

**6** WORLD

- Israel strikes Lebanon, hitting Beirut suburbs and north
- Army deployed in Islamabad and Lahore amid protests by Imran Khan's party

**8** NATION

- Removal of 50 pc quota cap necessary to protect it: Rahul
- Recognise your power on 'day of change': Vinesh Phogat



Government of Assam



### A promise fulfilled

With the continued efforts to ensure a merit-based and transparent recruitment process

## Ceremonial Distribution of Appointment Letters



#### Recruitment Details

Till 26 September 2024 **1,24,645 candidates**  
 7 October 2024 **385 candidates**

**Total recruitment**  
**1,25,030**  
 candidates

#### Chief Guest

**Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma**  
 Chief Minister, Assam

In august presence of

**Dr Ranoj Pegu**  
 Minister, Education, etc.

Departments	Posts	Candidates
Education	Directorate of Technical Education	Lecturer in Polytechnics: 136 Senior Instructor in Polytechnics and Engineering Colleges: 47
	Directorate of Higher Education	Assistant Professor: 78 Librarian: 3
	Directorate of SCERT	Lecturer: 20
	Health and Family Welfare	Medical Officers (Ayur): 101

**Total 284**  
 candidates

**Distribution of Appointment Letters to**  
**Total 385**  
 candidates



10 apprehended from Goalpara, Hojai dists: NIA

NIA arrests alleged terror operative during pan-India searches in 26 locations ● Himanta concerned about future of Assam

NEW DELHI/GUWAHATI, Oct 5: In a massive pan-India crackdown against terrorists' outfit Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), the NIA on Saturday conducted searches at 26 locations in five states and arrested one person and questioned several suspects, including 10 in Assam...



ment issued by the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

Sheikh Sultan Salah Uddin Ayubi alias Ayubi was taken into custody after searches at 26 locations in Assam, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and Jammu and Kashmir, it said.

According to an official statement by the NIA, the investigative agency, based on a case registered in Delhi regarding Islamist jihadi activities, carried out the operation in

Goalpara district of Assam. According to a NIA, some arrests were made in Hojai district. Highlighting the grave threat terrorism poses for the state of Assam, Sharma said, "Threats from terror groups are real in Assam. Time and again, it has been proven true. Whenever NIA carries out a raid across the nation, at least one individual is apprehended from Assam."

Incidents as such prove that in the next 15-20 years, people of Assam will have to live in a deep state of fear. Such fundamental mentality will make sustenance of the locals difficult in Assam," He further stressed.

Meanwhile, all the suspects are in NIA custody as the investigation and legal procedures are going on.

Assam oppn parties rename alliance as 'Asom Sonmilito Morcha'

GUWAHATI, Oct 5: The conglomerate of opposition parties in Assam, including the Congress, on Saturday rechristened itself as 'Asom Sonmilito Morcha' or ASOM, as the alliance prepared new strategies to take on the BJP-led ruling dispensation, a senior leader of the forum said.



'mitrojut' (alliance)," Gogoi said. The AJP chief exuded confidence about the alliance forming the next government in the state and said the opposition parties will unitedly fight all ensuing elections at different levels, including the panchayat polls slated for the end of the year.

The platform of the opposition parties was previously known as the United Opposition Forum, Assam. Addressing a press conference here, its secretary and Assam Jaiya Parishad (AJP) president Lurinjyoti Gogoi said, "Prior to the last Lok Sabha elections, the opposition parties had united and formed the 'Brodi Aikya Mancha, Asom.' Starting with 10-11 members, our strength has now grown to 16 parties."

Congress working president Jakir Hussain Sikdar, talking to reporters separately, said the decision to

change the name was taken as per people's opinion. "The public told us that we should remove the 'opposition' word as they are confident that we will form the next government. Hence, this decision to change it," Sikdar said. Besides the Congress and AJP, other members of the alliance include the Left parties, Rajbor Dal and Aam Aadmi Party. (PTI)

HT BRIEFS Mild Earthquake

IMPHAL: A mild earthquake measuring 3.6 on the Richter scale was recorded in the Manipur-Nagaland border area on Friday, causing temporary concern among residents but fortunately resulting in no reported casualties or damage.

STF raid

GUWAHATI: Acting on information, STF Assam under the Basistha PS Jurisdiction carried out a raid at Ganesh Nagar, apprehending a notorious drug peddler. In addition to the arrest, Police recovered many other items, including one soap box containing suspected heroin weighing 12.5 grams (without the soap box), one mobile phone, and cash of ₹300.

Landslide

SHILLONG: The landslide that claimed these victims occurred early in the morning around 8 a.m., catching them by surprise while they were inside their homes. The five-year-old victim, Miardo P. Marak, was among the most heart-wrenching casualties, with rescue workers recovering his body from the debris hours after the landslide struck.

