

Asia Cup: India again beats Pakistan; Jammuities celebrate



Jammu witnesses jubilation as cricket fans poured into the streets to celebrate India's emphatic victory over arch-rivals Pakistan in Asia cup match. (Pic by Ashok Anand)

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DUBAI: Abhishek Sharma was brutal and beautiful in equal measure during his scintillating 74 as India made a tricky chase look comfortable, winning an ill-tempered Super 4 contest of the Asia Cup against Pakistan by six wickets here on Sunday. Left-handed Abhishek, who got 30-plus knocks in all the group league games, hit six fours and five sixes in his 39-ball knock.

Jammu witnessed scenes of jubilation as cricket fans poured into the streets to celebrate India's emphatic victory

over arch-rivals Pakistan. Cheers, drumbeats, and tri-colour flags filled the air as supporters danced and distributed sweets in markets and residential areas. Youngsters burst crackers with patriotic chants like "Bharat Mata Ki Jai" and "India! India!" The thrilling win sparked celebrations late into the night, uniting people across age groups in a moment of national pride. The triumph over Pakistan has lifted spirits and reinforced India's dominance on the cricket field, bringing smiles to every corner of Jammu.

As he was dismissed trying to hit his sixth maximum, it left everyone in a daze and still yearning for more.

If Shivam Dube's double blows in the Pakistan innings' back-10 opened the game for India, Abhishek and his best buddy Shubman Gill (47 off 28 balls) set up the chase of 172 with a 102-run opening stand.

The inseparable duo, who had been playing together since their Punjab U-12 days, sent the bowlers on a leather hunt.

It started with a hooked six

SCOREBOARD

PAKISTAN	
Sahibzada Farhan c Yadav b Dube	58
Fakhar Zaman c †Samson b Pandya	15
Saim Ayub c Abhishek Sharma b Dube	21
Hussain Talat c Varun b Kuldeep Yadav	10
Mohammad Nawaz run out (Yadav)	21
Salman Agha (c) not out	17
Faheem Ashraf not out	20
Extras	09
Total	171/5
INDIA	
Abhishek Sharma c Haris Rauf b Abrar Ahmed	74
Shubman Gill b Faheem Ashraf	47
Suryakumar Yadav (c) c Abrar Ahmed b Haris Rauf	00
Tilak Varma not out	30
Sanju Samson † b Haris Rauf	13
Hardik Pandya not out	07
Extras	03
Total	174/4

by Abhishek off the very first delivery from Shaheen Shah Afridi (0/40 in 3.5 overs) as he picked wrist spinner Abrar Ahmed for special treatment, sending him for four more maximums.

Gill, who had a poor first 10 days of the tournament, was finally in his elements and was severe on pacers and spinners alike.

But the lofted drive over extra cover off Afridi, would be remembered for a long time.

The match didn't end with

out its share of skirmishes and every time it was Pakistani players, who started it but Indians, who finished it.

After being hit for a boundary, Afridi had a word for Gill, who showed him where the ball went. Similarly when ill-tempered Haris Rauf was given a belt treatment by Abhishek, he tried to get into a physical altercation only to be stopped by the umpires as Gautam Gambhir sent three of his reserves to diffuse the situation.

SSP Doda flags off Bharat Darshan Tour for 88 students



SSP Doda Sandeep Mehta shaking hand with students before departure.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: Under the Civic Action Programme (CAP) and National Integration Program, Doda Police on Sunday flagged off a group of 88 students from different schools of remote areas of District Doda for a week-long Bharat Darshan Tour.

The contingent is accompanied by five caretakers, including SI Deep Singh and PSI Dilber Singh of District Police Doda.

The tour was formally flagged off by Senior Superintendent of Police Doda, Sandeep Mehta, at District Police Office Doda in the presence of senior officers and officials of District Doda.

While interacting with

the students, SSP Doda urged them to utilize this unique opportunity to broaden their horizons, learn about the nation's rich cultural diversity, and imbibe the values of unity, peace, and brotherhood.

He emphasized that the tour is aimed at providing exposure to India's history, heritage, development, and modern institutions, thereby boosting self-confidence and personality development among the youth.

