

# MERI TIMES

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## CAN RELY ON INDIA WHEN 'CHIPS' ARE DOWN: MODI

**MERI REPORTER**

Greater Noida: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday pitched India as the best global destination to invest on ecosystem for semiconductors and stressed on the resilience of supply chain as he sought to boost investment in domestic manufacturing of a component that sits at the intelligent core of a dizzying array of things, from vacuum cleaners, to smart phones to cars.

Modi was speaking at the inauguration of the seminar on India-2024 a three day conference to showcase India's semiconductor

parade that envisions making the country a global hub at the India Expo market in Greater Noida.

India reform focused government, its growing manufacturing base, its operational market, that is aware of technology trends are three dimensional unique to India make the country best suited to enable an ecosystem for semi-conductor manufacturing mode said. India semiconductor sector is on the brink of revolution with breakthrough advanced

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## GOVT'S SEMI-CONDUCTOR VISION

**SEMICONDUCTOR REVOLUTION**

India semiconductor sector is on the brink of a revolution with breakthrough advanced tech to transform the industry. Today's India inspires confidence in the world... when chips are down, you can bet on India.

## TWO TERRORISTS IN J&K; BSF MAN INJURED IN PAK ARMY FIRING

**MERI REPORTER**

JAMMU: Two terrorists were killed in an encounter in the Bhatnagar district of Jammu & Kashmir and a border security force (BSF) jawan was injured in a warlike encounter by the Pakistan army in the region. The region was once official frontier with the latter said on Wednesday.

The statement the latest in series to enlarge the union territory - broke out amid height political activity in the region ahead of its first assembly elections in a decade.



## KAMLA HOLDS HER OWN IN BUNN DEBATE VS TRUMP

**MERI REPORTER**

Washington: Two months after Donald Trump decisively defeated Joe Biden in a presidential debate and forced him out of race, Kamla Harris the new democratic nominee for president turned into on the republican nominee in a debate where both candidates offered contrasting visions

for America and the world - and traded personal insults. On Tuesday evening, in the battleground state of Pennsylvania, during the debate hosted by ABC News, watched by millions, Harris and Trump argued about the economy, abortion, immigration, democracy and foreign policy. By the end of it, Harris appeared to have not just held her own but put Trump on the defensive.

## SEMICON 2.0 IN THE WORKS, TO BE ROLLED OUT IN 3-4 MTHS

**MERI REPORTER**

Greater Noida: The union government will launch the next iteration of India's semiconductor manufacturing policy in next three to four months on the first stage in practically complete electronics and IT minister advised

Vaishnav said at the SEMICON India 2024 conference on Wednesday. India semiconductor ministry, 2.0 (or semicon 2.0) will focus on bringing the entire semiconductor manufacturing supply chain to India. He added.

"We will now focus equally on ecosystem for tech, equipment

manufactures or we have done on ATMP (assembly, testing, marketing and packaging) and (fab) (fabrication units). Simultaneously we will look at how to bring the chemicals being produced in the world. This big emphasis will be on specialized materials."

## WOLVES, DOG OR WOLF-DOGS?

**MERI REPORTER**

New Delhi: Five wolves have been caught, but the attack, mostly on children allegedly by wolves, continue in Bahraich district of

## THE BAHRAICH CONFUSION LINGERS

Uttar Pradesh. On Tuesday night a 13 year old girl was attacked by an animal while local dog was a wolf. The pair 10 people mostly children

were died in attacks. early on Wednesday another 13 year old girl was attacked. The Uttar Pradesh forest department blames a wolf with the loss of pack, it says, was terrorizing the region

The department could see light, which was captured with wolf. The problem could be it has changed after each capture or it could be way for there they that the department is hunting.

## GOVT NOD TO HEALTH COVER FOR ELDERLY; EV, HYDRO PUSH

**MERI REPORTER**

New Delhi: The union cabinet chaired by prime minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday approved extending financial benefits under the government Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Jan Arogya Yojna (AP-JAY) to all citizens aged 70 above.

Union minister Ashwini Vaishnav said while briefing on a slew of decisions, the coverage will see improvement of the financial status of the beneficiaries.

Health coverage under the Ayushman Bharat health insurance scheme originally covered above 60 years based on the deprivation and occupation criteria under the 2011 socio-economic caste census (SECC). The scheme provides a health cover upto 5 lakh per family per year for walkers, mobility and tertiary care hospitalization.

"We are committed to ensuring accessible, affordable and top quality healthcare for every Indian?" Prime minister Narendra Modi said in a post on X. The cabinet also approved to promote the use of electric vehicles.

# EDITORIAL

## WELCOME COVER FOR GIG WORKERS

Social Security for gig/platform workers is an idea that is worth implementing and refining.

