

Omar flags off K2K EV Drive from SKICC

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday flagged off the second season of the fastest Electric Vehicle (EV) drive, Kashmir to Kanyakumari (K2K), from the lawns of Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Center (SKICC).

Interacting with the organizers, the Chief Minister extended his felicitations and best wishes to all participants.

Highlighting the significance of the event, he remarked, "This drive stands as a testament to the remarkable advancements in vehicle technology, the development of charging infrastructure, and the rapid growth of India's EV ecosystem."

Expressing confidence in the team's endeavor, the Chief Minister acknowledged their



Chief Minister Omar Abdullah flagging off EV drive.

ambition to surpass their previous record, this time targeting an impressive 80-hour journey from Kashmir to Kanyakumari in the Tata Curvv EV. Equipped with next-generation Gen 2 motor technology, a robust 55kWh battery, and supported by India's expanding EV infrastructure, the drive is expect-

ed to set new benchmarks in long-distance electric travel, he said about the rally.

The Chief Minister wished the participants a safe and successful journey, emphasizing that their achievement would further inspire the adoption of sustainable transportation across the country.

Vishav Deep Sharma qualifies Ph.D

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA: Vishav Deep

Sharma, son of Inder Paul Sharma and Rekha Rani, a Research Scholar at

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), has qualified for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Physics.

He carried his research titled as, "Spectral and Electronic Studies of Some Rare Earth Doped Alkali Zirconium Phosphates," under the guidance of Dr. Ram Prakash, Associate Professor at the School of Physics, SMVDU.

During his Ph.D., Sharma published his findings in prestigious SCIE and Scopus-indexed international journals and presented his work at various national and international conferences.

He extends his heartfelt gratitude to the School of Physics, SMVDU, for providing essential resources and unwavering support during his research journey. Additionally, he acknowledges

UGC-DAE Consortium for Scientific Research, Indore, for providing experimental facilities and financial assistance under the CRS project no. CRS-328.

Deepika Dhawan qualifies Ph.D

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA: Deepika Dhawan, a research scholar from the School of Business at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi

University (SMVDU), has completed her Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Management under the guidance of Dr. Sushil Kumar Mehta, Associate Professor, School of Business, SMVDU. Dhawan conducted an empirical analysis on "Performance of Banking Sector in the Basel Regime: A Case of Select Countries".

Her research has been published in high-impact factor international journals ranked in the B category based on the ABDC indexing and under the SCOPUS indexing.

Additionally, Deepika Dhawan has presented her research work at numerous national and international conferences.

Currently, She is working as an Assistant Professor (Management) at Rayat Bahra University, Mohali.

She extends her heartfelt gratitude to the School of Business, SMVDU for essential resources and unwavering support throughout her research journey.

Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar, Vice-Chancellor of SMVDU; Professor (Dr.) Ashutosh Vashishtha, Dean, Faculty of Management; Professor (Dr.) Jyoti Sharma, Head, School of Business; and other committee members congratulated Deepika Dhawan and wished her a bright future.

10th J&K UT Handball Championship concludes

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The 3-day 10th J&K UT Handball Championship Concluded today here at Playing field Shastri Nagar Jammu for senior men and women sections. The championship is being organized by J&K Handball Association in collaboration with J&K Sports Council.

Yudhvir Sethi, MLA Jammu East was the chief Guest on the valedictory function, who gave away the winners and runners-up trophies and also other individual prizes, while Abishek Mahajan M.D Rakesh Jewellers Jammu was the guest of honor.

While speaking, Yudhvir Sethi said the J&K is rich in sports talent and sportsmen from the J&K have proven their mettle at different national and international championships. He added that proper nurturing by JKHA will go a long way in promoting the talent at different levels. He appreciated the enthusiasm amongst the players depicting sports



MLA Yudhvir Sethi along with medal winners and organisers posing for photograph.

personality and congratulated the winner and runners up and other teams for participating in the tournament. And hailing the sportsmanship exhibited by the players during the final match.

Earlier Organizing Secretary of the

tournament, Ashwani Kumar Raina (President JKHA) welcomed the distinguished guests and presented a brief note on the championship and highlighted the activities of the J&K Handball Association and extended thanks to J&K Sports Council

2nd Hearth Milan Cup concludes



Organisers along with winner team along with trophy.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The much-anticipated Hearth Milan Cup Edition 2, organized by the Lalitaditya Sports Education and Health Organisation, wrapped up on a high note after three exhilarating days of cricket, camaraderie, and a powerful message: "Say Yes to Life, No to Drugs."