The Bharat Darshan Tour, fully sponsored by J&K Police, covers all logistics including air travel, boarding, lodging, guided visits, and AC transport.

During the tour, the students will visit New Delhi

and Mumbai, exploring historical monuments, educational institutions, tourist landmarks, and industrial units. Each participant has been provided with a complete tour kit consisting of a tracksuit, shoes, cap, and carry bag.

Among others, Addl. SP Hqrs Doda Mohd Aslam, DySP Hqrs Doda Ajay Anand, DySP DAR Doda Adil Rishu, and SHO PS Doda were present on the occasion.

Parents and students expressed gratitude to J&K Police for this initiative, appreciating the department's efforts to positively channelize youth energy through education, cultural exposure, and career awareness.

BSF School Jammu hosts Career Counselling Session with Alumnus



A resource person receiving memento.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: BSF Senior Secondary School, Jammu, held an inspiring Career Counselling Session during the morning assembly. The guest of honor was Mr. Sunil Kumar Sharma, Senior Academic Officer, SCERT, and a proud alumnus of the school's 1991 batch.

Returning to his alma mater after many years, Sharma spoke with affection and sincerity, recalling his own journey from the

classrooms of BSF School to a career in academics. His words carried the weight of experience and the light of encouragement. He urged students to pursue their ambitions with courage, never allowing fear or hesitation to hold them back.

Sharma emphasized that success is not a sudden achievement, but a continuous journey of resilience, effort, and adaptability. He encouraged the students to remain open to opportuni-

ties, reminding them that the ability to learn and adjust is as important as talent and hard work. His message struck a deep chord with the young audience, who listened with quiet attention and shining eyes.

The session proved to be enriching for all present. Students felt motivated to reflect on their own goals and to face challenges with renewed confidence. Teachers too appreciated the presence of an alumnus who connected the school's legacy with its present, reminding everyone of the enduring value of determination and dedication.

To mark the occasion, Principal Dr. S. K. Shukla presented a memento to Mr. Sharma, as a gesture of respect and gratitude. The moment reflected the pride of the institution in the achievements of its alumni.

As the assembly drew to a close, students carried back more than lessons-they carried inspiration, a reminder that dreams do come true when chased with perseverance and belief.

JKEDI empowers 164 entrepreneurs under RAMP scheme

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JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) has successfully concluded its third batch of Management Development Programs (MDPs) under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) scheme. What makes this batch particularly significant is the overwhelming participation of women - out of 164 entrepreneurs trained, 147 were women, reflecting a remarkable shift towards greater gender inclusivity in J&K's entrepreneurial ecosystem.

These Management Development Programmes (MDPs) started on September 15, 2025 in the districts including Anantnag, Bandipora, Baramulla, Budgam, Ganderbal, Kathua, Poonch and Ramban. In these MDPs, 164 aspiring and existing entrepreneurs underwent the 30-hour long comprehensive training program of 30 hours spread over six days including a field visit and interaction with the experts from various sectors. The trained candidates include 147 females, which is both notable and encouraging, and reflects a significant shift towards greater gender inclusivity in the region's entrepreneurial



Officials along with trainees posing for photograph.

and professional development landscape.

During these MDPs, the candidates were exposed to strengthen their managerial, financial and strategic skills aimed at empowering them to scale up operations, enhance competitiveness and create sustainable enterprises. This flagship initiative is being implemented in alignment with the broader objectives of the Government of India's RAMP program to bolster the MSME ecosystem. The MDP curriculum meticulously designed by subject matter experts included modules on business planning, marketing strategies, digital tools, financial literacy, compliance, innovation, and leadership. The program also included mentorship ses-

sions, case studies, and hands-on workshops to provide real-world insights.

The Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) scheme, is an initiative funded by the Ministry of MSME, Government of India and implemented by the Industries and Commerce Department, Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

The successful conclusion of these MDPs of eight districts of Jammu and Kashmir is a testament to the commitment of JKEDI to empower the local entrepreneurs. Through targeted training, sector-specific expertise, and real-world exposure, the institute is equipping the entrepreneurs with the skills and knowledge required to scale their busi-

nesses and contribute meaningfully to the economy of the region. The simultaneous launch of MDPs in 08 districts was aimed to ensure equitable access of the participants to the resources and training opportunities, particularly in remote and underdeveloped areas of Jammu and Kashmir.

