

Uncapped but unforgotten: Manhas and Muzumdar finally get the recognition they deserved

Two paths, one legacy: BCCI's New Chief; Coach of World Champions

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: They never donned the Indian cap, yet their names remain etched in the golden pages of domestic cricket. Mithun Manhas and Amol Muzumdar, two stalwarts of Indian cricket's domestic circuit, have finally received the recognition they long deserved.

While India may have missed witnessing their brilliance on the international stage, destiny has now rewarded their perseverance and unmatched contributions to the game. Manhas has risen to the esteemed position of BCCI Chief, a testament to his leadership and deep understanding of the sport. Muzumdar, on the other hand, has guided the Indian women's team to a historic World Cup triumph, etching his name in the annals of coaching glory.



The duo, once warriors of the Ranji battlefield, now stand tall as symbols of dedication, resilience, and the undying spirit of Indian cricket.

Manhas carved an illustrious domestic career, featuring in 157 first-class matches and amassing 9,714 runs with 27 centuries. He led Delhi to their 2007-08 Ranji Trophy triumph, scoring 921

runs at an average of 57.57, and captained North Zone to the 2005-06 Deodhar Trophy title. Standing in for an injured Dinesh Mongia, Manhas struck successive centuries against South and East Zone to clinch the championship in Jaipur. In the IPL, he represented Delhi Daredevils, Pune Warriors, and Chennai Super Kings, later serving as

coach for Kings XI Punjab, Royal Challengers Bangalore, and Gujarat Titans. His roles as consultant to Bangladesh U-19 and Director of Cricket Operations and Development at JKCA further underline his coaching pedigree.

Amol Muzumdar was a Mumbai stalwart. As a schoolboy, he watched from the sidelines when Sachin Tendulkar and Vinod Kambli scripted their record 664-run stand for Sharadashram Vidyamandir. Decades later, Muzumdar guided Harmanpreet Kaur's Indian women's team to their maiden ODI World Cup title, his quiet leadership shining behind the scenes as history was made. A product of coach Ramakant Achrekar's Sharadashram Vidyamandir, Muzumdar announced him-

self at 19 with a world-record 260* on Ranji debut for Mumbai in 1993-94-a record that stood for nearly 25 years. Over a distinguished career, he accumulated 11,167 first-class runs at 48.13 with 30 centuries, becoming the cornerstone of Mumbai cricket and one of its most respected figures.

The illustrious duo of Muzumdar and Manhas, pillars of Indian domestic cricket, displayed extraordinary skill and unwavering consistency during a golden era overshadowed by giants like Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid, VVS Laxman, and Sourav Ganguly. Though they never earned a coveted spot in the national team, time has fittingly rewarded their dedication and mastery, granting them the recognition and respect they so deeply deserved.

10th District Jammu Handball Championship begins



MLA Jammu East, Yudhvir Sethi with officials and participant teams at inaugural ceremony.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The three-day 10th District Jammu Handball Championship for Senior Men & Women and Junior Boys & Girls commenced on Thursday at Playfield Shastri Nagar, Jammu.

The championship is being organized by the Player Association Handball Jammu in collaboration with the J&K Handball Association and is sponsored by the J&K Sports Council.

Yudhvir Sethi, MLA Jammu East, was the Chief Guest at the opening ceremony.

In his address, he encouraged the players to focus on developing their skills and maintaining high physical fitness standards to achieve excellence in the sport. He also congratulated the office bearers of the Player Association Handball Jammu for successfully organizing the championship.

Among the prominent personalities present on the occasion were Rajesh Kapoor, Vice President JKHA; Rajesh Chandan, General Secretary JKHA; Sulekha Kundal, Joint Secretary JKHA; and Parveen Kermi, Secretary BJP Jammu District, along with other dignitaries and members. Around 140 players representing various schools and handball clubs from across District Jammu are participating in the tournament. In the opening match of the Junior Boys category, Tawi Club defeated Heritage School by 14-7 goals. In the second match, under the Junior Girls category, Vitasta Club registered a win over Jammu Club with a score of 6-2 goals. The championship will continue for the next two days, featuring exciting matches and showcasing emerging handball talent from the district.

