

















President Droupadi Murmu along with Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar and others interacts with folk artistes after paying tributes to Bhagwan Birsa Munda during celebration of 'Janjatiya Gaurav Divas' at Parliament House complex, in New Delhi, Wednesday



A Palestinian child cries next to his mother after they were rushed into Nasser hospital following an Israeli strike in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip



Devotees perform rituals as toxic foam floats on the surface of polluted Yamuna river in New Delhi, Wednesday



Students look at the life-size cutout of Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Lal Chowk in Srinagar, Wednesday



An Indian fan during the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 semi-final match between India and New Zealand, in Mumbai, Wednesday



Elderly people at an old age home celebrate 'Bhai Dooj' festival, in Jammu, Wednesday



Britain's Foreign Secretary David Cameron arrives at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office in London



Cricket fans sitting on bean bags watch the WC 2023 cricket semi-final between India and New Zealand on a huge screen at a mall in Noida, Wednesday



An Israeli flag stands on the top of a destroyed building in the Gaza Strip, as seen from southern Israel, Wednesday. The Israeli military says it has taken control of northern Gaza



business

of the day quote

India has right now over 200 very large startup companies that could go public in future and that's unheard of anywhere else in the world



EDWARD KNIGHT | EXECUTIVE VC, NASDAQ

We have invested more than 1.8 billion euros into our three global hubs, demonstrating our commitment to support our customers' growth as they expand globally



JOHN PEARSON | CEO, DHL EXPRESS

So, on the Colombo port, we expect commissioning and operationalizing of Phase 1 by December of 2024. Now, we have already given our capex guidance



KARAN ADANI | WHOLE TIME DIRECTOR AND CEO, APSEZ

SHORT TAKES

RBI hit to Bajaj Fin

Mumbai: The Reserve Bank Wednesday directed Bajaj Finance to stop sanction and disbursement of loans under its two lending products eCOM and Insta EMI Card, with immediate effect.

ONGC to set up 2 petrochem plants

New Delhi: India's top oil and gas producer ONGC plans to invest about Rs 1 lakh crore in setting up two petrochemical plants to convert crude oil directly into high-value chemical products as it prepares for energy transition, top company officials said.

BIZ BUZZ

Zed Black teams up with Dhoni

Bhubaneswar: In an exciting collaboration yet again, Zed Black Agarbatti, the renowned manufacturer of premium incense products, and former cricketer legend MS Dhoni have come together to celebrate the spirit of collective prayers and the power of viral prayers during the ongoing ICC Cricket World Cup 2023.



Indian economy is set to emerge as the world's third largest economy by 2027, hopping over Japan and Germany, as its GDP crosses the \$5 trillion level. By 2047, India aspires to be a developed economy

NIRMALA SITHARAMAN | FINANCE MINISTER

9 FIRMS ADDED TO MSCl INDIA INDEX

As many as nine firms, including IndusInd Bank, Suzlon Energy and One 97 Communications, were added to the MSCI India Index, according to an update announced by index compiler MSCI.



CHINA UNVEILS WORLD'S FASTEST INTERNET

WITH SPEED OF 1.2 TERABITS PER SECOND, THE INTERNET NETWORK CAN TRANSMIT 150 MOVIES IN ONE SECOND



The speed is said to be over ten times faster than most current major internet routes

According to the South China Morning Post, this speed is said to be over ten times faster than most current major internet routes.

ters, the network links Beijing, Wuhan, and Guangzhou through an extensive optical fiber cabling system and has the capacity to transmit data at an astonishing 1.2 terabits (1,200 gigabits) per second.

AGENCIES

Beijing, Nov 15: In a groundbreaking development, Chinese companies have unveiled the 'world's fastest internet' network, claiming that it can transmit data at 1.2 terabits per second.

Govt to exceed full-year direct tax mop-up aim

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 15: The government will exceed the Rs 18.23 lakh crore direct tax collection target set for the current fiscal, CBDT Chairman Nitin Gupta said Wednesday.

"We will exceed the Budget target. The economy is doing well, and we will get a better picture of full-year tax collection once the third instalment of advance tax numbers come in by December 15," Gupta told reporters here.

As per government data, the net direct tax collection between April 1 and November 9 this fiscal has swelled 22 per cent to Rs 10.60 lakh crore.

"On a gross basis, the direct tax collection has been growing at 17-18 per cent, while on a net basis, we are growing at 22 per cent. We are also issuing refunds simultaneously. So, we have no doubt about tax collection exceeding estimates," Gupta said after inaugurating the taxpayers' lounge at the India International Trade Fair (IITF).

Refunds totalling Rs 1.77 lakh crore have been issued between April 1 and November 9.

The 2023-24 Budget has pegged direct tax collection at Rs 18.23 lakh crore, 9.75 per cent higher than Rs 16.61 lakh crore in the last fiscal.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 15: India's merchandise exports rose 6.21 per cent to \$33.57 billion in October this year, even as the trade deficit touched a record high of \$31.46 billion during the month, government data showed Wednesday.

Imports increased by 12.3 per cent to \$65.03 billion in the month under consideration due to a jump in gold imports.

Inbound shipments of gold rose by 95.5 per cent to \$7.23 billion. Oil imports also increased by 8 per cent to \$17.66 billion during the month.

