

JNU students protest fee hike, clash with police

They are also seeking the withdrawal of a draft hostel manual; HRD Minister stuck at convocation venue for over six hours

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Thousands of students of Jawaharlal Nehru University, led by members of the Students' Union, on Monday protested outside the All India Council For Technical Education (AICTE) auditorium even as Vice-President of India Venkaiah Naidu and Union Minister for Human Resource Development Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' were guests at University's third convocation.

The students are demanding a withdrawal of the draft hostel manual and the proposed hike in the hostel fees since October 28 and alleged that Vice-Chancellor M. Jagadeh Kumar has not responded to their demands.

The agitated students broke through barricades set up at the campus gates as well as barricades on Nelson



High drama: Police personnel using water cannon to disperse students protesting against the JNU administration's 'anti-students' policies on Monday. • SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Mandela Marg by mid-morning and moved towards the convocation venue, some 3 km from the campus. As protesters clashed with the police manning the barricades, the latter used water cannons to disperse the

crowd. While Mr. Naidu left the venue after the convocation just before the protesters arrived, Mr. Pokhriyal was stuck inside for over six hours forcing him to cancel two scheduled events. The

minister was able to leave the premises only around 4.15 p.m. after having a meeting with the protesters.

Though he assured the students that his Ministry would look into their demands, the students were

not persuaded as the JNU Vice-Chancellor had refused to meet them.

In a statement on the protests, the Registrar of JNU said, "It is unfortunate that instead of participating in a constructive dialogue for which the administration is always open and has made several attempts for conducting discussions, the protesting students are persistently staging strikes, and demonstrations and causing administrative shutdown and academic loss."

logue with us and we hope that the upcoming executive council meeting will not pass the draft hostel manual," Ms. Ghosh said.

The JNUSU said the University faces an unprecedented crisis with an overwhelming number of its students facing a threat to their academic future as a majority come from the most marginalised backgrounds and would not be able to continue their studies with the fee hike.

The Union also took on the Delhi Police for "resorting to unprovoked violence on the students and using water canons. A Delhi police officer, however, said, "We tried to get the students and V-C to talk but the V-C refused. We then set up a meeting with the Union HRD Minister. The students then dispersed peacefully."

'Unable to meet V-C'

President of the JNUSU Aishe Ghosh said the V-C was destroying the university and that several attempts to meet him were not successful as he did not want to have a dialogue. "The Union Minister has assured us that he will instruct the V-C to have a dia-

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Minimum temperature very likely to fall over northwest, east and adjoining central India by 2-3°C during the next 2 days. Shallow to moderate fog very likely over northeast India during the next 2 days. In association with an active easterly wave, isolated to scattered rainfall with isolated heavy falls is likely over south Peninsular India.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	27.9	25.0	21.0	Kozhikode	5.2	33.0	24.0
Ahmedabad	33.0	23.0	19.0	Kurnool	33.0	21.0	16.0
Aizawl	2.0	26.0	15.0	Lucknow	30.0	15.0	10.0
Allahabad	32.0	16.0	11.0	Madurai	33.0	25.0	19.0
Bengaluru	29.0	20.0	15.0	Mangaluru	87.0	31.0	23.0
Bhopal	29.0	17.0	12.0	Mumbai	33.0	23.0	18.0
Bhubaneswar	32.0	21.0	16.0	Mysuru	1.0	28.0	19.0
Chandigarh	25.0	14.0	9.0	New Delhi	29.0	13.0	8.0
Chennai	33.0	25.0	20.0	Patna	31.0	21.0	16.0
Coimbatore	5.6	33.0	23.0	Port Blair	31.0	24.0	19.0
Dehradun	26.0	11.0	6.0	Puduchery	33.0	23.0	18.0
Gangtok	17.0	11.0	6.0	Pune	31.0	17.0	12.0
Goa	32.0	23.0	18.0	Raipur	31.0	20.0	15.0
Guwahati	0.3	29.0	20.0	Ranchi	27.0	16.0	11.0
Hubballi	29.0	19.0	14.0	Shillong	1.0	22.0	12.0
Hyderabad	31.0	19.0	14.0	Shimla	18.0	9.0	4.0
Imphal	12.4	25.0	16.0	Srinagar	6.0	0.0	-4.0
Jaipur	30.0	19.0	14.0	Thiruvananthapuram	1.0	33.0	24.0
Kochi	12.3	32.0	24.0	Tiruchi	34.0	25.0	20.0
Kohima	9.2	22.0	12.0	Vijayawada	33.0	23.0	18.0
Kolkata	30.0	21.0	16.0	Visakhapatnam	33.0	25.0	20.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO ₂	NO ₂	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE	Yesterday
Ahmedabad	189	51	163	135	135	---	---
Bengaluru	64	90	174	120	120	---	---
Chennai	14	15	47	226	---	---	---
Delhi	8	38	71	410	335	---	---
Hyderabad	5	43	34	149	113	---	---
Kolkata	7	40	21	46	76	---	---
Lucknow	2	25	38	350	---	---	---
Mumbai	7	99	38	134	126	---	---
Pune	79	11	64	82	72	---	---
Visakhapatnam	7	55	---	---	---	---	---