This thrilling cricket carnival brought together boys and girls from across the region, promoting sports as a healthy alternative and steering the youth away from the pitfalls of drug use. The event culminated with an electrifying final match between Durga Cricket Club and Elite Cricket Club, both vying for the coveted trophy. Inaugurated by Nuzhat Gul, Secretary of the Sports Council, the championship was a testament to the hard

work and dedication of the Lalitaditya Organisation in connecting Generation X and the next to their roots, even in a state of exile.

"Our initiative is about more than just cricket; it's about empowering our youth and giving them a platform to thrive," said Anil Bhat, President of Lalitaditya. "Through sports, we can inspire the next generation to make healthier choices and embrace life to the fullest."

The tournament saw participation from 4 girls' teams and 7 boys' teams (under 16), showcasing an impressive display of talent and teamwork.

The trophies were presented at a lively closing ceremony held at the Maluana Azad Stadium, where Excise Commissioner Subash Chander Chibber (JKAS), Senior Superintendent of

Police R.K. Bhat, and Dy. Excise esteemed guests.

In addition to the trophy, both Durga Cricket Club and Elite Cricket Club received a prize of Rs 10,000 each, with team captains Komal Bhat and Aashan Pandita graciously accepting the awards. The runner-up trophies went to Himalayan Cricket Club (Girls) and Nagrota Warriors, who each took home Rs 5,000.

The closing function was not just about cricket; it was a heartfelt celebration of community achievements. Several local heroes, including Ravi Jogi from the Zesta Devi Prabandak Community, acclaimed athlete Kuldeep Saproo, and talented artist Shivani Koul Bhat, were honoured with shawls, bouquets, and mementos for their contributions.

In keeping with the vibrant spirit of the day, the Lalitaditya Organisation set up a live telecast of the India vs. Pakistan match, bringing families together and creating an electric atmosphere for all the young cricket enthusiasts present.

As the dust settles on this year's Hearth Milan Cup, the message remains clear: through sports, we can create a brighter, healthier future for our youth. Let's continue saying yes to life and no to drugs!

Veerakshi of DPS Jammu awarded Rajya Puraskar for BS&G



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Veerakshi Sharma (IX-D), a student of Delhi Public School (DPS) Jammu, brought immense pride to her school and family by being awarded the Rajya Puraskar for Bharat Scouts and Guides by the Lieutenant Governor of J&K, Manoj Sinha.

The award ceremony was held on 13th February 2025 in Jammu.

Veerakshi's journey in scouting began with the Cubs and Bulbul Program, which is a foundational part of the Bharat Scouts and Guides.

This program is designed for children aged 6 to 10 years and aims to introduce them to values like teamwork, discipline, and service, all through engaging activities, games, and outdoor adventures. During her time in the program, she learned the Scout motto, promise, law, flag song, prayer song, and gained knowledge about the Indian National Flag.

The Bharat Scouts and Guides is a voluntary, non-political, and educational movement that welcomes young people from all backgrounds, promoting values of unity and service in line with the principles laid out by its founder, Lord Baden-Powell, in 1907. In recognition of her outstanding achievements, Veerakshi was also presented with a certificate of appreciation. Her success is a testament to her dedication, hard work, and the values instilled in her by the Bharat Scouts and Guides. The management, DPS Jammu under the visionary leadership of President-RCT, Ajatshatru Singh, Pro VC- Dr. Ritu Singh, Director S.S Sodhi along with Principal-DPS Jammu, Ruchi Chhabra congratulated Veerakshi and her proud parents for the brilliant achievement. They also extended their best wishes to her for all her future endeavours.

CISS Kathua celebrates 2nd Annual Day

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: Cambridge Montessori Skill School Kathua celebrated its 2nd Annual Day and prize-giving ceremony.

Chief Guest for the event was Advocate Vijay Sharma (MLA - Hiranagar), Guest of Honour was Dr. Bharat Bushan (MLA Kathua), Special Guest was Hari Dutt Shishu while other distinguished dignitaries including ZEO Marheen were also present on the occasion.

The ceremony commenced with the lighting of lamp followed by a welcome address by Chairman Manju Bala. Captivating Invocation Dance, Bhanga Group Dance, Skit on Bad Effects of using Mobile Phones by students marked the cultural events.

Principal of the School, Shifali Mahajan presented the Annual Report of the academic year 2023-24. The Principal also shared excellent results of the School for the Academic Year 2023-24



and highlighted several remarkable achievements.

School MD Suraj Prakash commended the collective efforts of Team CISS in making the event a resounding success, emphasizing 'Synergy and Collective Brilliance.'

The event also featured the unveiling of CISS Reels 2024 and behind-the-scenes videos, highlighting the unceasing efforts of the team.

The main awards were received by the School's Head Boy, Deputy Head Boy, Deputy Head Girl and Academic Prefects.

The Chief Guest Adv. Vijay Sharma and Guest of Honour Dr. Bharat Bhushan congratulated the management, staff and students for working with fervour and spirit and making the Annual Day par excellence.