The country's trade deficit in goods in October last year stood at \$26.31 billion.

TRADE IN THIS FISCAL

Cumulatively, exports during the April-October period this fiscal contracted by 7 per cent to \$244.89 billion, while imports fell 8.95 per cent to \$391.96 billion.

The trade deficit during the seven-month period was \$147.07 billion against \$167.14 billion in the corresponding period last year.

Gold imports during the period rose 23 per cent to \$29.5 billion, while crude oil imports dipped by 18.72 per cent to about \$100 billion during April-October this fiscal.



The trade numbers in October reflect green shoots of recovery in outbound shipments. I am hopeful that we will be crossing the last year's figures

SUNIL BARTHALWAL | COMMERCE SECRETARY

Exports are impacted due to the geopolitical situation and other risks like high inflation and economic slowdown in advanced economies; the Russia-Ukraine war; China-Taiwan and China-US issues; and the Israel-Palestine war.

The country's exports were in a negative zone during February-July. After a revision of numbers by the ministry, the shipments showed 3.88 per cent positive growth in August, but in September it contracted by 2.6 per cent. Imports have turned positive after ten months of negative growth between December 2022 and September 2023.

According to the data, 22 of the 30 key sectors exhibited positive growth in October; and that includes iron ore, meat, dairy and poultry products, pharma, electronic goods, carpet, plastic,

marine and engineering goods.

On the other hand, import sectors that recorded high growth in October include pulses (112.2 per cent), fruits and vegetables (53.4 per cent), non-ferrous metals (21.24 per cent) and electronics goods (26 per cent).

The World Trade Organisation (WTO) has forecasted that global trade will grow only by 0.8 per cent in 2023.

IMPORTS FROM NATIONS

India's imports from Russia rose 64 per cent to \$36.27 billion during the April-October period this fiscal on higher shipments of crude oil and fertiliser, according to the commerce ministry data.

With this, Russia has become India's second-largest import source during the first seven months of this fiscal. The imports

"capable of transferring the data equivalent of 150 high-definition films in just one second".

Meanwhile, FTII project leader Wu Jianping from the Chinese Academy of Engineering said the superfast line was "not only a successful operation", but also gives China the "advanced technology to build an even faster internet".

Xu Mingwei of Tsinghua University, comparing the new internet backbone to a superfast train track, explained that it replaces the need for 10 regular tracks to carry the same amount of data, resulting in a more cost-effective and manageable system.

Trade deficit balloons

TRADE DEFICIT SHOOTS UP TO ALL-TIME HIGH ON THE BACK OF LARGER IMPORTS IN OCTOBER

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were \$22.13 billion during April-October 2022.

From a market share of less than 1 per cent in India's import basket before the start of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, Russia's share of India's oil imports rose to over 40 per cent.

India, the world's third-largest crude importer after China and the United States, has been buying Russian oil after some countries in the West shunned it as a means of punishing Moscow for invading Ukraine.

The ministry's data showed that imports from China dipped marginally to \$60.02 billion during the period against \$60.26 billion in the year-ago period.

Among all the top 10 import source nations of India, imports from Switzerland increased to \$13.97 billion as against \$10.48 billion in April-October 2022 due to gold imports.

On the export front, India's exports to six of its top-10 destinations have recorded a negative growth rate during the period.

During the first seven months of this fiscal, the country's merchandise exports to the US, the UAE, Singapore, Germany, Bangladesh, and Saudi Arabia have declined.

However, exports to the UK, Australia and the Netherlands have recorded positive growth.

Investors richer by ₹3.29L-cr as indices rally

SENSEX, NIFTY RALLY MORE THAN 1% AS INVESTORS CHEER SOFTER US INFLATION NUMBER

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 15: Investors' wealth surged Rs 3.29 lakh crore Wednesday, driven by a robust rally in the equity markets.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 742.06 points or 1.14 per cent to settle at 65,675.93. During the day, it zoomed 813.78 points or 1.25 per cent to 65,747.65.

The market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms rallied Rs 3,29,520.27 crore to reach Rs 3,25,40,108.97 crore.

"The market's strong gap-up jump in response to positive

global cues on account of the softer than anticipated US and UK inflation data highlights the optimism for an end to the interest rate cycle, as evidenced by the ease in bond yields. This is likely to draw FII flows into emerging markets, which is good for India considering the current better earnings season and the festive demand pick-up. The drop in the CPI for India also improved the mood," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Among the Sensex firms, Tech Mahindra, Tata Motors, Infosys,



Wipro, Tata Steel, Tata Consultancy Services, Reliance Industries and Axis Bank were

the major gainers.

In contrast, Bajaj Finance, IndusInd Bank and Power Grid were the laggards.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge jumped 1.13 per cent, and the midcap index climbed 0.91 per cent. All indices ended in the green, with realty zooming by 2.97 per cent, IT rallying 2.29 per cent, tech jumping 2.12 per cent, auto climbing 1.65 per cent, oil & gas (1.55 per cent) and energy (1.41 per cent).

In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong

settled in the positive territory. European markets were trading in the green. The US markets ended with significant gains Tuesday.

Equity markets were closed Tuesday on account of Diwali Balipratipada.

"Domestic equities surged higher fuelled by moderation in both India as well as US inflation," Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Retail Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd, said.

