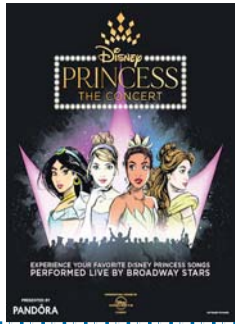




# leisure

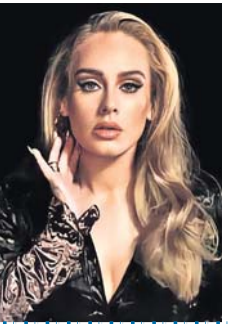


## DISNEY PAUSES PRINCESS CONCERT TOUR DUE TO COVID CONCERNS

The upcoming *Disney Princess Concert* tour has been postponed due to concerns over the spread of Covid-19, Disney Concerts announced Tuesday in a statement posted on Twitter and Instagram, reports *Billboard.com*. The show celebrates popular Disney princesses through songs, animation, and stories.

## ADELE TO RELEASE HER FIRST SONG IN SIX YEARS

Adele has announced she will be releasing new music in almost six years. Tuesday, Adele announced on social media she will be releasing her new single *Easy On Me* October 15. She posted on Instagram a black and white video with a piano melody. "Easy On Me - October 15," she wrote.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshaSpeaks.com  
accuracy • reliability • trust  
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181\*

**ARIES**  
You will understand that being generous with your knowledge is a very satisfying thing. Ganesha says when you give something, it will be returned to you nine-fold in the future. Since you have decided to be more open-minded and considerate, you will gain a lot by way of respect.

**TAURUS**  
It is quite possible that today you will enjoy your responsibilities at the home front, says Ganesha. You may not get the best of the support from your subordinates. The value of something is the amount of effort you have put in to get it.

**GEMINI**  
Family comes first for you, and today will be no different. You will be preoccupied by thoughts of providing comforts and luxuries to your family members, says Ganesha. At the workplace, your ability to take initiatives will benefit you. A grand dinner with those close to you is also on the cards.

**CANCER**  
The day proceeds lazily. But your work will pick up pace later in the day. Ganesha cautions about your health. As chance of stomach upset is likely, be careful of what you eat or drink. Do not neglect any ailment and contact doctor promptly.

**LEO**  
Champagne, anyone? Well, Ganesha seems to favour a good celebration today as you give a major boost to your reputation in your chosen field. You will bring success and glory to all your associates. Do not be misled by the initial stress of your workplace, as it shall fade away with the passage of day. Let love and affection of your loved ones be the highlight of your day, says Ganesha.

**VIRGO**  
Reap and harvest the good things in your life. You may seem to arrive at your wits' end today. Ganesha predicts that you will probably sort all of it when you sit down with your better half and discuss the issues at hand.

**LIBRA**  
Ganesha says that you shall be attracted to the opposite sex today. Today during the afternoon, you will meet people who share the same ideas and thoughts as you do and you will be able to share your feelings with them. You will be interested in knowing new things on various topics.

**SCORPIO**  
Your far sightedness will make you realise the importance of financial security. Thus, you are in a mood to make long term investments. Social recognition awaits you in the evening. Ganesha feels that people look up to you as a wise person and thus seek high values from you.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
It's raining money, literally as your bank accounts swell. When it comes to financial security, now, you are a happy man. However, Ganesha advises you to stay away from pessimistic people who may adversely affect your future.

**CAPRICORN**  
You have pulled up your socks and geared up to finish off all pending work. You'll want to do proper planning and go through the right route to minimise the chances of errors and wastage of time, even if it means spending the whole day for it, predicts Ganesha.

**AQUARIUS**  
Financially, you are on a stable ground today, so make the most of it. You will give a tough fight to your competitors, and leave them far behind in the race as not many can beat you in your own game. Beware of those green-eyed people around, alerts Ganesha, as they are waiting for you to make a mistake and get off the track.

**PISCES**  
Do not make or take any decision or activity lightly today, says Ganesha. For decisions taken today could have far-reaching consequences. You will be forced to compromise on certain issues today. But owing to your adaptability, the day should pass by peacefully enough, says Ganesha.

## Pippa taught me a chapter of Indian history: Mrunal

Mumbai: Actress Mrunal Thakur, who has wrapped up the shooting of the upcoming film *Pippa* that also stars Ishaan Khattar, says the film has given her a chance to know about a glorious chapter of Indian history.

Mrunal said, "*Pippa* has shown me such a great time and enriched me as an actor. I thoroughly enjoyed reading about the era as part of my prep. It is an honour to be part of a film that depicts an Indian victory by making it personal. The experience of working with Raja Krishna Menon, Ronnie Screwvala, Siddharth Roy Kapur, and the entire cast was fantastic."

She will be seen essaying the role of Ishaan Khatter and Priyanshu Painyuli's reel sister in the film.

Produced by RSVP and Roy Kapur Films, *Pippa* also features Soni Razdan.

While Soni has also wrapped up her portion of the shoot, Khatter and Painyuli will continue shooting for the Raja Krishna Menon directorial.

Based on *The Burning Chaffees* written by Brigadier Balram Singh Mehta, *Pippa* is a heroic tank battle film that underlines the bravery of the war veteran of the 45th Cavalry tank squadron who, along with his siblings, fought on the eastern front during the Indo-Pakistan war of 1971, which led to the liberation of India's neighbour Bangladesh.



## Discovery+ ropes in Madhavan for India's Space Odyssey

Streamer Discovery Plus Wednesday announced their new original documentary, titled *India's Space Odyssey* that captures the nation's six decade long journey in space exploration.

Set to premiere October 7, the documentary has been narrated by actor R Madhavan in Hindi. *India's Space Odyssey* features different experts from ISRO as well as space historians, researchers and ISRO's former chairman Dr G Madhavan Nair.

The experts speak about their challenging yet wholesome journey working in the India's Space Programme and through the documentary they will highlight the country's most revolutionising space developments.

Madhavan said he is honoured to have narrated for India's Space Odyssey as he believes the documentary will inspire the future generations.

"I thank Discovery India for this wonderful learning opportunity, and I feel honoured to have lent my voice to a project that could inspire future generations to embark on their quest to explore space," the actor said.

ISRO Chairman Sivan, said they are delighted to collaborate with Discovery for the documentary.

## Divya's second book Stars In My Sky out

Mumbai: National Award-winning actress Divya Dutta, who turned an author in 2017 with her memoir *Me and Ma*, is now all set to release her second book titled *Stars In My Sky*.

Her second book *Stars In My Sky*, will have her emotional journey of becoming an actor along with some of her defining moments as an artiste.

Talking about her book, Divya said: "The journey in the movies has been gratifying and it wouldn't have been possible without all those who have touched my life personally and professionally."

The book also includes her interactions and

experiences with some legends like Amitabh Bachchan, Irrfan Khan, and Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra among others who played an important role in her journey as an actor.

She added: "Though I feel that a new journey has started when it comes to my career, with some really exciting roles; through this book, I am happy to share with my readers, my experiences with people I connected

beautifully with, be it my co-actors or directors who impacted me big time."



## JAJPUR-BASED MOVIE DIRECTOR HITESH KUMAR SARANGI HAS BAGGED 50 AWARDS AT SEVERAL FILM FESTIVALS ACROSS THE GLOBE IN A CALENDAR YEAR

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar: Odia filmmaker Hitesh Kumar Sarangi, after bagging 50 awards at various film festivals across the globe in a year, is all set to enter India Book of Records, one of the top curators and custodians of Indian records.

While Hitesh's three short films - *Maa Pari Kie Heba*, *Vijayini* and *Sapna* bagged six awards at the recently concluded Covid International Film Festival, his documentary film *Shri Jagannath* won two international honours at Roshni International Film Festival held at Aurangabad. Similarly, his musical film *Jayatu Jayatu Bharatam* of seven-minute

## Odia filmmaker eyes India Book of Records

duration based on paying tribute to COVID warriors and film *Vijayini* of three-minute based on domestic violence have been officially selected for Sydney Liffott International Film Festival and London Liffott International Film Festival.

Besides, Hitesh's films like *Jayatu Jayatu Bharatam*, *Azaadi*, *Lockdown at Home* and *Vijayini* have got many international and national awards.

Hitesh, who attributes his success to his teammates, says, "I was bitten by the acting bug when I was a kid. I used to participate in drama and plays organised in our school and made my debut in an Odia film *Asibu Kebe Tu Saji Mo Rani* when in college. Though I launched

a production house in 2009, full-fledged work began in 2014. Apart from 84 documentaries and shorts, I also did a few corporate films. If all goes well, I may be inducted into the India Book of Records soon."



