

**6 WORLD**

- Israeli strikes kill at least 15 in Qana
- At SCO meet in Pak, EAM Jaishankar says terrorism

**8 NATION**

- Omar Abdullah sworn in as J&K CM, Cong stays away from govt for now
- 'Buoyed' BJP aims to win all 7 bypoll seats in Rajasthan

**HT BRIEFS**  
**Heroin seized**

**GUWAHATI:** The Nagaon Police have successfully conducted two operations leading to the recovery of a total of 25 small plastic containers filled with suspected heroin, the police officials informed on Wednesday. As per reports, the operations, carried out by different police teams, resulted in the arrest of three individuals for further legal action. In the first operation, a team from Raha Police Station, led by Sub-Inspector Raju Deb, recovered seven plastic containers containing a net weight of 2 grams of suspected heroin. Subsequently, one person was apprehended during this operation, and investigations are ongoing.

**Official held**

**GUWAHATI:** In a significant anti-corruption operation, the Assam Department of Anti-Corruption and Vigilance arrested Partha Hazarika, Office Superintendent of the Excise Department, the department officials informed on Wednesday. The operation took place near the main gate of Janata Bhawan, Dispur, where Hazarika was caught red-handed accepting a bribe of ₹ 24,500 from a complainant in exchange for issuing a bar licence. Taking to the micro-blogging site X, the Anti-corruption and Vigilance department wrote, "Today @DIR VAC ASSAM trapped red handed Partha Hazarika, Office Superintendent, Excise Deptt near the main gate of Janata Bhawan, Dispur after he accepted bribe of ₹ 24,500/- from the complainant for issuing bar licence."

**Small businesses**

**GUWAHATI:** Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma highlighted the state's strides in empowering small businesses, particularly through the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), a press release said on Wednesday. The chief minister also informed that the initiative has significantly boosted the Khadi industry and small-scale enterprises, creating employment opportunities and fostering entrepreneurial growth among SC/ST communities.

**Canadian Trade Minister assures businesses to support commercial ties with India**

**WASHINGTON, Oct 16:** Amidst an unprecedented diplomatic row between India and Canada, the Canadian trade minister has assured the country's business community that they are committed to supporting the well-established commercial ties between the two countries.

Mary Ng, minister of export promotion, international trade and economic development, made these remarks on Tuesday as tensions between India and Canada escalated after Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Monday accused the Indian government of supporting criminal activities targeting Canadian citizens.

India on Monday expelled six Canadian diplomats and withdrew its high commissioner and five other diplomats from Ottawa. Canada, however, said the Indian diplomats were expelled.

Ng also said that "the Government of Canada remains open to a dialogue with India and we look forward to continuing our valued relationship."

"I want to reassure our business community that our government remains fully committed to supporting the well-established com-



mercial ties between Canada and India," Mary Ng, the minister of export promotion, international trade and economic development, said in a statement.

"Our trade commissioner service will continue to assist and provide resources to Canadian companies operating in India," she said as India in an unprecedented step not only recalled its high commissioner from Ottawa but also expelled six of the Canadian diplomats from New Delhi. "Let me be clear: Canada stands firmly by its businesses. We will work closely with all Canadian enterprises engaged with India to ensure these important economic connections remain strong," she said.

"However, we must consider our economic interests with the need to protect Canadians and uphold the rule of law. We will not tolerate any foreign government threatening, extorting, or harming Canadian citizens on our soil. We urge the government of India to respect the same principles of law and justice that guide our actions," Ng said. "The Government of Canada remains open to a dialogue with India and we look forward to continuing our valued relationship," said the minister.

According to the India Brand Equity Foundation, Canada and India achieved a bilateral trade relationship that reached USD 8.27 billion in (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

**NE on radar of nation's development: Dhankhar**

*If there is heaven it is in India, if there is heavenly spirit, it is in Meghalaya, remarks VP*

**SHILLONG, Oct 16:** The Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar has said that "North-East is on the radar of nation's development." He emphasized that the North-East is a significant contributor to unity, economic progress and cultural essence of the nation.



foundation stone laying ceremony of Meghalaya Skill and Innovation Hub At Shillong today, the Vice-President highlighted that skill is neither discovered nor innovated, it is in fact the optimal exploitation of talent of a person in that specified field which gives the human resource a qualitative cutting-edge. He underscored that skilling is no longer a quality, it is our need.

lighted the formation of a dedicated Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and allocation of 60,000 crores towards internship of 5 lakh young individuals over a period of five years, adding that villages and semi-urban towns must be hub of skill centres.

On his experience in Meghalaya, the vice-president said, "If there is heaven it is in India, if there is heavenly spirit, it is in Meghalaya." He asserted that the engine of Meghalaya's economy could be driven by tourism alone. He further added that nature has bountifully gifted Meghalaya and urged them to exploit it fully by having very talented skilled people in the shape of human resource.

C.H. Vijayashankar, Governor of Meghalaya, Conrad K Sangma, chief minister of Meghalaya, Dr Mazel Ampareen Lyngdoh, Meghalaya minister for Health & Family Welfare Department etc, Rakkam (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

**ASDC demands justice for Charchim-Prisek massacre victims' families**

**DIPHU, Oct 16:** The Autonomous State Demand Committee (ASDC) has called on the state government to provide justice to the families of the victims of the infamous Charchim-Prisek massacre, which occurred on October 17, 2005, in West Karbi Anglong.



He explained that on that fateful morning, a Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC) transport bus carrying passengers from Jirikending was ambushed by militants at Charchim-Prisek village, resulting in the horrific slaughter.

"We will not identify the victims by tribe, whether Karbi or Dimas. What we want to emphasize is that 20 years after the incident, the victims' families have yet to receive justice," Terang added.

He also pointed out that although the state government announced the formation of a commission for a judicial inquiry into the incident, no such commission has been established to date. The anniversary of the massacre will be observed as the 19th National Mourning Day on October 18 in (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

**Assam Police emerging as one of the finest forces of the country: Himanta**



**GUWAHATI, Oct 16:** Assam Police is emerging as one of the finest forces of the country and it is providing mentorship to the police forces of other states as well, said chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Wednesday.

Taking to X, Sarma wrote, "Assam Police is emerging as one of the finest forces of the country and is now mentoring police forces of other States." The police academy in Assam has given training to at least 2,700 security personnel of other states, he said.

"In a first, Dergaon's Lachit Barphukan Police Academy is training 2700 police personnel from other

states, the most recent one being from Goa Police. As I have often said, we want to build a Assam that will be in a position to provide leadership in governance to other States. From Policing to Women Centric DBT, we are trying to set a path which can be used by others in our collective endeavour to build a Viksit Bharat," CM Sarma further said.