As many as 2,215 firms advanced, while 1,538 declined and 131 remained unchanged on BSE.

INDIA, US, 12 OTHER IPEF MEMBERS INK SUPPLY CHAIN PACT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 15: India, the US and 12 other members of the IPEF grouping have signed a supply chain resilience agreement that will provide benefits like potential shifting of production centres in critical sectors and mitigating risks of economic disruptions from supply chain shocks.

The agreement was signed in San Francisco, where Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal is attending the ministerial meeting of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework For Prosperity (IPEF).

The agreement would help member countries like India to reduce its dependence on China.

The Covid outbreak had severely disrupted the global supply chain, as most countries were dependent on China for various products, like pharmaceuticals.

On the social networking platform X, Wednesday, Goyal said: "India joins US and 12 other IPEF partners to ink the IPEF Supply Chain Resilience Agreement, a first-of-its-kind international agreement that will fortify and strengthen global supply chains; and foster adaptability, stability and sustainability".

Members of the bloc concluded the negotiations on this agreement, one of the four pillars of the IPEF, May 27, this year in Detroit.

The other benefits of the pact include supply chain diversification, mobilisation of investments, deeper integration of India in global value chains, support to MSMEs and creation of a seamless regional trade ecosystem, which would facilitate the flow of Indian products.

The agreement was signed by the minister along with the ministers from other IPEF partner countries, the commerce ministry said in a statement.

"The Agreement is expected to make IPEF supply chains more resilient, robust, and well-integrated, and contribute towards economic development and progress of the region as a whole," it said.

Speaking at the event, Goyal emphasized on enhancing collaboration to realise the collective aims of the IPEF, particularly on the need for mobilising affordable financing for a clean economy transition and for enhancing technology cooperation.

He also urged early implementation of the envisaged cooperative work under IPEF, including on bio-fuels alliance suggested by India.



Roy's death puts focus on ₹25K-cr in Sebi kitty

Sahara supremo faced multiple regulatory and legal battles in connection with his group firms that were accused of circumventing regulations with Ponzi schemes, allegations his group always denied

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 15: The undistributed funds totalling over Rs 25,000 crore lying with the capital markets regulator Sebi's account have come back into focus after the demise of Sahara Group's chief Subrata Roy.

Roy passed away in Mumbai Tuesday night at the age of 75 after battling a prolonged illness.

In 2011, capital markets regulator Sebi ordered two Sahara Group firms - Sahara India Real Estate Corporation Ltd (SIREL) and Sahara Housing Investment Corporation Ltd (SHICL) - to refund the money raised from nearly 3 crore investors through cer-

tain bonds known as Optionally Fully Convertible Bonds (OFCBs).

This order came after the regulator ruled that the funds were raised by the two firms in violation of its rules and regulations.

After a long process of appeals and cross-appels, the Supreme Court August 31, 2012 upheld Sebi's directions asking the two firms to refund the money collected from investors with 15 per cent interest.

Sahara was eventually asked to deposit an estimated Rs 24,000 crore with Sebi for further refund to investors, though the group has been maintaining that it had already refunded more than 95 per cent of investors di-

rectly. According to the capital markets regulator's latest annual report, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) issued Rs 138.07 crore in refunds over 11 years to investors of two Sahara Group firms.

Meanwhile, the amount deposited in specially-opened bank accounts for the repayment has risen to more than Rs 25,000 crore. In the absence of claims from a majority of the bondholders of the two Sahara companies, the total amount refunded by Sebi inched up by just about Rs 7 lakh during the last fiscal 2022-23, while the balance in Sebi-Sahara refund accounts rose by Rs 1,087 crore during the year.

Going by the annual report, Sebi received 19,650 applications involving 53,687 accounts as of March 31, 2023. Of these, "refunds have been made concerning 17,526 applications involving 48,326 accounts for an aggregate



amount of Rs 138.07 crore, including the interest amount of Rs 67.98 crore."

The remaining applications were closed due to their records not being traceable in the data provided by two Sahara Group firms.

In its previous update, Sebi had put the total amount refunded by it as of March 31, 2022, at Rs 138 crore concerning 17,526 applications.

Further, Sebi said under various orders passed by the Supreme Court and the attachment orders passed by the regulator, an aggregate amount of Rs 15,646.68 crore has been recovered by it as of March 31, 2023.

This amount along with the accrued interest after due refunds to the eligible bondholders was deposited in nationalised banks in terms of the judgment dated August 31, 2012, of the Supreme Court.

"As of March 31, 2023, the total amount deposited in nationalised banks is around Rs 25,163 crore," Sebi stated. This amount stood at Rs 24,076 crore, Rs 23,191 crore, and Rs 21,770.70 crore as of March 31, 2022, March 31, 2021, and March 31, 2020, respectively.

Meanwhile, the Centre in August started the process to refund Rs 5,000 crore of depositors whose funds are struck in four cooperative societies of Sahara Group.