Hitesh with some of his awards

### PEANUTS



### CALVIN AND HOBBS

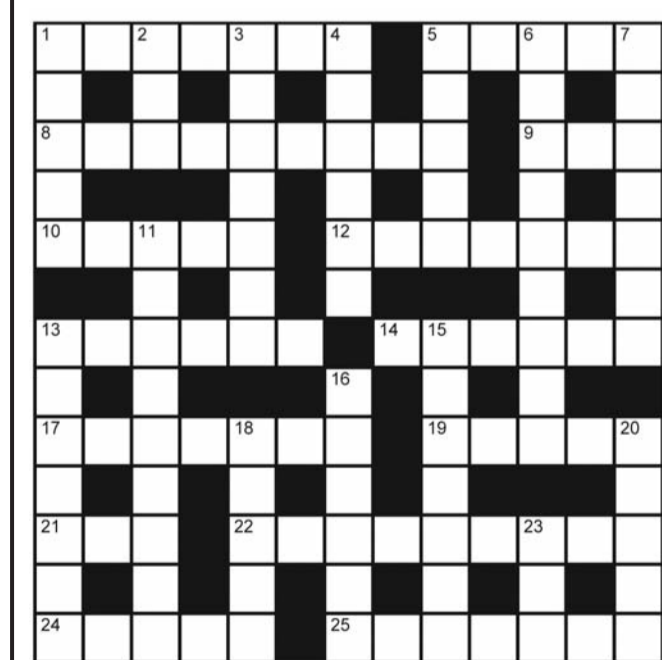


### BREVITY



### FUN post

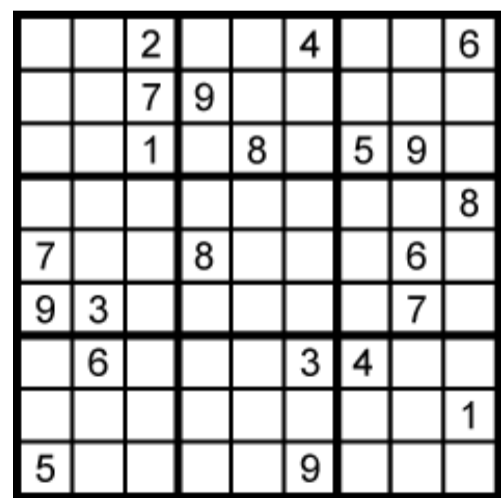
### CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Some soccer players
  - 5 Heroic tales
  - 8 He was found in Hamelin (4,5)
  - 9 Large snake
  - 10 They're found on feet
  - 12 Bookstore section
  - 13 Motley fool
  - 14 Rap session?
  - 17 Fool around (4,3)
  - 19 Refinement
  - 21 French buddy (4,3)
  - 22 It's usually overstuffed (4,5)
  - 24 Part of an act
  - 25 Nappies wearer
  - 5 Take a powder (2,7)
  - 6 Rant and rave
  - 7 Kind of cat
  - 11 Modify an auto, maybe
  - 13 Large spotted felines of tropical America
  - 15 Tempted
  - 16 Kind of printer
  - 18 Corpulent plus
  - 20 Miscue
  - 23 Feel fluish
- Down**
- 1 Stares
  - 2 Wonderment
  - 3 Stalemate
  - 4 Top of the line

### SUDOKU

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



### SOLUTIONS



CROSSWORD

SUDOKU

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



PAYING HOMAGE

People offer Tarpan to their ancestors near the North Gate of Srimandir in Puri on the occasion of Mahalaya, Wednesday

BJD slams Centre for fuel price hike

BJP SAYS THE MONEY COLLECTED FROM PETROLEUM PRODUCTS IS BEING SPENT ON COVID MANAGEMENT AND ASKS STATE TO CUT VAT ON PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

Bhubaneswar, Oct 6: Senior Biju Janata Dal (BJD) leader and Food Supplies & Consumer Welfare Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain Wednesday slammed the Union government for continuous rise in prices of petrol and diesel.



The prices of petroleum products have been deregulated. However, the benefit or money that would have come to the consumer is being appropriated by the Centre

RANENDRA PRATAP SWAIN | FOOD SUPPLIES & CONSUMER WELFARE MINISTER

The polling was over. The prices of petroleum products have been deregulated. However, the benefit or money that would have come to the consumer is being appropriated by the Central government since 2014 till today, the minister said.

leum products varied between ₹3.50-3.85. It has now been hiked to around ₹4, he said, "Moreover, now on the alibi of Covid-19, the Centre has imposed cess on petroleum products. The states are now deprived of getting the share of the money that was going to the divisible pool," he stated.

The minister also said that the fuel price hike also has a cascading effect on the prices of essential commodities. It has affected the financial condition of states and the people as well, he added.

"Farmers are the worst-hit by the price rise while they don't get the minimum price for their produce," Swain said.

Reacting to Swain's statements, state General Secretary of BJP Prithiviraj Harichandan said the money collected from the petroleum products is being spent on Covid-19 management including vaccination, free treatment of the patients.

"Instead of blaming the Centre, the state government should reduce its tax for an interim period in view of Covid-19 pandemic," he said.

Missing Assamese man found from Olatpur in Cuttack

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kantapada, Oct 6: A 40-year-old man from Assam who went missing on his way to Bangalore for job was found from Khandiariapur under Olatpur police limits here.

Sijoy Basumatary of Kokalabari under Simla police station in Baksa district of Assam was handed over to his relatives Wednesday, sources said.

Basumatary had left home for Bangalore August 21 this year. However, he went missing in the midway after losing mental balance.

Some locals initially spotted Basumatary roaming in a market at Bagalpur near Olatpur.

Later, the 40-year-old took shelter near a flourmill at Khandiariapur. The owner of the flourmill somehow collected the address of Basumatary and contacted the latter's family members. His elder brother Ajoy and brother-in-law Chandrakant reached Khandiariapur and convinced him to return home, sources said.

FOUNTAIN ON ROAD



Water gushes out of a breach in the supply line underneath the Ring Road near Raja Bagicha in Cuttack, Wednesday

DATA SOUGHT UNDER RTI DENIED

Works dept blank on road expansion

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack Sadar, Oct 6: The tall claims of the state government about transparency in governance have come in for question as data sought under Right to Information (RTI) Act regarding a road expansion project by the Works department was denied citing lack of information.

According to sources, Manoj Kumar Debata, a resident of Jhinkiria under 42 Mouza here, had August 12, 2021 approached the PIO-cum-AEE (Estr) Cuttack (R&B) Division-II seeking details, including the expenditure, of proposed expansion of 42 Mouza Main Road (15.6 km Jhinkiria-Chanduli Road) under RTI Act.

In response, the PIO-cum-AEE (Estr) Cuttack (R&B) Division-II September 18, 2021 asked Debata (let-

ter No-4468) to deposit ₹3,000 with the office towards expenses for photocopies. Accordingly, Debata deposited the amount.

However, the applicant was taken aback to receive a letter (No-4718) October 4, 2021 informing about the refund of the deposited amount by the Office of the Executive Engineer, Cuttack (R&B) Division-II citing 'non-availability of record'.

"It's shocking! If the office had no record on the proposed road expansion project, how could it estimate the expenses towards photocopies?" Debata asked, asserting that he would approach the first appellate authority in this regard.

Notably, locals of 42 Mouza are in a tizzy as the proposed road expansion would see eviction of many shops and houses.

NABARD SANCTIONS ₹303CR FOR 24 BRIDGES

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 6: The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard) Wednesday said it has sanctioned an assistance of ₹303 crore to the Odisha government for construction of 24 bridges in the state.

The rural infrastructure projects will improve connectivity for 24.13 lakh people in 823 villages across 13 districts.

These projects have been approved under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF), Nabard said in a statement.

The assistance is on the basis of priority fixed by the state gov-

The rural infrastructure projects are expected to improve connectivity for 24.13 lakh people in 823 villages across 13 districts

ernment for developing rural infrastructure for drinking water supply, irrigation and connectivity, it said.

The bridge construction projects will play a key role in supporting the rural economy by improving the livelihoods of people.

The cumulative sanction under the RIDF 2021-22 has reached ₹1,796 crore so far, it added.

3 held with brown sugar worth ₹27L

Bhubaneswar: Commissionerate Police Wednesday claimed to have arrested three inter-district drug peddlers and seized 268 gram of brown sugar worth ₹27 lakh from their possession during a raid at Jail Field under Dargha Bazar police limits in Cuttack. Acting on a tip-off, the police raided the Jail Field and arrested the accused Tuesday. The accused are: Bapi Nayak, Gopinath Patra and Bibekananda Jena. Two scooters, ₹1.20 lakh in cash and four mobile phones were recovered from them. "The accused were supplying brown sugar to the dealers in Cuttack, Bhubaneswar, Khurda and Jagatsinghpur after procuring the contraband from Balasore's Jaleswar," said a police official.

3,000 rotten eggs on way to bakery seized

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Oct 6: The Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) Wednesday seized around 3,000 rotten eggs from an auto-rickshaw in Bajrakabati Road area here. The eggs were being transported to a bakery unit in Saanta Sahi.

Acting on a tip-off, a special squad of the civic body waylaid the auto-rickshaw in Bajrakabati Road area and seized the rotten eggs packed in 10 boxes.

"After inspection, we concluded that the eggs were unfit for consumption. The vehicle's driver told us that the eggs were being ferried

to a bakery at Saanta Sahi in the Millennium City. Later in the evening, we raided the bakery and sent samples of the items being manufactured in the unit to a laboratory for examination. The bakery has been sealed," said CMC city health officer Satyabrata Mohapatra.