Earlier, Sarma claimed that the state police force was strengthened and the case pendency has reduced at least four-fold times in the last three years.

According to him, in 2021, 95,994 cases were pending in Assam and the figure has drastically dropped down to 18,286 cases in 2024.

The burden of cases for each investigating officer has also lowered. In 2021, there were 52 cases per investigating officer in the police department which has come down to just 7.39 cases in June 2024.

The chief minister had praised the drastic reduction in average cases handled by every officer.

"Due to our modernisation efforts, the average number of cases, an Investigating Officer of @assampolice look after has significantly come down, reducing their burden and improving quality of investigation", Sarma had said.

"This has resulted in a drastic reduction in case pendency, benefiting a large section of society," he added.

**In letter to EC, Cong seeks transfer of police officers for 'inaction' in Rupahihat violence**

**GUWAHATI, Oct 16:** The opposition Congress in Assam on Wednesday wrote to the Election Commission, seeking the transfer of some police officers in Nagaon district, including the SP, alleging that they did not take action against BJP workers who were behind the violence in Rupahihat.



A delegation of Congress leaders, comprising its state working president Jakir Hussain Sikdar and senior leader Ripun Bora, met chief electoral officer (CEO) Anurag Goel and submitted a memorandum in this regard.

The Congress alleged that BJP workers attacked its supporters and the convoy of its MLAs on Tuesday in Rupahihat when they had taken out a procession to campaign for the bypoll to the Samaguri assembly seat.

"Following the incident, a delegation of MLAs met the Nagaon SP and requested him to take prompt action. Several complaints were filed in Rupahi and Khatowal police stations but no action has been taken so far," it alleged.

The Congress also claimed that SP Swapneel Deka and OCs Sanjib Kumar Roy and Biku Barman of Rupahi and Khatowal police stations, respectively, were "hobnobbing" with BJP leaders.

"They are indulging in activities which are detrimental to free and fair elections in the state," the letter said.

The Congress urged the EC to immediately transfer the police officers to ensure free and fair elections in Samaguri where polling is scheduled on November 13.

Sikdar later told reporters that they will also submit a memorandum to DGP GP Singh over the matter.

People from both the Congress and the BJP were injured in the clash that happened in Rupahihat.

The BJP had alleged that Dhubri MP ?Rakibul Hussain had brought "goons" from elsewhere who went on a rampage, tearing its posters and banners, besides attacking its supporters. (PTI)

**Govt to celebrate 'Bhasa Gaurav Saptah' from Nov 3**

**GUWAHATI, Oct 16:** The Assam government will hold 'Bhasa Gaurav Saptah' to express gratitude to everyone who has helped in enriching the Assamese language, which has been recently recognised as a classical language.

This was informed by the chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Wednesday after he held discussions with senior government officials regarding the week-long celebration for Assamese receiving the classical language status recently by the central government.

"I chaired an important meeting to chalk out details of 'Bhasa Gaurav Saptah'. From Nov 3-9, Assam will celebrate the Classical Language Status conferred on Assamese and recollect the indelible contribution of languages in uniting society," Sarma wrote on micro-blogging site X.

He further informed that all colleges, schools and public offices will join this program that will commence by expressing collective gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and litterateurs, who have contributed to the growth and preservation of the Assamese language.

The chief minister asserted that many facts about the 2000 year-old Assamese language will be unfurled during the celebration.

"Assamese is over 2000 years old, facts such as these need to be reinforced during Bhasa Gaurav Saptah. Along with other online and offline activities in schools, colleges and public offices, we will also release a booklet explaining the importance of Classical Language," he mentioned. Sarma earlier sought cooperation from all sections of the people of the state to make the celebration of the 'Bhasa Gourav Saptah' a grand success.

As per an official statement, Sarma asked the DCs to collect the letter of gratitude to the prime minister signed by different organisations and individuals across the state to be forwarded to the PMO either through post or through Assam Bhawan.

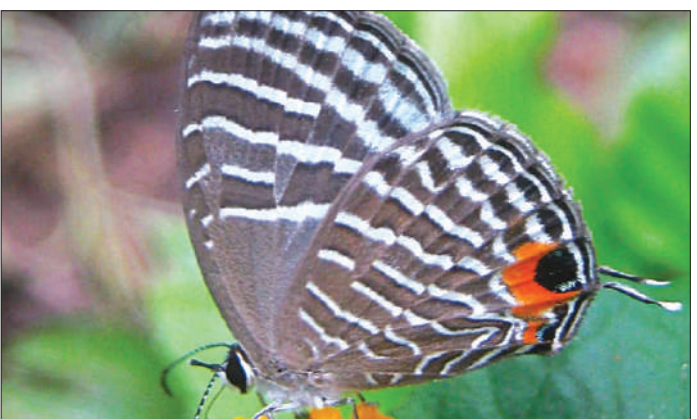
**'Kaziranga now ranks second in butterfly species diversity among India's protected areas'**  
**KNP records 446 butterfly species**

**GUWAHATI, Oct 16:** More than 446 butterfly species have been recorded in Assam's Kaziranga National Park (KNP), famed for the one-horned rhinoceros, making it a habitat with the second highest concentration in the country after the Namdapha National Park in Arunachal Pradesh, a park official said.

The long-term observation and records are a culmination of years of work put in by a scientist from Kaziranga, Dr Monsoon Jyoti Gogoi.

The survey was conducted in different parts of the Kaziranga-Karbi Anglong landscape, especially in the Panbari Reserve Forest, which is home to a diverse range of butterfly species.

A new pictorial guidebook on butterflies, authored by Gogoi, documents 446 species of butter-



flies recorded in Kaziranga, 18 of which are new to the country.

The new records include Burmese Threering, Glassy Cerulean, Dark-bordered Hedge Blue, Andaman Yellow Banded Flat, Ferrar's Cerulean, Great Red-

Banded Demon.

Gogoi, who has been studying butterflies in the region since 2007, said that Kaziranga now ranks second in butterfly species diversity among India's protected areas, after Namdapha National Park.

This record is particularly significant given Kaziranga's location is outside the Himalayan and Patkai mountain ranges, he added.

There is a need to raise awareness about the importance of butterfly conservation in Kaziranga by highlighting the rich diversity of species in the region, along with further research, monitoring, and habitat protection initiatives.

