

CUET pattern pushed students to great hardships: Congress

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: J&K Congress (JKPCC) on Monday raised the important question of J&K students seeking students to Under Graduate (UG) & PG Courses through Central University Entrance Test (CUET) being conducted by National Testing Agency (NTA), stating that J&K UT administration by opting CUET pattern pushed the youth to great hardships and great competition.

Talking to media persons at PCC HQ today, JKPCC Chief Spokesperson Ravinder Sharma raised an important questions as why J&K UT and Jammu University & Kashmir University opted for CUET, immediately without giving atleast a time period of two years to the



JKPCC Chief Spokesperson Ravinder Sharma talking to reporters at Jammu on Monday.

students to prepare for the new pattern of CUET. Earlier admissions to Jammu University and Kashmir University were given on the basis of merit in the entrance test Jammu University Entrance Test (JUET) and Kashmir University Entrance Test (KUET) but this year, all of sudden this pattern of CUET was adopted without giving a

gap of one/two years to the aspiring students to prepare themselves for the new pattern. As a result of this, the present mess is being witnessed and poor students and their parents are facing economic hardships and lack of proper information. The hue and cry and chaos and confusion led to the postponement of CUET from 21st May till

26th May and it was assured that the students shall be allotted Exam Centres within J&K UT. Some students could not appear on 26th May due to confusions. Now again the large number of students are confused and frustrated and are waiting for admit cards and exam centres. Again centres are being allotted outside J&K. Secondly, outside candidates are eligible to apply and compete for their respective states and our poor candidates are facing lot competition and will be deprived of UG and PG admissions especially in Jammu region. The party questioned BJP for playing with the careers of students from poor backgrounds by such experiments.

Sharma demanded that NTA should allot exam centres to the J&K students within their own districts or adjoining districts and remove confusions. He also questioned long sittings and shifts till late, which is injustice to the students and parents and difficult to Arrange transport. The NTA is saving money by long shifts on one day. JKPCC also reiterated the demand to reopen/extend the date application forms for JKAS, to allow the candidates/parents to avail the benefit of newly relaxed age criteria. PCC Spokespersons Kapil Singh and Sahil Sharma and Ex-President NSUI Rajiv Saraf were present in Press Conference.

Yoga/Sports activity held in all schools under Janbhagidari Events



Students performing Yoga Aasan during Janbhagidari event at Jammu.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Under Janbhagidari events, Yoga /Sports activity was conducted on Monday in all schools of District Jammu where a large number of stakeholders participated. Also awareness regarding Environment Day was conducted in various schools. Students, Teachers, Parents and Community members in large number participated and were enriched regarding Janbhagidari events on themes

NEP-2020, G-20, FLN and Digital Initiatives also ensuring Foundational Literacy and Numeracy especially in the context of blended learning mode. Principal DIET Jammu Nand Kishor with faculty members organized an orientation cum sensitization programme with all Complex Heads i.e Principals of District Jammu at DIET Jammu regarding outreach and promotion of Janbhagidari events in all schools.

Principal DIET motivated them to rope in all stakeholders teachers, students, parents, community members in these events making this programme a big success. All complex heads ensured full support and participation from all stakeholders in rolling out this Janbhagidari events in District Jammu. The programme concluded with the Nipun Bharat pledge by all Principals Complex Heads and DIET faculty members.

KVK Jammu conducts Plantation Drive



Ex-MLA Prof. Gharu Ram Bhagat planting a sapling.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: KVK Jammu under the leadership of Vice Chancellor and guidance of Director Extension, and support of ICAR ATARI Zone-1 Ludhiana, conducted Plantation Drive celebrating World Environment Day under Plan of Action

for Mission LiFE activities. During the celebration Ex-MLA Prof. Gharu Ram Bhagat inaugurated the plantation drive. 69 participants participated including Dean Faculty of Veterinary Sciences Prof. M S Bhadwal and Dean Dairy Technology Prof. Jasvinder Singh Sudan in

the programme. At the end all the participants took the pledge by reading it in Hindi. Prof. Gharu Ram said that planting more number of trees will definitely help the mother earth to overcome the variation with respect to climate change. Prof. Punit Choudhary elaborated upon the importance of celebrating World Environment Day on 5th June every year. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Amitesh Sharma, SMS PBG with support of Scientists from KVK Jammu. Later Er. Ashish Katoch thanks Dr. M S Bhadwal and Dr. Jasvinder Sudan and their staff and students for participating in large number during plantation drive.