Mohapatra added that the auto-rickshaw has brought the consignment from Bali in Athagarh area. "There's a hatchery at Bali and we've summoned its owner. Further action will be taken after the hatchery owner appears before the CMC," Mohapatra pointed out. Locals expressed their dismay over the state of food safety in the Silver city.

OTDC launches 2nd season of cooking competition

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 6: The Odisha Tourism Development Corporation (OTDC) in association with Odisha Tourism Wednesday unveiled the second season of traditional pure Odia food cooking competition 'Ama Ghara Ama Handishala' at recently inaugurated Nimantran Odia cuisine restaurant here.

On the occasion, OTDC Chairperson Shreemayee Mishra said, "We decided to launch the second edition of 'Ama Ghara Ama Handishala' after witnessing the success of first season, which was widely acclaimed by the people of the state last year amid the Covid pandemic."

Mishra mentioned that the world-famous handishala of Lord Jagannath called Ananda Bazaar is the largest handishala (kitchen) in the world. Also, in Odia culture, there is a saying that 13 festivals are celebrated in 12 months in Odisha, during which many a spe-



OTDC Chairperson Shreemayee Mishra and other dignitaries unveil Ama Ghara Ama Handishala Season 2 at Nimantran restaurant in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday

cial Odia cuisine associated with the festivities are prepared. OTDC MD and Director of Tourism department Sachin

Ramachandra Yadav said OTDC organised this Odia food cooking competition to bring the talent of housewives to the forefront. The

second edition of the competition is being launched to promote Odia food. The terms and conditions of the competition remain the same as

This year, the top 40 contestants will prepare dishes at several tourist destinations which will be broadcast live on TV channels

they were last year with a slight change.

This year, the top 40 contestants will prepare dishes at several tourist destinations of the state which will be broadcast live on TV channels. Interested women candidates have to send their videos of recipes online for selection.

Mishra added that Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik supports the competition like he did last year and he always tries to promote Odia food among other politicians. He had also expressed his love for Pakhala many times in the past.

भारत का राजपत्र The Gazette of India. Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. Notification No. S.O. 3342(E). Brief Description of the land to be acquired with or without structures falling Newly Proposed Raipur Vishakhapatnam Economic Corridor in the stretch of Land from Km. 238.2 to Km. 363.32 (O/o Tahasilard, Boriguma, Dist - Koraput) in the district of KORAPUT in the state of ODISHA.







# 2 Dhenkanal reserve forests in Satkosia sanctuary soon

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Dhenkanal, Oct 6:** A proposal has been submitted to the state government to include Kandhara and Nandinia reserve forests (under Hindol range) as part of Satkosia tiger corridor in Angul district. Besides, an initiative has been taken to start a safari in Kapilash sanctuary.

**A proposal has been sent to the government to include Kandhara and Nandinia reserve forests of Dhenkanal in the Satkosia sanctuary. Safari programme will be launched in Kapilash sanctuary soon while vehicles will be arranged for the purpose**

Prakash Gogineni | DFO, DHENKANAL

According to reports, if the state government approves the proposal, the two reserve forests will be made part of the Satkosia sanctuary. The forest department has identified

## CONSERVATION OF BIG CATS



the reserve forests as a tiger corridor.

Sources from Dhenkanal forest division said, in order to ensure safety and give big cats a wider range for movement, the Satkosia divisional forest officer has given this proposal to the state government.

Meanwhile, the forest department has initiated the process for

counting of tigers in Dhenkanal district in the current year. It was learnt that there are seven leopards in different reserve forests of the district.

Pictures of big cats and their movement have been captured in trap cameras fixed in various forests. As many as 60 trap cameras have been installed in reserve forests. However, three of the cam-

eras have been stolen. It is suspected that poachers might have stolen the trap cameras to carry on their illegal activities without any evidence.

The forest department has started an investigation into the matter. Meanwhile, the forest department has started its first phase of training programme for forest officials to be engaged in the tiger census. It was said after all preparations are put in place, the tiger census will be started from next year.

The forest department has been working to provide safe and wider

environment for growth of tigers and other wildlife population in the district. As part of this exercise, the department has started work on measures to increase population of herbivorous animals, which are major source of food for big cats. Varieties of grass will be grown in forests for herbivores to proliferate.

Besides, before summer the department will dig up ponds and water bodies inside reserve forests to ensure water for wildlife. On the other hand, the forest department intensified patrolling in forested areas to ward off poaching activ-

ities while trap cameras are being checked for pictures every month. In Kapilash sanctuary, the department will make arrangements for tourists to visit the area spread over 10 sq/km inside the Kapilash sanctuary.

DFO Prakash Gogineni said a proposal has been sent to the government to include Kandhara and Nandinia reserve forests of Dhenkanal in the Satkosia sanctuary. He also added that safari programme will be launched in Kapilash sanctuary soon while vehicles will be arranged for the purpose.

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## Youth critical in LPG cylinder blast



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Baripada, Oct 6:** A youth sustained critical burn injuries in an LPG cylinder blast at Bhanjapur under Baripada Town police limits in Mayurbhanj on Wednesday.

The injured was identified as Sritam Panigrahi in the area. On being informed, neighbours rushed him to Pandit Raghunath Murmu Medical College and hospital in the town. Doctors said he has sustained over 90 per cent burn injuries and is under observation after administration of treatment.

Sources said, Sritam was cooking on a gas stove in the morning. Meanwhile, the cylinder burst all of a sudden. As a result, he sustained critical burn injuries in his body. Police registered a case and launched an investigation at the spot.

## ENDANGERING LIVES



An overhead high transmission power cable hangs precariously on road posing serious threat to the lives of residents in Angapada village under Kishorenagar block in Angul district. The wire has been allegedly hanging for last one year

## Father denies Avin's role in rave party

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rourkela, Oct 6:** After the names of two Odias -- Manish Udaya Rajgaria, 26, from Rourkela and Avin Dinanath Sahu, 30, of Raghunathpalli of Sundargarh district -- surfaced in the sensational rave party in a cruise ship involving Aryan Khan, son of Hindi film actor Shah Rukh Khan in Mumbai October 2, Sahu's father Dina Sahu Wednesday denied his son's involvement in the drug party.

Avin has a jewelry shop at Ringroad Taxi Stand in Rourkele while Manish Udaya Rajgaria has a sponge iron plant at Raghunathpalli. Avin's father said, "As festival season set in, his son had gone to Mumbai two weeks ago to purchase jewelry. He travels to Dubai, Mumbai, Amritsar and other places to buy jewellery items." His father and other family mem-

bers claimed that Avin did not take drugs. "While in Mumbai, Avin was accompanied by some of his friends to attend a separate bachelors' party in the cruise ship. When he came to know that Aryan is in the ship, he was waiting to take a selfie with Aryan. At this time, NCB team conducted a raid all off a sudden. Avin and Manish were caught in the mess," his father said. He also said that as his son was



DRUGS IN CRUISE SHIP

caught without any base, he would take legal recourse.

Similarly, Udaya Rajgaria, father of Manish Udaya Rajgaria, said his son had gone to Mumbai several times in the past to attend bachelors' parties.

The NCB lawyer reportedly claimed that both Manish and

Abina were on the cruise as guests. The NCB officials seized 2.4 grams of ganja from the possession of Manish while Sahu confessed to have consumed ganja twice on board.

The arrest of the two has set various circles abuzz about their alleged drug consumption.

## Legislators seek tribal varsity for Keonjhar

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Keonjhar, Oct 6:** Five legislators of tribal-dominated Keonjhar district have demanded establishment of a tribal university in the district. They have drawn attention of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to their demand in a letter.

They stated there are 48 colleges in the districts which were under Utkal University. In 1998, these colleges were brought under North Odisha University at Baripada which is 180 km from the district headquarters.

As distance became a problem for students, the second campus of the North Odisha University was set up in Keonjhar in 2015.

They said the second campus of the north Odisha university be made a full-fledged university.

Ghasipura MLA Badrinarayan Patra, Telkoi MLA Premananda Nayak, Anandapur MLA Bhagirathi Sethi, Patana MLA Jagannath Nayak and Champua MLA Minakhi Mohant have cited various problems faced by students in the absence of a full-fledged university.

The campus of the North Odisha University is spread over 14.50 acres at Keonjhar. Post graduation and MPhil programmes in Odia, English, Sanskrit, Geology and Physics are offered to students here.

However, most official works of the campus are operated from Baripada. "Commuting on buses from Keonjhar to Baripada is not convenient while the travel time is eight to 10 hours. Students and the college authorities have been facing a lot of problems while dealing with official works by traveling to the distant place," they observed.

They also said that courses via distance education are offered, but they are not working properly.

In view of all such problems, all the colleges in the district should be brought under a university. Hence, there is a need for a tribal university as one third of the population of the district are tribals, they pointed out.

If the tribal university is established, students will pursue higher studies and research. Recently, a BJP delegation sought a central university in the district.

## Ripples of scam in farm ponds

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Badagaon, Oct 6:** Lakhs of rupees have allegedly been misappropriated by showing old farm ponds in Barangakachhar panchayat under Badagaon block in Sundargarh district, a report said.

According to the report, the soil conservation department had sanctioned a farm pond to Kumarmani Sa of Mundagoan in 2010. This pond was shown as a new project in official papers while wages of the job card holders have been embezzled.

