

# India reveal squad for Women's World Cup 2025



**Mumbai, (UNI)** Harmanpreet Kaur is set to lead India for the first time in the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup with Smriti Mandhana as her deputy, as the hosts finalised a solid 15-member

squad for the 2025 edition commencing on September 30. India squad for World Cup: Harmanpreet Kaur (C), Smriti Mandhana (VC), Pratika Rawal, Harleen Deol, Jemimah

Rodrigues, Richa Ghosh, Yastika Bhatia, Renuka Singh Thakur, Deepti Sharma, Sneha Rana, Sree Charani, Radha Yadav, Amanjot Kaur, Arundhati Reddy, Kranti Gaud. Reserves: Tejal Hasab-

nis, Prema Rawat, Priya Mishra, Uma Chetry, Minnu Mani, Sayali Satghare India also announced a squad for the Australia home ODI series, after a successful white-ball series against England, ahead of the grand tournament where the hosts begin their campaign against Sri Lanka on the opening day. India squad for Australia series: Harmanpreet Kaur (C), Smriti Mandhana (VC), Pratika Rawal, Harleen Deol, Deepti Sharma, Jemimah Rodrigues, Renuka Singh Thakur, Arundhati Reddy, Richa Ghosh, Kranti Gaud, Sayali Satghare, Radha Yadav, Sree Charani, Yastika Bhatia, Sneha Rana. The only change from the Australia squad to the World Cup one would be

Satghare being replaced by Amanjot, who will be participating in her first World Cup. While regulars like Sharma, Rodrigues and Ghosh have made it to the main squad, Deol and Amanjot have been rewarded for their consistent performances in the last two years. Shafali Varma, who was a part of the T20I series against England but was left out of the ODI leg, has been excluded from the final squad for the mega event. Yastika Bhatia, who didn't feature in the England ODIs, gets a place after her impressive performance recently for India A against Australia A where she guided her team to a 2-1 win in the three-match ODI series, with scores of 59, 66, and 42 respectively.

## Khalid Jamil explains Sunil Chhetri's exclusion from India preparatory camp



**Bengaluru, (UNI)** The exclusion of Sunil Chhetri from Indian football team's first preparatory camp under new head coach Khalid Jamil for the 2025 CAFA Nations Cup has sparked discussion but Jamil insists the striker has not been shut out. Jamil announced his list of players for the preparatory camp on Friday with Chhetri's omission standing out. The veteran forward, who retired in June 2024 before reversing his decision in March earlier this year, remains a central figure for the Indian football team. However, Jamil gave a clear answer when asked about why Chhetri wasn't included in the preparatory camp. "Sunil is a legend of Indian football. I have played against him, I've seen him play on numerous occasions, and he is one of my favourite players. He is a role model for Indian football, and the door is always open for him," said Jamil. "He's not there in this camp because we are playing a tournament which will essentially serve as a preparation for our Asian Cup Qualifiers," he said. "I also want to try out a few other players during this FIFA window. I had a talk with him about the same. It's always a pleasure to have a player like him in the team,"

Jamil said. The Indian national football team has kicked off their preparations for the upcoming CAFA Nations Cup under newly appointed head coach Jamil. Jamil, who made his mark with Jamshedpur FC by taking back the Men of Steel among the best in the Indian Super League (ISL) and cup competitions, now steps into his dream role, leading the Blue Tigers. "It is my pleasure to serve the country. It has always been my dream to do this, and it has now come true, so that feels very good. There is a big task ahead of us, and we've got many areas that we need to work on. I am fully aware how big a responsibility it is for me, but I feel thankful that the Federation (AIFF) felt me worthy to be entrusted with it," Jamil expressed. The challenge ahead is far greater. India are struggling in the AFC Asian Cup qualifiers, with just one point from their opening two matches and sitting at the bottom of the group The CAFA Nations Cup, starting August 29 in Tajikistan, gives Jamil an early chance to test his squad against opponents like Tajikistan, IR Iran and Afghanistan before the next qualifier in October.