POWERGRID celebrates World Environment Day by

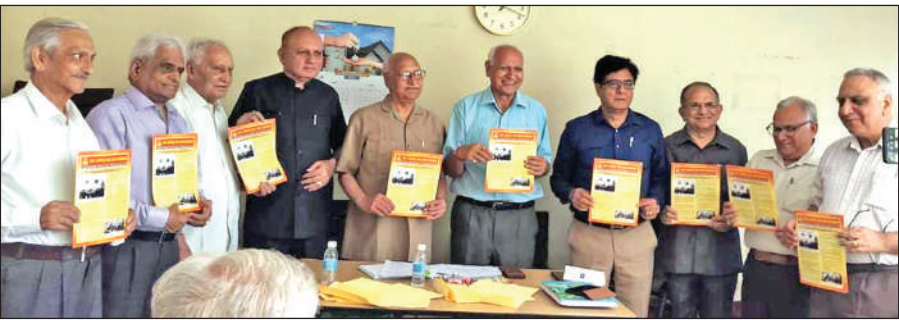


POWERGRID officials distributing apparels among the contract workers.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: As a part of awareness on LiFE (Life style for Environment), launched by Prime Minister, POWERGRID on Monday organized plantation drives across its all establishments in Northern Region-II on the World Environment Day. LiFE Pledge was administered to all employees on this occasion. At its Regional office, Jammu, Executive Director Northern Region-II, Rajesh Kumar along with senior officers and employees planted trees. Rajesh also distributed appar-

els among the contract workers so that they can further improve their personal hygiene. A talk on "Adopt Healthy Lifestyles with Sustainable Food systems" was also delivered by Dr. T.R Raina, Renowned expert on Yoga and naturopathy which was streamed live to all the establishments of Northern Region-II through video conferencing. Rajesh Kumar emphasized on the fact that implementation seven themes of LiFE mission in our daily routine will be helpful for us to live a better life and at the same time help in safeguarding the environment as well.

Samaj Kalyan Kendra holds AGM



The dignitaries releasing coloured Brochure of Samaj Kalyan Kendra at its AGM.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The J&K Samaj Kalyan Kendra, Jammu (SKK) held its Annual General Body Meeting on Monday. Forty-three years old charitable society runs a School for Deaf & Dumb students where education is imparted from first to 12th class free of cost. At present, 112 students are on roll of the school. On the occasion, SKK's colourful Brochure was also released. Among those who attended the AGM included former Chief Secretary J&K, B R Sharma, former CVC & DGP Kuldeep Khoda, former DGP Dr. Ashok Bhan, former DG DRDO, Dr. Sudarshan Kumar, former Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Hemant Sharma, former member PSC, C L Banal, former IGP, Prem Gupta, former Director GSI, B. K Raina, and leading businessmen M. M.

Wahi & Raman Samotra. The President SKK, K B Jandial & General Secretary J.K. Vaid apprised the AGP about the annual report of the year 2022-23 and various initiatives taken by the Society. Arrangements have been made for the monthly Health-Check of the Divyang since November 2022. A group of students are taken to the Gandhi Nagar Hospital on a weekly basis for a hearing test and some of them have been given hearing aids. On behalf of the SKK fraternity, Jandial expressed profound gratitude to the Lt.

