



NATIONAL STUDENTS UNION OF INDIA
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MANIFESTO DUSU 2009-10

INTRODUCTION

History was created in May, 2009, when the Congress led UPA were re-elected to the Central Government for a second term, and Dr. Manmohan Singh became the only Indian Prime Minister after Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru to be elected for a second consecutive term by the Indian electorate. The reasons are clear. In the last five years, the UPA government has fulfilled most of its major commitments made to the Indian people – whether it be in the historic waiver of farmer loans, the NREGA, landmarks legislations like the RTI, the National Rural Health Mission, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Bharat Nirman, JNURM and many more. Central universities are being established in each state, more IIT's, IIM's are coming up. In fact, a number of new IIT's have already started functioning, and seven new IIM's will commence courses from 2010-11. The Ministry of Science and Technology has introduced a scheme known as Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) that includes scholarships for young learners (10-17 years), scholarships for continuing science education (17-22 years) and opportunities for research careers (22-32 years).

One of the major commitments of UPA-II has been the stress on the education sector. The union HRD Minister has already taken a number of historic measures, most crucially, the **RIGHT TO FREE AND COMPULSORY EDUCATION BILL** that seeks to make education compulsory for all children between the ages of six and fourteen. This historic legislation will open the doors of education to a huge section of population, especially in rural India. In addition, the HRD Ministry has also undertaken major reform of the school system, by making the Class X exam optional and introducing a graduation-based system, to bring the education system in India at par with international standards.

It is often at the college level that a student faces his/her first tryst with democracy, where they get to exercise the vote for the first time, and thus, one should exercise it with tremendous caution and responsibility. NSUI remains committed towards providing a sound academic environment for the students of the university. Over the last few years, NSUI has consistently had a majority in DUSU, and has tirelessly worked for the welfare and upliftment of the student community and has achieved historic milestones, including students representation in the Advisory Council, initiating life insurance policies for the students of the university, constructing new hostels, introducing scholarships for poor, meritorious students, a transparent and centralised admission system for SC/ST students as well as the running of more U-specials, and the formation of anti-

ragging and anti-sexual harassment committees. It was also during 2007-08, that under the initiative led DUSU, the entire Delhi University was declared a smoke and tobacco-free zone, and the results of this initiative are very apparent.

NSUI is confident that if given a mandate for another year, it can continue to work for the benefit of the students of the university and provide a safe, secure, academic campus for all the students.

DUSU 2009

The Delhi University Students Union election 2009-10 are being fought under difficult circumstances. The University authorities over the last few years have been systemically and gradually trying to scuttle the entire process of student elections and curb the voice of the students in the university. The aim is clear – with no student resistance, the administration will be able to implement its agenda much more easily. While everybody agrees that there is a need for a review of the election campaign process, the rules need to be implemented fairly. This year, two of the NSUI candidates were disqualified by the university *after* the period of withdrawals was over in a totally undemocratic manner. The NSUI strongly condemns such a move, and has taken a decision to launch a protest movement. However, at the same time, we realise that the democratic process must not be allowed to falter, as that will only strengthen the hands of the administration further. Therefore, NSUI has decided to contest the elections with the remaining candidates in the fray. We appeal to the student community to give a strong rebuff to the draconian measures of the administration, and vote in large measures for the NSUI panel.

However, this is not the first year that the Administration has acted in such an undemocratic manner. The DUSU President was busy making media appearances and claiming credit for work that had not been done. Today, the need of the hour is for all student organisations to come together on a common platform and launch a joint struggle to ensure that the rights of students are not compromised by the university and they continue to have a voice.

PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE YEAR AHEAD:

DEMOCRATISATION OF THE UNIVERSITY:

- Proper conduct of elections – Voting in the students union elections is an important part of student life. However, in the last few years one has seen a gradual attempt at scuttling the students voice, through arbitrary application and implementation of rules. NSUI asserts that it is not against any procedure that will lead to a better campus for the students; the issue however remains the implementation of the rules. If elected to DUSU, NSUI will work with the University administration as well as other student organisations to find a middle path for the conduct of the election process to the students union.
- Representation in bodies – Another important part of the democratic process in a university is the representation of

students in various decision-making bodies. NSUI reasserts its demand to the university authorities for representation in the Academic Council. We also demand that any one of the DUSU office bearers be an ex-officio member of the Committee against Sexual harassment. Similarly, college union representatives should be ex-officio members of these committees at their respective college level.

ACADEMIC ISSUES:

- Internal assessment – Even after considerable time after its introduction, internal assessment continues to be a problematic issue. Especially, issues related to arbitrary moderation of the internal assessment marks at the university level. NSUI pledges to take up the issue with the Examination Branch to ensure that student marks are not moderated by the University authorities.
- The students of B.A. Programme should have greater choice of foundation and application courses. The university should review these courses, and those courses which are not in demand should be replaced by more contemporary and career-oriented courses.
- Proper mechanism to ensure that all courses are completed before 23rd March, and that teaching days lost due to exigent circumstances be compensated.
- Tie-up with college unions to ensure that up to date books and journals are available for students. Ensure proper internet connection for students in colleges, including Braille software for visually challenged students.
- There should be a procedure through which DUSU representatives will recommend books and journals to the Purchase Committee based on student demand, which normally they should accept to buy or else give reasons for denial.
- Colleges and the university campus should be wi-fi zones.

FELLOWSHIPS:

- Merit-cums-means scholarships for students from socially and economically deprived sections of society.
- NSUI will ensure that all Central government education schemes and benefits are passed on to the students of the university.

ADMISSION:

- The admission procedure should be streamlined and further simplified for the benefit of the students. Colleges should not have unrealistic cut-offs.
- SC/ST students should be given a choice to choose their colleges and courses of study like the General Category students.
- Seats reserved for the OBC students continue to remain vacant in many colleges. To combat this, NSUI proposes to pressurise all colleges to give the maximum relaxation to

OBC candidates as per rules, from the first cut-off list itself. This will ensure that OBC lists are fulfilled.

- Courses admitting students through entrance tests should publicise the dates well in advance for the benefit of the students.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND AMENITIES

- Power back up facilities in all colleges.
- Proper basic amenities such as filtered drinking water, proper sanitation facilities.
- Food served in the college canteens should conform to proper hygienic norms.
- NSUI will begin rain water harvesting both at the university as well as the college campuses.
- NSUI will take up an intensive awareness campaign against drug abuse by students and youth.

MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES:

- Starting of an interactive DUSU website.
- Reserving of one seat in DUSU on rotational basis for girl students.
- NSUI would like maximum participation of DU students in the Commonwealth Games, 2010, and in this regard, it will identify groups of volunteers from all colleges, who can be given proper training for the Games.
- All colleges should regularly update their individual websites. To bring about greater transparency in functioning, minutes of all meetings related to student issues should be put up on the college website.
- The university as well as the constituent colleges should be totally differently-abled friendly zones, i.e. ramps should not just be placed at the college entrance, but there should be facilities for such students to climb up to successive floors with minimum discomfort.
- Special bus services should be started to link the colleges in Outer Delhi areas to the main university campus. There should be bus services to link the North and South campus, the Kalkaji campus and the Central campus.
- Appointment of a full time student counsellor and a placement coordinator at the university.

JAI HIND!!!

