

Topic: Pseudo Nationalism

The politics of pseudo nationalism has led to an unfortunate denouement: It has deepened the existing fault lines in Kashmir, triggering a chain of events that could have long-term repercussions. There are conflicting versions of what happened at the National Institute of Technology (NIT) in Srinagar over the past few days. But, every story leads to one trigger: **competitive nationalism**. The drama began when some **local students celebrated India's loss in the T-20 world cup semi-final against West Indies**. As a counter, students from outside Kashmir raised slogans supporting India. But, matters spilled out of the campus when some students wanted to take a protest march outside the campus, Tricolor in hand, Bharat Mata ki Jai on their lips. Students complain the Jammu and Kashmir police intervened at this point, stopped them from taking out their march, beat them up and snatched the flags from their hands. Cops claim they tried to stop students from marching on the roads of Srinagar since it could have led to clashes between people outside the campus.

As opposition parties condemned the police action against non Kashmiri students at NIT campus in Srinagar, a two-member team from the Union HRD ministry day held consultation with officials of the engineering institute. Several students were injured in police lathi charge .

**Major Points:**

**Clash over celebrations of India's defeat:** After India's defeat against West Indies in the World T20 semifinal, **some Kashmiri students celebrated the exit of India** from the tournament. The non-Kashmiri students inside the campus took strong objection over the celebration after India's defeat. Clashes broke out between the local and non-Kashmiri students, leaving few injured.

**Protest march by non Kashmiri students:** In reaction to the celebrations by Kashmiri students following India's defeat, **non-Kashmiri students waved the tricolor** on campus and tried to hoist it near NIT's administrative block. They shouted slogans like '**Bharat Mata ki Jai**', '**Hindustan Zindabad**' and '**Pakistan Murdabad**'. On the other hand, the Kashmiri students raised slogans like '**Hum Kya Chahte Azadi**'. **BJP MP Tarun Vijay** lauded the "patriotic students" for teaching separatists "a good lesson" by waving the national flag inside campus. The **unrest forced NIT authorities to suspend classes**.

**Students assured of normalcy, safety:** **NIT Director Rajat Gupta** assured students, faculty and parents that the temporary situation arising out of tensions from disappointment at the outcome of the cricket match March 31 had been overcome. The situation on the campus and at the hostels was normal, and academic activities **would continue on 4<sup>th</sup> April**. The Director, NIT Srinagar, assured all concerned that there is no cause for apprehension and students are safe and secure. The HRD Ministry said the district administration and local authorities had extended the fullest cooperation, enabling the situation to be contained.

**Classes resume:** The classes resumed with a heavy deployment of police and CRPF personnel.

Topic  
Introduction

**Fresh trouble, police violence:** Trouble erupted on campus again as protesting students **tried to leave the campus**, leading to a confrontation with the police. A group of engineering students **staged a protest march** inside the campus. Police claimed that students holding placards and banners tried to leave the campus. The students, however, alleged that police used brute force and seized the Tricolor they were carrying during the protest. They accused the policemen of barging into hostels and beating up students. CRPF deployed on the campus.

**Politics begins: HRD ministry team rushed to NIT.** Kejriwal tweeted that **BJP is beating those who are “chanting Bharat Mata ki Jai”** in Kashmir, while doing the same against those “who are not” raising the slogan in the rest of the country. Omar Abdullah suggested that rushing a team from HRD ministry to NIT and replacing state police with the CRPF hinted at **Centre’s lack of confidence** in Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti.

#### **Present Situation:**

The protesting students have said **they fear for their safety** and demanded that the **NIT campus be shifted out of Srinagar**. This demand has been **rejected**.

Students were asked to make a **list of grievances** which will be forwarded by the government to the board of governors of NIT.

**Exams will begin on the 11th** of this month as scheduled but all those students who want to go home and not appear in exams, government will facilitate that. Alternate arrangements will be made for them to appear in exams on a later date.

#### **Read further:**

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/trouble-at-nit-srinagar-here-s-what-has-happened-so-far-116040700126\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/trouble-at-nit-srinagar-here-s-what-has-happened-so-far-116040700126_1.html)

<http://www.youthkiawaaz.com/2016/04/nit-srinagar-unrest-ground-report/>

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/unrest-on-nit-srinagar-campus-again/article8438670.ece>

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/mhrd-rejects-outstation-students-demand-to-shift-nit-out-of-kashmir/article8455408.ece>