India will lead in global defence exports: DRDO chairman

CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINAGAR, Oct 5: India will be among the leading exporters of defence equipment in ten years, and the imports will come down to five to ten per cent, DRDO chairman Samir V Kamat said here on Saturday.

ports of defence systems. But if we look at last year's figures, out of our capital acquisition budget, nearly 90 per cent was used on indigenous systems. I am confident that in ten years the imports will be negligible. A country can't make everything. So five to 10 per cent (import) will remain," he said. India will be among the leading exporters of defence equipment in ten years, he added.

Cong being run by gang of urban Naxals: PM Modi

'Party maintained a derogatory attitude towards Banjara community'

WASHIM, Oct 5: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday alleged that the Congress is being run by a "gang of urban Naxals," and asked people to unite to defeat the "dangerous agenda" of that party.



Modi alleged that Congress' thinking has been foreign from the very beginning. "Like the British rule, this Congress family also does not consider Dalits, backwards, and tribals as their equals. They feel that India should be ruled by only one family. That is why they have always maintained a derogatory attitude towards the Banjara community," he said.

"Congress only knows how to loot the poor and keep them poor for its selfish politics. It only knows how to divide people. We have to be

alert and remain united. Congress is run by a gang of urban Naxals," he alleged. Everyone can see how closely Congress stands with those people who do not harbour good intentions for India, Modi said.

"Drugs worth thousands of crores of rupees were seized in Delhi recently. A Congress leader is suspected to be the kingpin. Congress wants to contest elections from the money it gets by pushing the youth towards drugs," he said.

SC dismisses pleas seeking review of verdict scrapping electoral bonds scheme

NEW DELHI, Oct 5: The Supreme Court has dismissed a batch of pleas seeking review of its February 15 verdict, which had scrapped the Modi government's electoral bonds scheme of anonymous political funding.

India on Friday announced that Jaishankar will lead the Indian delegation at the SCO Heads of Government summit in Islamabad.

The review pleas filed by advocate Mathews J Nedumpara and others contended that the matter related to the scheme falls in the exclusive domain of legislative and executive policy.

Holding that the 2018 electoral bond scheme was "violative" of the constitutional right to freedom of speech and expression and right to information, a five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice of India Chandrachud had scrapped the scheme. The top court had also (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Travelling to Pak for multilateral event, not to discuss bilateral relations: Jaishankar

NEW DELHI, Oct 5: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Saturday appeared to rule out any bilateral talks with his Pakistani counterpart Muhammad Ishaq Dar during his visit to Islamabad this month to attend a summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).



at the SCO heads of government summit in Islamabad. In the address at the event, the external affairs minister said like with any neighbour, India would certainly like to have good relations with Pakistan, but that cannot happen by overlooking cross-border terrorism.

India on Friday announced that Jaishankar will lead the Indian delegation at the SCO Heads of Government summit in Islamabad. "I expect there would be a lot of media interest because of the very nature of the relationship," he said at an interactive session.

"I do want to say it will be for a multilateral event. I am not going there to discuss India-Pakistan relations. I am going there to be a good member of the SCO," he said. Jaishankar's remarks came following a question on whether he will hold bilateral talks with his Pakistani counterpart in Islamabad.

Paul claims not to have witnessed such a long spell of incessant rains in his career of nearly 50 years as a sculptor of idols as he, like other idol-makers in Assam's largest city, pray to the heavens to clear the weather so that they can complete their Durga idols in time. "I have been in this profession for 49 years now and never has it rained for so long before Durga Puja. We are really worried about how to complete the idols," Paul told PTI while giving the finishing touches to special decorative

Youth held for allegedly strangulating mother to death

DIBRUGARH, Oct 5: In a horrific incident, a man has been arrested for allegedly murdering his own mother in Dibrugarh, eastern Assam, on Saturday. The accused has been identified as Shankariyoti Gogoi, a resident of Banipur Bylane No. 11, Dibrugarh. Confirming the incident, Dibrugarh SP Rakesh Reddy said the accused has been arrested, and the investigation is ongoing.

Exit polls say advantage to NC-Cong in J&K

JAMMU/SRINAGAR, Oct 5: Most of the exit polls predicted that the Congress-NC alliance has an advantage in the assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir but the BJP remained hopeful of forming the government in the Union territory. The C-Voter-India Today survey predicted 40-48 seats for the NC-Congress alliance and put the BJP at 27-32 seats in the 90-member J&K assembly.