# international



The world is witnessing this killing of women, of children, of babies (in Gaza). This has to stop  
**JUSTIN TRUDEAU** | PM, CANADA

**HISTORIC DIWALI MOVE BY NYC**  
In a historic move, New York State Governor Kathy Hochul signed legislation making Diwali a school holiday for New York City public schools. The legislation requires that all public schools in New York City be closed on the "15th day of the eighth month of the Indian calendar in each year, which is known as Diwali," a press release said



## of the day quote

The UN apparatus, especially the Security Council, is crumbling under the weight of 21st-century geopolitical realities  
**PRATIK MATHUR** | COUNSELLOR IN INDIA'S PERMANENT MISSION, UN

The more Russian forces that are destroyed near Avdiivka, the worse the overall situation will be for the enemy and the overall course of this war  
**VOLODYMYR ZELENSKYI** | PRESIDENT, UKRAINE

Through the Innovation Handshake, the United States and India are forging a critical tech partnership that will further strengthen our interconnected innovation ecosystems  
**GINA RAIMONDO** | SECRETARY OF COMMERCE, US

## SHORT TAKES

### Budget blow to Scholz's govt

**Berlin:** Germany's constitutional court ruled Wednesday that the government's re-allocation of 60 billion euros (\$65 billion) of unused debt from the pandemic era to a climate fund was illegal, dealing a blow to Chancellor Olaf Scholz's coalition. This is a key decision as it sets a precedent for fiscal responses in future crises in Europe's biggest economy, while it could also trigger tensions in the coalition in a key week for budget negotiations. The budget manoeuvre agreed in December 2021 by the centre-left Social Democrats (SPD), pro-spending Greens and fiscally cautious Free Democrats (FDP) in their coalition deal, allowed the parties to make the most of a temporary, pandemic-related suspension of borrowing limits in the constitution.

### B'desh polls Jan 7

**Dhaka:** Bangladesh will hold the much-awaited general elections January 7, the country's chief election commissioner announced Wednesday. Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Habibur Awal announced the dates during an address to the nation that was telecast live. The announcement came amid mounting political tensions as Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and its far-right allies like the Jamaat-e-Islami have waged a street campaign demanding the resignation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government to allow a non-party interim government to conduct the general elections.

## ISRAEL-GAZA CONFLICT

**ISRAELI FORCES ENTER GAZA'S BIGGEST HOSPITAL AFTER WASHINGTON REPORT THAT HAMAS MILITANTS WERE HIDING AMONG THE PATIENTS**

**Gaza City, Nov 15:** Dozens of Israeli forces with tanks, some wearing facemasks and firing guns into the air, early Wednesday raided part of Gaza's biggest hospital, packed with patients and displaced people, in their battle against Hamas operatives. "All men 16 years and above, raise your hands," a soldier shouted in Arabic through a loudspeaker, to those sheltering inside Al-Shifa hospital, which has become the centre of fierce urban combat for days. "Exit the building towards the courtyard and surrender," the soldier ordered, according to a journalist who took refuge inside the embattled hospital several days ago and who has been in contact with AFP. The army labelled the raid a "precise and targeted" operation against Hamas, the Palestinian group that launched

# Tanks, troops raid hospital



the October 7 attacks that started the Gaza war and which Israel claims is running a command centre beneath the clinic.

At least 2,300 people -- patients, staff and displaced civilians -- were inside the hospital and may be unable to escape because of the fierce fighting

Israeli and Palestinian officials both reported the overnight military operations at Al-Shifa, the focal point of days of deadly fighting and nearby aerial bombardments. Witnesses have described conditions inside the hospital as horrific, with medical procedures performed without anaesthetic, families with scant food or water living in corridors, and the stench of decomposing corpses filling the air. As Israeli forces raced through the corridors, hundreds of young men emerged from different wards, including the maternity section, which was hit in a strike

## UNSC's fifth resolution attempt

After four failed attempts, the UN Security Council is trying for a fifth time to come up with a resolution on the Israel-Hamas war, but it remains to be seen whether serious divisions can be overcome to produce a consensus on wording. The current draft under negotiation would demand "immediate extended humanitarian pauses" throughout the Gaza Strip to provide civilians with desperately needed aid. It also would demand that "all parties" comply with international humanitarian law that requires protection for civilians, calls for special protections for children, and bans hostage-taking.

a few days ago, the journalist reported. Soldiers were firing warning shots as they moved from room to room looking for Hamas, he said.

The Israeli army, in a statement early Wednesday, described it as "a precise and targeted operation against Hamas in a specified area" of the facility. The army in a separate statement said it had delivered incubators, baby food and medical supplies to the hospital during the operation. "Our medical teams and

## Hamas blames Biden

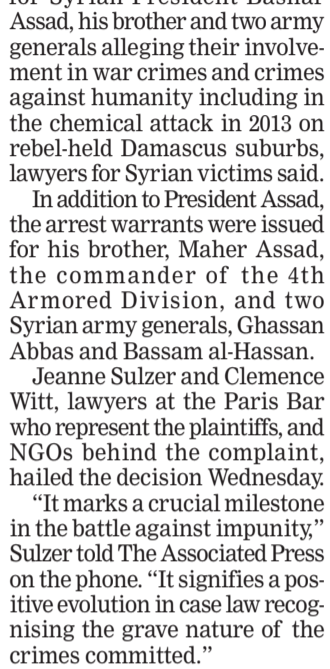
**Palestinian Territories:** Palestinian group Hamas accused US President Joe Biden Wednesday of being "wholly responsible" for an Israeli army operation at Gaza's largest hospital. "We hold the occupation (Israel) and President Biden wholly responsible for the assault on the Al-Shifa medical complex," Hamas said in a statement. "The adoption by the White House and the Pentagon of the occupation's false claim that the resistance is using the Al-Shifa medical complex for military ends has given the green light to the occupation to commit more massacres against civilians." The White House had said Tuesday that US intelligence sources corroborated Israel's claim that Hamas has buried an operational centre under the hospital. Biden had also urged Israel to take "less intrusive action relative to" Al-Shifa, adding: "The hospital must be protected." Israel has repeatedly claimed that Hamas's military use of the facility "jeopardises its protected status under international law" -- a claim that many international human rights lawyers refute.

