

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU UNIVERSITY

Press Note

01 November 2019

Rumours are being spread by some motivated students about the new hostel manual approved by the Inter Hall Administration (IHA) committee. They are claiming that curfew timings in the hostels and dress code in the dining hall are freshly introduced in the new hostel manual. This is completely untrue as explained below.

1. Rumours about “Curfew Timings” in the hostels:

The **Norms Governing Hostel Life** from the Old hostel manual and the New hostel manual are compared below. This clearly shows that there is absolutely no difference between the old rule and the new rule.

From Old hostel manual which is not reviewed during the last 14 years:

2.5. NORMS GOVERNING HOSTEL LIFE

2.5.2 The residents should be back in their respective hostels latest by 11.00 pm or by half an hour after time for library closing, whichever is later. Students who are found outside their respective hostel premises after the stipulated time and involving in any violence or otherwise disturbing the peace on campus and privacy of JNU community will be evicted from hostel forthwith apart from any other disciplinary action by the University.

From New hostel manual as approved by the IHA Committee:

2.6. NORMS GOVERNING HOSTEL LIFE

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However, it is important to note with respect to the above. Earlier, the library reading room used to be closed by 12 in the midnight. As per old rule, students have to reach the hostel by 12.30 am. However, now the library reading room is open 24/7. Therefore, in effect, as per either the old rule or new rule, students can reach the hostel any time. However, those who are spreading misleading information are silent about the fact that in view of the library reading room being

open all the time, students can actually reach the hostel anytime and there is no “curfew time” as alleged.

2. Rumours about “Dress Code” in the hostels:

The misinformation being spread about dress code being imposed in the hostels in the new IHA manual is completely unwarranted. From the **Norms in the Dining Hall** in the Old hostel manual and the New hostel manual given below it is clear that there is no difference between the old rule and the new rule.

From Old hostel manual which is not reviewed during the last 14 years:

3.6 DINING HALL

3.6.2 All residents and guests should come to the dining hall properly dressed.

From New hostel manual as approved by the IHA Committee:

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The New hostel manual has not introduced any NEW dress code rule. The only difference is “properly” is replaced by “appropriately”. But both are synonyms with the same meaning. Since there is no dress code prescribed either in the old hostel manual or the new hostel manual, it is ultimately left to the individual to decide what is appropriate when dining in the dining hall. Therefore, the fuss made about the above rule is unwarranted.

3. Expenditure incurred by the University for payments related to the hostels:

It may be noted that students in the married research scholar’s hostel (Subansir Hostel) and the Yamuna Hostel pay the electricity and water charges as per actual consumption as is done in other Universities in the country. However, the students in the rest of 16 hostels do not pay the electricity charges, water charges and other service charges (Sanitation, Maintenance, Cook, Mess Helper etc.). Therefore, JNU is incurring an expenditure of more than Rs. 10 crores per annum for payment towards the above charges which has become unsustainable. Therefore, to meet this expenditure, the IHA committee has decided that from now onwards students have to pay the utility and service charges as per actuals as given in the table below. The room rent is increased, for example for a double seater from Rs. 10/- to Rs. 300/- per month for creating better facilities in the hostel. Although the one-time mess security is increased from Rs. 5,500/-

to Rs. 12000/-, it needs to be underlined that it is refundable. The increase in the refundable mess security has become a necessity because of the increasing number of defaulters who do not pay the mess bills. It may also be noted that the revision of the rates by the IHA committee has been done after more than a decade, for example, the room rents were not revised in the last three decades. The details about existing charges and revised charges are compared below.

S. No.	Particulars	Existing charges	Revised charges as approved by IHA committee
1	Mess Bill	As per actual	As per actual
2	Establishment Charges	1,100/- Per Semester	1,100/- Per Semester
3	Crockery, Utensils	250/- Annual	250/- Annual
4	Newspaper	50/- Annual	50/- Annual
5	Room Rent Single seater	20/- per month	600/- per month
6	Room Rent Double seater	10/- per month	300/- per month
7	Utility Charges (Water, Electricity Charges etc.)	Nil	As per actual
8	Service Charges (Sanitation, Maintenance, Cook, Mess Helper etc.)	Nil	1,700/- Per Month* (As per actual)
9	One Time Mess Security (Refundable)	5,500/-	12,000/-

* This is only an estimated figure based on average expenditure.

From the above it is clear that there is no massive hike in hostel fees, curbs on free movement in the campus, dress code in the mess or closing down of the library reading room and other public spaces. The JNU administration appeals to the student community not to be misled by few rumour mongers who are trying to derail the normal functioning of the University through their unlawful actions. Such behaviour lowers the image of the student community.

Registrar