

# Central University Jammu faces backlash over fee hike as ABVP protests

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Central University Jammu (CUJ) is grappling with a storm of student unrest following a series of fee hikes, sparking a fiery protest led by the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP).

The ABVP's CUJ Unit lodged a strong objection to the steep increments in mess fees, hostel charges, and course fees, and submitted a memorandum to Dr. Ritu Bakshi, the Dean of Student Welfare.

The ABVP's president, Prabhakar Bhardwaj, voiced concerns about the financial strain these fee hikes place on students,



ABVP members presenting memorandum to DSW CUJ.

particularly those from middle-class families. Bhardwaj urged the university to reconsider the increases, emphasizing the importance of affordable, quality education.

Aditya, Joint Secretary of ABVP's CUJ Unit, highlighted the consecutive increases in hostel fees, stating that the charges had

surged from Rs 5,000 to Rs 12,000 per semester within three years. ABVP is demanding cost-effective transportation solutions for students commuting between university hostels and the campus. ABVP also strongly criticized the recent escalation of mess fees, which saw a Rs 150 raise followed by an additional Rs 210 increase merely a month later. The ABVP's CUJ unit collectively condemned what they perceive as an anti-student stance taken by the university administration. The organization demands an immediate reversal of the fee hikes. The protest

gained traction as students such as Deepti, Gyanendra, Mahendar, Ajay, and Abhishek joined the cause.

The standoff underscores the larger issue of affordable higher education and the financial burden placed on students. As tensions escalate, the university administration is under increasing pressure to address these concerns and engage in meaningful dialogue with the students. The outcome of this clash will likely set a precedent for the delicate balance between ensuring access to education and maintaining financial sustainability within academic institutions.

# SKUAST-TAJ felicitates Director Education Dr Rakesh Nanda on superannuation



President SKUAST-TAJ Dr. Vikas Sharma and other office bearers felicitating Director Education Dr Rakesh Nanda on his superannuation on Thursday.

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: SKUAST-Teaching Association Jammu (SKUAST-TAJ) felicitated Prof Rakesh Nanada, Director Education SKUAST-J on his superannuation after rendering distinguished services of 39 years.

Director Research SKUAST-Jammu and Advisor SKUAST-TAJ Dr. RK Samnotra, while listing Dr Nanda's achievements as a teacher, researcher / contributions in the discipline of Extension Education, wished him a healthy and prosperous post retired life.

President Teaching Association Dr. Vikas Sharma informed that Dr Rakesh Nanda proved himself a very enthusiastic and dynamic administrator during his tenure as Director Education. The office bearers of teaching association - Dr Vivak Arya- General Secretary TAJ, Dr. PK Rai-Joint Secretary, Dr. Anil Bhat-Executive, Dr.Vinod Gupta, Dr. Laxmi Kant, Dr. Rakesh Sharma while appreciating Dr. Nanda's contributions in research and extension selflessly wished him a very healthy post-retired life.

# Excise officials conduct raids at Brick Kilns in Srinagar, 400 ltrs Lahan destroyed

## STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Officials of the Excise Department on Thursday conducted raids at various brick kilns in Srinagar district and recovered illicit liquor at various sites, an official spokesman of the department said.

He said that under the directions of Excise Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma and under the supervision of Deputy Excise Commissioner, Executive, Kashmir, raids were conducted at Brick Kilns of Astanpora Chattergam, Srinagar led by Excise and Taxation Officer, Central Kashmir, and accompanied by Range Inspectors of three Districts and other field officials after complaints of manufacture of illicit liquor in the



Excise sleuth destroying seized Lahan and other material.

area were received by the Excise Department.

In a huge catch, during the raids, 400 litres of Lahan, 7 litres of illicit liquor, two small working stills and 10 kgs of Gur were recovered in areas adjacent to the Brick kilns, the spokesman said adding that the seized Lahan was

destroyed on spot and illicit liquor alongwith working still were handed over to Police Station Nowgam for further investigations.

Police assistance was sought during the raid and police team led by SDPO Panthechowk alongwith SIO Nowgam visited the spot.

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Celebrating the unbreakable bond of siblings during Raksha Bandhan, Radio Mirchi 98.3 in collaboration with Shree Toyota, launched their heart-warming initiative "Mirchi Distance Wali Rakhi" which promised to transcend geographical boundaries.

As the festival of Raksha Bandhan approached, Radio Mirchi 98.3 and Shree Toyota had joined hands to create a unique and touching experience for siblings of Jammu who were separated by distance either because of work, Job or any other reason. This initiative was a heartfelt engagement led by the Mirchi RJs Chaitanya, Rohit, and Tani, who had played a crucial

# ‘Mirchi Distance Wali Rakhi’ celebrated by Radio Mirchi 98.3 and Shree Toyota



Radio Mirchi 98.3 members with ADGP Jammu Zone Mukesh Singh at "Mirchi Distance Wali Rakhi" programme.

role in bringing the campaign's essence to the people.