## WAR CRIMES

### France issues arrest warrants for Syrian president, 3 generals

**Paris, Nov 15:** French judicial authorities Wednesday issued international arrest warrants for Syrian President Bashar Assad, his brother and two army generals alleging their involvement in war crimes and crimes against humanity including in the chemical attack in 2013 on rebel-held Damascus suburbs, lawyers for Syrian victims said. In addition to President Assad, the arrest warrants were issued for his brother, Maher Assad, the commander of the 4th Armored Division, and two Syrian army generals, Ghassan Abbas and Bassam al-Hassan. Jeanne Sulzer and Clemence Witt, lawyers at the Paris Bar who represent the plaintiffs, and NGOs behind the complaint, hailed the decision Wednesday. "It marks a crucial milestone in the battle against impunity," Sulzer told The Associated Press on the phone. "It signifies a positive evolution in case law recognising the grave nature of the crimes committed."

ASSOCIATED PRESS



## SNIPPETS

**Thunberg pleads not guilty**  
**London:** Climate activist Greta Thunberg pleaded not guilty to a public order offence charge in a British court Wednesday following her arrest last month at an environmental protest in London. The 20-year-old was detained by police October 17 after she and dozens of demonstrators locked arms to obstruct the entrances to a hotel where an oil and gas conference was taking place. Thunberg, wearing a grey T-shirt and black jeans, spoke only to confirm her name and date of birth as the judge at Westminster Magistrates Court set February 1 as the date for her trial.

**US House passes spending bill**  
**Washington:** The U.S. House of Representatives Tuesday passed a temporary spending bill that would avert a government shutdown, with broad support from lawmakers in both parties. The legislation, which would extend government funding through mid-January, now heads to the Senate, where Democratic and Republican leaders have voiced support. To prevent a shutdown, the Senate and Republican-controlled House must enact legislation that President Joe Biden can sign into law before current funding for federal agencies expires at midnight on Friday.

**Vatican confirms ban on Catholics becoming Freemasons**  
**Vatican City:** The Vatican has confirmed a ban on Catholics becoming Freemasons, a centuries-old secretive society that the Catholic Church has long viewed with hostility and has an estimated global membership of up to six million. "Active membership in Freemasonry by a member of the faithful is prohibited, because of the irreconcilability between Catholic doctrine and Freemasonry," the Vatican's doctrinal office said in a letter published by Vatican media Wednesday. The department, known as the Dicastery of the Doctrine of the Faith, issued its opinion, dated November 13 and countersigned by Pope Francis, in response to a bishop from the Philippines alarmed by the growing number of Freemasons in his country.

# Sunak hits inflation aim amid Braverman's scathing attack

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**London, Nov 15:** British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak appeared buoyant Wednesday as official statistics revealed that inflation dropped to 4.6 per cent, meeting his end of year target to curb price rises against the backdrop of his sacked home secretary's attack claiming his "plan is not working". The target to half inflation from the highs of over 10 per cent when he took charge at 10 Downing Street last year was among Sunak's top five priorities for his government. The British Indian leader, who undertook a surprise Cabinet reshuffle earlier this week starting by sacking Suella Braverman for repeated insubordination, firmly declared that he will "stay the course" a day after his former Cabinet minister unleashed a scathing attack on his leadership in a very public three-page letter. It came as there remains disquiet within the ranks of the governing Conservative Party, with murmurings of a leadership challenge gaining some momentum with Braverman accusing Sunak of "betrayal" of the



**I can only surmise that this is because you have no appetite for doing what is necessary, and therefore no real intention of fulfilling your pledge to the British people**  
**SUELLA BRAVERMAN** | FORMER UK CABINET MINISTER

party's pledges to the British electorate. As was expected, the Indian-origin minister intends to make life very difficult for her former boss from the backbenches, and with the support of some on the very right of the party, after he sacked her with a Monday morning phone call. "Someone needs to be honest: your plan is not working, we have endured record election defeats, your resets have failed and we are running out of time. You need to change course urgently," reads her scathing departure letter. Accusing him of ignoring her many letters on issues such as illegal migration and clamping down on so-called "hate marchers" protesting against the Israel-Hamas conflict, the

controversy courting former minister claimed Sunak had reneged on written promises he had made to her at the time of taking over as Prime Minister in October 2022 -- even claiming her support was the "pivotal factor" behind him succeeding Liz Truss. "You have manifestly and repeatedly failed to deliver on every single one of these key policies. Either your distinctive style of government means you are incapable of doing so. Or, as I must surely conclude now, you never had any intention of keeping your promises," Braverman writes. "I can only surmise that this is because you have no appetite for doing what is necessary, and therefore no real intention of fulfilling your pledge to the British people," she adds.

