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* **IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI**

CNR No. DLHC010431382026

+ **W.P.(C) 13316/2026 & CM APPL. 61924/2026**

MR C ARJUN & ORS.

.....Petitioners
Through: Mr. Abhik Chimni, Ms Moksha
Sharma, Ms Pranjal Abrol, Mr
Gurupal Singh, Mr Ayan Dasgupta,
Mr Tushar Chandra, Advs.

versus

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU UNIVERSITY

.....Respondent
Through: Ms. Ginny Jetley Rautray, Senior
Standing Counsel with Mr. Arnav
Tandon, Adv.

**CORAM:
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE JASMEET SINGH**

**ORDER
10.09.2026**

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1. This is a writ petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India seeking the following prayers :-
“a) Issue a writ of certiorari, or any other appropriate writ, order or direction, quashing and setting aside the Show Cause Notice dated 15.01.2026, the Office Orders dated 02.02.2026; and the Appellate Orders dated 30.03.2026, qua the Petitioners;...”
2. For the reasons stated in the petition, issue notice.

3. Ms. Rautray, learned counsel accepts notice on behalf of the respondent, seeks and is granted 4 weeks to file a reply.
4. Mr. Chimni, learned counsel appearing for the petitioners, fairly submits that no prayer for stay has been made in the present petition. However, he has urged that this Court may, in exercise of its extraordinary jurisdiction, pass appropriate interim directions in the present matter.
5. In view of the said request, I am inclined to take up the matter for grant of interim relief.
6. The petitioners herein are eight students of the respondent University who were issued a show cause notice dated 15.01.2026 by the Office of the Chief Proctor of the respondent University.
7. The allegations levelled against the petitioners, as set out in the said show cause notice dated 15.01.2026 read as under:

The following students were involved in aggressively shaking the camera stands and cheering the students involved in vandalizing the FRT system:

1. Mr. Antariksha Sharma
2. Ms. Krishnapriya A
3. Ms. Utsa Kar
4. Ms. Deevya Deo
5. Mr. Chandan Kumar

The following students were seen encouraging and supporting the act of vandalism by clapping and sloganeering:

1. Mr. Jishan Anjum
2. Mr. Daud Sadiq Shahnavaaj
3. Mr. C. Arjun

All the students were shown the video evidence of their involvement in the incident of vandalism of the FRT on 21/11/2025.

8. The petitioners duly responded to the said show cause notice, stating that they had not indulged in any such act, and that they were, at best, seen smiling at the protestors.
9. Thereafter, *vide* Office Orders dated 02.02.2026, the Proctorial Committee imposed a fine of Rs. 19,000/- (Rupees Nineteen Thousand only) on each of the petitioners herein on the ground of indiscipline.
10. I am of the view that even if the allegations contained in the show cause notice are presumed to be correct, the petitioners, at best, were only seen smiling at the protestors and the same to my mind does not constitute any infraction which can be categorized as indiscipline of any sort.
11. I cannot lose sight of the fact that the petitioners are students in the respondent University and as a student, the right to express dissent/demonstrate and/or to express support by way of cheering for a demonstration, to my mind, constitutes a valuable right which cannot be allowed to be curbed or interdicted in any manner. The students/petitioners cannot be allowed to be punished for an act of such a nature.
12. Additionally, the impugned act of the respondent University is in the nature of striking a blow at the fundamental rights of the petitioners and the same cannot be allowed.
13. For the said reasons, the petitioners have demonstrated a *prima-facie* case in their favour. In case after filing of detailed counter affidavit, merit is found in the contentions of the respondent then the impugned action can always be allowed but allowing the same to operate at this

juncture would result in grave injury to the valuable rights of the petitioners, thus, the balance of convenience also lies in favour of the petitioners. The petitioners will also suffer irreparable loss and injury if interim orders are not passed.

14. In this view of the matter, till the next date of hearing, the direction of imposition of fine of Rs. 19,000/- on the petitioners shall remain stayed.
15. List on 12.01.2027.

JASMEET SINGH, J

SEPTEMBER 10, 2026/sp