India's Women's World Cup hero Jemimah Rodrigues appointed captain of Delhi Capitals

NEW DELHI: Delhi Capitals have named Indian batter Jemimah Rodrigues as their new captain ahead of the 2026 Women's Premier League season. The announcement was made on Tuesday. Rodrigues comes into the role after an outstanding year with the Indian team. She played a major part in India's ICC Women's World Cup win, producing one of the finest knocks of the tournament. In the semi-final against Australia, she scored a brilliant unbeaten 127 while chasing a record target of 339. The innings showcased her composure, confidence, and ability to perform on the biggest stage.Reacting to her appointment, Rodrigues expressed pride and gratitude. "It is an absolute honour to be named captain of the Delhi Capitals, and I am deeply grateful to the owners and the support staff for placing their faith in me to lead this team," Rodrigues said in a release."It has truly been a dream year for me and my



family, winning the World Cup and now being entrusted with this wonderful opportunity at a franchise that has held a very special place in my heart since the very first season of the WPL," she added.

Rodrigues has been a key part of the Delhi Capitals setup since the league began. She was the franchise's first pick at the inaugural WPL auction and has played 27 matches so far.In those games, she has scored 507 runs at a strike rate of 139.67.

She has also featured in all three WPL finals. She takes over the captaincy from Meg Lanning, who was released by the franchise ahead of last month's auction. Rodrigues said her time under Lanning's leadership helped shape her growth as a player. "I have learned so much over the last three years and have shared some of my best moments with the Delhi Capitals. We have a strong group, and I can't wait to get going as we look ahead to what we hope will be a very successful season, and finally cross that line that has eluded us in the last three years," she remarked.At the international level, Rodrigues has played 113 T20Is, scoring 2,444 runs, and 59 ODIs, where she has made 1,749 runs.Delhi Capitals will begin their WPL 2026 campaign against Mumbai Indians on January 10 in Navi Mumbai.

Virat Kohli just 1 run away from history

NEW DELHI: Virat Kohli is set to make a return to the Vijay Hazare Trophy in the 2025/26 season, marking his comeback to India's premier domestic 50 over competition after nearly 15 years. The former India captain, who has already stepped away from T20 internationals and Test cricket, will use the tournament as part of his preparation for the upcoming ODI series against New Zealand.Kohli has been named in Delhi's squad for the Vijay Hazare Trophy and is expected to feature in two matches. He will play under the captaincy of Rishabh Pant. His participation also aligns with the BCCI's directive encouraging centrally contracted players to take part in domestic tournaments during available windows.



The last time Kohli played in the Vijay Hazare Trophy was back in 2010. Across his previous stints for Delhi in the competition, he has played 17 matches and batted in 16 innings. During that period, he scored 910 runs, including a highest score of 124, at an impressive average of 60.66. His tally includes four half centuries and four hundreds, underlining his strong record in the domestic one day format.Kohli also stands on the verge of another significant milestone. He is just one run short of becoming only the second Indian after Sachin Tendulkar to reach 16,000 runs in List A cricket. So far, he has scored 15,999 runs from 342 List A matches at an average of 57.34, with 57 centuries and 84 fifties to his name.

The Vijay Hazare Trophy will serve as valuable match practice ahead of the New Zealand series, which begins on January 11. He comes into the tournament in strong form, having registered four fifty plus scores in his last four ODI appearances, including two back to back centuries against South Africa in the first two ODIs and an unbeaten 65 in the third ODI, which helped India win the series 2-1.

PSPB tower as Institutional TT serves off at Indore

INDORE: After weeks of uncertainty, the 52nd Institutional Table Tennis Championships finally get underway at the Abhay Prashal here on Tuesday, promising

seven days of intense action and high-stakes competition.

Although officially the second-most important event on the domestic calendar, the championships still carry the second-highest ranking points in the Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI) circuit. Yet, the tournament's stature has visibly waned in recent years, reflected in the dwindling number of institutions willing to host an event of such magnitude.

Last year's edition, hosted by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) at Chandigarh, set an exceptional benchmark. Marking its 90th anniversary, the RBI delivered a near-flawless tournament (except retaining the title)—enhanced prize money extending from the pre-quarterfinal stage, top-class accommodation, quality hospitality, and thoughtfully curated mementoes—raising the bar for institutional championships nationwide.