Meanwhile, the chief minister's office (CMO) congratulated Gogoi on X. "Dr Monsoon Jyoti Gogoi, a young lepidopterist from Kaziranga, has documented over 446 butterfly (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

**Delhi polls: Kejriwal urges people to re-elect him as CM**

**NEW DELHI, Oct 16:** AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday launched the party's "Jan Sampark" campaign ahead of the Delhi Assembly elections and urged the people to re-elect him as the chief minister.

Kejriwal said if he becomes the chief minister, he would ensure that no work of the people of Delhi gets stalled. He also alleged that the BJP, during his five months imprisonment, tried to impede various schemes of the AAP government.

"I am confident that the people will form an AAP government again to continue all the work and facilities in Delhi. With the support of your vote, I will once again be the chief minister to do all your work like before," Kejriwal said at the campaign launch event, Kejriwal resigned as Delhi chief minister on September 17, days after getting bail in a corruption case. He said that he would return as the chief minister

only after getting a "certificate of honesty" from the people in the Assembly polls due early next year.

As part of the "Jan Sampark" campaign that will continue till October 29, Aam Aadmi Party workers will reach out to Delhiites with a letter from Kejriwal telling people the "truth" behind his arrest and that of other party leaders in corruption cases. "The people of Delhi have many questions regarding my arrest, and to address those questions, I have written a letter. Our party workers will go door to door with this letter till October 29 so that the people can get answers to their questions," he said.

In the letter, Kejriwal alleged that he, along with other party leaders, was arrested by the BJP to disrupt AAP's work in Delhi.

"They arrested me and kept me in jail for five months. They did it to stop the facilities I am providing to the people (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)





















## VIR DAS SETS FIFTH COMEDY SPECIAL WITH NETFLIX

**NEW DELHI, Oct 16:** Actor-comic Vir Das and streaming platform Netflix are once again teaming up for a comedy special, the makers announced on Wednesday.

This marks his fifth project with the streamer after the International Emmy Award-winning "Landing", "Abroad Understanding", "Losing It", and "For India".

In a press release issued by Netflix, the new globetrotting special offers "a unique narrative of self-discovery and global connection".

"As he moves from familiar stages to unexpected settings, he uncovers a profound truth: kindness is the only true universal language. In an era where roasts dominate the comedy landscape, Vir boldly challenges the norm by embracing joy and encouraging the world to share happiness freely," it read.

Vir said comedy has the power to bring people together, no matter where they come from.

"With this special, we are trying to bring something fresh to comedy by sharing stories and experiences that celebrate love and kindness while showing that laughter really is a universal language. This special will be an apologetic, direct shot of happiness to the heart," he said.

"In my fifth special partnership with Netflix, I'm honoured to be able to showcase Indian comedy on a global stage, and I can't wait for audiences everywhere to join me on this journey," the comedian added in his statement.

At the 2023 International Emmy Awards, Vir won the best comedy award for Landing. He shared the trophy with the much-acclaimed British series Derry Girls. The comedian is set to host this year's International Emmy Awards, becoming the first Indian to do so. The ceremony will be held in New York City on November 25. (PTI)

## Payal Kapadia's 'All We Imagine As Light' receive 5 nomination for Asia Pacific Screen Awards

**NEW DELHI, Oct 16:** Filmmaker Payal Kapadia's Cannes-winning title "All We Imagine As Light" has bagged five nominations at the 17th edition of the Asia Pacific Screen Awards.

The Asia Pacific Screen Academy announced the nominations, which saw representation by 31 films from 23 Asia Pacific countries and areas, a press release said.

"All We Imagine As Light", which scripted history by becoming the first Indian movie to win the Grand Prix award at the Cannes Film Festival, has been nominated for top honour of best film as well as best director and best screenplay for Kapadia.



Actor Kani Kusruti received a nod for best performance, and lensman Ranabir Das for best cinematography. The Malayalam-Hindi film is an official collaboration between Chalk and Cheese Films and Another Birth from India and petit chaos from France.

Led by Kani and Divya Prabha, All We Imagine As Light narrates the story of two Kerala nurses, Prabha and Anu, co-habiting in Mumbai. It is titled Prabhayam Ninachathellam in Malayalam. It also features Chaya Kadam in a pivotal role.

The Asia Pacific Screen Awards aims to honour the "cinematic excellence of 78 countries and areas of the Asia Pacific and films that best reflect their cultural origins and the diversity of the vast region".

Besides Payal's movie, April by Dea Kulumbegashvili is nominated for five awards. The film, which presents the story of an obstetrician-gynecologist, is also nominated for best film, best director, best screenplay, best cinematography and best performance.

Another Indian title, Boong, backed by Farhan Akhtar and Ritesh Sidhwani, received a nomination in the best youth film category. The movie, which had its world premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival, is directed by debutante director Lakshmi Priya Devi.

Filmmaker PS Vinothraj bagged a best screenplay nomination for his Tamil language movie Kottukkaali. The movie is titled The Adamant Girl in English.

The 17th Asia Pacific Screen Awards will be held on November 30 at The Langham, Gold Coast, Australia. (PTI)

## IT WAS TOO TEMPTING, I MANIFESTED IT: Samantha Ruth Prabhu on Citadel

**MUMBAI, Oct 16:** Actor Samantha Ruth Prabhu, who is playing the role of an agent in "Citadel: Honey Bunny", on Tuesday said women doing the "heavy lifting" in action sequences in spy stories is fantastic. The Prime Video series, also starring Varun Dhawan in the lead, is billed as a riveting narrative that fuses elements of a gritty spy action thriller with the heartwarming allure of a love story. "From time immemorial, if there's a spy series or film, there's always a male character at the centre of it, doing all the cool action, dialogues, and saving the day. What sets this apart is, I get to kick some \*\*\*, and it's fantastic," Prabhu said at the trailer launch of the India chapter of the series.

Priyanka Chopra Jonas leads the parent show of "Citadel" while Matilda de Angelis stars in "Citadel: Diana". "With people like Priyanka Chopra and Matilda doing some of the heavy lifting, I think it is an amazing way to represent women of society correctly. We do it all, don't we? It is a balanced world of "Citadel: Honey Bunny". It was too tempting an offer and I manifested it," the actor said.

The actor, who has previously tried her hands on action while working on season two of "The Family Man", said it's great to see women doing action sequences and that the future seems "bright".

"It sounds cool that it is female (driven) but it should be an equal playing ground where intelligence, talent, and strength decide your fate, irrespective of gender, and that would be an amazing place to be at. I'm happy to be part of this world, and that has already started to take centre stage. The opportunity to work with talent from across the world, the platform is becoming wider, and the future seems bright for everyone." The India chapter of the global drama "Citadel", also starring Kay Kay Menon, Saqib Saleem, and Sikander Kher, will premiere on November 7 on Prime Video. (PTI)



## Ajay Devgn reveals his most memorable action stunt

**NEW DELHI, Oct 16:** Ajay Devgn on Tuesday said out of all the action sequences he has performed in his 33-year career, the most memorable one remains his iconic entry scene in his 1991 debut film Phool Aur Kaante.