Governor Manoj Sinha for special grant-in-aid of Rs. 5 lakh annually for three years from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Trust for the promotion and welfare of these Divyang. Members joined the President SKK in conveying gratefulness to Lt. Governor Sinha for this great support. The AGM was informed that the Divyangs are achieving cent percent results in all Board examinations for the last seven eight years. Many deaf & dumb students are getting distinctions. They have brought laurels to J&K in Judo national

championships. The SKK awards cash prizes to class toppers and prize-winning sports persons. The Alumni are motivated to go for higher education and their semester fee is reimbursed out of a separate fund created with donations of members. Four divyangs have been benefitted under this initiative. One alumnus has done MCA, two have done BCA & fourth one Diploma in sign language. The AGM discussed measures to explore possibilities for absorption of the passed out Divyang in jobs or self-employed start-ups by arrange-

ing training for them in skills that have potential in the market. The Executive Committee will formulate different training modules for alumni. Their gainful placement after passing out 12th class continues to be a challenge for SKK and the society. Jandial thanked M. M. Wahi for his contribution of Rs. 51,000/- on the occasion. Mrs. Manisha Sharma also donated Rs. 10,000 to the Society. The President informed that out of the public donation of Rs. 4.25 lakhs last year; the SKK members had contributed Rs. 2.67 lakhs. The Treasurer M D Sharma presented the annual statement of receipts and expenditure for the 2022-23 while Sr Vice President Er. Vijay Bhagotra presented the Vote of Thanks. Earlier, the Vice President welcomed the members to the AGM. He and Vaid gave an overview of the growth of the Society after its establishment in 1980 by Dr. R. R. Khajuria, a noted veterinarian and social activist.

Dr Attri honoured at International Conference 'Uro -Surg 2023



Dr M.R Attri, Professor of Surgery, GMC Srinagar being honoured during International Conference Uro-Surg 2023.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Dr M.R ATTRI, Professor of Surgery, GMC Srinagar was honoured and felicitated during International Conference 'Uro -Surg 2023' which was conducted in GMC Srinagar from June 1 to 3, 2023 for his live demonstration on treatment of various types of Hernias in the abdomen by Laparoscopic Surgery. His presentation got standing ovation for his

work on Cancer of Pancreas treated by Laparoscopic Surgery named as Whipple's Operation which he is the only Surgeon in the state doing it Laparoscopically. During this conference more than 20 national and International Cancer Surgeons, Robotic Surgeons, and Laparoscopic Surgeons took part and presented their work. More than 300-400 Surgeons and surgical stu-

dents took part in the conference which was inaugurated by Health Secretary Govt of Jammu & Kashmir Bupinder Kumar. Around 20 patients from various parts of Jammu and Kashmir were operated by both national and international surgeons for various diseases from Hernias, Obesity, Kidney cancers, Colon cancer and other serious Surgical problems. Such conferences go a long way in training and educating the junior surgeons about latest technologies in the world which are used during surgery which in turn benefits the common patients who are suffering from various surgical problems. These are the teaching activities which train and educate the Surgeons which go a long way to improve the results of surgery on the ground.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: LIC of India is deeply saddened by the tragic train accident in Balasore, Odisha on June 2, 2023. LIC Of India is committed to supporting those affected and will expedite claim settlements to provide financial relief. Siddhartha Mohanty, Chairperson LIC expressed grief said that our hearts go out to the victims and their families. He announced many concessions to mitigate the hardships of the claimants of LIC Policies and also of Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana. In lieu of registered death certificates, list of casualties published by Railway Authorities, Police or any State or Central Government Authorities will be accepted as proof of death. Special Help Desk has been set up at Divisional and Branch level to respond to claim related queries and for providing assistance to claimants. All efforts will be taken to ensure that the claimants are reached out and claims are settled expeditiously to the affected families. For further assistance the claimants may contact nearest Branch/Division/Customer Zones. The claimants may also call at our call centre - 02268276827.

389 foreign satellites launched in last 9 years: Dr Jitendra



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh in an exclusive interview with Doordarshan News, at New Delhi on Monday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Out of 424 foreign satellites launched till date by India, as many as 389 were launched in the last 9 years of the government headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Further, out of 174 million US dollars earned, 157 million came in the last 9 years and similarly out of 256 million Euros earned so far, 223 million came during the 9 years of the Modi regime. This was disclosed here today by Union Minister, Dr. Jitendra Singh on Monday in an exclusive interview with DD News. The Minister said

that India's Space sector is fast gaining a pre-eminent position in the world and the countries which started their Space programmes long before us, today increasingly seek our services and our facility to launch their satellites. Dr Jitendra Singh said, apart from the core functioning of Rocket launching, India's Space Applications have become a big source of livelihood opportunities through 130 odd Start-ups after opening up of the Space Sector by Modi in year 2020. Moreover, in Academic field, technical institutes in