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)
SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO₂: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters. CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

IN BRIEF



101st anniversary of WWI armistice observed

Puducherry joined the global observance of the 101st anniversary of the end of World War I. French Consul General Catherine Suard led the dignitaries in paying homage at the Monument aux Morts (French War Memorial) on Monday.

Court seeks details of consular access to Michel

A special court told the Tihar jail authorities to furnish records of the meeting of the British High Commission officials with the VVIP chopper case accused Christian Michel, on an application by him that CBI and ED officials tried to interfere in the meeting.

Six infants in Odisha die of respiratory infection

Six infants have died of respiratory infections in Tamanapalli village of Odisha's Malkangiri district in the last 27 days and seven others remain sick. Chief District Medical Officer Dr. Ajay Kumar Baitharu said viral infection-like influenza may be a major reason behind the acute respiratory infection.

Woman's legs crushed by speeding truck

A woman's legs were crushed by a speeding truck when she fell off her scooter after an AIADMK flagpost erected on the side of Avinashi Road in Coimbatore tilted towards her on Monday morning. The victim, N. Rajeswari, 30, worked in the accounts section of a hotel.

U.K.'s Prince Charles to visit India this week

Britain's Prince Charles will arrive in India on Wednesday on a two-day trip that will have a packed schedule, including a meeting with President Ram Nath Kovind, discussions on issues like climate change and sustainable finance, and a visit to a gurdwara to mark the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak. PTI

Centre forms committee to draft new water policy

It is expected to submit its report within six months

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Union Water Resources Ministry has finalised a committee to draft a new National Water Policy (NWP). It will be chaired by Mihir Shah, who is a former Planning Commission member and a water expert. The committee has 10 principal members, including Shashi Shekhar, a former secretary of Water Resources, and A.B. Pandya, former chairman of the Central Ground Water Board.

The committee is expected to produce a report within six months.

In September, Union Water Resources Minister Gajendra Shekhawat said that the Centre was planning to update the NWP and make key changes in water govern-



The policy currently in force prescribes minimum water flow level for rivers to meet ecological needs. • R. ASHOK

nance structure and regulatory framework. A National Bureau of Water Use Efficiency was also on the cards, he said.

The NWP currently in force was drafted in 2012. Among the major innovations in the 2012 policy was the concept of an Integrated Water Resources Management approach that took the "river basin/ sub-basin" as a unit for planning, development and management of water resources.

It also proposed that a

portion of river flows ought to be kept aside to meet ecological needs. Such an approach led to the government, in 2018, requiring minimum water levels to be maintained in the Ganga all through the year and hydropower projects to refrain from hoarding water beyond a point. That policy also stressed for a minimum quantity of potable water for essential health and hygiene to all its citizens to be made available within easy reach of households.

Anaemia among men a major public health issue

At least 23.2% men affected, finds study

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI

Anaemia among men in India is an important public health problem with State-level prevalence in men varying from 9.2% (average of 7.7%-10.9%) in Manipur to 32.9% (average of 31%-34.7%) in Bihar, revealed a study titled 'Anaemia among men in India: A nationally representative cross-sectional study' published in *Lancet Global Health* recently.

The report noted that while studies on anaemia in India have mostly focused on women and children, men have received far less attention.

