

Khalsa to meet Hari Singh Nalwa Club in SCPL final

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Khalsa Club shall take on Hari Singh Nalwa Cricket Club in the final of the 2nd Sikh Cricket Premier League (SPCL) being organised jointly by All J&K Sikh Coordination Committee and Hari Singh Nalwa Cricket Club at University of Jammu (JU), here tomorrow.

Earlier, in the semifinal, decided today, Khalsa Club defeated Jaguar Cricket Club by 19 runs. Batting first, Khalsa set a target of 139 runs for nine wickets in allotted 20 overs. In reply, Jaguar could not chase and bowled out for 119 runs in 19.1 overs.

Deep was adjudged player of the match for his four wickets haul for the winning team while best batter title went to Harpreet (Prithi) for



Participating teams posing with dignitaries.

his valuable contribution of 35 runs.

Amrik Singh Reen, general secretary PDP and Taranjit Singh Tony, senior Congress leader were special guests in the first semifinal.

In other semifinal of the day, Hari Singh Nalwa Club made it an 18 runs win against Preet Nagar United. Earlier, Hari Singh scored

148 runs, which, in reply, Preet Nagar could not match and exhausted the allotted overs for 130 runs. For his four wickets haul, Bismaad Singh was named best bowler while Rohan Koul declared player of the match for his 45-ball 57 runs. Daman Preet of the Preet Nagar United presented best batter trophy for his 57 (off 44

balls) runs.

Now, as per the organising committee, the final shall start at 9 am, followed by the valedictory function of the tournament at 1 pm at the same venue tomorrow.

Deputy Inspector General (DIG) ACB, Vikas Gupta was chief guest in the second match, who presented the individual prizes.

ADGP Armed chairs Team Managers' meeting for 2nd All India Police Kabaddi Cluster 2025-26

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A meeting of team managers in connection with the 2nd All India Police Kabaddi Cluster 2025-26, being hosted by the Jammu and Kashmir Police, was held at the Maulana Azad Stadium in Jammu on Saturday.

The meeting was chaired by Anand Jain, ADG Armed Police J&K, who welcomed all participating teams and highlighted the significance of sports in promoting camaraderie, discipline, and teamwork among police personnel across the country. He noted that the All India Police Kabaddi Cluster provides an important platform for strengthening unity, sportsmanship, and professional



bonding among various police and paramilitary organizations.

During the meeting, the ADG reviewed the arrangements made for the smooth conduct of the competitions. He urged the officers and organizing committees to ensure that the event is conducted in a fair, transparent, and professional manner. He also appreciated the efforts of the officers and staff

involved in making comprehensive arrangements for accommodation, logistics, security, and other facilities for the participating teams.

The Team Managers' Meeting focused on briefing the participants about the competition schedule, rules and regulations, and coordination mechanisms to ensure the successful conduct of the Kabaddi Cluster. The event is expected to witness enthu-

siastic participation from police teams representing different states and Central Armed Police Forces from across the country.

Among others present on the occasion were B S Tuti, IG Jammu; Sujit Kumar, IG Security J&K; Vinod Kumar, DIG IR Jammu; Sameer Sharma, DIG Armed Jammu; and Shiv Kumar, DIG JKS Range. Senior officers including SSP Security, SSP Crime, SSP APCR, commandants of Jammu-based battalions, and Rajnesh Kumar Mishra, Observer from the All-India Police Sports Control Board, along with competition directors and team managers of participating units, also attended the meeting.

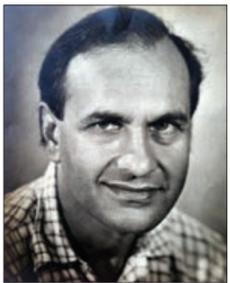
SRML Jammu celebrates Birth Anniversary of its Alumnus Comrade Dhanwantri

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Sri Ranbir Model Higher (SRML) Secondary School on Saturday celebrated the birth anniversary of its pride alumnus and the only freedom fighter from Jammu and Kashmir- Com Dhanwantri with much fanfare.

Principal of the School, Dr. Kishore Sharma in tribute to the great soul described him as a patriot in true spirit of India's freedom struggle and along with other staff members installed his photograph in the Library hall of the School.