Trivandrum, Jammu and Agartala have 100 percent placements for students and about 50 percent of them go to NASA to pursue higher studies. Referring to applications of Space Technology to different sectors like Railways, Highways, Agriculture, Water Mapping, Smart Cities, Telemedicine and Robotic Surgery, which brought ease of living for common man, Dr Jitendra Singh said, Space tech has touched virtually every household in India. Dr Jitendra Singh exhorted the youth of the country that this is the "Best of the Times" for India and they should not become prisoners of their own aspirations. He said, Modi Government in the last nine years has created many new avenues, where youth of the country have the luxury to change their goalposts as there are enough outlets waiting to be seized upon. He said, National Education Policy-2020 is also in tune with "Naya Bharat" and there is a need for a change of mindset.

HC holds that Lok Adalat has no jurisdiction to offence under rash driving

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In a petition, Justice Sanjeev Kumar holds that Lok Adalat has no jurisdiction to compound the offence under Section 279 of RPC and, therefore, the order impugned is nullity in the eye of law. This significant order has been passed in a petition challenging of award/order dated 23.11.2013 passed by the Lok Adalat presided over by the learned JMJC (Munsiff), R.S.Pura whereby respondent No.2, who was accused in FIR No.23/2013 registered with Police Station, R.S.Pura and facing trial before the Court of learned JMJC (Munsiff) R.S.Pura, has been convicted and sentenced to pay a fine of Rs.200/- for commission of offence under Section 279 RPC and Rs. 300/- under Section 338 RPC. The petitioner before me is the complainant at whose instance, the subject FIR was registered in Police Station, R.S.Pura against respondent No.2. The police, after inves-

tigating the matter and finding the allegations leveled by the petitioner substantiated by evidence, produced the challan against respondent No.2 in the Court of learned JMJC (Munsiff), R.S. Pura ['the trial Court']. As it transpires from the order impugned, the trial Court referred the case to the Lok Adalat, held at R.S.Pura on 23.11.2013. Respondent No.2, accused in the case, pleaded guilty. The Lok Adalat presided over by the learned JMJC (Munsiff), R.S Pura, after recording the plea of guilt of respondent No.2-accused and taking a lenient view in the matter, vide order dated 23.11.2013 convicted and sentenced him to pay a fine of Rs.200/- and Rs. 300 respectively. It is this award/order of the Lok Adalat dated 23.11.2013 which is assailed by the petitioner before this Court. Justice Sanjeev Kumar after hearing both the sides observed that in view of the clear position emerging from a reading of Section 345 of

J&K Cr.PC read with Section 18 of the Act of 1997, it is difficult for this Court to sustain the order of the Lok Adalat impugned in this petition. Justice Sanjeev Kumar further observed that from a reading of the impugned order, it clearly transpires that the same has been passed by the Lok Adalat without even notice to the person who was hurt in the accident i.e the petitioner herein, nor the Lok Adalat could have convicted the accused and sentenced him to fine for a meager amount of Rs.200/- and Rs.300 respectively as has been done in terms of the impugned order. As is evident from reading of sub-Section (6) of Section 345 of J&K Cr.PC, whenever the Court orders compounding an offence in terms of the provisions of the Section, the same has the effect of acquittal of the accused. Be that as it may, it is a case where the petitioner, who was hurt in the accident, which resulted into registration of the subject FIR

against respondent No.2, was a necessary party to the compounding of the offence and the Lok Adalat, by not putting the petitioner to notice and providing him an opportunity of being heard, has passed the impugned order. That apart, Lok Adalat has no jurisdiction to compound the offence under Section 279 of RPC and, therefore, the order impugned is nullity in the eye of law. The order impugned also violates the right of respondent No.2 (accused) who, on compounding of the offence, was entitled to acquittal and not conviction. Viewed from any angle, the order impugned passed by the Lok Adalat cannot sustain in law and the same is, accordingly, quashed. The matter is remanded back to the trial Court i.e JMJC (Munsiff), who shall proceed in the matter/challan in accordance with law. The trial Court shall do well to put the parties concerned to notice before proceeding further in the matter.