As per information available from the website on MGNREGS, Rs 41,886 has been paid to labourers engaged in the farm pond of Kumarmani.

When asked about it, Kumarmani, the farm pond beneficiary, said the pond sanctioned by the soil conservation department was dug up 10 years ago.

"A few days ago, two officials came to my pond and got the banks of the pond cleaned. Then, they took my photograph near the pond. I heard that the farm pond was sanctioned in my name again. Wages of labourers have

As per information available from the website on MGNREGS, Rs 41,886 has been paid to labourers engaged in the farm pond of Kumarmani

Many other labourers whose names have been enlisted in the muster roll have denied working in the excavation of the farm pond

In another case, Rs 98, 646 sanctioned for a farm pond in the name of another beneficiary Janmejay Rautia has been embezzled in February, 2021



FILE PHOTO

been embezzled even though the pond has not been excavated," he added. Manoj Chudia, a resident of Mudangoan, has been enlisted as a daily wager in the muster roll prepared for Kumarmani's farm pond excavation.

When asked about it, Manoj said he has never worked in the pond excavation. Wage was credited into his account, he said, adding that Prakash Nayak of his village withdrew wage from

his account after paying him only Rs 200.

Many other labourers whose names have been enlisted in the muster roll have denied working in the excavation of the farm pond. In another case, Rs 98, 646 sanctioned for a farm pond in the name of another beneficiary Janmejay Rautia has been embezzled. The project was sanctioned in February, 2021. The amount was shown as wages of labourers engaged in the pond

excavation.

It was learnt that wages of 24 days in the name of Kruti Dharua; 12 days in the name of Dhanu Dharua and 24 days in the name of Prafulla Dansana have been misappropriated.

When asked about the wages, all the daily wagers denied having worked in any pond excavation. When contacted, Dhaneswar Munda, an official of the watershed department, said the matter will be investigated.

## Human skeleton recovered, murder suspected

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Barbil, Oct 6:** Police recovered a human skeleton in Gandhalpada forest under Rugudi police limits in Keonjhar Wednesday. The skeleton was sent to forensic medicine department in Cuttack for post mortem. It is suspected that the man might have been killed and his body dumped in the forest.

However, the identity of the deceased has not been established.

It was learnt that a person of Gulai Chhak was missing a month ago. His family members were called to the forest to identify the body. However, the family members failed to confirm his identity on the basis of his trousers and belt. Given circumstantial evidence, police suspected it to be a murder and started an investigation after registering a case.

## Five planning to rob filling station held



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Berhampur, Oct 6:** Police have averted a major robbery bid in Berhampur by arresting five people Tuesday night. At a desolate place near Gurunthi Road Panimahabrabhu, the five were planning to commit the robbery

at a filling station.

Acting on a tip-off, police conducted a raid in the area in the wee hours of Wednesday. They arrested the five-- identified as K Mohana Rao (35), Tarini Das of Lochapada Ramkrshnanagar, Druba Sahu (23) of Jhadankuli, Kuna Gouda (25) of Lathi Gouda Sahi, Ajit Swain (21) of Digapahandi.

In a press note, ASP Prabhat Routray said police seized two swords, two iron rods and four bombs from them.

A case had been registered against the five. The accused were produced in court Wednesday.

Police said, there are several cases pending at different police stations against them. During interrogation, the accused admitted that they were planning to rob a petrol pump.

## REACHING OUT



Mayurbhanj Collector Vineet Bhardwaj (extreme left) and senior civic body officials distributing food to sanitary workers and Swacch Sathis at a programme to ensure better cleanliness in Baripada town, Wednesday

OP PHOTO





of the day quote

The SVAMITVA Yojana, a scheme towards establishment of clear ownership of property in rural areas, has enhanced strength of the rural economy and it will write a new chapter of development of villages in the country

Supreme Court, there was a time when there was no YouTube, no social media. The Supreme Court acted suo motu on the basis of news in the print media. It heard the voice of the voiceless

A Welfare Board for Non-Resident Tamils would be set up and a total allocation of ₹20 crore shall be made

SHORT TAKES

Heroin seizure: NIA takes over probe

New Delhi: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) Wednesday took over the probe into the seizure of 2,988 kg narcotic at the Mundra port in Gujarat, an official said.

Boy drinks acid

Moradabad (Uttar Pradesh): A 17-year-old boy allegedly consumed acid after his father refused to buy him a motorbike.

Soldier injured

Srinagar: An Indian Army officer and soldier were injured in a road accident in J&K's Anantnag district Wednesday, police said.

One hurt

New Delhi: A 40-foot long and 10-foot high wall collapsed in the national capital, injuring one person, official sources said here Wednesday.

One killed

Hyderabad: One person was killed and 11 injured when a TSRTC bus fell off the road after collision with a car in Telangana's Peddapalli district on Wednesday, police said.



The BJP government has surpassed the atrocities committed by the British. Its minister of state of home is threatening farmers to suppress their voice. Such tone and tenor should not be there in democracy

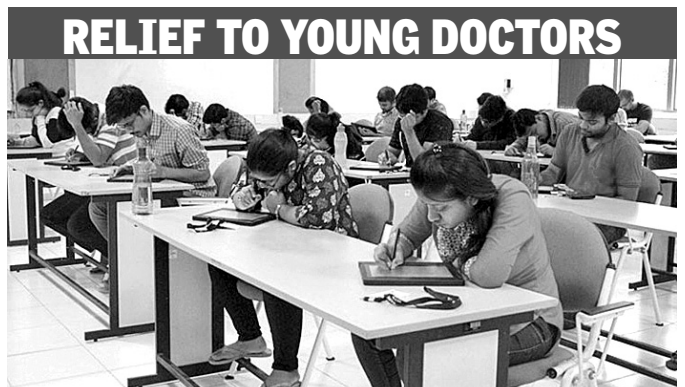
SURVEY FINDING

Only 7 per cent Indian adults are currently hesitant to getting inoculated against Covid, the lowest vaccine hesitancy level in the country so far, according to a new survey



NEET SS revised exam pattern to be implemented in 2022: Centre

New Delhi, Oct 6: In a relief to thousands of young doctors pursuing higher specialisation courses, the Centre Wednesday told the Supreme Court that in the interest of students, it has decided to implement changes in the pattern of the NEET-Super Speciality (NEET-SS) examination from the academic year 2022-23.



lenged the last-minute changes made to the syllabus after the notification was issued on July 23 for the test to be held on November 13 and 14.

mission of Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati and disposed of a batch of pleas of students who have challenged the Centre's decision to implement changes in the examination pattern of NEET-Super Speciality from this year.

that were there in the NEET-SS-2020. The bench recording the submissions said, "The Union of India states that a decision has been taken by it in consultation with the NMC and the NBE to the effect that having regard to the interest of the body of students, who would have commenced preparations for the ensuing NEET-SS-2021 examination before the change in the pattern was notified, the modified pattern shall be given effect to only from the academic year 2022-23".

Raid on cruise ship 'fake': NCP



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

states that he is a private detective based in Kuala Lumpur, the NCP leader alleged. Further, two men are seen escorting Arbaaz Merchant, also arrested in the case, in another video, and one of them is a member of the BJP, Malik alleged.

"If these two men are not officials of the NCB, then why were they escorting two high-profile people (Khan and Merchant)," he asked. The man seen with Merchant was in Gujarat on September 21-22 and could be connected to the seizure of about 3,000 kilograms of heroin at Mundra Port, Malik claimed, asking the BJP to come clear on this person's credentials.

"The entire NCB is being used by the BJP to malign the Maharashtra government and Bollywood," he said, alleging that the anti-drug agency was targeting those who are against the saffron party.

Mumbai, Oct 6: The Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) alleged Wednesday that the NCB's raid on a cruise ship off the Mumbai coast on October 2 was "fake", and no narcotic drugs were found during it.

The party also questioned the presence of two persons along with the NCB team during the raid, and alleged that one of them was a BJP member. The BJP said in its reaction that had there been no evidence, the court would have granted bail to Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan in the case.

Bengal flood: Mamata writes to PM

KOLKATA: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi urging for an immediate and permanent solution to the recurring flood situation in the state.

ART AND DEVOTION



An artist gives final touches to an idol of Goddess Durga ahead of Durga Puja, in Nadia district, Wednesday

Southwest monsoon withdrawal begins

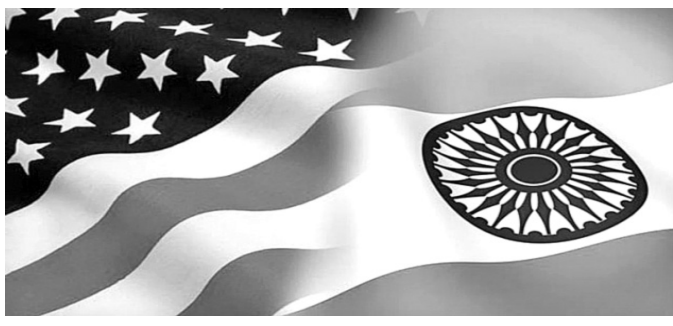
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 6: The withdrawal of the Southwest monsoon commenced Wednesday and it receded from some parts of West Rajasthan and adjoining Gujarat, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

This is the second-most delayed withdrawal of the Southwest Monsoon since 1975. Monsoon withdrawal from northwest India in 2019 started on October 9, according to R K Jenamani, senior forecaster with the National Weather Forecasting Centre of the IMD.