KCPS students shine at Inter-District Gymnastics Tournament 25



STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Two students of KC Public School (KCPS) excelled at the Inter-district UT Level Artistic Gymnastics Tournament 2025-26 organised by the Department of Youth Services and Sports at M.A. Stadium, Jammu from November 3 to 5. Rivika Bansal of Class 8 clinched two gold medals in the Floor Exercise category and one bronze medal in the Beam Performance category. She was also declared the All-Round Best Gymnast of the championship.

Another KCPS student Sadhya Sharma of Class 9 also performed well in the competition and won a silver medal in the Balancing Beam event.

The School Management and Principal congratulated both students for their outstanding performance and for bringing laurels to the institution.

GCOE organises Inter College Men & Women Table Tennis Competition

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Inter College Men & Women Table Tennis Competition under the aegis of Cluster University of Jammu was successfully organized at Govt. College of Education (GCOE), Jammu.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from all the five constituent colleges of Cluster University of Jammu i.e., GGM Science College, SPMR College of Commerce, Govt. MAM College, PSPS Govt. College for Women, Gandhi Nagar, and Govt. College of Education, Jammu. The competition showcased remarkable talent, team spirit, and sportsmanship among the participating players.

The event commenced with a warm welcome address by Dr. Jyoti Parihar, Principal, Govt. College of Education,



GCOE faculty with others dignitaries and participating students.

Jammu, who applauded the efforts of the Sports Committee in organizing the competition and extended a heartfelt welcome to all dignitaries, guests, and participants.

Dr. Zubair Kalees, Dean, School of Teacher Education, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and commended the efforts of the college in promoting physical education and co-curricular engagement among stu-

dents. Dr. Jyoti Parihar, Principal, Govt. College of Education, Jammu, was the Special Guest, while Dr. Vinod Bakshi, Director Physical Education, Cluster University of Jammu, was the Guest of Honour for event.

The dignitaries who graced the event included Prof. Satish Sharma, Head, Department of Hindi, Ravi Kumar, Physical Director, Govt. SPMR College of

Commerce, Kajal Premi, Physical Director, Govt. College for Women, Gandhi Nagar, Neelam, Assistant Physical Director, Govt. MAM College, and Dr. Shalini Sharma, Department of English, GGM Science College. Their presence added grace and encouragement to the event.

The matches were officiated by Ajay Ratra, Table Tennis Coach, IIT Jammu and Sakshi, from Army

Public School, Ratnchak, ensuring fair play and smooth conduct throughout the competition.

In the Men's Singles Tournament, Govt. SPMR College of Commerce emerged as the winner, while Govt. College of Education, Jammu secured the runner-up position. In the Women's Singles Tournament, GGM Science College bagged the winner's trophy, and Govt. SPMR College of Commerce stood as the runner-up.

The Best Player Award in the Men's Category was conferred upon Tejashwar Singh of Govt. SPMR College of Commerce, while the Best Player Award in the Women's Category was bagged by Bhumika Thakur of GGM Science College for their outstanding performances and exemplary sportsmanship.

The entire event was coordinated by Ramandeep

Kralia, Physical Director, Govt. College of Education, Jammu, whose meticulous planning and dedication ensured the smooth conduct of the competition.

The event concluded with a Prize Distribution Ceremony, during which the winners and best players were felicitated by the dignitaries.

The programme came to an end with a formal vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Shalini Rana, who expressed gratitude to all the participants, officials, and faculty members for their contribution to the success of the event.

The competition was attended by faculty members Dr. Rajinder Kour, Anuradha Choudhary, Balwan Singh, Dr. Ambica Sharma, and Dr. Sonam Gandotra, who encouraged the participants and lauded the efforts of the organizing team.