City received 106.4 mm of rain so far

Guwahati sculptors worried about completion of idols amidst incessant rain



pieces of clay for the idols at his workshop. "We are using firewood, coal and even burners connected to LPG cylinders to dry the idols," he said, pointing to the

sculpted idols being placed in groups around lit stoves with the smoke filling the entire workshop. Paul's son, Kanchan, who joined his family business after graduation, added, "We are at wit's end on how to finish the work properly. We have to move on to the painting now and the sculptures are not even dry yet."







Manik Sarkar urges Bangla govt to take measures to protect minorities

AGARTALA, Oct 5: CPI(M) politburo member Manik Sarkar on Saturday urged the interim government in Bangladesh to ensure safety and security of minority people in the neighbouring country...



Manik Sarkar said. We expect that his promise will be translated into action

effective measures to protect the rights of minorities there," Sarkar said. He also urged "positive-minded people to come forward to put an end to the atrocities" on minorities in the neighbouring country...

CPIM, Congress synonymous with liars and conspirators: Tripura CM

HT Correspondent AGARTALA, Oct 5: Tripura chief minister Manik Saha recently said that the people have already rejected the CPIM and Congress...

He further stated that during the 35-year rule of the Left-Congress alliance, the democratic rights and voices of the people were suppressed.

Movement against government inaction on demands related to drug menace: HYC

SHILLONG, Oct 5: The Hynniewtrep Youth Council (HYC) recently threatened to launch a public movement if the government fails to comply with its 7-point charter of demands for addressing the issue of drug menace in Meghalaya...

He said the state government has launched the Drug Reduction, Elimination, and Action Mission (DREAM) on June 27, 2023, with an aim to transform our State into a "drug free Meghalaya"...

Sikkim's second CM's 84th birth anniversary observed

GANGTOK, Oct 5: The 84th birth anniversary of Sikkim's second chief minister Nar Bahadur Bhandari was observed across the Himalayan state on Saturday with fanfare...



Chief minister Prem Singh Tamang paid tributes to Bhandari on the occasion.

The SKM supremo recalled the inclusion of Nepali language in the eighth schedule of the Constitution as an enduring contribution of Bhandari and said that it was a monumental step that forever enshrined his legacy on both national and global platforms...

Centres of Excellence for scientific cultivation of vegetables, flowers in Tripura



HT Correspondent AGARTALA, Oct 5: Tripura chief minister Manik Saha on Saturday said that the progress of the country is not possible without the development of farmers...

He also mentioned that the state government has launched a Unified Farmers Database to record farmers' details, link land records, and conduct real-time crop surveys. Additionally, the government is establishing two Centres of Excellence for the scientific cultivation of fruits, vegetables, and flowers...

Manipur govt urged to send recommendation on Meitei in ST list to centre



IMPHAL, Oct 5: Fervently campaigning for the inclusion of Meiteis in the Scheduled Tribes (ST) list of India, the Coordinating Body on ST Demand Committee has urged the Manipur State Government to send the recommendation necessary for the purpose to the concerned Central Government authorities...

Addressing a press meet recently at Manipur Press Club, Imphal, the Committee's convener, Waikhom Ananda asked the reasons for not sending the recommendation by the State Government till date. He lamented that the State Government has not paid heed although the Meiteis have been demanding to include Meiteis in the ST List...

Tripura likely to witness heavy rainfall, IMD issues alert

AGARTALA, Oct 5: The Durga Puja celebrations in likely to be affected due to heavy rainfall as the India Meteorological Department (IMD) in Agartala have issued a three-day warning for moderate to heavy rainfall...

Durgabari temple Durga puja to enter its 148th year

AGARTALA, Oct 5: The worship of two-arm Goddess Durga at the Durgabari temple here, one of the oldest in Tripura, will enter its 148th year.



"Long ago, Maharani Sulakshana Devi had fainted after seeing a ten-handed goddess at Durgabari and was taken back to the palace. On the same night, she received a divine message to worship a two-handed goddess instead of a ten-handed goddess from next year. Since then we are worshipping a two-handed goddess at Durgabari," the priest said.

The goddess is also offered meat, fish, and eggs as prasad apart from vegetables and rice during the puja. "This time the puja enters its 148th year, the oldest puja in Tripura in its present location. It was Maharaja Krishna Kishore Manikya Bahadur, who first started worshipping goddess Durga in present-day Chittagong in Bangladesh around 500 years ago..."

EDUCATIONAL NOTICE [CORRIGENDUM] In continuation of earlier educational notice published vide No. Janasanjog/D/6875/24/4-Oct-24...

Advertisement for the post of Non-Teaching Staff, Government Model College, Deithor, Karbi-Anglong-785 615 Assam, 1/2024

INVITATION OF BIDS (IEB) The Executive Officer, on behalf of Kokrajhar Municipal Board, Kokrajhar invites bids from eligible contractors/firms/suppliers registered under government for the following work...