The celebrations concluded on a high note, with a heartfelt vote of thanks by CISS MD Suraj Prakash with a closing medley appreciating and cherishing the present moment and tearing behind the thoughts of emptiness.

The ceremony concluded with the recitation of the National Anthem.

SPMR celebrates International Mother Tongue

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Cultural and Literary Committee in collaboration with Departments of Punjabi and Dogri Government SPMR College of Commerce Jammu celebrated International Mother Tongue Day with a special event organized on the college premises under the aegis of IQAC. This year's celebration aligned with UNESCO's theme "Silver Jubilee Celebration of International Mother Tongue Day," commemorating 25 years since the day was first established.

The programme started with lighting of traditional lamp by the dignitaries.

Dr. Rattan Basotra, Chief Editor (Dogri) Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL), and Ajit Singh Mastana, President, J&K Punjabi Sahitya Sabha (Srinagar) were resource persons, while Principal of the College Prof. (Dr.) Rajinder Singh was the Chief Guest on the occasion.



Dignitaries being honoured during the programme.

Faculty members and students participated in various cultural activities that highlighted the significance of mother tongues in preserving cultural heritage and fostering educational development. Students recited poetry and also presented cultural items in the programme.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal of the college Prof. (Dr.) Rajinder Singh emphasized the crucial role of mother tongue in education and cultural preservation. He pointed out that their preservation is essential for maintaining our diverse cultural fabric.

Dr. Rattan Basotra appraised the audience about the various schemes and policies regarding introduction of books in school syllabus in Dogri and other local languages, including inclusion of Dogri in 8th Schedule of the constitution.

Ajit Singh Mastana gave a lecture regarding promotion of Punjabi literature and its heritage. He informed the audience about the historical evolution of Punjabi Language and also enthralled those present with recitation of a poem and a Ghazal.

Formal welcome address was given by Dr. Neeru

Anand (HOD Dogri) while vote of thanks was given by Dr. Mamta Rani (HOD Punjabi).

Prof. Pawan Gupta, Prof. Ashwani Kumar and Prof. Shaji Khan also spoke on the occasion. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Deepshikha Sharma, Dr. Sunal Sharma, Dr. Madhu Bala, Dr. Roomi Rani, Dr. Jagmeet Kour, Dr. Neeru Anand and Dr. Mamta Rani.

Those present included Dr. Reena Rani, Dr. Mohd. Azam, Dr. Chetna Gupta, Prof. Shailu Gupta, Ravi Kumar, Jasvinder Singh and others.

Awareness lecture on Cervical Cancer held at MIER College of Education

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Smt. Shanti Gupta Centre for Women's Studies (SSGCWS), MIER organized an awareness lecture on "Cervical Cancer" to educate and sensitize faculty members from MIER College of Education and Model Academy School, along with students from the School of Education.

The resource persons for the session were Dr. Reetika Menia and Dr. Shivani Gandhi, both serving as Assistant Professors in the Department of Pathology at AIIMS, Vijaypur, Jammu.

The event commenced with a warm welcome note by Jyoti Sharma, a member of SSGCWS, who also



A resource person delivering lecture during the event.

introduced the distinguished speakers. She highlighted that Dr. Reetika Menia, an MBBS and DNB holder in Pathology, has previously served as a Senior Resident at ESIC Medical College and

Hospital, Faridabad, Haryana, and has contributed significantly to pathology through various publications. Dr. Shivani Gandhi, holding an MBBS and MD in Pathology, brings over six years of

experience with extensive research, having presented and published her work in numerous national and international journals.

During their presentations, the experts elaborated on the causes, symp-

toms, risk factors, early detection, and treatment options for cervical cancer. They explained that the disease is primarily caused by persistent infection with high-risk strains of the Human Papillomavirus

(HPV), which is transmitted through sexual contact.

They discussed common symptoms, such as abnormal vaginal bleeding, pelvic pain, and discomfort during intercourse, which often remain unnoticed in the early stages.

The doctors emphasized significant risk factors, including early sexual activity, multiple sexual partners, smoking, and a weakened immune system.

Stressing the importance of early detection, they recommended routine Pap smear tests and HPV DNA testing to identify precancerous changes before they progress into cervical cancer. They also highlighted

the effectiveness of HPV vaccination for young girls and boys as a vital preventive measure.

The session concluded with an interactive open-house discussion, where attendees actively engaged with the experts, seeking clarifications on various aspects of cervical cancer. To gauge the audience's understanding, a general awareness questionnaire was also distributed.

The event concluded with Rupa Gupta, Director of the Centre, presenting mementos to the esteemed resource persons as a token of appreciation for their valuable insights and contributions.