

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU UNIVERSITY

PRESS NOTE

08/03/2018

This is with reference to the Inter Hall Administration (IHA) notification dated 27 Feb 2018, regarding the revision of charges/rates for mess admission dues, guest charges, guest meal charges, fine for late payment, which came into effect from 08/03/2018, and for establishment charges w.e.f. 01/01/2018. JNU mess rate list has been subject to revision from time to time since 1973. It has also been specifically mentioned in the previous revision of the hostel manual of 2001. All charges collected from the hostel residents are deposited into Students Mess Account which is used for the payment to the vendors/agencies supplying the mess items. This account is maintained on no profit no loss basis.

The mess supervisors' salary is paid by the IHA from the establishment charge collected from the students in every semester at the time of registration. In year 2014, the establishment charge was revised to Rs. 550/- per semester and since then this amount has not been revised. However, the salaries of mess supervisors have been increasing continuously due to regular revision of minimum wages of workers by the Government. For instance, on 01/04/2012, the minimum wage of a mess manager was Rs. 8528/- (Non-Graduate) and Rs. 9282/- (Graduate). This amount has increased to Rs. 16468 (non-graduate) and Rs. 17916 (Graduate) in April, 2017. Thus the minimum wage has doubled in the last five years which also includes an additional 18% GST on service provider, w.e.f. 1/7/2017. Due to all these factors, the monthly wage bill of mess supervisors is going to further increase. The minimum wages for mess employees were also a demand of the JNUSU.

The charges under the head crockery/utensils are revised at the market rates which have not been revised for the last 17 years, i.e. since 2001. The newspaper and manual subscription rates were Rs. 1.25 per month in 2001 which have been revised to Rs. 4.16 per month. The charges under the head "Extra Items" have not been revised for long. These rates are as per the market/vendor prices. The mess security/mess advance is a refundable head. The revision is being done in consideration to the monthly mess bills up to two months. The revision for the fine for the late payment of mess bill from Rs. 1 since 1973 has not been revised till date which has now been increased to Rs. 20/- in view of growing number of mess defaulters.

False rumours are being spread that the mess bill and hostel room rent have been increased exorbitantly. Their goal seems to be to cause confusion and create unrest among students. Such mischief is damaging to the image of JNU and is highly condemnable. The fact is the room rent that a JNU student pays is only Rs. 20/- per month which has not been changed for decades.

- i. It may be noted that the hostel mess runs at no-profit-no-loss basis
- ii. The Mess is run solely by residents of the hostel
- iii. The receipt generated are 100% utilised only for the mess purpose
- iv. All rates are subject to revision from time to time
- v. Weekly mess menus are exclusively decided by the hostel residents

Dean of Students