The Southwest Monsoon has withdrawn from some parts of West Rajasthan and adjoining Gujarat, it said.

'US appreciates India's concerns'



AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 6: India's security concerns will be the "first and foremost" and at the "front and centre" for Washington, US Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman said Wednesday on New Delhi's apprehensions about the spillover of terrorist activity from Afghanistan.

gether a robust programme for "over-the-horizon" (OTH) capability for Afghanistan but did not elaborate on it.

The US Deputy Secretary of State said both India and the US have a similar approach on the way forward in Afghanistan that included the Taliban ensuring an inclusive government and that Afghanistan must not become a safe haven for terrorists.

She also emphasised safe and orderly travel for those who want to leave Afghanistan and called for the need to ensure respect for human rights. The senior US official said that the Taliban must act, and not just speak words and that no country is in a rush on recognising the dispensation in Kabul or giving legitimacy to it. She said that there

UNITECH CASE

SC directs suspension of Tihar officials

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 6: After a stormy hearing, the Supreme Court Wednesday ordered immediate suspension and a full-fledged probe against some Tihar Jail officials, who were identified by the Delhi Police Commissioner in a report for extending undue assistance to ex-Unitech promoters Sanjay Chandra and Ajay Chandra.

On August 26, the top court had ordered shifting of Chandra brothers, in a money laundering case involving Unitech company, to separate jails in Mumbai. The Delhi Police informed the top court that a criminal case has been lodged against the jail officials under relevant sections of the Prevention of Corruption Act.

A bench comprising Justices D.Y. Chandrachud and M.R. Shah, against the backdrop of Delhi Police chief's report, said prima facie, it appears jail officials have conspired with the accused; therefore, they should be placed under suspension.

The order was passed after Delhi Police chief Rakesh Asthana, in his report, sought permission for a full-fledged criminal investigation against "the person mentioned and also against the unknown persons who are not mentioned".

Meanwhile, senior advocate Vikas Singh, representing Chandra brothers, urged the top court to provide them access to forensic auditor Grant Thornton's report, which is necessary for the accused to defend themselves.

Will resolve differences, says Sherman

NEW DELHI: US Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman Wednesday hoped that the US and India will be able to resolve the differences over New Delhi's procurement of a batch of S-400 air defence missile systems from Russia.

was a need to help the Afghan people. Sherman arrived here on Tuesday on a three-day visit.

COMPREHENSIVE CARE

845 Covid orphans approved for benefits under PM-CARES Fund

THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT OR THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL JUSTICE IN THE STATE/UT IMPLEMENTING THE CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES SCHEME SHALL BE THE NODAL DEPARTMENT FOR THE SCHEME

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 6: A total of 845 children who were orphaned during the pandemic have been approved as eligible for benefits under the PM-CARES for Children scheme till now, a senior official said Wednesday.

the scheme at the central level. The department of Women and Child development or the department of Social Justice in the State/UT implementing the Child Protection Services scheme shall be the nodal department for the scheme.



of the beneficiaries. A pro-rata amount will be credited upfront in the account of each identified beneficiary such that the corpus for

stipend once they attain 18 years of age, by investing the corpus of ₹10 lakh. The beneficiary will receive stipend till they attain 23 years of age. They will receive an amount of Rs. 10 lakh on attaining 23 years of age," the guidelines said.

legal guardian/adoptive parents/single adoptive parent due to COVID-19 pandemic shall be entitled to benefits under this scheme. The guidelines said that the district magistrate shall anchor the scheme in the district.

# international



I would like to express to the church child sexual abuse victims my sadness and pain for the trauma that they suffered  
POPE FRANCIS

## LOCKDOWN WOES

One in seven cancer patients around the world missed out on potentially life-saving operations during Covid-19 lockdowns, according to a study that used data from 65 countries, including India



## of the day quote

America's still the largest economy in the world, we still have the most productive workers and the most innovative minds in the world, but we're at risk of losing our edge as a nation  
JOE BIDEN | US PRESIDENT

The world is one millimetre away from a deal on global corporate taxes and an agreement could be signed in Washington next week or at the G20  
BRUNO LE MAIRE | FRENCH FINANCE MINISTER

I urge the United Nations and the world community to act to stop the humanitarian catastrophe that's about to happen in the middle of Europe  
SVIATLANA TSIKHANOUSKAYA | BELARUS' EXILED OPPOSITION LEADER

# China-Taiwan tensions intensify

Top diplomatic advisers to Biden and Xi met for talks Wednesday in Switzerland as the US looks to improve communications at a time of rising tensions between the global powers

AGENCIES

Taipei, Oct 6: With record numbers of military flights near Taiwan over the last week, China has been showing a new intensity and military sophistication as it steps up its harassment of the island it claims as its own and asserts its territorial ambitions in the region.

China's People's Liberation Army flew 56 planes in international airspace off the southwest coast of Taiwan Monday, setting a new record and capping four days of sustained pressure involving 149 flights. The actions came as China, with growing diplomatic and military power, faces greater push-back from countries in the region and as Taiwan pleads for more global support and recognition.

At the same time as the flights, the US stepped up naval maneuvers in the Indo-Pacific with its allies, challenging Beijing's territorial claims in critical waterways.

Taiwanese Defence Minister Chiu Kuo-cheng told legislators Wednesday that the situation "is the most severe in the 40 years since I've enlisted." While most agree that war is not imminent, Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen warned that more is at stake if Beijing makes good on past threats to seize the island by force if necessary.

"If Taiwan were to fall, the consequences would be catastrophic for regional peace and the democratic alliance system," she wrote in an impassioned op-ed in Foreign Affairs magazine published



Chinese Air Force personnel march past a J10C fighter and JH-7A2 fighter-bomber during 13th China International Aviation and Aerospace Exhibition, on Sept. 29 in Zhuhai in southern China's Guangdong province. China has stepped up its military flights near Taiwan recently

Tuesday. "It would signal that in today's global contest of values, authoritarianism has the upper hand over democracy."

China regularly flies military aircraft into Taiwan's "air defence identification zone," international airspace that Taiwan counts as a buffer in its defense strategy, although previous flights have usually involved a handful of planes at most.

Perhaps more significant than the number of planes was the constitution of the group, with fighters, bombers and airborne early warning aircraft, said Euan Graham, a defense analyst with the International Institute for Strategic Studies in Singapore.

Controlling Taiwan and its air-

space is key to China's military strategy, with the area where the most recent sorties took place also leading to the west Pacific and the South China Sea.

The latest maneuvers bring the total number of flights to more than 815 as of Monday since the start of the defense strategy, although publicly releasing the numbers a little more than a year ago.

China has been rapidly improving and strengthening its military, and the most recent flights demonstrate a greater level of technical expertise and power, said Chen-Yi Tu, a researcher at the Institute for National Defence and Security Research in Taiwan. It's a marked contrast from 20, 30 years ago, when Chinese forces couldn't

refuel in the air, or fly across the water, said Oriana Skylar Mastro, a fellow at Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies at Stanford University and non-resident senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington, D.C.

A few days earlier, the British frigate HMS Richmond transited through the Taiwan Strait, announcing its presence on Twitter and angering China, which condemned the move as a "meaningless display of presence with an insidious intention."

The international actions are an attempt to counter China's frequent claim that its own actions are in response to American moves, and demonstrate that democracies intend to defend established maritime laws and norms, Graham said.

"When the UK sends a ship through the Taiwan Strait for the first time since 2008 and it sailed down the median line, the point that it's making is that they know China knows where that line is," he said. "In order for the status quo to be meaningful, it has to be upheld and the most emphatic way to do that is to physically demonstrate with a government asset like a warship."

Australia, which also spoke out against China's recent flights, last month announced a deal with the US and Britain to obtain nuclear-powered submarines, which was seen as a strong statement it planned to play a greater role.

# WHO nod to world's first malaria vaccine

WHO decision followed a review of a pilot programme deployed since 2019 in Ghana, Kenya and Malawi where more than two million doses were given malaria vaccine

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Geneva, Oct 6: The World Health Organization (WHO) said Wednesday the only approved vaccine against malaria should be widely given to children in Africa, potentially marking a major advance against a disease that kills hundreds of thousands of people annually.

The decision followed a review of a pilot programme deployed since 2019 in Ghana, Kenya and Malawi where more than two million doses were given of the vaccine, first made by the pharmaceutical company GSK in 1987. After reviewing evidence from those countries, WHO said it was "recommending the broad use of the world's first malaria vaccine", the agency's director general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said.

The WHO said in a statement it was recommending the widespread application of the vaccine among children in sub-Saharan Africa and in other regions with moderate to high malaria transmission.



Many vaccines exist against viruses and bacteria but this was the first time that the WHO recommended for broad use a vaccine against a human parasite.

"From a scientific perspective this is a massive breakthrough," said Pedro Alonso, Director of the WHO Global Malaria Programme.