# UK King celebrates 75th birthday with Indian nurses

INDIANS LEAD THE ESTIMATED 150,000 INTERNATIONAL NURSES AND MIDWIVES CURRENTLY WORKING IN THE NHS, WHICH IS ALSO CELEBRATING ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**London, Nov 15:** Britain's King Charles III celebrated his 75th birthday by hosting a special reception at Buckingham Palace in London for Indian nurses and midwives along with other international medics who contribute to the country's state-funded National Health Service (NHS). Around 400 nurses and midwives representing countries such as India, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Kenya, among others, attended the reception celebrating their contribution to the UK's health and social care sector on Tuesday evening. "It was a wonderful, once in a lifetime experience meeting His Majesty the King. He's an amazing and warm person," said

Shreejith Muleedharan, an Indian staff nurse working in Scotland. "It was a massive privilege to meet King Charles, tell him about the contribution that Sikh nurses have made in this country and, of course, wish him a happy birthday. We have a lot of Sikh nurses within the NHS doing lots of philanthropic work within the community as well," said Rohit Sagoo, founder and director of British Sikh Nurses. The reception formed part of a packed day of royal events as the British monarch chose to work through his birthday and spent time interacting with many of the guests in good humour. He was surprised with a rendition of 'Happy Birthday' by the NHS choir and handed a birthday card from a schoolgirl also celebrating her birthday November 14. "What a wonderful event where His Majesty has shown his appreciation and therefore our appreciation for the incredible people that come from all over the world, including India, to work in our NHS. They do so much for us," said Victoria Atkins, the



Queen Camilla on a visit to a food distribution hub in Oxfordshire to kick-start his Coronation Food Project, which aims to support charities feeding the country with unwanted food. "Food need is as real and urgent a problem as food waste -- and if a way could be found to bridge the gap between them, then it would address two problems in one. It is my great hope that this Coronation Food Project will find practical ways to do just that -- rescuing more surplus food, and distributing it to those who need it most," he wrote in the 'Big Issue' magazine. Across London, gun salutes were fired and Piccadilly Square was also lit up with a birthday message for the British monarch as he turned 75 Tuesday.

# NATO to buy six more 'eyes in the sky' planes

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Brussels, Nov 15:** NATO announced Wednesday it has opted to buy six new E-7A Wedgetail surveillance planes built by US aircraft manufacturer Boeing as the 31-nation military alliance looks to update its eyes in the sky in coming years. NATO's fleet of 14 Airborne Warning and Control System, or AWACS, aircraft are outdated and expensive to maintain. But their large fuselage-mounted radar domes can detect aircraft hundreds of miles away and they remain useful to monitor Russia's war on Ukraine from NATO's eastern flank. NATO said that production of the six new Wedgetails -- a militarised version of the Boeing 737 jetliner -- will begin "in coming years," with the first planes



**KOHLI, SHAMI BREAK MULTIPLE RECORDS AS INDIA SAIL INTO THE FINAL BEATING NEW ZEALAND BY 70 RUNS IN THE ICC WORLD CUP SEMIFINAL**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Nov 15:** “We live in @ImVkohli era. Congratulations emperor.” This was the reaction (in ‘X’) of Pakistani great and one of the greatest pacers in the sport Wasim Akram after Virat Kohli Wednesday climbed a peak that no one ever has conquered – 50th hundred in ODIs, and, rest assured, the Indian superstar will stand alone on that high point for foreseeable future.

The day turned out to be even more special when Mohammed Shami sealed the fate of the Kiwis taking 7/57, breaking multiple records. He became the quickest to 50 wickets at the WC and also became the first bowler to claim four 5-wicket hauls at the showpiece.

Virat is widely known as ‘King Kohli’ for the aggressive demeanor in his gameplay on the field. With that century against New Zealand in the World Cup semifinals here, Kohli moved past his idol Sachin Tendulkar, who had held the record for most ODI centuries till now with 49 of them.

**“It’s stuff of dreams. I mean, it’s very difficult for me to explain this, but if I could paint the perfect picture, I would want this to be the picture. My life partner, the person I love the most, she’s (Anushka) sitting there. My hero, he’s (Sachin) sitting there. And I was able to get the 50th (ton) in front of all of them and all these fans at Wankhede as well, such a historic venue. It was amazing**

**VIRAT KOHLI**

Tendulkar also might have felt a bit of gratification seeing his successor dethroning him, as the batting maestro himself had asked Kohli not to delay in getting to the mark.

After Kohli reached his 49th ODI hundred against South Africa in Kolkata, Tendulkar took to ‘X’ (formerly Twitter) to wish the Delhi lad. “Well played Virat. It took me 365 days to go from 49 to 50 earlier this year. I hope you go from 49 to 50 and break my record in the next few days,” Tendulkar had written then. Kohli did precisely that on this day in Tendulkar’s home ground.

Virat also surpassed Sachin for the record of most runs in a single edition of World Cup as the 35-year-old has now 711 runs in the ongoing World Cup compared to the Mumbaikar’s 673 in 2003.

