judges to give the students any harsh punishment.

Another unbecoming aspect of this petty-minded dispute on part of the state is its initial attempt to frame the students on the charge of working on the orders of Hafiz Sayeed of LeT, a terrorist organisation based in Pakistan. The most ludicrous part of this is that a person no less than India’s home minister publicly announced that the students had been working on the orders of Hafiz Sayeed. The government had to face embarrassment when it had to, again publicly, retract and clarify that the Sayeed angle was a concoction.

This government is given to making exaggerated claims and wild allegations. Like all other Sanghis, government ministers do not hesitate before calling somebody “anti-national”. Being called an “anti-national” is a serious allegation which nobody should level against anyone without sufficient proof. What face and what credibility the government has left after its wild Hafiz Sayeed allegation? No wonder that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi consoled a huge gathering of agitated JNU students saying, “No, you are not anti-national. Those who call you so are anti-national”. If the Hafiz Sayeed allegation is a concoction, what is the proof that the sedition charge too is not cooked up?

If such serious and false charges can be publicly levelled against the students at such high level of government, then the police are surely going to be brutal with the students and chances of terrible torture in police custody are pretty high as policemen are
known to torture and kill people uncomfortable to
governments to curry favour and get promotion. We
are deeply concerned about the wellbeing of students
targeted by the police.

Meanwhile, the targeted students have circulated a
video in which ABVP (Akhil Bhartiya Vidyarthi
Parishad, student wing of RSS) students are shown
shouting pro-Pakistan and pro-Kashmir Azadi slo-
gans. They have also made the video available to
leaders of AAP, the party that runs Delhi govern-
ment. The RSS is known to be an expert in such
tricks, JNU students have been telling people who
care to listen.

They have cited some strange bomb blast cases.
When some Muslims accused in some bomb blast
cases were to get bail in court cases, light-intensity
bombs were set off in the town where the case was
being heard, a day or two before the bail plea hear-
ing. In such cases the bail plea was invariably re-
jected. Their tactics came to light and stopped) after
Hindutva terrorists were nabbed by Hemant
Karkare’s team. These bail-preventing blasts were
the handiwork of Sangh terrorists. Such tactic comes
easy to RSS-trained persons.

That the slogan-shouting mischief could really be the
doing of ABVP is indicated by the fact that in recent
years at several places Sangh men were killed trying
to make bombs. Kurtas, pyjamas, and skull caps
were found at the sites along with false beards. The
idea was to attack Muslim sites in “Muslim dress”
complete with flowing beards, so that the deed could
be attributed to Muslim terrorists. For years India’s
official position was that Pakistan’s ISI bombed the
Samjhauta Express, killing dozens of Muslim trav-
ellers to Pakistan, who included both Indians and
Pakistanis. This case too, was unearthed by Karkare
as the handiwork of Hindutva terrorists.

The past record of Sangh indicates that the JNU stu-
dents’ claims could be true. The attack on JNU has
galvanised Indian universities into a protest mode.
Four hundred top universities of the world, including
Harvard and Yale, have declared solidarity with JNU
and demanded release of Kanhaiya Kumar and drop-
ing of all charges.

Meanwhile, Sangh men have declared that 18 uni-
versities in India are on their hit list. The way they
have orchestrated the forced suicide of Rohith Vem-
ula at Hyderabad Central University is an indication
of to what extent they can go. Vemula was the sixth
Dalit student in a series forced to kill themselves by
a casteist and communal ideology.

The Centre has also opened a decided issue: it has
sought to end the minority character of Aligarh Mus-
lim University, Aligarh, and Jamia Millia Islamia,
New Delhi, in a most ill-advised manner. Nobody
knows whether these two Muslim universities are
among the 18 universities on target, or whether they
are being targeted separately.

This unnecessary turmoil has taken up all the avail-
able space for national news. At least temporarily,
this is good for the Central government, because it
distracts people and they have no time to ask it what
it has done for the country. The fact is that the gov-
ernment performance has been extremely poor.
http://iosworld.org/short_takes/Spare_the_universi-
ties.htm
The Second National Urdu Science Congress was held during 20-21 February 2016 at Aligarh, under the aegis of Anjuman Farogh-e-Science (ANFROS), Aligarh Chapter. The inaugural session was presided by Lieutenant General (Retired) Zameer Uddin Shah the Vice Chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University (http://www.amu.ac.in/). The inaugural Function was held at the Aligarh Muslim University’s Polytechnic Auditorium. This landmark event was graced by eminent personalities including: Dr. Iqtedar Hussain Farooqui (former Director of National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow), Dr. Mohammad AslamPervaiz (Vice Chancellor, Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad), Padam Shri Hakeem Syed ZillurRehman (Founder; Ibn Sina Academy, Aligarh, http://www.ibnsinaacademy.org/) and over 50 delegates from all across the nation. The Congress had successfully attracted scientists; renowned scholars of Arabic Urdu and Persian languages; educators; writers; poets; historians; heads of institutions; science reporters and Islamic scholars. Professor Abdul Moiz Shams, the renowned ophthalmologist served as the Convener of the Conference and Asad Faisal Farooqui as the Secretary.

In present times science and technology have a crucial place in our lives. They have impacted each and every aspect of our existence. They are needed for progress and our well-being. It is essential that the public needs to be aware of scientific and technological advances. Hence, it is essential that the relevant information be provided to the general public in as many languages as possible. In order to be on par with the developed nations, it is essential that the public be made aware of the importance of science. A possible way to achieve this awareness is by delivering the relevant scientific content in a simplified manner in their native language.