# ALIA BHATT TAKES BENGALURU BY SURPRISE AT ALAN WALKER'S CONCERT

**NEW DELHI, Oct 5:** Actor Alia Bhatt made a surprise appearance at Norwegian DJ Alan Walker's recent concert in Bengaluru.

Videos circulating on social media showed the actor, dressed in a blue denim strapless co-ord set, walking onto the stage during the concert on Friday.

As she arrived, the track "Chal Kudiye" from her upcoming movie Jigra played in the background. Greeting the fans, the 31-year-old actor said, "Namaskara Bengaluru. Surprise, surprise."

Dharma Movies, the production banner behind the Vasan Bala-directed Jigra, also shared a video of Alia and Walker on its official Instagram page.

"Surprise, surprise! Thank you for your energy, #Bengaluru, and your love, @alanwalkermusic! #Jigra releasing in Hindi & Telugu — in cinemas this Friday," the studio posted. A prominent figure in the electronic music scene with hit tracks like "Faded" and "On My Way" to his credit, Walker is currently on a 10-city tour of India.

His 'WalkerWorld India' tour started in Kolkata on September 27, followed by stops in Shillong, Delhi, and Ahmedabad. It will conclude on October 20 in Hyderabad. Bhatt's Jigra is scheduled to be released in theatres on October 11.

The film, which Bhatt has also produced through her banner Eternal Sunshine Productions along with Karan Johar and Apoorva Mehta, follows the journey of Satya, a young woman who goes to great lengths to free her brother Ankur, played by Vedang Raina, who is imprisoned in a foreign jail. (PTI)



## Alia Bhatt, Sharvari's 'Alpha' to release on Christmas 2025

**MUMBAI, Oct 5:** "Alpha", Yash Raj Films' next Spy Universe movie starring Alia Bhatt and Sharvari in the lead roles, will be released in theatres on December 25, 2025, the studio announced on Friday.

Billed as the first female-led YRF Spy Universe film, the movie is directed by Shiv Rawail, who previously helmed the banner's Netflix series "The Railway Men".

"On Christmas 2025, #ALPHA will rise! Get ready for an action-packed holiday! 25th Dec, 2025. @aliaabhatt @sharvari @shivrawail #YRFSpyUniverse," YRF posted on Instagram.

"Alpha" will see the actors join the spy franchise, which already boasts of blockbuster titles such as "Pathaan", "Tiger" and "War".

The YRF Spy Universe was launched back in 2012 with Salman Khan and Katrina Kaif's "Ek Tha Tiger". Its success spawned two sequels — "Tiger Zinda Hai" (2017) and "Tiger 3" (2023).

Hrithik Roshan and Tiger Shroff's "War" released in 2019, which was followed by 2023's "Pathaan", starring Shah Rukh Khan and Deepika Padukone.

Besides "Alpha", "War 2", featuring Hrithik and NTR Jr, "Pathaan 2" with Shah Rukh, and "Tiger vs Pathaan", starring Salman and Shah Rukh are in the banner's pipeline. (PTI)

## HUMA QURESHI WRAPS SHOOTING OF NEW FILM 'GULABI'

**NEW DELHI, Oct 5:** Actor Huma Qureshi has wrapped shooting for her upcoming film "Gulabi".

The 38-year-old actor shared a post on her Instagram handle on Friday evening, announcing the end of the film's shooting.

The caption of the post read, "It's a wrap on #Gulabi ... can't wait to show u all . She is coming soon!!"

Directed by Vipul Mehta, the film is produced by Jyoti Deshpande of Jio Studios and Vishal Rana of Echelon Productions.

"Gulabi" is based on a true story and revolves around a woman autorickshaw driver in Ahmedabad, who dreams of higher education and in doing so, inspires others to rise above their circumstances.

The project was announced earlier this year on the occasion of International Women's Day.

In a statement, the actor said she tries to do the films that portray women as fearless characters.

"Gulabi" is a reminder that every woman has the right to dream big and reclaim her story," Qureshi said.

"My attempt as an actor has been to do films which tell stories of women who are fearless and have belief in themselves. Be it 'Leila', 'Tarla' 'Maharani' or 'Monica', I strive to be part of stories where women go against the tide to be able to achieve their dreams," she added. (PTI)



## ANNE HATHAWAY RETURNING FOR 'PRINCESS DIARIES 3', ADELE LIM TO DIRECT

**LOS ANGELES, Oct 5:** Anne Hathaway will once again step into the fictional kingdom of Genovia for the third part of her smash hit movie franchise "The Princess Diaries". Hathaway, who became a star thanks to the 2001 surprise hit and its 2004 sequel, will reprise her role of Mia Thermopolis in the threequel, reported entertainment news outlet Variety.