The vaccine acts against plasmodium falciparum - one of five parasite species and the most deadly. Malaria symptoms include fever, headaches and muscle pain, then cycles of chills, fever and sweating. Every two minutes, a child dies of malaria, according to the World Health Organization.

Before the newly recommended vaccine can reach African children, the next step will be funding. "That will be the next major step. Then we will be set up for scaling of doses and decisions about where the vaccine will be most useful and how it will be deployed," said Kate O'Brien, Director of WHO's Department of Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals.

## SHORT TAKES

### Student opens fire at Texas high school

Arlington (Texas): A student opened fire inside a Dallas-area high school during a fight, injuring four people before he fled, authorities said Wednesday. The shooting happened at Timberview High School in Arlington, which is part of the Dallas-Fort Worth metropolitan area. Two people were shot and two others had unspecified injuries, Arlington Assistant Police Chief Kevin Kolbye said at a news conference.

### New strategic transmission line

Kathmandu: With the Indian soft loan, Nepal has constructed a 220 KV Double Circuit Koshi Corridor power transmission in eastern Nepal and handed over to Nepal Electricity Authority, a semi-autonomous body to oversee the power generation and distribution in Nepal. With the construction of the new strategic transmission line, Nepal can evacuate power up to 2000 mw, said officials, which will also ease power evacuation and distribution in eastern Nepal. The strategic power corridor was built with the soft loan of India's Exim Bank.

### Taliban arrest 4 IS militants

Kabul: The Taliban arrested four members of the rival militant Islamic State group north of the Afghan capital, their spokesman said Wednesday, and witnesses said two Taliban fighters were shot and killed in the country's east, raising the specter of a widening conflict. Zabihullah Mujahid, the Taliban spokesman, said an operation was carried out Tuesday night by the Taliban in Kabul province in which documents and weapons were seized. He provided no additional details.

### FB's confession

London: The global outage that knocked Facebook and its other platforms offline for hours was caused by an error during routine maintenance, the company said. Santosh Janardhan, Facebook's vice president of infrastructure, said in a blog post that Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp going dark was "caused not by malicious activity, but an error of our own making." The problem occurred as engineers were carrying out day to day work on Facebook's global backbone network; the computers, routers and software in its data centers around the world along with the fiber-optic cables connecting them.

# Vatican court absolves former altar boy in sex abuse trial

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Vatican City, Oct 6: A Vatican tribunal absolved a former altar boy of charges that he molested a younger boy in the Vatican's youth seminary, ruling Wednesday in the first clergy sexual abuse trial to be heard by the pope's criminal court.

The three-judge panel acquitted Rev. Gabriele Martinelli of some charges and ruled others couldn't be punished or allegedly occurred too long ago. The former rector of the seminary, the Rev. Enrico Radice, was similarly absolved.

In a statement, the tribunal said it had essentially confirmed that there had been a sexual relationship between Martinelli and the alleged victim, L.G., but no proof that L.G., who was just seven months younger, had been forced into it.

The case concerned the closed world of the St. Pius X youth seminary, a palazzo inside the Vatican walls just across the street from where Pope Francis lives. The seminary is used as a residence for boys aged 12 to 18, who serve as altar boys at papal Masses in St. Peter's Basilica.

The scandal over alleged abuse in the residence erupted in 2017 when former altar boys went public with allegations of misconduct by Martinelli and cover-up by the seminary superiors.



People gather outside a government passport office recently re-opened after Taliban announced they would be issuing a backlog of applications approved by the previous administration in Kabul, Afghanistan

# Pak army replaces ISI chief in surprise reshuffle

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, Oct 6: In a surprise military shake-up, the Pakistan Army Wednesday announced that the powerful spy agency ISI chief Lt Gen Faiz Hameed has been appointed as Peshawar Corps Commander - a crucial position in view of the Taliban's takeover of neighbouring Afghanistan.

Lt Gen Nadeem Anjum was appointed as the new Director-General of Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) in place of Lt Gen Hameed, who was transferred as Peshawar Corps Commander, said the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) - the media wing of the Pakistan Army.

The ISI chief is appointed by the Prime Minister but as part of a tradition he executes this power

in consultation with the Pakistan Army chief.

The post of ISI chief is considered one of the most important in the Pakistan Army, which has ruled the country for more than half of its 73-plus years of existence and has hitherto wielded considerable power in the matters of security and foreign policy.

Initially, the Army said in a

statement that Lt Gen Hameed was posted out but his replacement on the key post of the ISI chief was not immediately announced.

Lt Gen Anjum, who belongs to the Punjab Regiment of the Pakistan Army, has served as Karachi Corps Commander as well as the commandant of Command and Staff College Quetta.

## WAKE-UP CALL

# UN agency warns of looming global water crisis

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Geneva, Oct 6: The World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), a specialised agency of the United Nations (UN), has warned that climate change increases the global risk of water-related hazards like floods and droughts, and the number of people affected by water scarcity is also expected to soar.

In its new report entitled "The State of Climate Services 2021: Water," the WMO said Tuesday that 3.6 billion people globally had inadequate access to water at least one month per year in 2018, and by 2050 this number is expected to exceed five billion, Xinhua news agency reported.



The WMO's data show that water-related hazards have increased in frequency over the past 20 years. Since 2000, flood-related disasters have risen by 134 per cent compared with the two

previous decades, while during the same period the number and duration of droughts also increased by 29 per cent.

Most drought-related deaths occurred in Africa, indicating a need for stronger end-to-end warning systems for drought in that region. Most of the flood-related deaths and economic losses were recorded in Asia, while Africa was hit the most by drought-related deaths.

"Increasing temperatures are resulting in global and regional precipitation changes, leading

to shifts in rainfall patterns and agricultural seasons, with a major impact on food security and human health and well-being," says WMO Secretary-General Petteri Taalas.

Last year saw a continuation of extreme water-related events, which displaced millions of people and killed hundreds across Asia, while in Africa more than two billion people still live in water-stressed countries and suffer lack of access to safe drinking water and sanitation, according to the WMO chief.

Underlining the important role

of water resources management in reducing water-related disasters, the WMO recommends that countries, especially small island developing states and least developed countries, increase investment in integrated water resources management and in drought and flood early warning systems.

The WMO also urges countries to fill the capacity gap in collecting data for basic hydrological variables, which underpin climate services and early warning systems, and national level stakeholders to co-develop and operationalise climate services with information users to better support adaptation in the water sector.

The situation is worsening by the fact that only 0.5 per cent of water on the Earth is useable  
WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANISATION

## of the day quote

G20 has retained its relevance...It's relevance is only bound to grow. Because 2023 will be the year when most economies will hopefully be going ahead of the pre-COVID level and bringing prosperity to us

RAJIV KUMAR | VC, NITI AAYOG

Globally, equities tanked as risk sentiment soured amid growing worries over increase in government bond yield, rising inflation and soaring energy prices to multi-year highs

SIDDHARTHA KHEMKA | MOTILAL OSWAL FINANCIAL SERVICES

Steel in India at present is in the range of ₹50,000-Rs 55,000 a tonne. Shortage of coal has led to an increase in its prices that will have an impact on steel which may also go up due to this unprecedented rise

V R SHARMA | MD, ISPL

## SHORT TAKES

### Cleanliness drive by TPWODL members

**Burla:** On Gandhi Jayanti, the employees of TPWODL organized a cleanliness drive at a picnic spot to Zero Point with the aim to spread cleanliness at places of public interest and its vicinity. A total of 37 employees took part in the drive with full dedication and enthusiasm. Approximately 75 full bags of waste was collected and safely disposed. This initiative was the first of its kind at TPWODL as a part of its Corporate Social Responsibility and would be followed by many similar initiatives in future.

### Visa launches CoF tokenisation service

**New Delhi:** Digital payments firm Visa Wednesday launched Card-on-File (CoF) tokenization services in India in line with the recently issued guidelines by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to secure customers' financial data. Visa's card tokenisation service is currently available with e-commerce platforms such as Grofers, BigBasket and MakeMyTrip. "Having launched CoF tokenization services in over 130 countries globally, we are confident of the technology's ability to build a safe, secure and seamless environment for digital payments," said TR Ramachandran, Group Country Manager, India and South Asia.

### Honda Cars rolls out festive offers

**New Delhi:** Honda Cars India Wednesday said it has rolled out festive offers, ranging up to ₹53,500, on its entire model line-up till the end of this month. With the onset of the auspicious period of 'Navratri', customers can avail a host of attractive offers while purchasing Honda cars across all authorised company dealerships till October 31, 2021. The company is offering festive offers worth ₹53,500 on the 5th Generation City, up to ₹22,000 on 4th Generation City, up to ₹18,000 on Amaze, up to ₹40,100 on WR-V and up to ₹45,900 on Jazz, it added.

### Tata Steel's output grows 7% in Jul-Sep

**New Delhi:** Tata Steel Wednesday reported a 7 per cent rise in consolidated steel output to 7.78 million tonnes (MT) for the July-September period this year. The company's consolidated steel production was 7.25 MT in the same period last year, Tata Steel said in a statement. Tata Steel's consolidated sales during the quarter under review fell around 6 per cent to 7.4 MT, from 7.87 MT in the same period of the preceding fiscal.