Matching that scale is never easy, but the Airports Authority of India (AAI) brings a unique credential with it.

Remarkably, this will be the sixth time in the last decade that AAI has staged the championships—an achievement made more noteworthy by the fact that AAI does not recruit players as permanent employees, instead supporting talent through scholarships.

Despite the hosts' enthusiasm, participation numbers paint a worrying picture: 12 men's teams and 11 women's teams will compete—figures that underline the need for renewed institutional commitment. Still, the reduced field offers a window of opportunity for less-fancied teams to punch above their weight.

Standing firmly in the way, as always, is the Petroleum Sports Promotion Board (PSPB), the undisputed powerhouse of institutional table tennis. Perennial champions, PSPB, once again start as favourites in both sections and are seeded at the top of Group A in the men's draw, ahead of Railways and RBI.

In the women's competition, RBI leads Group B, with Railways heading Group C. PSPB's strength is formidable.

The men's squad boasts world No. 36 Manav Thakkar, Ranchi men's singles champion Payas Jain, seasoned campaigners Harmeet Desai and G. Sathiyan, and the promising Divyansh Srivastava—a blend of youth, experience, and pedigree that few can match.

Their women's team is equally compelling, featuring an exciting young core in Yashashwini Ghorpade, Swastika Ghosh, Taneesha Kotecha, and Syndrela Das, supported by the experience of Reeth Rishya. Together, they possess the firepower to unsettle even the most established rivals, including former champions RBI.

RBI, however, will lean heavily on Diya Chitale and Ayhika Mukherjee, with Nikhat Banu, Harsha Vardhini, and Priyadarsini Das providing depth. The absence of Sreeja Akula, sidelined after a stress fracture and with limited appearances this season, is a significant blow and weakens their title defence.

FIFA, Qatar Stars League & Qatar Football Association renew partnership

ZURICH: As part of its efforts to make football truly global and enable more clubs, leagues and players from all around the world to compete at the highest level, FIFA has renewed its partnership with the Qatar Stars League (QSL) and the Qatar Football Association (QFA).

FIFA President Gianni Infantino has signed a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with His Excellency Jassim bin Rashid Al Buainain, President of the QSL and QFA, to continue their drive to raise standards of professional club management and administration across all first- and second-division clubs in the QSL. FIFA President said, "I was delighted to sign a renewed Memorandum of Understanding with the Qatar Stars League and the Qatar Football Association, further strengthening a strategic partnership that continues to raise professional standards in club football." "My sincere thanks to His Excellency Jassim bin Rashid Al Buainain and his teams for their outstanding support, organisation and hosting of major FIFA events this year, including the FIFA Arab Cup, the FIFA Intercontinental.

Logo, Theme Song and Mascot of Khelo India Tribal Games 2026 unveiled

BILASPUR: The logo, theme song and mascot of the first-ever Khelo India Tribal Games (KITG) were formally unveiled on Tuesday at the Late B. R. Yadav Sports Stadium, Bilaspur. The games are scheduled from February 14, 2026.

The launch ceremony was graced by Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh Vishnu Deo Sai and Deputy Chief Minister Arun Sao as Chief Guests, among other officials from the union Sports Ministry, State Government and Sports Authority of India.

Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya stressed how the games will strengthen the talent base emerging from tribal areas. "The Khelo India Tribal Games broadens scope of opportunities for every athlete in the country. Tapping talent from tribal regions is key and continuously expanding our athlete-base is the requirement of the hour. We are ensuring that talented youngsters from tribal communities are identified early, supported systematically, and integrated into the national sports framework," the Minister mentioned.

The KITG 2026 will be jointly managed by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Sports Authority of India (SAI), Indian Olympic Association(IOA), National Sports Federations and the Chhattisgarh state organising committee, with technical standards benchmarked against international competitions.

A key highlight of the ceremony on Tuesday was the unveiling of official mascot 'Morveer', a name deeply rooted in Chhattisgarh's cultural ethos. Derived from two powerful words- 'Mor', meaning mine or our own in Chhattisgarhi, and 'Veer', symbolising courage and valour- Morveer represents the spirit, pride and identity of India's tribal communities.

