

Satish Sharma inaugurates Faavos Taekwondo Cup at Indoor Stadium Budgam

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

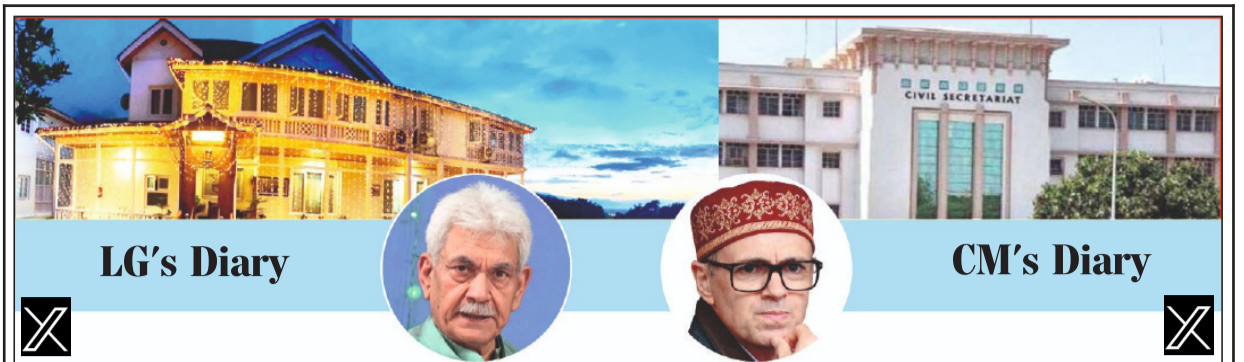
BUDGAM: Minister for Youth Services & Sports, Transport, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Science & Technology and ARI & Trainings, Satish Sharma, today inaugurated the Faavos Taekwondo Cup at the Indoor Stadium, Budgam, amid enthusiastic participation of young taekwondo players from various districts of Jammu and Kashmir. The championship brought together hundreds of budding martial artists, showcasing the growing enthusiasm for taekwondo and the increasing sporting culture among the youth. The event reflects the sustained efforts of the government to promote grassroots sports and provide young athletes with opportunities to compete, excel and prepare for higher-level competitions. Addressing the gathering, the Minister congratulated the organisers for successfully hosting the championship and appreciated their efforts in promoting martial arts across Jammu and Kashmir. He said that sporting events such as the Faavos Taekwondo Cup play a vital role in identifying talent, encourag-



ing healthy competition and instilling values of discipline, determination and teamwork among young people. The Minister emphasized that the present government is working under a well knit strategy to create a vibrant sporting ecosystem by strengthening the infrastructure, expanding training facilities. It is being ensured that talented sportspersons receive every possible opportunity to compete and succeed at national and international platforms,

he added. "Sports are a powerful medium for channelising the energy of our youth in a positive direction. They not only promote physical fitness but also build confidence, resilience, leadership qualities and a spirit of discipline. Our aim is to ensure that every talented athlete, irrespective of his or her background, gets access to quality infrastructure, coaching and competitive exposure," maintained the Minister. Satish Sharma urged the

participating athletes to remain focused, work hard and uphold the true spirit of sportsmanship. He encouraged them to view every stone towards greater achievements. He expressed confidence that many of the young players participating in the tournament would go on to represent Jammu and Kashmir and the country with distinction. The Minister also interacted with the players, coaches and sports officials, appreciating their dedication towards the development of taekwondo. He assured them that the Youth Services & Sports Department would continue to organise and support more such competitions to strengthen the grassroots sports and identify emerging talent across Jammu and Kashmir. The inaugural ceremony was attended by senior officers of the Youth Services & Sports Department, sports officials, coaches, athletes and local dignitaries. They appreciated the initiative and expressed confidence that such events would further strengthen the sporting culture and inspire greater youth participation across Jammu and Kashmir.



LG's Diary

CM's Diary

Lok Bhavan Jammu & Kashmir
@LokBhavanJandK

The Jammu Kashmir Lok Bhavan today celebrated the Foundation Day of West Bengal.

On the occasion, Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha conveyed his greetings and best wishes to the people of West Bengal.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted West Bengal's immense contribution to India's freedom struggle, literature, art, music, science and nation-building. He called upon the youth to draw inspiration from the state's great luminaries and contribute towards building a strong, prosperous and Viksit Bharat.

"May the state continue to scale new heights of growth and development," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Office of Chief Minister, J&K
@CM_JnK

#Highlights- Talent, not birthplace, should determine opportunity.

Rural versus Urban: CM on why where you are born should not decide your future.

Office of LG J&K
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Today, I addressed the Srinagar-Nalanda Dialogue. Our goal is to revive our great inheritances of knowledge & spirituality, strengthen India's civilizational traditions, and shape a future-oriented education that connects our youth to both the past and modern tech.