At this stage, we are very close to arriving at something in terms of the specifics of the two-pillar proposition. We already had a conversation and agreed to a framework... We are in the last stages of finalising the details

NIRMALA SITHARAMAN | FINANCE MINISTER

## XIAOMI SELLS 20L PHONES IN 5 DAYS

Xiaomi India Wednesday announced that it has sold over 20 lakh smartphones in 5 days of the festive sale across channels. In the premium segment, Xiaomi 11 Lite NE 5G, and Mi 11X Series received maximum demand, followed by Redmi Note 10S and Redmi Note 10 Pro, and Redmi 9 Series in the mid value segment



# CoinSwitch Kuber becomes second Crypto unicorn

CoinSwitch Kuber said it will utilise the funds for onboarding 50 million Indians on its platform and introduce new crypto products

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Oct 6:** Leading crypto platform CoinSwitch Kuber Wednesday said it has raised over \$260 million in its Series C funding round from Andreessen Horowitz (a16z), Coinbase Ventures and existing investors, and will scale its India operations, including hiring across verticals. With more than 10 million users,

CoinSwitch Kuber has become a new unicorn, and the most valuable crypto company in India valued at \$1.9 billion.

"We wanted to remove all the complexities in crypto trading, educate consumers and give them a simplified experience of one-click buy and sell in crypto," said co-founder and CEO Ashish Singhal. With CoinSwitch Kuber, American venture capital firm



a16z is making its first investment in an Indian start-up. Existing investors Paradigm, Ribbit Capital, Sequoia Capital India, and Tiger

Global also participated in the new funding round. The company said that it plans to design ways of simplifying the investment journey of Indians, and, in the process, offer multiple avenues of investment for them through different products and asset classes.

"We are incredibly excited about the crypto market opportunity in India, and with its breakout growth, CoinSwitch has emerged as the

leading retail platform in the country," said Andreessen Horowitz General Partner David George.

Started in 2017 by Singhal, Govind Soni and Vimal Sagar, CoinSwitch launched its India operations in June 2020. The Indian cryptocurrency market has been growing exponentially and is expected to reach up to \$241 billion by 2030 in India and \$2.3 billion by 2026 worldwide.

## LIBERALISED REGIME

# BPO market to hit \$8.8bn by 2025

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Oct 6:** As India re-opens, the enterprise spending on business process outsourcing (BPO) services in India is set to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 5.8 per cent to reach \$8.8 billion by 2025, driven by huge push for outsourcing knowledge-based and vertical-specific processes, a new report showed Wednesday.

According to GlobalData, a leading data and analytics company, the BPO market in India is now supported by the country's efforts to liberalise regulatory guidelines for the BPO industry in recent times to ward off competition from countries like the Philippines, Malaysia, Mexico, and Canada.

In June this year, the government liberalised guidelines for voice-based BPO firms (classified under other service providers (OSP)) by removing distinction between domestic and international service centres and allowing interconnectivity between all types of OSP centres.

Besides, providing ease of work for their employees who relocated to remote areas after the pandemic and enabling them to work from anywhere will also help BPO firms to improve scale and speed of services.

In November 2020, the government had simplified BPO and ITES guidelines to ease the compliance burden on service providers and establish the 'Work-From-Home' and 'Work-From-Anywhere' framework.

The new guidelines will go a long way in enabling ease of doing business for the industry and establishing the country as the most preferred hub for BPO services in the world, said Tarasia.

Enterprise spending on finance and accounting BPO segment, on the other hand, will grow at a fastest CAGR 9.6 per cent during the forecast period.

## PM MITRA SCHEME

# Govt okays 7 textile parks; one in state

The scheme aims to establish holistic integrated textile processing regions across the country, which would integrate the currently scattered value chain of textile products



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 6:** The Union Cabinet Wednesday approved the setting up of 7 Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel parks including one in Odisha with a total outlay of ₹4,445 crore for five years to position India strongly on the global textiles map.

Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) parks were announced in the Union Budget for 2021-22. The parks will be set up at greenfield or brown-field sites located in different willing states.

Proposals of state governments having ready availability of contiguous and encumbrance-free land parcels of 1,000 plus acres along with other textiles related facilities ecosystem are welcome, said an

A total outlay of ₹4,445 crore for five years has been allotted to position India strongly on the global textiles map

Textiles Minister Piyush Goyal said the parks will create direct employment for 7 lakh people and indirect employment for 14 lakh

The parks will offer an opportunity to create an integrated textiles value chain right from spinning, weaving, processing, dyeing and printing to garment manufacturing at one location

Under PM MITRA, 50 per cent area will be developed for pure manufacturing activity, 20 per cent area for utilities, and 10 per cent of the area for commercial development

official release.

Giving details about the decision taken at the Cabinet meeting,

Textiles Minister Piyush Goyal said 10 states have already shown interest in setting up the parks. The states are Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Rajasthan, Assam, Madhya Pradesh, and Telangana.

Maximum Development Capital Support (DCS) of ₹500 crore to all greenfield parks and a maximum of ₹200 crore to brownfield ones will be provided for the development of common infrastructure (30 per cent of the project cost). Also, ₹300 crore of Competitiveness Incentive Support (CIS) will be provided to each park for the early establishment of textiles manufacturing units.

The release further said the parks will be developed by a special purpose vehicle (SPV), which will be owned by the state government and the central government in a public-private partnership (PPP) mode.

The Master Developer will not only develop the Industrial Park but also maintain it during the concession period. Selection of this Master Developer will happen based on objective criteria developed jointly by State and Central Governments, the release said.

This will enhance the competitiveness of the textiles industry by helping it in achieving economies of scale and will create huge job opportunities for millions of people, the release said. Leveraging economies of scale, the scheme will help Indian companies to emerge as global champions, it added.

## 25% road tax cut for vehicles

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 6:** The Union Road Transport and Highways Ministry Wednesday said the states and union territories (UTs) will provide up to 25 per cent rebate on road tax for vehicles that are purchased after scrapping old vehicles under the new National Automobile Scrappage Policy.

"As an incentive for scrapping, concession is stipulated in the motor vehicle tax for a vehicle registered against submission of Certificate of Deposit, which is issued by a Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facility. This concession is up to 25 per cent, in case of

## SCRAPPAGE POLICY

non-transport (personal) vehicles, and up to 15 per cent, in case of transport (commercial) vehicles," said the ministry in a press note.

The press note further said the concession shall be available up to eight years, in case of transport vehicles, and up to 15 years, in case of non-transport vehicles.

The road transport and highways ministry in a notification said that these new rules may be called the Central Motor Vehicles (Twenty-fourth Amendment) Rules, 2021, and they shall come into force with effect from April 1, 2022.

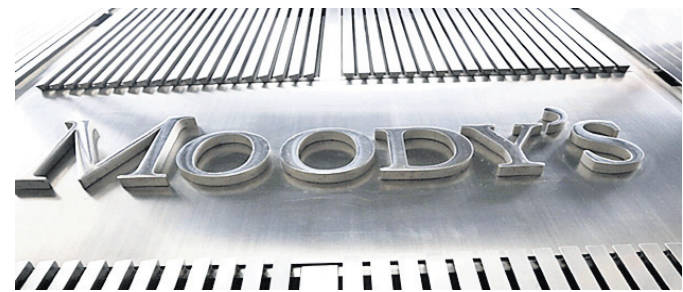
# Moody's raises ratings for 18 firms, banks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 6:** Moody's Investors Service Wednesday raised the rating outlook for 18 Indian corporates and banks, including Reliance Industries, Infosys, SBI and Axis Bank, to 'stable' from 'negative'.

This follows the upgrade by the US-based rating agency in India's sovereign rating outlook to 'stable' from 'negative' Tuesday. The agency had affirmed the sovereign rating at 'Baa3'.

The nine companies whose rating outlook has been revised upwards are RIL, TCS, Infosys, ONGC, Petronet LNG Ltd, UltraTech



Cement, Oil India, Indian Oil Corporation and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL).

(BPCL), but maintained the 'negative' outlook.

The nine banks whose outlook has been revised to 'stable' are SBI, Axis Bank, Bank of Baroda, Canara Bank, Axis Bank, HDFC Bank,

Stabilization in asset quality and improved capital are the main drivers of this rating action, Moody's said

ICICI Bank, PNB, Union Bank and EXIM Bank.

Also, the rating outlook has been revised to 'stable' from 'negative' on 10 Indian infrastructure issuers, including NTPC, NHAI, PGCIL, Gail, Adani Transmission and Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited (APSEZ).

# Saudi Aramco hits \$2tn valuation on back of higher oil prices

DEMAND FOR ENERGY IS PICKING UP, DESPITE THE ONGOING CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC'S CONTINUED TOLL ON TRAVEL AND OTHER KEY GAS-GUZZLING SECTORS

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Riyadh, Oct 6:** Saudi Arabia's oil company Aramco reached a \$2 trillion valuation as it hit near record levels Wednesday during trading hours. It comes as crude oil prices climb to over \$82 a barrel, the highest in seven years.

Aramco was trading at around 37.6 riyals a share, or a few cents over \$10 a share, by midday Wednesday before dipping to 37.2 riyals a share, or around \$9.92 a share. It remains to be seen whether it can hold this rally until trading closes.