The Oscar-winning actor also shared the news in a post on Instagram. "Miracles happen.. Back to Genovia with @adeleblim @disney @somewherepictures. The fairy tale continues," Hathaway posted. Adele Lim, best known for her work as a writer on Crazy Rich Asians and Raya and the Last Dragon, will direct the project for Hollywood studio Disney. Flora Greeson wrote the latest draft of the script.

"As a diehard fan of the original 'Princess Diaries,' I'm beyond excited to be a part of bringing the third iteration of this beloved franchise to life. We look forward to celebrating its core tenants of female power, joy and mentorship with audiences worldwide," Lim said in a statement. Based on the young adult book series by author Meg Cabot, The Princess Diaries film franchise started with a 2001 movie from director Garry Marshall.

It featured Hathaway as Mia Thermopolis, an awkward teenage girl who discovers she is the heir to the throne of the fictional European kingdom of Genovia. Her grandmother, Queen Clarisse Renaldi (Julie Andrews), guides her through royal training and navigating her new identity. The movie was followed by a 2004 sequel, titled The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement, which also starred Chris Pine. Debra Martin Chase, one of the producers of the original, will produce The Princess Diaries 3. Hathaway will also produce through her Somewhere Pictures banner. Naia Cucukov, who is Lim's producing partner, will serve as an executive producer alongside Melissa Stack. (PTI)



# LUGGAGE LOST, FRIENDS FOUND: ANOUSHKA SHANKAR DELIVERS PACKED PERFORMANCE IN BERLIN WITH BORROWED KIT

**NEW DELHI, Oct 5:** Sitarist Anoushka Shankar's cry for help in Berlin after she lost her luggage in transit caught the attention of many social media users who helped her source a "mizrab, makeup and more" — and saved her sold out concert at the Berlin Philharmonic.

It all started when Shankar, who was in Berlin on Wednesday for the last performance on her Europe tour, lost her luggage that included all her clothes other than her "super casual travel gear", but more importantly her 'mizrabs' - a custom-fitted finger pick or plectrum.

"Help!!! Anyone in Berlin play sitar and have mizrabs I can borrow for my show TONIGHT?! And any clothes smarter than my super casual travel gear?! Lost baggage strikes again!" Shankar wrote on X, tagging KLM Royal Dutch Airlines.

The 43-year-old musician and

daughter of sitar legend Pandit Ravi Shankar was on a tour of Germany, Netherlands, and Belgium, according to her website.

Social media networks got into action.

Some offered help by reaching out to contacts in Berlin and there were others who suggested stores in Berlin selling Indian clothes.

However, there was no further communication from Shankar till Thursday midnight when she put out a post on Instagram.

The concert happened, and was clearly a success.

Shankar posted a photograph of herself, wearing an elegant black dress and holding the sitar, thanking a Saurabh Shekhar Verma for the borrowed mizrab and social media at large for spreading her request across different platforms.

"What a whirlwind our final date of tour was, from



the moment we touched down in Berlin! Yesterday's airline-displaced suitcase with my sitar kit including mizrab (custom-fitted finger pick), in-ear monitors, plus all of my show outfits and makeup, was a pretty gnarly start to the day! "No matter though, because in true chaotic by-hook-or-by-crook tour fashion we sourced a locally-owned mizrab, makeup and more just in time for us to take to the stage for our sold out show at @berlinphil. (I'm glad I had one nice dinner outfit in my personal bag)," the London-based musician said.

She added that despite the inevitable stress of it all, "how beautiful it is to have a crew and a wider community that comes together so quickly

for a common goal".

Acknowledging the power of social media, she said she was in awe of how quickly her "cry for help" was tagged and reshared.

"And what a special show it was—no time to settle or get comfortable. We played on the tips of our toes last night, feeding off the energy of our incredible, generous audience, so alert to each other, so responsive. I'll never forget it. Special shout out to @saurabhshekhary for the borrowed mizrab- I couldn't have played properly without it!" she wrote.

If it weren't for social media, Shankar quipped that she had plans to use "duct tape, a roll of wire and little pliers" to create makeshift mizrabs. (PTI)

### Paul Pogba doping ban reduced from 4 years to 18 months

LONDON, Oct 5: Paul Pogba has had his four-year ban for doping reduced to 18 months after appealing to the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

The ruling means the France World Cup winner will be free to resume his career in March 2025. CAS confirmed earlier reports that the ban was reduced when approached by The Associated Press on Friday. CAS did not elaborate on the decision.

"Finally the nightmare is over," Pogba said in a statement. "Following the decision by the Court of Arbitration for Sport, I can look forward to the day when I can follow my dreams again."