The Kuku Kohli directorial introduced Ajay as a daredevil student Ajay who enters college standing on two moving motorcycles.

The stunt, which keeps circulating on social media as meme content, was choreographed by none other than the actor's late father and veteran action director Veeru Devgan. In an #AskAjay session on X, a user asked Ajay to name one action scene that stood out as "the most challenging or memorable" in his career.

"Still standing on two bikes, always," he said, referring to the popular sequence from the movie which turns 33 next month.

A day after his wife, actor Kajol called herself the "real Singham"

when she was asked who was the boss at home, Ajay reiterated her comment.

Asked who is the real Singham, the actor said: "You should ask this question to the real Singham at home." Ajay is set to reprise the role of the fan-favourite cop Bajirao Singham in Singham Again, set to be released on Diwali on November 1. When a user asked what his favourite scene in Singham Again was, the actor replied: "The Ramayan angle." The upcoming multi-starrer movie, also starring Kareena Kapoor Khan and Akshay Kumar, borrows elements from the Ramayana and marries its themes with the characters of director Rohit Shetty's ambitious cop universe.

He also

called Akshay "Khiladi", a persona synonymous with the other action star's fearlessness on screen, when asked to describe his colleague.

If you had to choose one of your iconic film characters to live as in real life for a week, which one would it be? Ajay said: "only Bajirao Singham."

Singham Again also features Ranveer Singh, Deepika Padukone, Tiger Shroff, Arjun Kapoor, Jackie Shroff, Dayananth Shetty, and Shweta Tiwari.

The franchise started with 2011's Singham and was followed by Singham Returns in 2014, launched Shetty's cop universe that also include films fronted by characters played by Akshay and Ranveer in Sooryavanshi and Simmba, respectively. (PTI)



## Wanted to explore essence of Kabir through 'Jhini Bini Chadariya': director Ritesh Sharma

**NEW DELHI, Oct 16:** Filmmaker Ritesh Sharma says his debut feature "Jhini Bini Chadariya" is an attempt to explore the essence of Kabir through the stories of a reclusive weaver and a headstrong dancer, both searching for "identity and space" in a fast changing city like Varanasi.

Though the two protagonists, played by Muzaffar Khan and Megha Mathur, don't meet except for a brief moment when their paths cross, they end up having an impact on each other's life. The city, he said, is a backdrop as well as a character in the story.

"Kabir wasn't literate, but he questioned every single aspect of religion. As a filmmaker, I want to explore the essence of Kabir through my films," Sharma told PTI.

"Jhini Bini Chadariya" follows Rani, a street dancer trying to raise money to give a better

life to her deaf daughter, and a weaver named Shahdab who befriends an Israeli tourist. Their story is set against the backdrop of recent redevelopment of temples in Varanasi.

"When I was in Benaras, there were many such stories. The city was changing, and so was the country and the world. Suddenly, we felt fear around us. When I met people from the Muslim community, I sensed their fear, and that's what I tried to capture in the film.

"My goal was to express what I feel about Benaras and the changes that have occurred there. People should understand that even if these events are not happening to them, they can still become victims. The underlying politics can surface at any time, and we must face it," Sharma said.

The filmmaker, who earlier directed the 2010 documentary "The Holy Wives" focusing on

caste-based sexual exploitation, said the idea for the film came to him in 2015 when he was visiting the city.

"Around Holi, I saw a woman dancing with a bottle of beer at a temple in front of the Manikamika Ghat, while people were throwing water at her... I had heard that vulgar songs are played in Bihar and UP, but to see it happening so openly, especially at a temple, felt like full-on exploitation."

He then spoke to many female dancers to understand their experiences and it gave him the idea to explore a character like that.

"I felt a strong need to tell their side of the story. I wanted to understand their experiences, so I stayed in Benaras for six months, writing the character of Rani, the dancer. I also came across weavers in Benaras. It was important to tell the story of a human who is a weaver and a

human who is a dancer, both trying to find their own identity and space," he said.

The title "Jhini Bini Chadariya" is taken from a poem by Kabir, the 15th century mystic poet-saint, who drew a lot from the different languages of the day as well as his profession as a weaver to call out the hypocrisy in both Hindus and Muslims.

"I don't think I ever understood Kabir in childhood when we were made to memorise him but not imbibe him. When I began to grasp his teachings, I realised how much we need Kabir in today's time of religious madness."

Sharma initially wanted to call the movie "Tana Bana", another phrase that has often appeared in Kabir's poetry and comes from weaving, a major profession in the city known for its silk saris.

Since the title was already

registered, he decided to go with "Jhini Bini Chadariya". In English, the film is titled "The Brittle Thread".

The film is presented by filmmaker Anurag Kashyap who has championed it through social media. It is currently streaming on pay-per-view platform MovieSants.

"Jhini Bini Chadariya" had its first screening at the Tokyo International Film Festival in 2021, followed by the Dharamshala International Film Festival as well as International Film Festival of Kerala, receiving acclaim from the viewers.

According to the director, independent filmmaking is difficult, especially if one is a newcomer.

"It was not easy to secure funding when I decided to tell this story. Today, Malayalam cinema is investing in unique stories, but the Hindi belt is still stuck in the star system. (PTI)



# Neetu David, AB de Villiers and Alastair Cook inducted into ICC Hall of Fame

DUBAI, Oct 16: Former India spinner Neetu David, who still holds the record for the best figures (8/53) by a woman in an individual Test innings, on Wednesday became only the second female cricketer from the country to be inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame.

South African legend AB de Villiers and former England captain Alastair Cook were also inducted along with David.

David, the current chairman of selectors for Indian women's team, enters the ICC Hall of Fame a year after the induction of former captain Diana Edulji.

David made more than 100 appearances (10 Tests and 97 ODIs) for India as a prolific left-arm spinner and was inducted alongside South Africa and England legends AB de Villiers and Alastair Cook, joining a long list of great cricketers.

The 47-year-old David is the second-highest wicket-taker for India in ODIs cricket with 141 scalps and was also the first female player from the country to claim 100 wickets in the 50-over game.

Topping the wicket-taking list at the World Cup in 2005, to inspire her country to their first-ever final, is also among her standout achievements.

David said in an ICC release: "It is truly an honour to be inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame, something that I consider to be the highest recognition available to anyone



who puts on their national team jersey.