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed



Its market cap value puts Aramco just behind Microsoft and Apple as the world's most valuable company

Demand for oil is forecast to hit 99 million barrels per day by the end of the year, and a little over 100 million per day next year

Aramco is mostly owned by the government of Saudi Arabia, with just under 2% of the company publicly listed on the Saudi Tadawul stock exchange

bin Salman was the architect behind the effort to publicly list a sliver of Aramco in late 2019, touting it as a way to raise capital for the kingdom's sovereign wealth fund to then develop new cities and mega-projects across the country that create needed private sector jobs for young Saudis. The crown prince has long sought the mammoth \$2 trillion valuation for Aramco.

Despite fluctuations in Aramco's yearly earnings, the company has stuck to its promise to pay an annual dividend of \$75 billion until 2024 to shareholders, the biggest of which is the government.

The oil carter and other allied major oil producers this week are maintaining a gradual approach to restoring production levels that had been slashed during the pandemic, agreeing to add only 400,000 barrels per day in November.

Aramco raked in a net income of around \$47 billion in the first half of 2021, double what it earned over the same period last year when the coronavirus grounded travel and pummeled global demand for oil. This put Aramco back squarely where it was before the pandemic struck and sunk earnings.

BELGIUM EXPRESS DISPLEASURE AFTER INDIAN HOCKEY TEAMS' MEMBERS WIN IT ALL AT FIH AWARDS

# Clean sweep for India

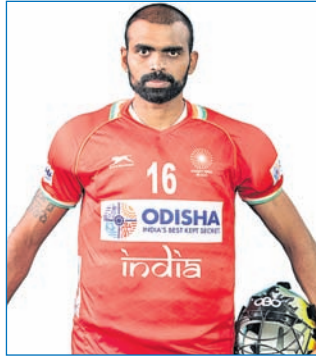
## SRH dent RCB's bid to get top-two finish

## Anshu creates history at World Championships

### LIST OF WINNERS (MEN)



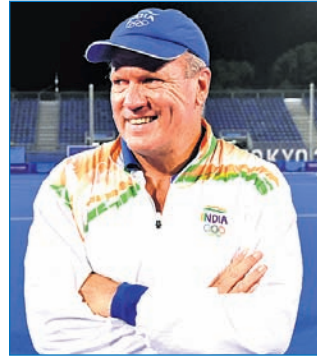
**HARMANPREET SINGH**  
Player of the Year



**PR SREEJESH**  
Goalkeeper of the Year



**VIVEK SAGAR PRASAD**  
Rising Star of the Year



**GRAHAM REID**  
Coach of the Year



**GURJIT KAUR**  
Player of the Year



**SAVITA PUNIA**  
Goalkeeper of the Year



**SHARMILA DEVI**  
Rising Star of the Year



**SJOERD MARIJNE**  
Coach of the Year

### LIST OF WINNERS (WOMEN)

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Abu Dhabi, Oct 6: Royal Challengers Bangalore made a mess of their run chase as bottom-placed Sunrisers Hyderabad dented their hopes of a top-two finish with a narrow four-run win in a last-over IPL thriller, here Wednesday. After putting on board a modest 141/7, SRH returned to limit RCB to 137/6 for only their third win in the league. Chasing the total, Devdutt Padikkal (41) and Glenn Maxwell (40) scored bulk of the runs but RCB kept losing wickets and faltered in the end.

Defending 18 off last two overs, Jason Holder bowled a superb over, giving away just five runs for one wicket. AB de Villiers smashed a six in the fourth ball of the final over bowled by Bhuvneshwar Kumar but couldn't take the team home as the South African could not pull off a six the team needed in the last ball.

Earlier, opener Jason Roy (44) shared a 58-ball 70 run stand with skipper Kane Williamson (31) to set the platform but SRH lost three quick wickets for two runs in seven balls to eventually end up with a below-par total.

RCB were dealt an early blow in their chase when Bhuvneshwar trapped Virat Kohli in the first over. The decision to promote Dan Christian at No.3 also didn't work as he was deceived by a slower delivery by Siddarth Kaul.

At 18/2, Srikanth Bharat joined hands with Padikkal and produced two handsome shots for a six and a four to take RCB to 37/2 in six overs. New pace sensation Umran Malik then struck in his fifth delivery, removing Bharat as RCB slipped to 38/3.

New-man in Maxwell made his intent clear, clobbering Rashid Khan for a maximum. He repeated the treatment again, sending the Afghan spinner over long-on and then sweeping him for another four.

But with Malik clocking 150km plus consistently, RCB decided to target the other bowlers. However, a poor call by Padikkal ended with Maxwell being run out, while the for-



Bhuvneshwar Kumar bowled a brilliant final over against RCB

mer too was caught at the boundary line as RCB further slumped to 109/4 in 16.5 overs.

Needing 29 off 18 balls, Shahbaz Ahmed smashed two fours to bring the equation down before being dismissed by Holder in the 19th over.

For RCB, Harshal Patel (3/33) and Christian (2/14) did the maximum damage after skipper Kohli opted to bowl. Spin duo of Yuzvendra Chahal (1/27) and Ahmed (0/21) kept things in check, while George Garton conceded 29 runs in two overs for his one wicket.

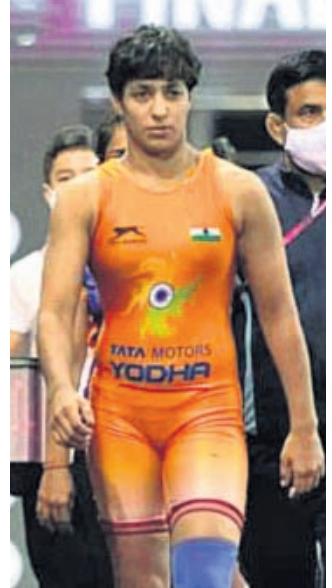
**BRIEF SCORES:** SRH 141/7 (Jason Roy 44, Kane Williamson 31; Harshal Patel 3/33, Dan Christian 2/14) beat RCB 137/6 (Devidutt Padikkal 41, Glenn Maxwell 40; Umran Malik 1/21) by 4 runs.

TODAY'S MATCHES	
CSK	PBKS
Time: 03:30 pm	
KKR	RR
Time: 07:30 pm	
TELECAST Star Sports channels & Hotstar	

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Oslo (Norway), Oct 6: Anshu Malik Wednesday created history by becoming the first Indian woman wrestler to reach the World Championship final when she out-classed junior European champion Solomiia Vynnyk but Sarita Mor lost her semifinal and will fight for a bronze here.

The 19-year-old Anshu, the reigning Asian champion, controlled the semifinal from the beginning and won by technical superiority in the 57kg category to go into history books.



Only four Indian women wrestlers have won medals at the Worlds and all of them – Geeta Phogat (2012), Babita Phogat (2012), Pooja Dhanda (2018) and Vinesh Phogat (2019) – have clinched bronze.

Anshu also became only the sixth Indian ever to make the Worlds gold medal match after Bishambar Singh (1967), Sushil Kumar (2010), Amit Dahiya (2013), Bajrang Punia (2018) and Deepak Punia (2019).

India has only one world Champion in Sushil till date and Anshu can create another history Thursday. Anshu's win also ensured India's first medal from this edition of the event.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lausanne, Oct 6: India swept the International Hockey Federation's (FIH) annual awards on Wednesday, claiming all the top honours based on a voting system which was lambasted as a "failure" by men's Olympic champions Belgium, prompting the FIH to say that it would try to figure why some associations did not cast their ballot. The men's hockey team had won a bronze, its first in 41 years, in the Tokyo Olympics, while the women's side had finished an unprecedented fourth in the showpiece.

Harmanpreet Singh won the

men's 'Player of the Year' award and Gurjit Kaur was recognised as the best player in the women's section. Veteran PR Sreejesh and Savita Punia won the best goalkeeper awards in the men's and women's section, while young striker Sharmila Devi (women) and Vivek Sagar Prasad (men) were adjudged best rising stars.

Men's team coach Graham Reid and women's coach Sjoerd Marijne were also voted the best. While Reid is still with the team, Marijne's tenure ended after the Tokyo Games.

Hockey Belgium reacted sharply to the announcement of the winners and questioned the process as

none of their Tokyo Games champions managed to win an award.

Votes from National Associations – represented by their respective national captains and coaches – accounted for 50 per cent of the overall result, while fans and players (25 per cent) as well as media (25 per cent) made the other half of the votes.

It is to be noted that only 19 associations from the 42-strong European bloc cast their votes, compared to 29 out of 33 in Asia.

"Hockey Belgium is very disappointed with the outcome of @FIH\_Hockey Star Awards. A gold winning team with multi-

ple nominees in all categories but doesn't win a single award demonstrates failure of the voting system. We will work with FIH to ensure a fairer system in the future," the Belgian association tweeted.

The sentiment was shared by the team's official handle as well. "We fully agree! This is not normal! The credibility and image of our sport is once again facing hard times. It's a pity (sic) @FIH," stated the Red Lions.

Following Belgium's objection, FIH issued a statement to clarify its stand and promised a review if necessary.

## Get festive with Honda

### Happy Durga Puja

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