In these MDPs, sector-specific training was imparted to the trainees during the course in which subject matter specialists from District Industries Centres, Labour and Employment Department interacted with the participants and shared useful insights with them. Field visits of the trainees to the successful business ventures were also organised during the programs to provide them real-time business

exposure. The MPDs were constantly monitored by the designated Range/Reviewing Officers who interacted with the participants periodically for their feedback about the training being imparted.

Speaking at the valedictory function at JKEDI Kathua, Joint Director, JKEDI, Chand Kishor Sharma praised the participants and termed the initiative a vital step towards strengthening the MSME ecosystem. He encouraged the trainees to leverage their new skills to realize the vision of Viksit Bharat. "JKEDI will continue to work closely with all the stakeholders to expand such programs, ensuring that entrepreneurs from all sectors of the economy have access to the tools and resources they need to thrive," he said.

The successful completion of these MDPs across eight districts reaffirms JKEDI's mission to ensure equitable access to entrepreneurial training in both urban and remote areas of the Union Territory. The long-term impact of these programs is expected to be reflected in more resilient, innovative, and competitive enterprises, with women entrepreneurs taking the lead in driving economic growth in Jammu and Kashmir.

J&K Branch of ICAI hosts CA Students' Talent Search 2025-Branch Level Round



Officials along with students during the programme.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu & Kashmir Branch of the Northern India Regional Council (NIRC) of ICAI organized the Branch Level Round of the CA Students' Talent Search - 2025 at ICAI Bhawan, here.

The two-day event saw an enthusiastic turnout of over 50 CA students who showcased their diverse talents across categories such as Chess, Sketching, Drama, and Instrumental Music.

The atmosphere was charged with excitement and competitive spirit as students displayed their creativity, passion, and skill. After a series of vibrant performances and closely contested matches, the winners were announced.

In Chess, Rithik Sharma emerged as the winner,

while Vasu Gupta secured the runner-up position. The Drama segment, a team event, saw Vaibhavi Joshi, Nitika Kochhar, Ajay Kumar Sharma, Vasu Suri, Mimansa Gupta, and Radhika Mahajan being declared winners. The runner-up team included Arnab Gupta, Himanshu Kumar, Kavya Mahajan, Chinmy Sharma, Lakshay Gupta, and Harsh Gupta.

In Instrumental Music, Prashant Sharma took the top spot, followed by Tejas Gupta as runner-up. For Sketching, Ayushi Sharma was the runner-up, while Ishika Mahajan was the runner-up.

These talented winners will now go on to represent the J&K Branch at the Regional Level Competitions, with the potential to reach the National Grand Finale scheduled for October

2025.

CA Sourav Pargal, Chairman of the J&K Branch, congratulated all winners and participants, appreciating their ability to balance rigorous academics with extracurricular excellence. He also extended his gratitude to the organizing committee and student volunteers for their dedication and efforts in making the event a grand success.

The event was further enriched by the presence of CA Amit Gupta (Vice Chairman), CA Jatinder Malhotra (Secretary), CA Sanchit Aggarwal (Treasurer), and CA Ayush Mahajan (Executive Member).

The committee members applauded the participants and motivated them to continue striving for excellence in all areas of life.

J&K 303/8: Qamran slams ton, Samad scores 88

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The elegance, brilliance and flamboyance was on display as Qamran Iqbal slammed a magnificent century while Abdul Samad scored cracking 88 runs as J&K scored 303/8 against Punjab on day-1 of the 4-day practice match of the Senior Men's team as part of preparation for upcoming Ranji Trophy at SK Stadium, here today.

Both the batters toyed with the rival bowlers and scored runs at will.