The inaugural edition of the games will feature seven competitive sports disciplines- Archery, Athletics, Football, Hockey, Wrestling, Swimming and Weightlifting. In addition, two demonstration sports will be showcased, highlighting India's indigenous sporting traditions.

One of the key objectives of the Khelo India Tribal Games is talent identification. Promising athletes identified during the Games will be inducted as Khelo India Athletes, making them eligible for scholarships of Rs 5 lakh per year for eight years, including financial support and 360- degree assistance, with the aim to aid long-term athlete development. The Games aim to integrate this vast talent pool into India's mainstream sports framework.

Arm and the future of AI at the edge

Arm Holdings has positioned itself at the centre of AI transformation. In a wide-ranging podcast interview, Vince Jesaitis, head of global government affairs at Arm, offered enterprise decision-makers look into the company's international strategy, the evolution of AI as the company sees it, and what lies ahead for the industry.

Arm thinks the AI market is about to enter a new phase, moving from cloud-based processing to edge computing. While much of the media's attention has been focused to date on massive data centres, with models trained in and accessed from the cloud, Jesaitis said that most AI compute, especially inference tasks, is likely to be increasingly decentralised.

"The next 'aha' moment in AI is when local AI processing is being done on devices you couldn't have imagined before," Jesaitis said. These devices range from smartphones and earbuds to cars and industrial sensors. Arm's IP is already embedded, literally, in these devices – it's a company that only in the last year has been the IP behind over 30 billion chips, placed in devices of every conceivable description, all over the world.

The deployment of AI in edge environments has several benefits, with team at Arm citing three main 'wins'. Firstly, the inherent efficiency of low-power Arm chips means that power bills for running compute and cooling are lower. That keeps the environmental footprint of the technology as small as possible.

Secondly, putting AI in local settings means latency is much lower (with latency determined by the distance between local operations and the site of the AI model). Arm points to uses like instant translation, dynamic scheduling of control systems, and features like the near-immediate triggering of safety functions – for instance in IIoT settings.

Thirdly, 'keeping it local' means there's no potentially sensitive data sent off-premise. The benefits are obvious for any organisation in highly-regulated industries, but the increasing number of data breaches means even companies operating with relatively benign data sets are looking to reduce their attack surface.

Arm silicon, optimised for power-constrained devices, makes it well-suited for compute where it's needed on the ground, the company says. The future may well be one where AI is found woven throughout environments, not centralised in a data centre run by one of the large providers. Arm is actively engaged with global policymakers, considering this level of engagement an important part of its role. Governments continue to compete to attract semiconductor investment, the issues of supply chain and concentrated dependencies still fresh in many policymakers' memories from the time of the COVID epidemic. Arm lobbies for workforce development, working at present with policy-makers in the White House on an education coalition to build an 'AI-ready workforce'. Domestic independence in technology relies as much on the abilities of workforce as it does on the availability of hardware.

Jesaitis noted a divergence between regulatory environments: the US prioritises what the government there terms acceleration and innovation, while the EU leads on safety, privacy, security and legally-enforced standards of practice. Arm aims to find the middle ground between these approaches, building products that meet stringent global compliance needs, yet furthering advances in the AI industry.

The case for integrating Arm's edge-focused AI architecture into enterprise transformation strategies can be persuasive. The company stresses its ability to offer scale-able AI without the need to centralise to the cloud, and is also pushing its investment in hardware-level security. That means issues like memory exploits (outside of the control of users plugged into centralised AI models) can be avoided.

Of course, sectors already highly-regulated in terms of data practices are unlikely to experience relaxed governance in the future – the opposite is pretty much inevitable. All industries will be seeing more regulation and greater penalties for non-compliance in the years to come. However, to balance that, there are significant competitive advantages available to those that can demonstrate their systems' inherent safety and security. It's into this regulatory landscape that Arm sees itself and local, edge AI fitting.

Additionally, in Europe and Scandinavia, ESG goals are going to be increasingly important. Here, the power-sipping nature of Arm chips offers big advantages. That's a trend that even the US hyperscalers are responding to: AWS's latest SHALAR range of low-cost, low-power Arm-based platforms is there to satisfy that exact demand. Arm's collaboration with cloud hyperscalers such as AWS and Microsoft produces chips that combine efficiency with the necessary horsepower for AI applications, the company says.