India vs Afghanistan 3rd ODI Highlights: Yashasvi Jaiswal Ton, Prasidh Krishna Fifer Inspire India's 3-0 Series Sweep

NEW DELHI: India completed a clean sweep of the three-match ODI series with a comprehensive nine-wicket win over Afghanistan in the final match in Chennai on Saturday. Yashasvi Jaiswal smashed an unbeaten century and combined with Rohit Sharma for a 170-run opening stand to make the chase a mere formality. Chasing a modest 219-run target, India raced to victory in just 28.4 overs, losing one wicket. Jaiswal slammed an unbeaten 110 off 86 balls (14 boundaries, 3 sixes), while Rohit scored 79 off 69 deliveries. Earlier, pacer Prasidh Krishna ripped through Afghanistan's top order, claiming four early wickets to finish with outstanding.

FIFA World Cup 2026 Day 10, Today's Schedule: Netherlands, Germany And Japan Among Teams In Action

NEW YORK: The FIFA World Cup 2026 moves to Day 10, which will witness teams like Germany, Netherlands and Japan in action. A total of four matches will be taking place on the day. Netherlands vs Sweden Group F clash will start the proceedings, before Germany face Ivory Coast in a pivotal Group E encounter next. Ecuador then face Curacao, with both teams searching for their first victory, before Japan take on Tunisia, eyeing their first win of the edition in the Group F. Notably, Japan played out a terrific draw in their campaign opener against the Netherlands. Netherlands vs Sweden - Group F - Saturday, 10:30 PM (IST)

The Netherlands entered the tournament as Group F favourites and were close to securing the three points and getting a good start, but their chances were ruined by Japan's Daichi Kamada, who netted a header in the 88th minute to help the Asian side draw the match 2-2.

On the other side, Sweden sit atop Group F after a stunning 5-1 opening win over Tunisia. Three points here would all but confirm Sweden's progression and leave the Netherlands in a precarious position, needing a win against Tunisia.

Germany vs Ivory Coast - Group E - Sunday, 1:30 AM (IST)

Germany head into the contest after delivering the tournament's most emphatic performance to date. Julian Nagelsmann's men brushed aside World Cup newcomers Curacao 7-1 in Houston, recovering instantly after conceding an unexpected equaliser. Kai Havertz led the charge with two goals, while Felix Nmecha, Nico Schlotterbeck, Jamal Musiala, Nathaniel Brown and Deniz Undav also



found the net.

Ivory Coast, meanwhile, had to work considerably harder for their opening three points. Emere Fae's side edged Ecuador 1-0 in a tense contest where fortune favoured the Elephants, with their opponents striking the frame of the goal on three occasions. Just as the game appeared destined for a draw, substitute Amad Diallo produced a decisive late strike in the 90th minute to seal victory.

Ecuador vs Curacao - Group E - Sunday, 5:30 AM (IST)

Ecuador were unbeaten in 19 consecutive matches when it arrived at the World Cup, and it looked as if Sebastian Beccacece's team was going to keep that streak going until Ivory Coast's Amad Diallo scored in the 90th minute to deal La Tricolor an opening loss.

Now, with powerful Germany await-

Big tech stock buybacks vanish as AI spending spree eats up cash

The artificial-intelligence race is becoming so expensive that it's snuffing out one of the key forces that has helped keep Big Tech stocks soaring for years: steady share buybacks.

Of the four biggest AI spenders — Alphabet Inc., Microsoft Corp., Meta Platforms Inc. and Amazon.com Inc. — only Microsoft bought back shares in the first quarter. And its \$3.4 billion in repurchases was the lowest total among the group in nearly a decade, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

"The amount of capex that's being spent is dramatically higher than even the high end of what anyone would have thought not just a year ago but three months ago," said Robert Schifman, a senior credit analyst at Bloomberg Intelligence. "Buybacks are likely to continue to fall as capital is prioritized for capex."

Not only have share repurchases slowed to a trickle, but some companies are issuing more stock to finance their AI ambitions. Alphabet Inc. is planning to raise about \$85 billion in its first equity sale in 20 years to help fund capital expenditures on data centers. And Facebook

owner Meta Platforms Inc. is reportedly weighing an offering that could raise tens of billions of dollars.

The disappearance of buybacks and the issuance of new equity represent the latest shift in the way technology giants operate as a result of heavy spending to add AI computing capacity. For years, part of the companies' appeal was their capital-light businesses, but suddenly they're capital intensive. With the four big AI spenders forecasting as much as \$725 billion in capital expenditures this year, and even more expected in 2027, the outlays are sucking up a larger proportion of free cash flow and prompting them to take on more debt.

Buybacks are a tax-free way to return cash to shareholders. By plowing a chunk of their earnings into repurchases, the companies reduce the number of shares outstanding, which has the effect of boosting earnings per share and ultimately the stock price. Naturally, they're quite popular with investors.