## Swiatek claims first Cincinnati Open title with win over Paolini

**Cincinnati/New Delhi, (UNI):** World No. 2 Iga Swiatek lifted her first Cincinnati Open title, defeating Italy's Jasmine Paolini 7-5, 6-4 in the women's singles final. According to the statement issued by Olympics.com, "Iga Swiatek won her first Cincinnati Open title with a 7-5, 6-4 victory over Jasmine Paolini on Monday (18 August)." Highlighting the scale of her achievement, Olympics.com said, "In 1 hour, 49 minutes of grinding tennis, Swiatek - the first Polish player to win in singles at the tournament - beat Paolini for the sixth time in as many meetings in a match-up of first-time finalists. She has dropped just one set against the Italian." The victory was another milestone in her already illustrious career. It was Swiatek's 24th career title on the tour, her 11th at the 1000 level. The six-time Grand Slam champion did not lose a single set en route to the championship, as per the Olympics.com. It further added, "Cincinnati was Swiatek's second title of the season following her triumph at Wimbledon. She heads to the US Open as the No. 2 seed singles and is paired with Casper Ruud in the revamped mixed doubles event."

## ITF Junior tennis : Wild Card entrant Rohit Balaji upsets 9th seeded Prakash Saran

**Chennai, (UNI)** In a major upset, Wild card entrant Rohit Balaji Gobins Gobinath caused a major upset, defeating 9th seed Prakash Saran in the UNIFI ITF Junior Tennis Cup tournament here today. In and all-Indian first round main draw match, Rohit came back after losing the first set, before getting the better of his opponent 3-6 6-3 6-1 to enter the second round. The day witnessed some close contests, though seeded players stayed on course and moved to the next round. Results : Singles : First Round : Retd Arora beat Anvi Punaganti - 6-2 Retd. Riya Sachdeva beat Iha Joshi Iha - 6-1 6-1 Vasundra Balajee beat Deepshikha Vinayagamurthy - 6-3 6-7(4) 7-5 Mandagalla Princy beat Aanya Choubey (USA) - 6-2 3-6 7-5 Deepthi Venkatesan Venkate-

san beat Indusha Nimmakayala 6-3 6-2 Sanmitha Harini Lokesh (IND) beat Kreethika Reddy Vangala (IND) - 6-2 6-3 Avyaktha Rayavarapu (USA) beat Srinidhi Madhu (GBR) 6-4 2-2 Ret. Meghana G D beat Tejaswi Manneni (IND) - 6-3 6-4, Disha Kumar beat Saanvi Misra - 6-4 6-1 Saanchi Dalal (USA) beat Shreineithi Chowdhury - 7-6(5) 6-7(6) 6-2, Sai Ananya Varanasi beat Jeshika Rajasekar (IND) - 6-1 6-4, Devashree Mahadeshwar beat Banu Gnanasekaran Aswin - 5-7 6-2 6-3, Sree Syleswari Velmanikandan beat K A Aadhirai - 5-7 7-5 6-2, Savitha Bhuvanewaran beat Aaradhya Meena - 6-2 6-0, Vyom Shah [11] beat Thirumurugan Viswanathan - 6-3 6-4, Akansha Ghosh beat Hiya Kugasia - 6-1 6-3, Yashwin Krishnakumar (USA) beat Om Patel 6-3 4-6 6-1, Aditi Paturi (USA) beat Dakshanasree SR - 6-3 7-5.

## Thirty nine RF athletes aim for glory at National Inter State Senior Athletics Championships

**Mumbai, (UNI)** A strong contingent of 39 athletes supported by the Reliance Foundation (RF) will look to aim for glory and secure qualification for the World Championships at the 64th National Inter State Senior Athletics Championships in Chennai from August 20 to 24. Among the big names in action will be Tejas Shirse (men's 110m hurdles), Manikanta Hoblihdhar (men's 100m and 200m), Gurindervir Singh (men's 100m), Amlan Borgohain (men's 100m and 200m), Mohammed Afsal (men's 800m) and Animesh Kujur (men's 200m and 4x100m relay), who continues his red hot form by waltzing to Gold in the 200m event at the inaugural