The Juventus midfielder tested positive for testosterone in August last year and was handed the maximum punishment by Italy's anti-doping court. At the time, Pogba said "the verdict is incorrect" and appealed to the Switzerland-based CAS.

Four-year bans are standard under the world anti-doping code but can be reduced in cases where an athlete can prove their doping was not intentional, if the positive test was a result of contamination or if they provide "substantial assistance" to help investigators. "I always stated that I never knowingly breached World Anti-Doping Agency regulations when I took a nutritional supplement prescribed to me by a doctor, which does not affect or enhance the performance of male athletes," Pogba said. "I play with integrity, and although I must accept that this is a strict liability offence, I want to place on record my thanks to the Court of Arbitration for Sport's judges who heard my explanation. "This has been a hugely distressing period in my life because everything I have worked so hard for has been put on hold." (AP)

## India look to regain fight in crucial T20 WC game against Pakistan



DUBAI, Oct 5: India will have to regroup quickly and iron out the imbalances in team combination when they face arch-rivals Pakistan in a crucial second group A match of the Women's T20 World Cup here on Sunday.

An early 58-run defeat to New Zealand on Friday has not just dented India's chances of entering the semifinals of the ICC showpiece, but it certainly has pushed them to a tight corner.

India's run-rate currently stands at a poor -2.99 and it makes big victories mandatory for them in the remaining three matches against Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Australia.

The Harmanpreet Kaur-led side was wretched in all three departments of the game against the Kiwis in its World Cup opener, and India now need a reversal within 24 hours.

It's tough but that is the path they have to tread against Pakistan, high on confidence after beating a strong Sri Lanka in the first match on Thursday.

As a first step, India will have

to sort out their combinations ahead of the Pakistan game.

They went a batter light against New Zealand to accommodate an extra pacer in Arundhati Reddy and it meant a wholesale rejigging of the lineup.

It forced the promotion of Harmanpreet to No. 3, Jemimah Rodrigues to No. 4 and Richa Ghosh to No.5, not the usual slots for these batters.

For instance, Harmanpreet, who is a solid presence at No. 4, has never made a fifty in her previous 19 gigs at No.3 and to make her play precisely at that position in a World Cup was quixotic.

The inclusion of three pacers was not wrong move on the hindsight as there was no dew and the Kiwis pacers made full use of a hard deck.

But India made a hash of their three-pronged pace attack move, giving just one over to Pooja Vastrakar, the third-best bowler in T20Is this year with 20 wickets from 16 matches.

Also, the decision to go with the pace trioka cost India the presence of left-arm spinner Radha Yadav, their second most successful T20I bowler with 22 wickets from 13 matches.

So, head coach Amol Muzumdar will need to take a long look at the combination as another defeat will seriously hamper India's chances of progressing to the last-four stage from Group A.

But stats apart, India, particularly batters, looked mentally frozen against the Kiwis, evidenced by the highest individual score in their innings – a 15 by Harmanpreet.

In that context, India might just think of adding Dayalan Hemalatha to bolster the batting.

Though India have a head-to-head edge over Pakistan in T20Is, winning 12 out of 15 matches so far, they have the ammunition to stun any opposition.

Their bowling is especially formidable with the likes of experienced Nida Dhar, captain Fatima Sana and Sadia Iqbal leading the pack.

However, Pakistan will keep a close eye on the fitness lead pacer Diana Baig after she suffered a calf strain in the match against Sri Lanka, limping out after bowling just one ball.

Teams (from):

India: Harmanpreet Kaur (c), Smriti Mandhana, Shafali Verma, Deepti Sharma, Jemimah Rodrigues, Richa Ghosh, Yastika Bhatia (subject to fitness), Pooja Vastrakar, Arundhati Reddy, Renuka Singh Thakur, Dayalan Hemalatha, Asha Sobhana, Radha Yadav, Shreyanka Patil (subject to fitness), Sajana Sajevan Travelling reserves: Uma Chetry (wk), Tanuja Kanwer, Saima Thakor.

Pakistan: Fatima Sana (c), Aliya Riaz, Diana Baig, Gull Feroza, Iram Javed, Muneeba Ali, Nashra Sundhu, Nida Dar, Omaira Sohail, Sadaf Shamas, Sadia Iqbal (subject to fitness), Sidra Amin, Syeda Aroob Shah, Tasmia Rubab, Tuba Hassan

Travelling reserve: Najiha Alvi (wk). Match starts at 3.30 pm IST. (PTI)

## Jamshedpur FC beat East Bengal 2-0 in a clinical display in ISL

JAMSHEDPUR, Oct 5: Jamshedpur FC edged past East Bengal FC in the Matchweek 4 of the Indian Super League (ISL) 2024-25 on Saturday at the JRD Tata Sports Complex.