Without that lever, however, the tech giants face more pressure to deliver commensurate returns on invested capital, according to Brent Fredberg, portfolio man-

ager and tech sector analyst at Brandes Investment Partners, which has \$43 billion in assets. "The risk profile has changed," he said. "Over the past decade they were capital light and had huge network effects. But increasingly free cash flow is declining, balance sheets are less attractive but still strong, and now they're going from buying back shares to issuing shares and they're starting to bump into each other competitively." Of the four big spenders, Alphabet has been by far the largest buyer of its own stock. Over the past five years, the Google parent has plowed about \$280 billion into share repurchases, or more than 6 per cent of Alphabet's current market capitalization, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. The first quarter marked the first time Alphabet didn't buy back shares in nearly 10 years after spending more than \$15 billion on repurchases in the same period a year ago. Of course, not all tech giants have altered their approach to capital returns. Apple Inc. has continued its buybacks while avoiding big capital spending in favor of partnering with companies like Google to help power AI features.

BCCI Breaks Silence On 'Discussion' Over Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli's 2027 World Cup Future

MUMBAI: The deliberations on India's roadmap for the 2027 World Cup are "not meant for public consumption", BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia said in an interview to PTI, refusing to be drawn into any discussion on individual players and their much-speculated future in the team. Veterans Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli dominate the chatter whenever there is any talk around the Indian team's 2027 global campaign but Saikia is categorical that "strategic discussions in the board room" are best left inside. While both former skippers are determined to play the mega-event, chairman of selectors Ajit Agarkar and head coach Gautam Gambhir have been non-committal on whether the squad will have space for the white-ball legends. Rohit, 39, and Kohli, 37, are only active in the ODI format for India, having retired from the other two.



However, despite being in relatively good form, Saikia's response over their future leaves more questions than answers. Much like Gambhir and Agarkar, Saikia has maintained a non-committal stance on Rohit and Kohli's 2027 World Cup chances, which does not

team and a lot of experts. All stakeholders are taken on board," Saikia told PTI during an exclusive interaction.

"Whatever decisions that are made involve the cricket committee, the selectors and all other stakeholders, including the support staff, the head coach and the players concerned.

"There are regular conversations taking place. For that reason, we do not need any special session of interaction. This is an ongoing process," the secretary said, keeping all his cards close to his chest. He maintained that he would not divulge any board room information. "I do not think I should disclose anything before the media or the public because these are strategic discussions. I am not authorised to speak about them before the media. Secondly, these are matters that should remain within the boardroom."

What really controls the flow of soft materials?



It starts in the shower. You pick up the shampoo bottle and squeeze it; nothing comes out at first, just a thick slug of liquid dancing along the inside. Then, all it takes is another tiny push, and it explodes out of the tap, a continuous stream sometimes smooth as a ribbon across your fingers, other times like a glob that splashes against your palm.

This is a glimpse into one of the weirdest behaviors in materials science: yielding, when something solid-like suddenly behaves like a liquid.

Argonne National Laboratory scientists, with help from the University of Chicago, have been hunting down this mystery, not because they hope to solve an easier way to open your shampoo bottle, but because yielding state occurs everywhere, from toothpaste and paints to concrete and 3D-printing inks, as well as even the electrodes layered within devices like batteries straight out of NASA sci-fi films. It is a deceptively simple question: why does a material maintain its shape one instant, then yield to flow the next? The solution, it turns out, can be found in the invisible choreography of particles.

At Argonne's Center for Nanoscale Materials, researchers built two nearly identical samples: suspensions of tiny particles in liquid. One was tuned so the particles repelled each other. The other was nudged with a salt solution, making the particles weakly attractive to each other.

On the surface, both looked the same. But under stress, their personalities diverged.

"When the particles repel each other, the material changes shape in a very even way," said Hongrui He, an assistant physicist at Argonne. "It flows predictably, without forming large weak spots inside."

The attractive system was messier. Particles clumped together in dense areas, creating empty pockets. Some parts flowed while others froze. The material broke into shear bands, with zones moving at different speeds.

"In the attractive system, parts of the material are almost frozen while other parts are flowing," explained Wei Chen, chemist at Argonne and CASE scientist at the University of Chicago. "That leads to more complex behavior, such as delayed yielding and resolidification, which you do not see in simple fluids."

Time-to-yield delay means the material resists for a while before suddenly giving way. Resolidification is a flow phenomenon in which a material suddenly solidifies again, even though the stress remains the

same. These behaviors are not just theoretical. They determine whether concrete pours easily or thickens into a sludge, and whether industrial inks spread smoothly or get stuck. To understand what was happening, the team combined rheology, which examines how materials respond to stress, with X-ray photon correlation spectroscopy at Argonne's Advanced Photon Source. The ultra-bright beam revealed small fluctuations in scattered signals, showing how clusters of particles moved over time.

"The unique aspect of our approach is that we can measure the motion of the small particles and the overall material response at the same time," Chen said. "That allows us to connect microscopic dynamics to macroscopic behavior in real time directly." Even X-rays can't see everything. So the researchers turned to computer simulations on Bebop, Argonne's high-performance computing cluster. "In experiments, the material is dense and opaque, so you can't track every single particle," said Heyi Liang, research associate at Argonne and postdoctoral scholar at the University of Chicago. "With simulation, you can. We built the simplest model that still captures the most important parts, including delayed yielding and resolidification. We then used it to understand what is happening at the boundaries between flowing and non-flowing regions."