Indian Open World Athletics Continental Tour in Bhubaneswar on August 10. Afsal, who also won Gold in Bhubaneswar while braving diarrhoea, and Tejas are the current national record holders in their respective event. Tejas has been in fine fettle too, clocking his second fastest time ever of 13.51s at the Meeting voor Mon - a World Athletics Challenger level meet - in Belgium over the weekend. Speaking about the significance of the tournament, James Hillier, Athletics Director, Reliance Foundation, said, "The National Inter State Championships is one of the most important events in the Indian athletics calendar. It is a very high quality competition which serves as a selection tri-



al for the World Championships too. We take this event very seriously and want our athletes to do really well. The facility in Chennai is very good and we're hoping for some good weather and good performances." With many athletes supported by the Reliance foundation in con-

tention to qualify for the Worlds, Hillier said, "Gulveer Singh has already qualified and has an exemption from competing in this event. Animesh will aim to dominate the 200m event, where he has been phenomenal all year. He would want to secure his place on the plane to Tokyo. Tejas

has had an injury interrupted year but he'll be raring to go after a season best display in Europe. He has an outside chance of making the team for Tokyo." Among the other medalists from Bhubaneswar who will be looking to back up their feat at the tournament will be Pragyan Sahu (women's 100m hurdles and 4x100m relay) and Lokesh S (men's long jump). Seema, who won a historic medal at the World University Games in the form of a stunning silver in the 5000m event, will be aiming for a 5000m and 10000m double here. The tournament will serve as a key preparation as well as qualification for the World Championships in Tokyo next month.

## Khelo India Water Sports Festival 2025: J&K athletes target national glory at Dal Lake

**Srinagar, (UNI)** The inaugural Khelo India Water Sports Festival 2025 is being seen as a life-changer for many. While locals who win their daily bread through tourism are looking forward to the event because it will bring a lot of visitors from all across the country, Jammu and Kashmir athletes see this as a massive opportunity to challenge some of India's best and win national accolades. The Khelo India Water Sports Festival from Aug. 21-23 will be a top-tier, Open age competition in three medal sports - rowing, canoeing and kayaking. More than 400 athletes from the 36 states



and Union territories are here to compete at the iconic Dal Lake, an established world famous tourist spot. Muhammad Abbas Kand of Rainawari in Srinagar downtown, has been preparing hard for the up-

coming Water Games. He will take part in rowing doubles in the light weight category. Abbas participated in a 21-day camp for water sports athletes organised at the Water Sports Centre in Nehru Park, located inside the Dal Lake

and is now raring to go. "I am hopeful of fetching a gold medal for Jammu and Kashmir. I am also elated that the Games are being held inside Dal Lake. It will give a boost to water sports in the region and also bring the much-needed limelight to water sports athletes like me," said Abbas. Abbas, who has won nine state and district level medals and participated in seven national events, including the 37th National Games in Goa, is among the 17 water sports athletes from J&K participating in the competitive sport events at the Khelo India Water Sports Festival 2025.

## Harmanpreet aims for maiden World Cup triumph on home soil

**Mumbai, (UNI)** Harmanpreet Kaur gears up for her fifth ICC Women's Cricket World Cup as looks forward to what is a very important next few months for her and her side. "Personally, this tournament is very important for me. This is a home World Cup. Home World Cups are special for every player. I have a lot of experience batting at No.4, I am just looking to contribute to the team," said Kaur, who will captain India for the first time in the marquee tournament. "We are really excited for the World Cup. We are having training camps. We are preparing ourselves mentally and physically," she said. A notable omission for



India is Shafali Verma who also missed out on a spot in the recent ODI series against England. The opener had returned to the T20I side in the same series and was a part of the India 'A' side against Australia 'A'. However, the selectors have opted for stability as the team heads into this all-important tournament.

"She is playing for India 'A' in Australia. She is a part of the system. We are keeping an eye out for her. The more she plays, the more experience she will gain for the future," Kaur said. "Our team did well in England. We have been working on this squad for a long time now. I think the team we have picked

is the best, so we don't want to play around with the team ahead of the World Cup. We just want Shafali to keep playing and gain some experience," she said. India have finished as runners-up twice, in 2005 and 2017, but are yet to claim the title. However, Kaur believes her side has played enough cricket together and possesses everything needed to finally go all the way. "The same team played in the England series and we have been playing together for a long time now. Team looks quite balanced to me and hopefully, in both - Australia series and the World Cup, we will play our best cricket," she added.