"This comes after a lifetime of dedication to this great sport, and it caps a very special journey for me to get to this point.

"To be considered a Hall of Famer alongside the greatest players that ever lived is humbling, and I am thrilled to be part of this exclusive club."

Following some impressive performances with the ball at domestic cricket for Uttar Pradesh, David won a first international appearance for India as a 17-year-old in a Test against New Zealand in Nelson in 1995.

She impressed with four wickets in that contest and was again selected for the ODI leg of that tour as India claimed the New Zealand Women's Centenary Tournament.

In late 1995, David truly rose to prominence as she recorded sensational figures of 8/53 — still the best individual bowling spell in a single innings of a women's Test — against England in Jamshedpur as India fell to a narrow two-run loss.

While David excelled at Test cricket with 41 wickets from 10 matches, it was in ODI cricket that she performed best with 141

scalps from 97 matches at a miserly bowling average of 16.34. David retired from international cricket in 2006, only to reverse that decision two years later for a brief return in ODI cricket at the Asia Cup and on India's tour of England.

She played her final domestic match in 2013, calling time on an illustrious career by helping Railways to the 2012-13 Senior Women's T20 League title.

Cook represented England over 250 times in international cricket, making his most significant impact in the longest format. He retired from international

cricket in 2018 as England's highest Test run-scorer and century-maker, spearheading notable successes both home and away with the bat and as captain.

In his 14-year-long career, de Villiers hit over 20,000 international runs across all three formats.

De Villiers, fondly known as "Mr 360", excelled in Test and T20I cricket while setting South African records for the fastest fifty, century and 150 in ODI cricket to earn a reputation of being one of the most feared, destructive batters in the history of the game.

The ICC Hall of Fame was launched in January 2009 as part of the global governing body's centenary celebrations.

The Class of 2024 will be celebrated in a special series of engagements in Dubai this week, coinciding with the conclusion of the Women's T20 World Cup.

ICC Chief Executive Officer, Geoff Allardice said, "Once again, we find ourselves celebrating not only truly great players, but elite innovators, record-breakers and passionate competitors that excelled on the field of play during their glittering international careers.

"Beyond their remarkable statistics spanning all formats of the game, all three have made significant contributions to the way the game is played today and are worthy additions to the ICC Hall of Fame." (PTI)

## Handling pressure will play a big part in Jaiswal's success in Australia: Childhood coach

BENGALURU, Oct 16: Yashasvi Jaiswal was oblivious to the cheers of a handful of spectators as he walked across a soaked M Chinnaswamy Stadium turf on Wednesday, chatting intensely with assistant coach Abhishek Nayar.

There was no pressing demand for him to spend an hour at indoor nets as rain held up the first day's play of the opening Test between India and New Zealand.

After all, he is going through a roseate phase in Test cricket for over a year now.

But that deep caring for his craft and a focused mind will come handy when Jaiswal crosses over to Australia next month for the biggest challenge yet in his fledgling career, feels his childhood coach Jwala Singh.

"At this level, it is more about how you handle pressure, but if you don't have the right attitude and mindset then you will end up as a failure. But fortunately, Yashasvi has a mature head on his shoulder," Jwala told PTI when he was informed about skipper Rohit Sharma's high evaluation of his younger colleague.

"It is even more true when you go and play in Australia because they play some hard cricket there and put a lot of pressure on opposition," he added.

As someone who saw Jaiswal from a very young age, Jwala feels that the 21-year-old has grown as a batsman since making his debut in 2023 against the West Indies.

"I think being around players like Rohit and Virat has helped him a lot. After all, there is nothing like learning from such masters," he said. Since his baptism in international cricket, Jaiswal has made 1217 runs from 11 Tests at an average of 64.05 and has three daddy knocks — 171, 209 and 214.

So, what are the changes that he has observed in the left-hander in the last one year or so?

"He always has been aggressive as a batsman. Earlier, he had a tendency to attack almost every ball, especially fast bowlers, but now he uses aggression more judiciously.

"Yashasvi now has more awareness of his



game. He has better awareness about which ball to attack and which one to let go. Of course, he has also become a very good fielder now, especially in slip region," Jwala noted.

The trait was visible in Jaiswal's batting while going through a breakout series against England earlier this year.

The way he handled English legend James Anderson was impeccable. At Rajkot, Jaiswal respectfully patted a fuller length delivery from Anderson back to the bowler in the 85th over.

But once the pacer erred in length, Jaiswal creamed the Lancastrian's next three balls for sixes — a sweep over square leg, a loft over mid-wicket and straight mouse over the bowler's head.

Jaiswal was highly effective against Anderson throughout the series — extracting 98 runs from 150 balls that he faced off the quick and getting out twice.

It was not entirely surprising then that he became only the second Indian batter after the legendary Sunil Gavaskar to score over 700 in a series.

But then it is always easy to play down that

## Chennaiyin FC aim to stretch unbeaten away run against NorthEast United



GUWAHATI, Oct 16: Chennaiyin FC will look to prolong their unbeaten away run at the Indian Super League 2024-25 season when they lock horns with determined hosts here on Thursday.

CFC have been on the road for two out of their first three matches this season.

Speaking to the media ahead of their third away match, Chennaiyin head coach Owen Coyle praised NorthEast United while highlighting the need for his team to be more clinical.

"What you have is two very good teams," Coyle told the media.

"Two very attack-minded teams, going all out to win a tough game. NorthEast (United) are always a very dangerous opponent — they were last year and they certainly are this year. I think Juan Pedro Benali has done a fantastic job."

"Equally, we know we have a good team, we know we have good players and can stand toe-to-toe with the best teams in this league when we are at our best. So that's our focus, being very respectful of our opponents but focusing on our qualities.

"In truth, we should probably be sitting with 7-9 points; in the last two games alone, we had just under 40 chances, so we know we have to be more clinical," he

## Rohit explained 'significance of Gabba' to young Pant

NEW DELHI, Oct 16: For some time, Rishabh Pant couldn't understand why fans had gone hysterical after his unbeaten 89 against Australia at the Gabba in 2021 until Rohit Sharma stepped in to tell him that his knock was not just another match-winning effort in an epic Test.

A second string India, without its then regular skipper Virat Kohli, senior player KL Rahul and three main bowlers, had beaten Australia by three wickets at a venue which was considered a fortress for the home team which hadn't lost a single game there since 1989.

It was a chase of 328, and Pant's counter-attacking knock was not just a match-defining one. It was to find a place among the greatest innings by an Indian in adverse overseas conditions.