CUJ ASTRO team wins 'Best Design Award' in IN-SPACE Model Rocketry India Student Competition

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Central University of Jammu (CUJ) ASTRO Team has brought laurels to the institution by winning the Best Design Award' in the Model Rocketry category at the Model Rocketry/CANSAT India Student Competition 2025, held at Tamkuhiraj, Kushinagar, Uttar Pradesh.

The four-day grand finale was organized by the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACE) in collaboration with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Astronautical Society of India (ASI). It is one of India's largest student-led space competitions, aimed at promoting innovation and practical exposure in aerospace design and development.



Award winner CUJ ASTRO team posing with dignitaries.

This year's event witnessed the participation of 71 student teams, comprising around 600 students from premier institutions across the country. Among them, 35 teams competed in Model Rocketry and 36 teams in the CANSAT category. The competition encouraged students to design, develop, and launch model rockets capable of deploying miniature satellites at an altitude of

approximately 1.5 km. Expressing pride in the achievement, the CUJ Jammu ASTRO Team stated that the Best Design Award recognizes their innovative design approach, team synergy, and technical excellence in rocket structure and payload integration.

The participation was made possible through the encouragement and contin-

uous support of the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Sanjeev Jain, who motivated the students to actively engage in national-level competitions.

Prof. Jain also appreciated the team upon their return for winning the Best Design Award and making the entire university proud by representing CUJ and excelling at the national stage.

The teams were supervised

by Prof. Rakesh Kumar Jha, Faculty Coordinator at the Satish Dhawan Centre for Space Sciences, Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering. Each team-CANSAT and ROCKETRY-comprised eight students from B.Tech. ECE and B.Tech. ECE (Avionics), mentored by Dr. Misbah Shafi and Dr. Haneet Kour.

The event was inaugurated by Shashank Mani Tripathi, Member of Parliament (Deoria), who emphasized that such initiatives nurture scientific curiosity and promote regional engagement in space technology.

The valedictory ceremony was graced by Indian astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla, who inspired participants with his motivational address on India's growing space ambitions.

Kamaljeet of GDC Kunjwani wins Pencak Silat gold

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Kamaljeet Bhogal, a student of Semester-V of the Government Degree College (GDC), Kunjwani won gold medal in the Inter College Pencak-Silat (Men) Tournament which was organized by the University of Jammu at Gymnasium Hall on the campus, here.

Dr. Manisha Kohli, Principal of the College appreciated the sports wing,



especially Malik Aijaz Iqbal (PTI) and congratulated

Kamaljeet for bringing laurels to the institution.

PG JU to face GDC Ramnagar in Volleyball final

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The combined side of Post Graduate (PG) Departments of University of Jammu (JU) shall take on equally good Government Degree College (GDC) Ramnagar in the final of the inter-college Volleyball tournament, organised by the Directorate of Sports, JU on

main campus, here tomorrow. Earlier, in the semifinals, decided on Thursday, PG JU defeated GDC Bhandarwah in straight sets of 25-11, 25-17 while GDC Ramnagar trounced GCW Parade 25-17, 25-22.

The technical panel in today's competition comprised Amit Sharma, Mulkh Raj, Pragma Sharma, Parvinder Sharma, Anil Sharma, Shubham Sharma, and Vikas Karlopa.

The Detailed Results (Preliminary Rounds): GDC Doda beat GDC Pooni 2-0 (25-23, 27-25); GCW Parade beat GCW Udhampur 2-0 (25-15, 25-11); GDC Bhandarwah beat GDC Khiltran 2-0 (25-14, 25-2); GDC Bhandarwah beat Dogra Degree College 2-0 (25-23, 25-07); GCW Parade beat GDC Pooni by 2-1 (25-12, 22-25, 15-05); GDC Ramnagar beat GDC Doda 2-0 (25-15, 25-11).