Earlier, the speakers on the occasion threw light on the contributions of Com Dhanwantri in country's



freedom struggle who had been a close associate of Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh, Chander Shekhar Azad Ashfaq-ullah Khan and others and was also involved in famous Lahore conspiracy and Delhi conspiracy along with contemporary freedom fighters, for

which he was tried and sent to notorious Kala Paani jail in Andaman and Nicobar.

Another speaker claimed that it is indeed a matter of pride for everyone associated with this school that Com. Dhanwantri, the lone freedom fighter from Jammu and Kashmir, did his matriculation from the then S.R. High School (now SRML Higher Secondary School) and afterwards proceeded to Lahore for FSC degree in Sri Dayanand Ayurvedic College there.

The ceremony ended with floral tributes to Com Dhanwantri and the Cultural Secretary of the School expressed gratitude to everyone present during the celebrations.

CUJ organizes extension lecture on 'Relevance of Fiscal and Monetary Policy in the Current Scenario'

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Under the Shiksha Shastrath Platform, The Department of Educational Studies, Central University of Jammu (CUJ) organized an extension lecture on 'Relevance of Fiscal and Monetary Policy in the Current Scenario.' In his introductory remarks the Head of the Department Prof. Asit Mantry conveyed his regards to the Vice Chancellor Prof. Sanjeev Jain for his guidance and encouragement to invite experts from across the country to interact with the students of Central University Jammu.

The program aimed to enhance students' understanding of contemporary economic policy issues and their relevance in the present economic environment.

The lecture was delivered by Dr. Bushan Kumar, Assistant Professor,



Dr. Bushan Kumar, Assistant Professor, Indraprastha College for Women, University of Delhi with CUJ faculty and students.

Indraprastha College for Women, University of Delhi.

Maheshwari Sharma, coordinator of the program, formally welcomed the guest speaker and introduced him to the audience.

During his interaction with the students, Dr. Bushan Kumar highlighted the significance of fiscal and monetary policies in maintaining economic stability, controlling inflation and promoting sustainable economic

growth in the current scenario.

The lecture proved to be highly informative and engaging for the students. In a response to a student's question regarding present unemployment situation of the country, Dr. Bushan replied that how the structure of unemployment is evolving and the ways to address it accordingly.

On the occasion the faculty members Dr. Kiran, Dr. Ravali Parihar, Dr. Aarushi Billoria, Dr. Mridu Sharma, Maheshwari Sharma and students of the department were present.

The program concluded with a formal vote of thanks delivered by Maheshwari Sharma, coordinator of the program, who expressed gratitude to the guest speaker, faculty members, and students for making the event successful.

Joint Initiative by GDCW Kathua and Women Era Development Organization marks International Women's Day

STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: The Women Development Cell of Government Degree College for Women Kathua, in collaboration with Women Era Development Organization Kathua, organized a programme to celebrate International Women's Day in the college's Multipurpose Hall under the theme "Give to Gain." The event was graced by the Chief Guest, Dr. (Prof.) Jaipal Singh, Principal of the college, while Prof. Seema Jolly attended as the Guest of Honour. Principals of various schools and colleges, along with media representatives, were also present on the occasion. The programme was anchored by Dr. Mukesh Kumari. The event began with a welcome address by Dr. Amita Dua, Convener of the Women Development Cell, who highlighted the sig-



Principal, Dr. (Prof.) Jaipal Singh with winner students and faculty members.

nificance of celebrating International Women's Day. She emphasized the importance of empowering women through education and opportunities. Addressing the gathering, Dr. (Prof.) Jaipal Singh underlined the vital role of women in building a progressive and inclusive society. He stated that women's empowerment is essential for sustainable social and national development and that both men and

women have an important role to play in achieving it. He also appreciated the efforts of the Women Development Cell for organizing such a meaningful programme. The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and faculty members. Discussions were held on women's achievements in different fields, the importance of gender equality, and the role of education in empower-

ing women. Among those present on the occasion were Dr. Inderjeet Kour, Prof. Ashwani Khajuria, Dr. Deepshikha Sharma, Dr. Raehna Devi, Prof. Yash Paul, Dr. Ambica, Prof. Romika Bassin, and other faculty members.

As a mark of appreciation, the Chief Guest presented mementoes to the Guest of Honour Prof. Seema Jolly, Kusum Salaria, President of Women Era Development Organization Kathua, and other invited guests. Certificates were also awarded to participants and students who excelled in sports activities. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Mukesh Kumari, who expressed gratitude to the Chief Guest, faculty members, organizers, and students for their support in making the event a success.