"Sometimes, there are performances that you remember for a lifetime, and one of them for me is the Gabba Test," the 27-year-old told Star Sports' 'Star Nahi Far' event.

Initially, it was just satisfaction of winning a tough Test for India but as time went by, Pant understood the magnitude of his achievement, something that Rohit had told him about.

"At the time, I didn't realise how significant it was. Rohit bhai was there, and he told me, 'You have no idea what you've done.' I was like, 'What have I done? My aim was just to win the match.' Rohit bhai said, 'Later, you'll understand what you've done'," he recalled.

"Now, whenever I hear people talking about that Gabba match, I understand what he meant and how important it was," the Delhi player said.

Pant has commanded the cricketing world's awe and respect for coming back after recovering from a life-threatening car accident in 2022. This was after he made a name for himself Down Under for being a significant contributor to India's back-to-back Test series wins.

His career-best 159 came in Sydney during the 2018-19 series. In the 2021 series, he scored 97 in Sydney and an epic 89 not out in Brisbane to earn respect and adulation from both the fans and the opposition team. (PTI)

## Tendulkar's presence makes evening memorable for NCL champions Chicago Cricket Club

DALLAS, Oct 16: Legendary Sachin Tendulkar, presented the Championship trophy to the victorious Chicago Cricket Club as the National Cricket Championship ended on a memorable note.

Chicago clinched the title in a high-stakes final against the Atlanta Cricket Club at the University of Texas at Dallas, which marked a landmark moment for USA cricket.

With more than 2.5 billion viewers tuning in globally, the NCL final captured the growing influence of cricket in the United States.

Fans at UT Dallas Cricket Stadium were treated to an exhilarating contest, with Chicago's Leonardo Julien leading the charge.

Julien's explosive innings — scoring 61 runs off just 22 balls, including five boundaries and six towering sixes — earned him the Man of the Match award and propelled Chicago to a commanding victory.

Tendulkar's electric presence lifted the evening. As he presented the champions' trophy to Chicago's head coach, Robin



Uthappa, he also took time to interact with the crowd, shaking hands, posing for photos, and delighting fans with his graciousness. His connection with the crowd underscored the growing excitement surrounding the sport in the U.S.

"Cricket has given me so much, and to be here in Dallas, witnessing this incredible final and presenting the trophy, is truly humbling," Tendulkar said.

"This victory and the energy in the stadium show that cricket has a

bright future in America." NCL Chairman Arun Agarwal echoed the sentiment, describing the moment as a turning point for cricket in the U.S.

"This championship goes beyond just a win — it's a defining

moment for the rise of cricket in America," Agarwal said. "With billions watching globally, this final shows how much progress we've made, and this is just the beginning of something truly special."

The NCL, known for its innovative Sixty Strikes format, has quickly gained attention by merging world-class cricket with cultural entertainment.

The 2024 season featured retired international cricketers like Shahid Afridi, Suresh Raina, and the semi-retired Shakib Al Hossain, with cricket legends such as Sunil Gavaskar, Wasim Akram, and Sir Vivian Richards serving as mentors.

The league's broadcast partnerships with ESPN, SKY Sports, and Sony Max have brought NCL matches to millions, accelerating the sport's growth in the U.S.

As the NCL continues to expand its influence, Chicago Cricket Club's championship win, with Tendulkar at the helm of the celebration, marks a significant milestone in cricket's journey to becoming a major force in U.S. sports. (PTI)

## Hemang Badani in running to become DC head coach; Pant, Axar, Kuldeep 3 likely retentions

NEW DELHI, Oct 16: Former India left-hander Hemang Badani is emerging as a front-runner in the race to become the chief coach of Delhi Capitals, while pacer Munaf Patel's name is doing the rounds for a role in the support staff of the franchise.

DC had parted ways with Australian Ricky Ponting as head coach a few weeks ago owing to his availability issues. Ponting had been with the team since 2018.

"DC management is looking at quality home-grown coaches and Hemang and Munaf's names have cropped up. A final decision is yet to be taken but in case of Munaf, it could be bowling coach's job," an IPL source told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

Delhi Capitals, like most of the other franchises, is likely to opt for three retentions — skipper Rishabh Pant (18 crore), all-rounder Axar Patel (Rs 14 crore) and left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav (Rs 11 crore). (PTI)

### Denmark Open badminton: Indian challenge ends in doubles



ODENSE (DENMARK), Oct 16: India's doubles campaign ended at the Denmark Open badminton tournament after the women's and mixed pairings from the country bowed out following hard-fought first-round losses here on Wednesday.

Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand (women's doubles) and B Sumeeth Reddy and N Sikki Reddy (mixed doubles) suffered three-game defeats in their opening contests.

Taking the court first, Treesa and Gayatri squandered a game's lead to go down 21-19 17-21 15-21 against fifth-seeded Malaysian combination of Pearly Tan and Muralitharan Thinaah in a match that lasted one hour and 14 minutes.

The odds were stacked against the world no.21 Indian team as it had an inferior 1-5 head-to-head record against their world no.7 opponents from Malaysia.

But Treesa and Gayatri gave their rivals a tough fight before bowing out.

In mixed doubles too, Sumeeth Reddy and Sikki Reddy let slip a game's lead to lose 22-20 19-21 22-24 to the Canadian pair of Kevin Lee and Eliana Zhang in one hour and two minutes.

Later on Wednesday, the promising Unnati Hooda will be up against USA's Lauren Lam in her women's singles opening-round match, while Satish Kumar Karunakaran will play Li Yang Su of Chinese Taipei in men's singles.

On Tuesday, Lakshya Sen, a 2021 World Championships bronze-medallist, crashed out of the men's singles event after suffering a three-game defeat at the hands of China's Lu Guang Zu in the first round.

Malvika Bansod and Aakarshi Kashyap too made first-round exits from the women's singles competition.

However, two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu moved into the second round after her opponent Pai Yu Po of Chinese Taipei retired midway in the second game with the score reading 21-8 13-7 in the Indian's favour. (PTI)

## Day 1 of first Test between India and NZ called off due to rain



**BENGALURU, Oct 16:** Unrelenting rain wiped out play on day one of the opening Test between India and New Zealand here on Wednesday.

The play was called off at 2.34 PM as heavy rain lashed the M Chinnaswamy Stadium after relenting for about half an hour earlier.

The match officials came out to inspect the pitch around 2 PM after outfield and first layer of covers were removed around 1.50 PM.

But there were large damp areas on either side of the pitch as hessians were brought out in a last-ditch attempt to get some game time.

However, it was a futile effort as extensive damage was already done by rains of varying intensity from early morning.