Jammu District Open Tennis Championship U-14 begins at MA Stadium



Players posing for a group photograph before start of the match at MA Stadium.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu District Open Tennis Championship Under-14, organized by the Jammu and Kashmir Lawn Tennis Association (JKLTA), commenced on Thursday at the Lawn Tennis Courts, M.A. Stadium, Jammu.

The tournament was inaugurated by B. S. Jaggi, Honorary General Secretary of the J&K Lawn Tennis Association, in the pres-

ence of players, coaches, and sports enthusiasts. The event aims to promote young tennis talent in the Union Territory and provide a competitive platform for budding players.

In the Under-14 Boys' Singles category, several exciting matches were played on the opening day. Sameer Kumar edged past Parth Gupta (7-6), while Prithvi Sharma outplayed Pranvat Singh (7-2). Piyush Kumar registered a dominant win over Adhyan Arif (7-0), and Harustat Singh defeated Bhavin Saroch (7-2). Ayank Jaiswal prevailed against Arav Singh (7-6), and Arav Sharma defeated Mawik Bakshi (7-0). In later rounds, Harustat Singh beat Nakshatra Prashar (7-5), and Arav Sharma overcame Ayank Jaiswal (7-0) to advance further.

In the Under-14 Boys' Doubles category, the pair of Khushshans Magotra and Ayank Jaiswal defeated Adhyan Arif and Maulik Bakshi (7-1). Parth Gupta and Arav Singh won against Arsh Arora and Pravat Singh (7-4), while Piyush Kumar and Sameer Kumar triumphed over Bhavin Saroch and Nakshatra Prashar (7-1).

The championship will continue over the next few days, featuring knockout rounds and finals, as young players vie for top honors in both singles and doubles events.

English Deptt of Heritage School organises Book Swap Program



STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The English Department of Heritage School, recently organized a two-day book swap program, culminating in a successful exchange of books among students. The inaugural ceremony was held on October 29th, graced by Chairman Sunil Gupta, along with esteemed guests including the Members Board of Trustees, Principal, Vice-Principal, Mentor, Headmistress and Coordinators. Students and Guests showcased their literary talents through various events, including rewriting classics, reading out book marked moments, and a thought-provoking role-play depicting the plight of a book in modern times versus a mobile phone. The book swap program, open to students of classes 9 to 12, on 30th October, saw an overwhelming response with around 270 books exchanged among participants. The

purpose of the event was to promote reading habits, foster a sense of community among book lovers, and encourage sustainable practices by reusing and recycling books. The event was also a part of the RIDS activities and initiatives conducted in the school from time to time for global learners with the aim to read, analyse and compare the literature of different countries, cultures and times. The guests were felicitated with handmade badges and book-marks crafted by the students of Class 12 -D adding a personal touch to the event. The event was hailed as a resounding success, with participants and guests alike appreciating the initiative and creativity of the English Department. The Management congratulated the department and participants for making this event a memorable one and suggested more such holistic initiatives in the future.

JKP officer invited for international workshop

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A senior Jammu and Kashmir Police (JKP) officer has been invited to attend the International Olympic Committee (IOC)-Interpol workshop at Abu Dhabi in UAE.

The workshop, as per a communique to the Director General of Police J&K, Nalin Prabhat, shall focus on Interpol-IOC Integrity in Sports from November 11 to 13. The theme of the workshop shall be 'Prevention of the Manipulation of Competitions'.

In this regard, the Indian Olympic Association, a unit of the IOC, has already informed the DGP J&K with regard to the departmental formalities.

"The IOC has nominated



Dushyant Sharma, SSP, J&K Police of your department, as its representative for this workshop. All expenses related to the visit will be borne by the IOC. Additionally, we request that Sharma be considered on official duty to facilitate his travel," a letter addressed to the DGP J&K mentioned.