Rei Tachikawa scored in the first half to give Khalid Jamil's side the lead. In the second half, an own goal from Lalchungnunga sealed the deal for the Men of Steel.

Jamshedpur FC started the game on a high. In the fourth minute, a delightful cross from Imran Khan fell to Jordan Murray inside the East Bengal penalty box. However, Lalchungnunga came to his side's rescue to avert danger. Three minutes later, East Bengal took charge of the action. A long pass from Madih Talal was received by Anwar Ali from the centre of the

only Albino Gomes to beat, but the Brazilian forward hit it over the roof.

East Bengal FC started the second half well. Just two minutes from restart Nandhakumar found himself free with only Eze to beat. He dribbled past the defender and laid it off to Talal, whose feeble shot fell to Gomes.

Jamshedpur FC then went on to double their lead in the 70th minute to take complete charge of the game. A shot from Imran Khan was turned into his own net by Lalchungnunga. Yet, East Bengal FC had enough chances to come back. A cross from Crespo from the left channel of the penalty box fell to Hector Yuste, whose header flicked the crossbar in the 73rd minute. In the 83rd minute, Talal could have brought one back for his side, but

his long-range effort was parried away perfectly by Gomes with his fingertips.

Imran Khan created three chances in this game against East Bengal FC, including one cross which caressed the post after a bounce.

The win also marks Khalid Jamil's 4th win over East Bengal FC, in the five teams he has faced them, proving an impressive record against the Kolkata giants in ISL.

Jamshedpur FC will next play Hyderabad FC at home on October 21. East Bengal FC's next adventure would be the Kolkata derby against Mohun Bagan on October 19.

Brief scores: Jamshedpur FC (Rei Tachikawa 21', Lalchungnunga 70' OG) 2-0 East Bengal FC. (AGENCIES)



## Indian hockey team captain Harmanpreet credits HIL for personal growth, excited at league's return

NEW DELHI, Oct 5: National men's hockey team captain and ace drag-flicker Harmanpreet Singh, who has scored 205 goals in 234 international appearances, on Saturday credited the Hockey India League (HIL) for playing a pivotal role in his career development.

From being named the Upcoming Player of the Tournament in the 2017 HIL to becoming one of the world's top drag-flickers, it has been a tremendous journey for Harmanpreet who highlighted how the league has helped him grow after rubbing shoulders with some of the best international players.

"Hockey India League was a huge part of my development. The league provided me with a stage to enhance my skills by exposing me to different playing styles under different coaches," Harmanpreet said in a Hockey India (HI) release.

"Playing in a League, sharing a dressing room with players from various countries opens up your mind and provides you with multiple perspectives and ways of thinking."

"All this was integral in the resurgence of Indian hockey and it certainly impacted our performance at the Tokyo Olympics where we won the bronze medal."

Harmanpreet said there could be nothing better for Indian hockey than the HIL and all the country's players would be excited to take part in the League.

"It will be a great opportunity for the youngsters as well to rub shoulders with the best players from across the globe, observe

the subtle differences in the way they think, the way they play and try to inculcate the good habits that they notice," he said.

HIL is slated for a return after seven years in a new avatar that will see a women's tournament for the first time running concurrently with the men's event.

The league will be played in two venues -- Rourkela for men and Ranchi for women -- from December 28 to February 1. The sport's world governing body, FIH has given sanction of 10 years for HIL.

The tournament will feature eight men's and six women's franchises.

The player auction for the HIL 2024-25 will be held from October 13-15 in New Delhi.

Each franchise will build a 24-player squad, consisting of at least 16 Indian players (with a mandatory inclusion of four junior players) and eight international stars.

"The Hockey India League will be much bigger this time; there will also be a women's League that will run at the same time in both venues."

"I am confident this experience will turn out to be invaluable for the Indian women's hockey team in their journey to be one of the best teams in the world," he said.

Players will be auctioned in three categories with base prices of Rs 2 lakh, 5 lakh and 10 lakh each.

"The auction is coming up soon and I would like to wish all the best to all the players taking part. As for myself, I cannot wait to see which team I will represent and begin the hockey revolution again," he signed off. (PTI)



## Khel Maharan 2.0: Diphu DC Phangchopi targets over 60,000 participants this year

HT Bureau

DIPHU, Oct 5: The Department of Sports & Youth Welfare, Assam announced the launch of Khel Maharan 2.0, a flagship initiative designed to promote grassroots sports participation across the state. Building on the success of the previous edition, this year's competition aims to create a more inclusive sporting environment, offering opportunities for individuals aged 14 and above to engage in various sports and showcase their talents.