Earlier, even the toss, which was scheduled at 9 AM, could not take place as rain came down relentlessly over the city from morning.

There was a smattering of spectators at the stadium despite the inclement weather.

But the only moment of excitement for them was the sighting of star batter Virat Kohli and opener Yashasvi Jaiswal, who went for an indoor net session along with assistant coach Abhishek Nayar. They might have to wait further for action even on the second day as the current forecast is for more rain on Thursday at least till noon.

It may be recalled that even the training sessions of both teams were washed away by heavy downpour on Tuesday. Play on day two is scheduled at 9.15 am and toss at 8.45 am. (PTI)

## Competition is stronger this year but India can lift SAFF trophy: Ashalata

**KATHMANDU, Oct 16:** The quality of football has improved immensely in the region but the Indian team is equipped to win the SAFF Women's Championship, senior defender Ashalata Devi said on Wednesday as the side gears up to take on arch-rivals Pakistan in its tournament-opener.

The clash against Pakistan on Thursday assumes significance since Ashalata will become India's first woman footballer to play 100 international matches when she takes field on Thursday at the iconic Dasarath Stadium. Ashalata said the first game always sets the tone, and a strong start will help them play freely in the following matches. The last time the two teams clashed, India had emerged a 3-0 winner.

"It's always exciting to face a team like Pakistan. We have a lot of respect for them. They have grown as a unit. Last time, we won against them, but we are not taking them lightly. They are motivated, prepared well and will surely put up a good fight," said Ashalata.

India head coach Santosh Kashyap is expecting a close contest. "I have watched Pakistan's recent matches, including the one against Singapore, where they put up a tough fight and narrowly lost 1-0. They have strong physicality and play good football.

"All the teams are very close in terms of quality, and they fight hard. Whether it's the men's or women's teams, we can't afford to think we are the favourites and will win easily.

When asked about Ashalata Devi's milestone, coach Kashyap said, "It's a great achievement for her as well as for women's football. I always tell young players to look up to her and how she has maintained herself for such a long time." Pakistan, who have players like Maria Khan and Nadia Khan in the ranks, will not be pushovers. Skipper Maria is an experienced midfielder, who plies her trade for Saudi Arabian pro side Eastern Flames. Two other Pakistan players, goalkeeper Rumaysa Khan and striker Isra Khan, play in Canada and the United States, respectively. (PTI)

## Australia start overwhelming favourites against South Africa

**DUBAI, Oct 16:** Australia will start as overwhelming favourites in their quest for an unprecedented eighth final appearance when they take on South Africa in the semi-final of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup here on Thursday.

Australia have now made it to the semi-finals of the global T20 tournament in all its nine editions held so far since 2009 in England.

The six-time champions take on the Proteas women in a last-four clash in what seems to be a repeat

## Women's T20 WC Semi-final

of the summit showdown during the 2023 edition in South Africa, which the Southern Stars won by 19 runs.

Going by pure statistic, South Africa are no match for Australia who have won nine out of the 10 WT20I games, with the former's only win coming in January this year.

The head-to-head record at

Women's T20 World Cup is even more intimidating as Australia have won all the seven encounters.

The best part about the current Australian team is the core which has remained intact for years now with only Meg Lanning retiring from international cricket.

All the 10 others, who played in the 2023 final are here with the likes of Alyssa Healy, Beth

Mooney, Ellyse Perry, Megan Schutt, Ashleigh Gardner being the pillars of the team.

On a slow Dubai track, the depth in batting has been Australia's biggest strength, with Phoebe Litchfield and Annabel Sutherland capable of muscling the balls to the fence.

For South Africa, one of their biggest assets has been slow left-arm orthodox Nonkululeko Mlaba, who has so far taken 10 wickets in four group league games. (PTI)

Messi's 10<sup>th</sup> hat trick raises total to 112 international goals

# Argentina wins World Cup qualifier

**BUENOS AIRES, Oct 16:** Lionel Messi scored his 10th international hat trick to raise his career total to 112 goals and also had a pair of assists to lead Argentina over Bolivia 6-0 in a World Cup qualifier on Tuesday.

After missing a pair of October qualifiers while recovering from a right ankle injury sustained in the Copa America, Messi played the entire match before raucous fans at Estadio Monumental who chanted his name after he opened the scoring in the 19th minute.

Messi added goals in the 84th and 86th minutes. The 37-year-old is second on the career scoring list behind the 133 of Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo.

Rival Brazil and under-pressure coach Dorival Júnior got some relief with a convincing performance in a 4-0 home win against Peru.

Argentina leads South American qualifying with 22 points after 10 matches, three points clear of second-place Colombia, who beat Chile 4-0. Uruguay, which earlier had a goalless draw with Ecuador, and Brazil have 16 points each, with the Uruguayans in third place on goal difference.

Ecuador and Paraguay follow with 13 points apiece, with Ecuadorians fifth on goal difference.

The top six teams secure automatic berths in the 2026 World Cup. The seventh-place team, currently Bolivia, will play in an international playoff for a spot in the tournament.

Two more rounds will be played in November.

**Messi in strong form on return**  
Messi's first goal came after a mistake by



a Bolivian defender, who missed a pass and allowed Messi to run freely and finish unchallenged in front of goalkeeper Billy Viscarra. Messi assisted on Lautaro Martínez's 43rd-minute goal and gave a decisive pass once again Julián Álvarez scored in the third minute of first-half stoppage time.

Thiago Almada in the 69th minute off a low cross by Nahuel Molina before Messi had great finishing touches from the edge of the area.

"We enjoyed this, we are happy to be here playing in Argentina," said Messi, who once

again refused to say whether he will play in the next World Cup in 2026. "This could be one of the last matches in front of the Argentinian crowd."

Bolivia, which is seeking to qualify for the World Cup for the first time in 30 years, remains in contention with 12 points.

**Brazil reappears under Júnior**  
This month's rounds of South American qualifying were important for coach Dorival Júnior. His team was knocked out in the quarterfinals of the latest Copa America and was struggling against rivals it used to beat

easily, such as Paraguay and Venezuela.

Júnior's chances of success seemed low in matches against Chile and Peru due to injuries affecting several of his starters; goalkeeper Alisson, defender Eder Militão and striker Vinícius Júnior were all out. But a last-minute win against the Chileans and a convincing display against the Peruvians will give the Brazil coach some relief.

Raphinha scored from the spot twice to put Brazil in front in Brasilia, the first in the 38th minute and the second in the 54th.