**50**  
Centuries for Kohli in ODIs, most by any batter in the world, surpassing Sachin’s 49. Kohli took 279 innings to achieve the feat while Sachin has 452 innings to his name. Among the active cricketers, Indian skipper Rohit Sharma is second at 31 tons

# Kohli-fying Shami-final

## PRAISES POUR IN

Sachin Tendulkar penned a heartfelt congratulatory message to Virat Kohli, who made a 50th ODI hundred to break his record during the match against New Zealand, Wednesday. Tendulkar had owned the record for the highest number of ODI hundreds till this day with 49 centuries. Tendulkar recalled his first meeting with Kohli in a funny yet nostalgic tone, and how some of the then teammates made the young cricketer touch his feet. Kohli also said going past Tendulkar was a dream come true for him...

**Sachin Tendulkar** @sachin Tendulkar  
The first time I met you in the Indian dressing room, you were drunk by other teammates into touching my feet. I couldn't stop laughing that day. But soon, you touched my heart with your passion and skill. I am so happy that that young boy has grown into a 'viral' player.  
I couldn't be happier that an Indian broke my record. And to do it on the biggest stage - in the World Cup Semi-Final - and at my home ground is the icing on the cake.  
WINDAZ



**SHIKHAR DHAWAN:** Kohli’s century – a cricketing blockbuster with a script that deserves all the applause!

**BRAD HOGG:** That’s a World Cup moment to treasure in the history books. 50th ODI hundred and celebrating with utmost respect to the little master. Genius.

**ICC World Cup Semi-Final 2023.** Under the gaze of Sachin Tendulkar, Sir Viv Richards, Sunil Gavaskar, David Beckham and several sporting icons. Wankhede is a special venue

**LISA STHALEKAR:** Unbelievable... what a cricketer!! Virat Kohli on the biggest stage gets that magical number... 50. He now stands alone at the top. I reckon he still have one more in him before the end of this tournament

**ROBIN UTHAPPA:** Virat Kohli 50th ODI is not just a number. It’s an extraordinary tale of cricketing greatness. Well done champ

**SOURAV GANGULY:** It will take a lot of beating to go past this and he’s not finished yet. It’s a phenomenal achievement

**VVS LAXMAN:** What a moment! What an occasion for Virat to create history – 50th ODI 100, and in a World Cup Semifinal with his batting hero Sachin watching from the stands. Absolute champion

**SURESH RAINA:** Here’s the moment we’ve all been waiting for! @ImVkohli, the maestro, crafting another magnificent century & achieving the milestone of scoring most centuries in one day cricket! Absolute brilliance, King Kohli!

**IAN BISHOP:** Virat Kohli with a great sense of occasion befitting a great player moves to ODI century No 50 in

**397/4**

India’s total against NZ, the highest by any team in an ODI WC knockout game. The previous highest was 393/6 by New Zealand against West Indies in the quarterfinal of 2015 edition



## Proteas, Australia have task cut out in 2nd semis



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kolkata, Nov 15:** Lance Klusener on his haunches at Edgbaston and a completely shattered AB de Villiers in Auckland are some of the most poignant pictures of South Africa’s World Cup semifinal heartbreaks but come Thursday, Temba Bavuma’s warriors would be determined to shed their eternal chokers tag against five-time champions Australia.

Any South African cricketer worth his salt hates the ‘C’ word while Australia as legacy champions of the ODI global meet would like to rub it in, in the best possible manner they can.

When it comes to the 50-over World Cup, Australia evoke a sense of fear and anxiety among their rivals, having won five of the 12 titles so far – of which four have come in the last six editions – as they are known for thriving in big moments.

It’s been the opposite story for South Africa who have reached the semi-finals four times from nine editions, but it’s always been a tale of being so-near-yet-so-far.

Be it the rain-rule miscalculation on their debut World Cup in 1992 semifinal against England, or the tied result in 1999 that helped Australia made the final on better run-rate, the Proteas for one reason or another have never able to progress beyond the last-four stage.

“As a South African team, we know we’re going to have that chip on our back, or that nar-

rative that we have to get over,” South Africa skipper Bavuma said, often being asked of the narrative. But such has been the fury shown by South Africa this time in the course of making the semifinal that the Proteas look set to overcome it.

Barring their batting collapse against India at the same venue here where they folded for 83 in the group phase and the capitulation against the Netherlands, South Africa have looked ominous in the batting department. If unfit for the fixture against Australia, Bavuma is likely to be replaced Reeza Hendricks who will then open with Quinton de Kock.

South Africa, who have lost both their matches while chasing, will hope that they win toss and bat first something they have done with distinction in this tournament.

After a slow start that saw them losing to India and South Africa, Australia have started doing what they do best – securing seven wins on the trot and have peaked at the right time.

Glenn Maxwell’s logic-defying 201 not out mostly batting on one leg single-handedly chased down 292 after slumping to 91/7 against Afghanistan has given the team a much-needed impetus.

Veteran David Warner, who smashed back-to-back hundreds against Pakistan and the Netherlands, may have slowed down in the business end, but the left-hander will be a threat up front. With 426 runs at 60.85, Mitchell Marsh has been the backbone of their batting as he and Maxwell would be the key to propel them to a big score.

Australia will also hope that veteran Steve Smith returns to form. The former skipper has been phenomenal in ODI World Cup knockouts, with 311 runs from four innings, and averages close to 104 with three fifties and one century.