## Deloitte India celebrates Paralympic pride defining India's tomorrow

India's future is being shaped by individuals who dare to dream beyond boundaries and strive to realise their full potential. Deloitte India today reaffirmed its commitment to associating with diverse talent, exemplified by its partnership with 18-year-old Sheetal Devi, the world's first female Para archer without arms and a Paralympic medallist. Picking up a bow at 15 despite the mockery, she became World No. 1 at 16, earned the Arjuna Award and a Paralympic bronze at 17, Sheetal continues to break barriers, defy limits, and embody the freedom to dream, persevere, and achieve. Romal Shetty, Chief Executive Officer, Deloitte South Asia, said, "India's greatest strength lies in its people, in their ability to dream big, rise



above challenges, and turn possibilities into achievements. Sheetal's journey is a shining example of what can be achieved when resilience meets opportunity. At Deloitte India, our vision is to not just witness Bharat's progress, but to actively enable it beyond the metros by creating opportunities, building platforms and providing

the right ecosystem where India's talent can thrive". Sheetal Devi shared, "The journey to the podium is never just about one person, it's about those who believe in you and give you the confidence to aim higher. Every arrow I shoot is a reminder that no challenge is insurmountable. My journey has been shaped not just by my determination, but also by the support of people and organisations who believe in my potential. Deloitte India's encouragement is more than a gesture, it is a statement that talent, in all its forms, deserves to be seen, celebrated, and supported. I hope my story inspires others to embrace challenges, chase their dreams, and never underestimate the power of perseverance".

## Six centuries, a six wkt haul, two fifiers mark 2nd day action Buchi Babu cricket

**Chennai, (UNI)** A total of six centuries, a six wicket haul and two fifiers marked the second day's action in the First Round Group matches of the Buchi Babu All India cricket tournament held at various venues here today. Star cricketer Prithvi Shaw scored 111 for Maharashtra but it was not suffice as Chhattisgarh, who scored 252 in their first innings, gained a 35 run lead. In the second essay which was restricted to 45 overs a side, Chhattisgarh were 43 for two in 15 overs as the Group A contest was evenly poised. In Group B, skipper Swastik Samal scored 114 but Odisha fell short by 29 runs, after being bowled out to 352 in 89.5 overs replying to Baroda's 381 for six. In Group C Tushar Raheja



struck a fluent 137 for (TNCA XI), his maiden hundred, but could not stop Mumbai from taking 87 run first innings lead. Mumbai scored 412 for 5 and TNCA replied with 325 for 5 in 90 overs (innings closed). In Group D Uday Pratap Saharan scored an unbeaten

113 and Ramandeep hit a sublime 111 to help Punjab score 348 for five in their first innings and Hyderabad replied with 267 for six in 71 overs when stumps were drawn. In Group C, despite skipper Anustup Majumdar's fine 126 Bengal) conceded 34 run first innings lead to Haryana which scored 415 for 9. Bengal

were 11 out for 381 in 88.4 overs. Brief scores : Group A : TNCA President's XI 274 in 67.4 overs (including 16 penalty runs for slow over rate) (G. Ajitesh 73, Abhishek Kumar 4/76, Divesh Sharma 3/68) and 131/1 in 27 overs (S. Radhakrishnan 59, R. Vimal Kumar 58 batting) vs Himachal Pradesh 214 in 60.3 overs (Sidhant Purohit 45, Akash Vashisht 55, Apoorav Walia 32, C.V. Achyuth 5/51). Chhattisgarh 252 and 43/2 in 15 overs vs Maharashtra 217 in 73 overs (Prithvi Shaw 111, Saurabh Nawale 50 not out, Varun Singh Bhuie 3/61, Shashank Tiwari 3/53). Group-B : Jammu and Kashmir 393/5 vs Indian Railways 221/8 in 90 overs (Ashish Singh 76, Dinesh Mor 58 not out, Vanshaj Sharma 6/50).