Substitute Andreas Pereira made more than 60,000 fans at the National Stadium gasp when he scored with a volley in the 71st minute. Another substitute, Luiz Henrique, scored for the second consecutive match for the national team with a classy shot from the edge of the box.

"These were two matches that we controlled well," Raphinha said. "We are far from perfection, but we are on the right track."

**Chile in last place**

Chile's loss to Colombia has placed the job of coach Ricardo Gareca at risk. Davinson Sánchez, Luis Díaz, Jhon Durán and Luis Sinisterra scored the goals for Colombia. Chile is in last place in the qualifying group with only five points.

Paraguay beat Venezuela 2-1 and moved into a qualifying position in the standings. Jon Aramburo opened the scoring for the visitors in the 25th minute, but striker Antonio Sarabia came off the bench to win it for the hosts with goals in the 59th and 74th minutes. (AP)

## Champions Trophy without India not an option, contingencies available: Top ECB officials

**NEW DELHI, Oct 16:** Top officials of the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), including chairman Richard Thompson, have suggested that staging the Champions Trophy without powerhouse India is not an option and there are "contingencies available" if Rohit Sharma's team doesn't travel to host country Pakistan.

India have not played in Pakistan since 2008 due to the tense relations between the two countries and their travel to the South Asian nation is solely dependent on government clearance.

With the government unlikely to give the BCCI permission to send the team to Lahore, the Champions Trophy in a hybrid model seems the most likely option. Like the Asia Cup last year, India can play their matches in a third country while the other games can be staged in Pakistan.

The tournament will be held in February-March.

"It would not be in cricket's interests for India not to be playing in the Champions Trophy," Thompson, who is in Pakistan alongside ECB CEO Richard Gould, was quoted as saying by ESPNcricinfo.

The decision on India's travel to Champions Trophy could be taken



before current BCCI secretary Jay Shah takes charge of the International Cricket Council in December. Shah was elected as ICC chairman in August.

"It's interesting, with Jay Shah - the former secretary of the BCCI and now chair of the ICC - (who) is going to have a big role to play in that. There's geopolitics, and then there's cricketing geopolitics. I think they'll find a way. They have to find a way," said Thompson.

ECB CEO Gould added: "If you

don't happen."

India and Pakistan play each other in multi team events like the World Cup and Asia Cup.

"There are always security concerns in this part of the world when those two countries play each other. That will probably drive the key decisions. But I know relationships between the two countries are as amicable as they can be at the moment: we saw it play out at the (men's T20) World Cup in New York," said Thompson.

Though top teams have visited Pakistan recently, the country last hosted an ICC event in 1996, when it co-hosted the ODI World Cup with India and Sri Lanka.

Thompson expects a decision on India's participation in the tournament would be taken in the 11th hour.

"That's between India and Pakistan, and I think they will find a way where India will participate in the Champions Trophy... These things tend to go to the wire, as history has shown us, so I think that in those [last] six months, they'll find a way," he said.

The event will feature eight teams including Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, England, India, New Zealand, Pakistan and South Africa. (PTI)

## AITA lines up 13 tournaments

**NEW DELHI, Oct 16:** The All India Tennis Association (AITA) on Wednesday announced that it has lined up 13 international tournaments at home, including four ATP Challengers and a WTA 125 event in the first quarter of the 2025 season, offering a combined prize purse of nearly Rs 10 crore and 1100 ranking points.

Three back-to-back ITF events for women will be held in January 2025, starting with a USD 40,000 tournament in New Delhi from January 13, a USD 100,000 event in Bengaluru from January 20 and a USD 70,000 event in Pune.

Mumbai will host the second edition of L&T Mumbai Open from February 3.

"These four tournaments will offer over 350 WTA points and a combined prize purse of USD 350,000 with a great opportunity for Indian women players to accelerate their growth," an AITA release said. (PTI)

## You are the most talented cricketer I've played with: Virat Kohli writes to AB de Villiers

**DUBAI, Oct 16:** Virat Kohli on Wednesday described AB de Villiers as "the most talented cricketer" he has played with after the South African great was inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame.

De Villiers was included in the long list of great players along with England legend Alastair Cook and India's Neetu David.

In an open letter to the inductees by those close to them, Kohli was effusive in praise of his teammate at IPL side Royal Challengers Bengaluru.

"You are thoroughly deserving of your place - after all, the Hall of Fame is a representation of your impact on the game, and yours has been truly unique," he wrote.

"People have always spoken about your ability, and rightly so. You are the most talented cricketer I have played with, the absolute number one."

Kohli described de Villiers' belief and doggedness to uphold the game's values as the qualities that had an impact on the psyche of those watching.

"A lot of players can have impressive numbers but very few have an impact on the psyche of those watching," he wrote.

"For me, that is the highest value you can have as a cricketer and that is what makes you so special."

"Through my time playing with and against you, you always had a very clear understanding of how the game should be played and you never really veered from that, regardless of whether you were doing well or not," he added.

Kohli said de Villiers was someone who was bailing his teams out of troubles more often than not.

"It was never about someone else. It was never about competing with another player," he described.

"It was always about what impact you could create for the team. In difficult situations, you were the man bailing out your team more often than not.

"Your drive to want to be the guy to win the game for your team was tremendous and something I learned a lot from," he said.

Kohli said de Villiers taught him about the importance of not resting on laurels.

"I remember taking from you that it doesn't matter what you have done in the last four games, it is about how you approach the game today.

"It is about always being positive, always taking the game on and finding a way to get the job done."

"You were always completely in tune with the needs of the team, which made



you one of the hardest players to make plans for when we were on opposing sides in international cricket," he added.

Kohli, who shared the RCB dressing room with de Villiers for a decade from 2011-2021, said the former South

African captain's 'self-belief' is one trait that stood out for him.

"But what truly stood out to me was

your belief in that ability. You had a crazy amount of belief that you could execute whatever you wanted to on a cricket field, and you normally did. That is why you ended up being so special," he wrote.

Alongside recalling a special moment while playing together for RCB in a contest against Kolkata Knight Riders, Kohli also recollected memories of the 2015 Test in New Delhi, one in which the Proteas batters fought hard to force a draw.

"Everyone remembers your attacking shots but you would adapt to the situation. Take 2015, in Delhi, when you faced 297 balls and made 43 trying to save the Test match," Kohli said.

"There must have been a temptation at some stage to think 'I've faced 200 balls, I need to hit a boundary'. But once you locked yourself into what the situation required, you just kept going on and on.

"It all comes back to that belief in your ability. It wasn't just about the crazy, extravagant shots. You had the ability to defend the ball and had belief in that defence. To play that way because South Africa needed you to do so is a classic example of the team player you were," he added. (PTI)