ICAI J&K Branch (NIRC) celebrates International Women's Day with inspiring sessions and cultural evening

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu & Kashmir Branch of the Northern India Regional Council (NIRC) of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) successfully organised a vibrant International Women's Day celebration at ICAI Bhawan, Canal Road, Jammu, bringing together Chartered Accountants, students, and professionals to celebrate the achievements and contributions of women. The event was graced by Anissa Nabi, Chief Sports Officer, J&K Sports Council, as the Chief Guest. In her address, she shared her inspiring journey and highlighted the importance of perseverance, discipline, and confidence for women striving to excel in professional and public life.

The programme began with the ICAI Motto Song followed by the ceremonial lighting of



the lamp by the dignitaries, symbolising knowledge and empowerment. Welcoming the gathering, CA Amit Gupta, Chairman of the J&K Branch of NIRC of ICAI, emphasised the growing role of women in the Chartered Accountancy profession and acknowledged their remarkable contribution in leadership, governance, and professional excellence. The event also featured insightful sessions by CA Tania Gupta, who shared perspectives on office automation tools, and CA Surbhi Arora, who conducted an engaging session on

live demonstrations of AI tools, encouraging professionals to embrace technology in their practice. The celebration was designed to be interactive and engaging, with activities such as appreciation circles, quizzes, fun games, and entertainment segments, creating a lively and inclusive environment for participants. Winners of various games were awarded special vouchers redeemable at the stalls set up during the event.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from members of the fraternity, including Vice Chairman CA Jatini

Malhotra, Secretary CA Sanchit Aggarwal, Treasurer CA Ayush Mahajan, Immediate Past Chairman CA Sourav Pargal and Executive Member CA Ayush Sawhney, along with other committee members and professionals.

Speaking on the occasion, CA Sanchit Aggarwal, Secretary of the J&K Branch, highlighted that such celebrations not only recognise the achievements of women but also encourage networking, knowledge sharing, and community building within the profession. The event concluded with a stand-up comedy performance and a mentalism show, followed by dinner and networking, making the celebration both memorable and engaging for all attendees.

The J&K Branch of NIRC of ICAI continues to organise such initiatives to promote professional development, inclusivity, and community engagement among its members.

JU to host 'Jammuiyat: Sahitya-Sanskriti Samagam' on March 13-14

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The University of Jammu (JU) is set to host a two-day cultural and literary festival titled "Jammuiyat: Sahitya-Sanskriti Samagam" on March 13 and 14, 2026, bringing together scholars, writers, artists, students, and cultural practitioners from across the region.

The event aims to celebrate and critically explore the rich literary and cultural heritage of the Jammu region while fostering dialogue on identity, creativity, and cultural continuity in contemporary times.

The concept of Jammuiyat reflects the inclusive and harmonious cultural ethos that has historically characterized the Jammu region. Known for its linguistic diversity and vibrant artistic traditions, Jammu has long been a meeting ground of cultures and communities. Languages such as Dogri, Hindi, Urdu, Punjabi, Gojri, Pahari, Siraji, and Paddari have played a vital role in shaping the region's literary identity. Alongside this linguistic plurality, artistic expressions such as poetry, folklore, oral storytelling, theatre, folk music, devotional traditions, and visual arts have flourished for generations, reflecting the shared cultural consciousness of the people. Over the years, numerous writers, poets, scholars, and performers have contributed significantly to the literary and cultural landscape of Jammu. However, in the present era marked by rapid globaliza-

tion, digital transformation, and changing social patterns, regional languages and traditional cultural forms face new challenges. Recognizing this need, the Jammuiyat: Sahitya-Sanskriti Samagam has been envisioned as a dynamic platform where literature and culture can be celebrated, discussed, documented, and passed on to younger generations. The festival seeks to reaffirm the relevance of regional literature in contemporary discourse while encouraging inter-generational dialogue on cultural identity and creativity. It will also provide space for emerging voices to engage with established scholars and artists, thereby strengthening cultural confidence rooted in pluralism, coexistence, and shared heritage.

The Samagam will feature three thematic sessions focusing on literature, culture, and youth engagement. The first session, titled "Jammu ka Sahitya - Bimb-Pratibimb," will examine the literary heritage of Jammu and explore how literature reflects and shapes social realities. Discussions will highlight the evolution of regional literature across languages and generations and the role of writers and poets in shaping cultural identity.

