

Idea of a university and fascist politics



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A university [as](#) an institution represents a responsible entity which should [fight against](#) any injustice in society. It cannot be a mute spectator to the unjust and violent events that unfold in society. Certainly it cannot be a place of violence. Its aim is to build a [group](#) of knowledgeable people who can critically reflect on our society. The right wing politics in [India](#)—Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (AVBP), Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and all other right wing organizations—is engaging in a continuous effort to not only make this country a Hindu Nation but also in the process have come down with its full might to any voices that questions their idea of nation. The [arrest](#) of the Jawaharlal Nehru University Students Union [President](#) Kanhaiya Kumar should not be treated [as](#) an isolation event. The same politics also engulfs a host of undemocratic and violent events that were being carried out in this country in the past two years or so—killing of rationalist like Dabholkar, arrests and harassment of social activists, throwing ink, Dadri, ban on particular food habits, burning historical archives and so on.

Idea of a university

The idea of a university is not just teaching a textbook or imparting disciplinary or interdisciplinary knowledge. It is a place where [education](#) is imparted. [Education](#) is a factor which can make us free from the various 'unfreedoms' of life—caste, poverty, unemployment and so on. The idea of [education](#) is to liberate human beings from their struggles of life and at the same time understand them. It the very idea of [education](#) which gives an individual the ability to reflect on who they are. [One](#) of the fundamental philosophy of [education](#) is to know who one is. [Education](#) should allow us to ask discomfoting question. There is noting more truthful than a [doubt](#). Questioning has led to many discoveries and advancements in many fields of science. This very culture of questioning has led to such insights in human psychology and economics. Such questioning should also be asked when there is injustice going on in the society. Question should be asked when there is an absolute crackdown on fundamental [rights](#) of any citizen. It should be asked when an individual is made to feel inferior. Such question should certainly exist where there is caste discrimination and lynching in the name of food. We cannot be quite when one compares a human being to a dog in the street. It is an insult even to the very [animal](#) too. And most certainly a university should not be expected to remain mute to such becomings in this country. An individual is not allowed to speak freely even on 'intolerance'. Such voices and question are instead treated [as](#) anti-national and charged with sedition.

Right-wing politics in [India](#)

We are all aware of the kind of politics the 'right' stands for. The Indian right stands for a Hindu nation and there is absolutely no regard for minorities. Since they have come to power they have decided to clear the road. In the process they are trying to eliminate any possible voice—be it an individual, an institution, a book or an idea—that have come remotely on their way. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is a political wing of RSS and the [ABVP](#) is the [student](#) wing of the former. These three entities have collaborated in such numerous acts of violence and suppression that they are beyond the court of law. Their acts are hardly brought to court and instead like Armed Forces Special Powers [Act](#), their acts are shielded by the power and might of the institutions, government, and money they control. On the other hand the police with the instruction of the above mentioned entities arrested a [student](#) from a university campus like JNU with no FIR or any reasonable charges [against](#) him. Not only certain media unit played a significant part in the [defamation](#) of the individual on false grounds our very own [Arnab Goswami](#) held his The Newshour show in Times Now and made sure that the students invited from JNU for his show be defamed by playing his yelling and shouting genre of journalism. He forced them to accept what he thought they were—anti nationals. He even went on to comment that the very [leaders](#) of JNU are a shame to the illustrious left movement in [India](#).

Returning of awards or 'award wapsi' is also not an isolated event nor is the institutional murder of Rohith Vemula—who was a bright scholar at Hyderabad University. The [ABVP](#) and BJP had their hands very deep in the institutional murder of Rohith. The rightist organization were also responsible for incidents like Dadri. What should worry us more is that it does not [stop](#) at such incidents, they are treated [as](#) ordinary events of life by the government that is in power and those who support them religiously.

How long should we remain victim and spectator to such politics? We should not tolerate the presence of police in universities where students study. It should be a place where there is absolute freedom. Instead of scholarships they have got police forces on educational campuses. We do not want our country to be intolerant and be ruled by the ideals of a dominant religious majority where there is no place for minority, women, dalits and tribals. We should certainly be wary of the fact that such numerous events of violence and atrocities that are carried out in the name of this nation and development are treated [as normal](#) things of life. It is time that people should think hard and utilize their vote in a meaningful manner so that we do not have to find ourselves in such [dark](#) days. Thankfully there seems to be enough light in this resounding darkness. The solidarity for Rohith and Kanhaiya gives us hope in this sea of darkness.

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Suraj Gogoi

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