As per the reports reaching here, Qamran hit 11 delectable boundaries in his knock of 131 runs, while Samad smashed 6 crispy boundaries and 2 massive sixes in his innings. Shubham Khajuria (20) and Musaiif Ajaz (17) were the other contributors.

For Punjab, Sahil Khan was the most successful bowler, who took 2 wickets.

It is pertinent to mention here that J&K team will play two practice matches against Punjab with one going on in Srinagar and another 3-day in Chandigarh from September 29, 2025.

Mithun Manhas files nomination for post of BCCI president

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

MUMBAI: Former Delhi Ranji Trophy captain, Mithun Manhas, having the distinction of leading iconic cricketers like Virat Kohli, Virender Sehwag and likes, is all set to become the next president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). He filed his nomination for the BCCI presidency on Sunday (September 21), the last day for filing papers in the election process. He is expected to get the post unopposed, naturally.

Raghuram Bhatt, a former India Test cricketer, was also in the fray for the top post till the very last minute. But in the end, he had to settle for the treasurer role. He also filed papers.

Besides Manhas and Bhatt, Devajit Saikia and Prabhat Bhatia also filed for the secretary and joint secretary posts.

IPL chairman Arun Dhuma's position was initially uncertain amid confusion over whether he fell under the cooling-off ambit. The BCCI later sought legal advice, which cleared him to continue.

Manhas (45), who featured in 157 first-class matches in a domestic career of 18 years, spanning from 1998 to 2016, emerged as a surprise choice given the high profiles of other contenders and aspirants. Sourav Ganguly's name remained in the fray until the last minute, as did Harbhajan Singh's, but Manhas got the surprise nod from the powers that be in Delhi.

Manhas, who has been administrator of Jammu & Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA), was nominated by the JKCA for the September 28 election and Annual

General Meeting (AGM).

"His cricketing background has helped him get the position," Rajeev Shukla, who will continue as vice-president, said at the BCCI office.

Manhas is presently serving Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA) as the Head of Cricket Operations and Development, making sea change in its functioning and guiding talented cricketers to blossom on the national and international scene. Under his charismatic leadership, J&K Cricket is unquestionably on the upswing. Apart from making the players to represent at the higher and even at the highest level, he has been instrumental in helping Jammu and Kashmir produce a big number of BCCI Level Coaches, Umpires and other allied technical bunch of officials. His dynamism, energy and charisma has taken J&K Cricket to the next level. Organising a big number of practice matches and sending the teams for exposure tours has become a custom in JKCA now.

"I have heard the news. If it happens it will be the greatest news for J&K Cricket. He is the nominee of JKCA in the AGM of the BCCI. What can be a better news for us if one of us is elected as the President of the national body BCCI. Personally speaking he is the right person for the job since apart from being an outstanding cricketer he has ample experience of administration since he was performing the duties of Member Cricket Operations and Development of the JKCA. His contribution in that role is unparalleled and is evident from the rise

of J&K cricket as well as recognition of number of JKCA players at the national level. The latest feather in his cap was when 5 JKCA players played for North Zone in the recently concluded Duleep Trophy and selection of Yudhvir Singh for India A team against Australia. I wish him good luck," said Brig Anil Gupta, Member Administration JKCA

Earlier, in a meeting involving top BCCI officials including past senior functionaries in Delhi on Saturday night, Manhas, who was nominated for the AGM by Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association, emerged as the consensus candidate for the top post. The only other name in contention was that of former India spin bowler Raghuram Bhatt. But it was decided that there should not be back-to-back presidents from the same zone and same association. Manhas, 45, who played 157 first class matches, is expected to take over from Roger Binny, who came from Karnataka State Cricket Association, the same as Bhatt. Bhatt is likely to get another key post, that of treasurer. Zonal considerations play a vital role in BCCI functioning, especially now that office bearers are decided by consensus. The other consideration being emphasis on having a player president, with most leading national sporting bodies now having a former player in the lead.

While confirming his filing of nomination papers for the presidency post, Manhas said if elected he will leave no stone unturned in doing the job in a most befitting manner. Expressing happiness over this news, the entire cricketing fraternity of Jammu and Kashmir firmly believed that young Manhas will surely do justice with this high profile job.