Urdu is one of the languages, which is spoken by millions of people across India and abroad. It is extremely essential that awareness of science be made in Urdu language. Absence of scientific literature in Urdu language is felt with severity. Doing this may be challenging but equally important. This task is not that difficult as in the recent past Urdu was the medium of scientific instruction and enquiry. We need to revive the rich heritage of Urdu in the context of scientific disciplines. A prime example in this direction is the Anjuman Farogh-e-Science (Organisation for Science Promotion, Delhi), a registered non-governmental organization (NGO), established in 1992. The NGO works towards the promotion of sustainable development. Since, 1994, it has been regularly publishing a popular science monthly magazine, Urdu Science Mahnamah (Urdu Science Monthly); the only monthly popular Science and Environment monthly published in the country. The Anjuman has also held science popularization conferences in Urdu. It organizes an award giving function, recognizing school students with highest scores in science subjects. This commendable effort is due to Dr. Mohammad Aslam Parvaiz the former Principal Zakir Husain Delhi College (http://www.zakirhusaindelhicollege.in/). Now, Dr. Parvaiz is the Vice Chancellor Maulana Azad National Urdu University (Headquarters in Hyderabad, http://www.manuu.ac.in/).

It is to be recalled, that Dr. Parvaiz created the National Urdu Science Congress last year. The very First National Urdu Science Congress was organized by the Anjuman Farogh-e-Science, at Zakir Husain Delhi College, Delhi, India during 20-21 March 2015. One of the recommendations of this landmark event was to hold the Urdu Science Congress every year by rotation in different cities. Following the grand success and
the recommendations of the first one, the Second Urdu Science Congress was held during 20-21 February 2016 at the ideal city of Aligarh, which is home to the renowned Aligarh Muslim University. The Second Urdu Science Congress aimed to foster communication between scientists and researchers interested in presenting their works in Urdu language. The Conference covered the following topics:

1. Quran, Islam and Science
2. Scientific Literature in Urdu for Children
4. Religious Institutions and Science
5. Scientific Literature in Urdu (Past, Present and Future)
6. Scientific Disciplines in Schools (need of the hour)
7. Scientific Terms and Translations in Urdu
8. Inheritance of Science among Muslims

The special features of the Second Urdu Science Congress included: (a) Exhibition of Science Books in Urdu (b) Book Releasing Function of New Science Books in Urdu (c) Science Quiz Programme for Children (d) Special Lectures by Prominent Science Personalities (e) Releasing Ceremony of the Directory of Indian Science Reporters and (f) Special Session on Scientific Literature for Children. During the Congress, about ten books were released including: Scientific Functions by Mr. S.S. Ali; Muslim Scientists Work on Science by Mr. Abdul Qayoom; New Methods of Agriculture by Abdul Naeem; Re-sham Saazi by Dr. M.M. Shaikh; Mukashifat (in Arabic) by Dr. Shahid Rasheed; Aab-e-Hayat by Dr. Abdul Moiz Shams; A Directory of Urdu Science Writers by Dr. Abid Moiz, Dr. Abdul Moiz Shams and Mr. Asad Faisal Farooqui. Prof. Iqtedar Hussain Farooqui, said “that though he had attended many conference in various parts of the world, but for the first time he is attending a conference, which is related with a language and science together!” At the end of the two day
Congress, there were several recommendations. The first and foremost recommendation was to recognize and give credit to the place of Urdu in the Indian society. The next Urdu Science Congress is scheduled to take place in 2017, in Hyderabad.

Professor Azher Majid Siddiqui of Jamia Millia University, Delhi, India in collaboration with the author of this note presented the proposal: “Need to Create International Science Centres in the Arab Countries”. The centres can be modeled after the European institutions. They reasoned that the photonic technologies can serve as a vehicle for international collaborations across the Arab countries. The author of this note recommends the formation of the “Urdu Science Congress Association (USCA)”, modeled after the Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA, http://www.sciencecongress.nic.in/). The ISCA started in the year 1914 in Kolkata and it meets annually in the first week of January every year.

Bibliography
3. Azher Majid Siddiqui and Sameen Ahmed Khan, Urdu mein synchrotron ka qiyam (Article in Urdu, Establishment of Synchrotron in Jordan), Urdu Science Mah-
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Cultural Influence

Cuisine

FEBRUARY - 2016

CALENDAR

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Cultural Influence
Architecture

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MARCH - 2016

CALENDAR

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21st - Maha Shivratri
24th - Holi
25th - Good Friday
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Cultural Influence

Art

AUGUST - 2016

CALENDAR

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95° - Babu Jagjivanram Jayanti
96° - Ugadi, 16° - Dr. Ambedkar Jayanti
15° - Ram Navami, 20° - Mahavir Jayanti
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Cultural Influence
Language

MAY - 2016

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01st - May Day
21st - Buddha Purnima
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Cultural Influence
Music

JUNE - 2016

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Note: This calendar is a partial representation of the whole calendar.
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### JULY - 2016

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**CALENDAR**

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**Holidays**

- 15th July - Independence Day
- 16th July - Eid-ul-Zilja
- 17th July - Independence Day
- 18th July - Eid-ul-Adha
- 19th July - Independence Day
- 20th July - Independence Day

**Note:** The dates are subject to change.
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Trade and Industry
Craftsmanship

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**November - 2016**

**Calendar**

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16th - Guru Nanak Jayanti / Children's Day
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Handicrafts
(Himroo, Mashru, Pashmina Shawls, ...)
Kalamkari
Bidri Work

Trade and Industry
Craftsmanship

1000 YEARS OF MUSLIM CONTRIBUTION IN MAKING INDIA!

DECEMBER - 2016

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12th - Milad-un-Nabi
25th - Christmas