## Sinner edges past Djokovic

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Turin (Italy), Nov 15:** Jannik Sinner recorded his first win over top-ranked Novak Djokovic at the ATP Finals, delighting a raucous home crowd. Sinner triumphed 7-5, 6-7(5-7), 7-6(7-2) in a match spanning more than three hours Tuesday night and into Wednesday morning.

It was the 22-year-old Sinner’s first win in their four head-to-head meetings. It also ended Djokovic’s 19-match winning streak that stretched back to his



five-set loss to Carlos Alcaraz in the Wimbledon final.

Sinner sealed the result with a smash at the net to send the Turin arena into a frenzy. “There doesn’t exist a better place to beat the World No.1. After Wimbledon I said I felt a bit closer but I didn’t even win a set,” Sinner said on his on-court interview, which was interrupted by the crowd serenading him with “Ole, Ole, Ole, Sinner, Sinner.”

“Here I managed to play the most important points in the best way. There was a bit of tension

when I lost the second set, it was very hard, but together with you (the crowd) we won together.”

The umpire had to tell the fans to be quiet several times during the enthralling encounter as they fervently cheered the Italian player on and also booed Djokovic several times.

The 36-year-old Djokovic, who normally enjoys huge support in Italy, lapped up the boos and even encouraged the fans to up their hostility toward him.

Sinner, who beat Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-4, 6-4 in Sunday’s opener, is now on the verge of reaching Saturday’s semifinals. He next plays Holger Rune, who has one win after Tsitsipas retired early in their green group match and withdrew from the tournament.

Djokovic, who is bidding to break a tie with Federer and capture a record seventh title at the tour finals, will play first alternate Hubert Hurkacz. Sinner didn’t make it out of the group stage in his only other appearance at the ATP Finals, as an alternate in 2021.

But the crowd sensed a huge win was on the cards when Sinner won nine straight points to finish the first set – rallying from 40-0 down to break Djokovic’s serve and then holding to love.

## Babar quits as Pakistan skipper from all formats

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Karachi, Nov 15:** Babar Azam Wednesday resigned as Pakistan captain across formats, four days after his team’s elimination from the World Cup, where the former champions finished fifth.

Pakistan lost five of their nine games, including a shock defeat against Afghanistan, bringing Babar’s leadership under scanner. Experts and critics had called for a change of guard and Babar was summoned for a post-mortem of team’s performance by PCB’s management committee head Zaka Ashraf.

Babar announced his decision on social media. “Today, I am stepping down as captain of Pakistan from all formats. It’s a difficult decision but I feel this is right time for this call,” Babar wrote in his statement, posted on X.

Babar faced scathing criticism for his team selection and many accused him of creating a coterie with the players of his liking, including Imam-ul-Haq, Mohammed Nawaz, Shadab Khan to name a few. Babar made it clear that he will support the new skipper in every way possible.

“I will continue to represent Pakistan as a player in all three formats. I am here to support the new captain and the team with my experience and dedication. I want to express my sincere thanks to Pakistan Cricket Board for entrusting me with this significant responsibility,” he added.

Ashraf, on his part, also copped a lot of flak when he issued a statement in the middle of the tournament that the squad selected for World Cup was done at the behest of erstwhile chairman Inzamam-ul-Haq and skipper Babar. He had mentioned that a decision would be taken at the end of the tournament and it was clear that Babar didn’t have PCB’s back.

During his tenure, Pakistan became No.1 ranked team in ODIs on the back of some solid performances at home on placid pitches against second string teams from SENA countries and relatively weaker Asian teams.

He was named captain in 2019 and he admitted that he experienced highs and lows after he first got a call from PCB informing of their decision of appointing him the leader of Pakistan.

## Wenger to inaugurate AIFF-FIFA academy in Bhub

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 15:** Legendary football coach Arsene Wenger will inaugurate the AIFF-FIFA academy, to be launched under the global football body’s talent development scheme, in Bhubaneswar November 21.

Wenger, who is now the chief of FIFA’s global football development programme, will be in India from November 19 to 23 and will meet ISL, I-League clubs besides entities involved with youth development in

Indian football. Wenger was Arsenal’s manager from 1996 to 2018, under whose tenure the club won three Premier League titles, seven FA Cups and remained unbeaten in 49 games.

FIFA’s talent development scheme aims to collaborate with member associations across the world to increase the competitiveness of their national teams.

“Arsene Wenger will be here in India from November 19 to 23. During this period, he and



his team will meet ISL, I-League clubs and all those who are involved with youth development in Indian football,” said AIFF president Kalyan Chaubey in a release Wednesday.

“Our efforts would be to build this academy into a flawless one. We are confident that Wenger’s vast experience and keen understanding of things would be of huge help in turning this academy into a world-class facility,” he added.

AIFF acting secretary general

M. Satyanarayan said, it is a step towards All India Football Federation’s (AIFF) “long-term vision” and “investing in youth as young as below 14”.

FIFA has recommended Sergi Amezcua Fontrodona as the AIFF-trained coach, who will relocate to India to implement the project and act as the head coach at the FIFA-AIFF academy. Amezcua was previously involved with developing football in China as the project director at the Barca Academy Pro Haikou.



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