The second session, "Jammu Sanskriti ki Baati - Vyapakata Dikhati," will focus on the diverse cultural traditions of Jammu, including folk music, performing arts, visual arts, rituals, and indigenous practices. The session will also address the challenges of preserving traditional cultural

forms in the face of modernization and changing lifestyles.

The third session, "Jammuiyat ke Sang - Tarangayit Yuva-Man," will emphasize the role of youth in sustaining and reinterpreting cultural traditions. It will explore how young writers, artists, and scholars are using digital platforms and creative expression to carry forward the cultural legacy of the region. Apart from academic discussions, the Samagam will include a variety of engaging activities such as panel discussions, multilingual poetry recitals, book launches, sessions with young writers, folk music and dance performances, theatrical presentations, and art and photography exhibitions. Visitors will also have the opportunity to explore book stalls, literary publications, indigenous attire, handicraft displays, and traditional cuisine counters showcasing local produce and cultural aesthetics.

Through this initiative, the organizers aim to deepen public awareness about Jammu's literary and cultural heritage and strengthen dialogue among scholars, artists, and students. The event is also expected to inspire greater youth participation in literature and cultural activities while reinforcing the spirit of unity, harmony, and shared identity embodied in the idea of Jammuiyat. Organizers believe that the Samagam will serve as a meaningful step towards preserving, documenting, and promoting the region's rich cultural traditions for future generations.

Satish flags off "Nasha Mukta" Motorcycle rally



STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a significant initiative aimed at spreading awareness against drug abuse and promoting a healthy society, Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), IT, Transport, Youth Services & Sports, and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, on Saturday flagged off a "Nasha Mukta" motorcycle rally from Jaurian to Khour.

The rally was organized by the Society for Scheduled and Backward, an NGO actively engaged in social welfare and awareness programmes.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation of youth, social activists, volunteers and members of civil society who joined the rally carrying banners and placards with strong messages advocating a drug-free society.

Flagging off the rally, the Minister said that such initiatives play a crucial role in mobilizing society against the grow-

ing menace of drug abuse. He stressed that the drug problem not only affects the individuals and families but also poses a serious threat to the social and economic fabric of society. Satish Sharma maintained that the government has undertaken a massive campaign to eradicate the drug menace from Jammu and Kashmir, focusing on awareness, prevention, enforcement and rehabilitation. He said that coordinated efforts of government agencies, civil society organizations and the public are essential to effectively tackle the challenge.

The Minister underscored the importance of youth engagement in constructive and positive activities, particularly in sports, education and skill development, which serve as powerful tools in steering the young people away from substance abuse. He added that the Youth Services & Sports Department has been actively promoting sporting activities

across the region to channelize the energy of youth in a productive direction.

Calling upon the parents, teachers, community leaders and social organizations to remain vigilant and proactive, Satish Sharma said that a united societal response is necessary to eliminate the scourge of drugs. He emphasized that awareness campaigns like the "Nasha Mukta" rally help in sensitizing the people and strengthening the resolve to build a drug-free and healthy Jammu and Kashmir.

The participants of the rally pledged their commitment towards spreading awareness about the harmful effects of drugs and actively contribute towards the mission of making the region "Nasha Mukta." Prominent members of the Society for Scheduled and Backward, local representatives, youth volunteers and residents of the area were present on the occasion.

Hope India wins T20 World Cup by comfortable margin: Omar

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday expressed hope that India will register a comfortable victory in the T20 World Cup



final against New Zealand in Ahmedabad on Sunday to retain the trophy.

"We hope that India will win big (on Sunday). In the semifinal against England, it was a bit of a heart-stopping moment as it was a very close game that India won by seven runs. "This time we hope it doesn't get so nerve-racking and that the team wins by a comfortable margin," Abdullah told reporters on the sidelines of a function here.

India won the 2024 T20 World Cup, defeating South Africa by 7 runs in a thrilling final at the Kensington Oval in Barbados.

The defending champions beat England by seven runs in the semifinal played in Mumbai on Thursday, to set up a summit clash with New Zealand at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on Sunday.

The Kivins thrashed South Africa by nine wickets in the first semifinal played in Kolkata on Wednesday.