The study is aimed to determine the national prevalence of anaemia among men in India; variation in prevalence of anaemia across States by socio-demographic characteristics; whether these geographical and socio-demographic va-



Population-based studies on anaemia have largely focused on women so far.

riations are similar to that among women and to inform whether anaemia reduction efforts for men should be coupled with existing efforts for women.

"In men, the prevalence of any anaemia was 23.2%, moderate or severe anaemia was 5.1%, and severe anaemia was 0.5%. An estimated 21.7% of men with any degree of anaemia had moderate or severe anaemia compared with 53.2% of women with any anaemia," noted the study.

Lata Mangeshkar hospitalised

Her condition is critical, doctors say

JYOTI SHELAR
MUMBAI

Legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar was rushed to the Breach Candy Hospital early on Monday after she complained of difficulty in breathing. A source said that she was brought to the hospital at around 1.30 am with acute breathlessness and was admitted to the ICU. Her physician, Dr. Pratit Samdani said that her condition was critical but she was showing signs of improvement. "She has developed pneumonia and a left ventricular failure", Dr. Samdani told *The Hindu*.

The 90-year-old singer had taken to the social media on Sunday to wish good luck to Padmani Kolhapure



Lata Mangeshkar

for her role in the upcoming film *Panipat*. Sources said that she was conscious and responding to commands.

Her family members said that she was stable and recovering. "Didi is stable and on the path of recovery by gods grace. Please pray and send your good wishes," said a family member.

J&K Bank fraud case: 70 entities under ED scanner

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Nearly 70 entities have come under the scanner of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with the money laundering investigation into the J&K Bank-related cases registered by the Anti-Corruption Branch (ACB) of the Jammu and Kashmir government.

The primary allegation being probed is the diversion of funds received from the bank in the form of credit facilities through these entities, which include companies that received loans. The agency suspects that several of these companies were incorporated solely for the purpose of money laundering and they were later shut down after routing the funds.

Two of the cases being investigated by the ED are related to a group whose two companies are said to be involved in a bank fraud involving over ₹300 crore.



The ED suspects that several companies were incorporated only for laundering money.

One of the firms did not pay up the outstanding amount and the loan amount became non-performing asset (NPA) and the issue was subsequently settled in its favour through a one-time settlement, allegedly as part of a conspiracy with bank officials.

In another case, the ACB alleges fraud involving ₹1,124 crore.

Nagaland cracks down on proxy teachers

Regular employees pay them a fraction of their salary to teach on their behalf

RAHUL KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI

Nagaland has undertaken an exercise to cleanse the education system of proxy teachers "appointed" by regular employees, in order to avoid working out of their comfort zones.

The crackdown began with the State's Directorate of School Education ordering 16 teachers to join their places of posting in Kiphire district, bordering Myanmar, on Monday.

To send photos To ensure that these teachers do not go back to

their old ways of letting a substitute teach on their behalf, the directorate asked them to email their photographs with the school building in the background as well as photographs while taking classes every day from November 11 to the end of the academic session this year.

"The reforms in the education sector have begun in earnest with inspection of schools," said Mmholumo Kikon, BJP legislator and State government's adviser for IT, Science and Technology.

The crackdown started

from November 4 to 7 with Mr. Shanavas undertaking school inspections in Kiphire district. He found 16 teachers absent with proxies teaching on their behalf.



"We don't have data on how many proxy teachers are working but the situation is grave," Mr. Shanavas told *The Hindu*.

He said district education officials had been asked to survey the schools in their areas to purge the system of proxy teachers, many of whom are not qualified to teach.

Investigations by NGOs had revealed that regular teachers paid their proxies a fraction of their salaries while staying at home in urban centres or villages in a different district and pursuing other vocations.

'India will be net innovator, exporter of defence technology'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday exuded confidence that India will emerge as a net innovator and net exporter of defence technologies, rather than a net importer, as the Ministry announced measures to expand the Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) initiative, which is meant to encourage start-ups in defence.

"I am pretty confident that we can become a \$10 trillion economy in the next 10-15 years," Mr. Singh said at 'Def-Connect', organised by the Ministry.

Subhash Chandra, Secretary, Defence Production, said the aim was to fund 250 start-ups and achieve 50 tangible innovations in the next five years. "The MoD is in the process of seeking approvals of ₹500 crore for the purpose," he said.