Jesaitis pointed out several trends that enterprises may be seeing in the next 12 to 18 months. Global AI exports, particularly from the US and Middle East, are ensuring that local demand for AI can be satisfied by the big providers. Arm is a company that can supply both big providers in these contexts (as part of their portfolios of offerings) and satisfy the rising demand for edge-based AI.

Jesaitis also sees edge AI as something of the hero of sustainability in an industry increasingly under fire for its ecological impact. Because Arm technology's biggest market has been in low-power compute for mobile, it's inherently 'greener'. As enterprises hope to meet energy goals without sacrificing compute, Arm offers a way that combines performance with responsibility.

Arm's vision of AI at the edge means computers and the software running on them can be context-aware, cheap to run, secure by design, and – thanks to near-zero network latency – highly-responsive. Jesaitis said, "We used to call things 'smart' because they were online. Now, they're going to be truly intelligent."

A tiny power module could help solve the world's growing energy crisis

Demand for energy worldwide is climbing rapidly, driven in part by power hungry data centers that support artificial intelligence and by growth in manufacturing. Meeting these expanding energy needs is becoming an urgent global challenge.

One promising strategy is to use existing electricity more efficiently and at lower cost. Working toward that goal, researchers at NREL have developed a new silicon carbide-based power module. This component, which houses the electronics that regulate how electricity moves between systems, delivers levels of efficiency, power density, and manufacturability that have not been achieved before.

The new technology is known as NREL's Ultra-Low Inductance Smart power module, or ULIS. Built around silicon carbide semiconductors, ULIS can deliver five times the energy density of earlier designs while occupying a smaller footprint. This opens the door for manufacturers to create equipment that is more compact, lighter, and more energy efficient. Rated at 1200 volts and 400 amps, the module is designed for demanding uses, including data centers, electric grids, microreactors, and heavy-duty platforms such as next-generation aircraft and military vehicles.

A key advantage of ULIS is its exceptionally low parasitic inductance, which refers to resistance that limits how quickly electrical current can change. This resistance is one of the main obstacles in power conversion.

ULIS reduces parasitic inductance by a factor of seven to nine compared with current leading silicon carbide power modules. Because it can switch electrical current extremely quickly and efficiently, the module is able to extract more usable power from the same electricity supply, making it a strong candidate for addressing rising energy demand.

Scientists extract metabolic molecules from million-year-old fossils for the first time

For the first time, researchers have examined metabolism-related molecules preserved in fossilized animal bones dating back between 1.3 and 3 million years. This analysis offers a new way to understand not only the animals themselves but also the environments in which they lived.

Chemical signals linked to metabolism revealed details about the animals' health and diets, allowing scientists to reconstruct aspects of their surroundings, such as temperature, soil conditions, rainfall, and plant life. The results, published in Nature, indicate that these ancient landscapes were generally warmer and wetter than they are today.

Metabolites, the molecules produced and used during digestion and other chemical processes in the body, can provide valuable clues about health, disease, and influences from diet or environmental exposure. Although metabolomic techniques are now widely used to study modern human illnesses and medications, they have rarely been applied to ancient organisms. Fossil research has instead focused mainly on DNA, which is most often used to determine evolutionary relationships rather than environmental or physiological conditions. "I've always had an interest in metabolism, including the metabolic rate of bone, and wanted to know if it would be possible to apply metabolomics to fossils to study early life. It turns out that bone, including fossilized bone, is filled with metabolites," said Timothy Bromage, professor of molecular pathobiology at NYU College of Dentistry and affiliated professor in NYU's Department of Anthropology, who led this study with an international team of researchers.

Recent discoveries have shown that collagen, the protein responsible for providing strength and structure to bones, skin, and connective tissues, can survive in ancient skeletal remains, even in dinosaur fossils.

"I thought, if collagen is preserved in a fossil bone, then maybe other biomolecules are protected in the bone microenvironment as well," said Bromage, who directs the Hard Tissue Research Unit at NYU College of Dentistry.