Mirchi RJ Chaitanya, with her captivating storytelling, had brought forth numerous heartwarming sibling stories from the people of Jammu.

RJ Rohit's infectious ener-

gy had spread the word

about the initiative, creating an emotional connection with listeners who kept sharing their memories with siblings and RJ Tani, known for her empathy and reliability, had resonated deeply with the audience, making them a part of this

extraordinary celebration.

One of the highlights of the "Mirchi Distance Wali Rakhi" initiative had been the delivery of a special Rakhi to ADGP Jammu Zone, Mukesh Singh, on behalf of his sister Nina, who reside in Jharkhand.

The initiative had also touched the lives of remarkable personalities, including MD JPDCL Shiv Anant Tayal, who received a special Rakhi from his sisters Isha and Ira. In a touching tribute to Femina Miss India 2017, Sana Dua, her brother, and Bhabhi had sent a handwritten note filled with love and warmth through Radio Mirchi 98.3 and Shree Toyota.

Shwetima Janwal, the Programming Head of 98.3 Mirchi Jammu shared that initiatives like these make

RJs go beyond the airwaves and develop personal bonds as they personally delivered the special Rakhis to the recipients, sharing moments of joy and emotions with each family.

Out of around 55 stories that we received through radio and social media handles, 15 most touching stories were picked and Rakhis and gifts got delivered from siblings staying away from Jammu, even abroad got delivered with love at their homes in Jammu.

The "Distance Wali Rakhi" initiative by Radio Mirchi 98.3 and Shree Toyota showcased how the power of innovation, compassion, and meaningful gestures could unite siblings across distances and make their relationships even more cherished.

# SNM organises grand congregation in Muthi Rakwalan

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: With the divine blessings of Her Holiness Satguru Mata Sudiksha Ji Maharaj, Sant Nirankari Mission (SNM) branch Muthi Rakwalan held a grand spiritual congregation on the outskirts of Kathua at the village Muthi Rakwalan.

The congregation was presided over by Rev. H.S. Chawla, Member Incharge Branch Administration SNM.

While blessing a mammoth gathering of saints and people from all walks of life through his spiritual and ethical discourse he said that every human being is supposed to be a religious being. But first of all, one must understand the basic purpose of religion or the so-called



H.S. Chawla, Member Incharge Branch Administration SNM addressing gathering.

Dharma.

Religion helps in creating an ethical framework and also acts as a regulator for values in day-to-day life. This particular approach aids in the character building of a person.

Religion helps in building values like love, empathy, respect, and harmony, as it is

rightly mentioned in Ram Charit Manas: "Par Hit Sars Dharam Nahi Bhai, Par Peera Sam Nahi Adhmai", which means helping others is the supreme religion, and causing harm to others is the greatest sin. Further emphasizing the characteristics of a true religion, he said that a true religion always unites

and never divides, which is a well-practiced slogan of Sant Nirankari Mission.

A human being is not truly human if devoid of human values. Thus, humanity is composed of humans with human values. Hence, humanity may be called the mother of all religions because a true religious person must imbibe all human values. Humans, in no way, differ from one another, since all humans are made of the same five basic elements of matter and are imbued with the same divine element, i.e., ATMA. But due to ignorance of this truth, man is distanced from man and is devoid of the qualities of being religious.

Only Satguru, the true Master, with his divine

knowledge of the oneness of God, establishes the universal brotherhood of mankind, which is a prerequisite of a true religion. This knowledge of one God, i.e., Brahmgyan, enables the seeker to see the One (GOD) in all and All in One, thus causing all barriers of caste, colour, creed, and nationality to vanish and universal harmony to be established. This is the basic philosophy of Sant Nirankari Mission: Know One, Believe One, and Be One.

Ajit singh Zonal Incharge Jammu, Babu Ram Sanyojak Kathua, Tarsem Lal Mukhi Muthi Rakwalan and Many renowned personalities of civil society from villages in large numbers were present and received blessings with the divine message.

# Sarore toll plaza violates rules of NHAI: DFSS

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The workers of Dogra Front & Shiv Sena (DFSS) under the leadership of president Ashok Gupta took out a massive protest rally in Gandhi against the prepaid meters and Sarore toll plaza.

The party workers raised slogans and demanded that the toll plaza should be removed and prepaid system should not be installed.

Voices of dissent filled the air as protestors rallied against the toll plaza and the implementation of smart meters in Jammu.

The demonstrators asserted that these deci-

sions would impose undue financial burdens on the local populace and infringe upon their rights.

The party president stated that urged authorities to reconsider the decisions concerning toll plaza and smart meters, highlighting the potential adverse effects on the lives of the people. This demonstration showcases the unwavering commitment of the community to safeguard its interests and to hold authorities accountable for decisions that impact the local population.

The road near and across the toll plaza are being damaged due to the

construction of Delhi Amritsar Katra expressway and has increased the time of commute for the passengers.