In this context, the District Sports & Youth Welfare Office, Diphu, convened a meeting at Circuit House, Diphu, at 11 am. The meeting was chaired by District Commissioner, Nirala Phangchopi with key officials in attendance, including Superin-

tendent of Police, Sanjib Kr. Saikia; Secretary, Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council, Rajeshan Terang; Secretary of Karbi Anglong Sports Association, Dr. Pankaj Teron P & R D, D R D A, B D O s, the Inspector of Schools, and prominent personalities such as Jibon Ch. Pathak, Ex-Executive Member of KAAC, and mountaineer Khorsing Terang among others.

During the meeting, the Dis-

trict Sports Officer presented the Khel Maharan 2.0 agenda and informed the gathering that online registration for participants aged 14 and above is currently underway with 6,000 participants already registered.

Out of a total of seven sports events, two events will be held in Guwahati, while the others will be conducted at the Member of Autonomous Council constituency and LAC levels. The registration portal is

available at dsywassam.com/khel.

The District Commissioner urged all departments, particularly the Education, P&RD, and BDO offices to collect data from students and rural areas to ensure that facilities for online registration are accessible, particularly in regions with limited internet connectivity. She also requested the appointment of Nodal Officers to assist with the registration process.

DC Phangchopi highlighted the need to increase participation this year, with a target of registering 60,000 to 70,000 participants, compared to last year's 38,000. She stressed that many talented athletes from the district, especially those from rural areas, lack the necessary opportunities

at to reach their full potential.

Khel Maharan 2.0 represents a significant step in cultivating a robust sports culture spanning every corner of Assam. The event seeks to inspire mass participation, identify promising athletes, and provide a platform for talent to flourish, starting from village-level competitions and culminating in state-level championships.

This initiative also promotes physical, mental, and personality development through sports. The competition will feature various sports disciplines, including athletics, football, kabaddi, chess, road cycling, volleyball, and swimming.

It will begin in October 2024, with state-level finals scheduled for January 2025.



## We can't stay stuck at this game because every match is now crucial for us: Jemimah Rodrigues

DUBAI, Oct 5: Middle-order batter Jemimah Rodrigues urged India to "move on" from the forgettable defeat against New Zealand and focus on the upcoming matches, which she termed as "crucial" for her side's survival in the Women's T20 World Cup.

The Harmanpreet Kaur-led side crashed to a heavy 58-run defeat against the Kiwis on Friday night, and the Women in Blue will now face cross-border rivals Pakistan on Sunday in the second Group A match.

"This would be the game we would like to forget, because this is a World Cup. We need to keep moving on and keep picking ourselves up. We can't stay stuck at this game. I think that will show the character of this team," Rodrigues said in the post-match press meet.

Rodrigues exhorted the team not to get panicked but to focus on the process that earned it some good wins in the past.

"We have been doing really well as a team, sticking to the process and taking one game at a time. We know every game from here is so crucial

for us. We're going to go one game at a time and just make sure we stick to our process."

"And I think if we can do that, if we play our best upcoming matches, I think we can win matches," she added.

The 24-year-old from Mumbai said they were expecting New Zealand to come hard in the match, but failed to respond to the challenge.

"They (NZ) came out with a lot of intent. We did create opportunities, but unfortunately, we didn't make the most of them."

"But I think then the way we came back after the start (of NZ) was – I mean not many positives in this game – but still going forward we need to have the right approach because this tournament's not over," she noted.

Rodrigues said playing at No. 4 did not offer any different challenge to her, but the batter rued the fact that she did not stay at the crease long enough to build a partnership.

"Playing at number four...I think it's not much change for me in my mindset because I know with my game, I'm ready to bat anywhere the team



much choice other than going by the umpire's decision to call the ball dead.

"I was not there when the umpire gave the cap to Deepti. New Zealand were pretty sure that it was a double run and Amelia Kerr went out which showed that the over was not called out yet. We all thought that we got that run out."

"What if that run out wouldn't happen? Would they give us a two for that? At the end, we respect the decision of the umpire and we were okay with that. But yeah, it's a bit harsh when Amelia Kerr herself walked out, because she knew she was out," she explained.

But Rodrigues said the team handled the whole situation with a lot of maturity.

"We know how important Amelia Kerr's wicket is and at that moment it felt a little, you know, why didn't it go in our favour? But I think we did what we can. We spoke to the umpire, and then we had to accept the decision and move on."

"So, I think that's what we did really well, and I think we got her out pretty soon, so that worked for us," she said. (PTI)

wants me to bat. I was batting well, I had some form going on, even in the warm-up games. "It was my responsibility that I should have made sure we build a partnership

after losing wickets," she said.

On the controversial run-out episode involving Amelia Kerr, Rodrigues said the team felt a bit hard done at that time, but they didn't have