The common man is getting huge electricity bills which has create a situation of hue and cry. The common should get some rebate and the old bills should be waved off and a new billing system should be initiated. The people of Jammu should be satisfied by the JPDCL and than the process should be taken forwarded.

The party people present at the protest were Nirmal, Keemti, Satya, Akshay, Labbha, Ram, Swaroop and Abhishek.

# Jammu Police hosts send off to superannuating officers



SSP Jammu Chandan Kohli and other officers according farewell to retired officials.

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu Police on Thursday hosted an impressive farewell function in District Police Line Jammu to bid adieu to the officers who superannuated from their active services. The retiring police officials namely SI Jai Pal, SI Parshotam Lal, SI Kamal Ram, SI Som Natin, ASI Puran Chand and ASI Chaman Lal were present on the occasion. The send-off function was chaired by SSP Jammu Chandan Kohli, along with SP Hqrs. Rannish Gupta, SP PC Kameshwar Puri, DySP DAR K.D Bhagat and other serving and retired police officers. SSP

Jammu Chandan Kohli, while interacting with retired police officers, reviewed the progress of the welfare measures. Besides, he congratulated the retiring officers for the dedication and devotion they exhibited while discharging their duties and wished them good health and long life for the next phase of their life. He also requested them to contribute in every possible way for the betterment of society in future. The superannuated officers also spoke on the occasion, shared their experience in the department and thanked SSP Jammu and other officers and officials for organising the farewell party.

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Department of Buddhist Studies organized an interaction session function with the Tibetan Parliament delegation namely Dawa Tsering, Yeshi Dolma and Ven. Lama Tenpa Yarphal, in which the Registrar Professor Rahul Gupta University of Jammu was the Chief Guest.

Prof Shohab Inayat Malik Head of the Department of Buddhist Studies delivered the welcome address. In his speech, he spoke about the recent situation in Tibet and said the people should be aware of the problems of Tibet.

Tibetan Parliament



Prof Shohab Inayat Malik HoD Buddhist Studies JU speaking at a programme.

Minister Dawa Tsering said that historically Tibet was an independent nation having a defined territory, distinct population, and governments and maintained diplomatic relations with its neighboring countries. Geographically

Tibet existed as a buffer state for more than two thousand years between two Asian Giants, India and China under occupation by China in 1959.

Further, he said that Tibet and India have a millennia-

old history of friendly coexistence and cultural exchanges. They have been neighboring countries with rich ancient as well as contemporary civilization ties. There has never been, in past history, any sort of territorial boundary between India and China. However, such a boundary has now come into being and that boundary continues to remain a subject of dispute and behind those boundaries are our Tibetan brothers and sisters who continue to suffer under the subjugation and repressive policies of China.

Yeshi Dolma spoke and urged the students, and faculty to express their concerns and raise their voices over the

human rights violations in Tibet at all the available platforms.

Professor Rahul Gupta, Registrar University of Jammu said that we are happy to see the prominent figure of Tibetans come here to Jammu University and talk about the problems of Tibetans.

Further, he said that we should be united against the expansion policy of China. A vote of thanks was delivered by Dr Vivek Sharma among those who were present including Dr Rajesh Sharma, Dr Chaman Lal, Dr Tsering Tundup, Dr Ekta Kumari, Sanjeev Mannotra, Rajinder Sadotra and others.

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Kavinder Gupta, senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and former Deputy Chief Minister of J&K, on Thursday reiterated that the party's stand is crystal clear on holding of Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir and it wants the same to be held as soon as possible.

In a statement issued to media here, Kavinder Gupta said that the BJP's stand on holding Assembly elections in J&K is completely in consonance with what has been



stated without using any ambiguous words by the Solicitor General (SG) of India Tushar Mehta before the Constitutional Bench of the Supreme Court (SC) of India.

# BJP's stand on J&K Assembly polls in consonance with SG's statement in SC: Kavinder

He added that elections in Jammu and Kashmir will be held in three stages i.e. first for the Panchayats, second will be the municipal polls and then last but not the least the legislative assembly polls as stated by the SG Mehta.

The former Dy Chief Minister stated that conducting elections is a complex process that includes multiple processes from the voters' lists to casting votes, counting and finally declaration of results and the same becomes a bit more complex in regions with tough geographical terrains

like J&K.

Asserting that BJP as well as its Govt at the Centre is ready to hold elections anytime, it is for the Election Commission of India and Election Commission of J&K to take the call on which election will take place first and how.

In this regard he added that even the updating process of the voters' list is nearing completion and expected to be finalized within a month.

Kavinder Gupta said that it is a matter of great satisfaction that the BJP Govt has

succeeded in establishing peace in this terror tormented region with terror-related incidents having gone down by 90.2 per cent and incidents of stone pelting and hartals being the things of the past.

He said that the credit of such a drastic transformation undoubtedly goes to the BJP Govt at the Centre led by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

He said that the BJP cadre in J&K is fully prepared for the Assembly elections when announced by the Election Commission.