This newspaper, reported on Tuesday that the union government is planning to bring a bill which will offer social security benefits to India's gig workers. The bill reported also said, might ask majority members in the gig economy to allocate part of their revenues (1-2%) to fund some of these. While details are yet to emerge, a policy intervention on social security for workers in gig economy is an idea whose time has come and one which must keep evolving.

The size of the workforce in gig economy is still relatively small - about eight million in India's \$500-billion plus labour force but it is likely to keep growing and be one of the biggest sources of employment generation in the country. If more and more work is to be done in gig economy, it is necessary to offer basic social security to workers. The labour market regulator must do what it can to ensure this.

There is also a question of fairness vis-a-vis workers in gig economy, which is mostly in start up space, a lot of these firms get their seed capital from venture capitalist funds and are not necessarily tied to the traditional constraints of banking which hold for the representative firm in the economy. While the founders and the senior executives manage to land on their feet (thanks to the very high salaries they draw) even if the business booms or continues to make losses, the blue collar workforce often faces a squeeze. This happens even when the business grows in scale and the focus turns to profitability. This is an inequitable distribution of risk and rewards between employers and employees.

Workable or the objective of social security for gig economy workers is such an idea are easier to elaborate in first principle than in robust effectiveness. There are multiple considerations such as gig employer shifting their employees as partners/vendors rather than employees. One can also raise question One can also raise questions, whether forcing mandatory social security contributions from employer will nudge them to question workers working for various platform simultaneously.

## UNDERSTANDING KAMLA HARRIS' FOREIGN POLICY

Thought often aligned with former president Biden, her unique worldview especially on Israel-Palestine relation promises distinct leadership on the international stage.

In the wake of President Joe Biden withdrawal from the 2024 presidential race, Kamala Harris' orientation into the role of democratic nominee, a crucial question emerges: How could Harris' foreign policy depart from Biden's?

Biden assumed office on the most experienced foreign policy president of our generation. He was long time member of our generation. He was long time member of the Senate foreign relations committee having played a crucial role in national security matters for decades. As we might be shocked by Obama administration's diplomatic initiative, Harris' pre-white House resume-

was and the numerous small crises the leader of us allies have one to see her as steady and capable hand. Perhaps not as much as leaders whom they have known for decades and in any case more than found president Donald Trump. However, four years or vice president Harris with a cool composure in international relations that few democrats or republicans can match. She has received the president daily brief every morning set in on most of Biden's meeting with many heads of state, and had been present in a situation room when critical national security decisions were made. She has also travelled to more than 200 countries met with over 150 foreign leaders and led many key delegation herself including the past three to Munich security conference.

Through the foreign affairs team withdrawal since invasion of Ukraine, intensifying great power competition with China, the next one

war failed to uphold its ideal of peace and abroad. Her inclination on a process for is to judge countries by their adherence to the rule of law and international norms rather than their political system or leader. She was Biden's "promote or reduce, acknowledge the security of US engagement with non-democratic nations as well as democratic ones shortcomings. Though agreeing with Biden that a US is generally a force for good, she is wary of united consequences and favour institutionalist and multilateral approaches over unilateral interventions. Harris believes the most effective way for the US to exercise power in a more contested and multipolar world where it is still the hegemon but lacks the ability, the will and legitimacy to dictate outcomes is a way in one did is to lead by example. There is no doubt that Harris' quiet leadership in the past was theory of practice, which can alter the course of his theory through personal relationships building and sheer force of will. By contrast, the 51-year-old Harris' quiet leadership in a post cold war world where the greatest challenge to America can be legendary



## PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM SOCIAL MEDIA ILLS

Australia is considering implementing a minimum age requirement social media use, potentially setting it between 14 and 18 years. The idea is to encourage children to engage in more physical activities and real time interaction rather than spending excessive time on digital devices. The announcement is a number

of the conversations that need to be had in India too. Scientific literature has shown how unrestricted social media exposure harms children, of necessary physical activity and associated psychological challenges typical for such age. Identity formation, self-esteem, body image, and social skill development are consequences for

cognitive development and academic performance could have young individuals with baggage passed forward. Years more serious outcomes often include depression, anxiety and disordered aggression. Many countries have struggled with the question of how children interact with virtual world. China for instance has a 10-6 up legally mandated digital curfew

on the use of digital devices and social media by minors and whether that is necessary requires scrutiny of context unique to the Chinese model of governance, but other nations that age restriction could funnel risks outwards into viable potential dangerous spaces. Such limited could also risk children of accessing information that could be constructive.

# SPORTS

## How India's Paralympic Twin Medallist Pal Created History

### MERI REPORTER

New Delhi: seated in a quiet corner and digging tentatively into her refreshments, it's hard to tell but Pal is only athlete of India to win two kinds medals in an olympics or paralympics after she became the first in independent India to win a track medal in either games. The dizzy high of the Paris Paralympics is yet to sink in, as in the significant victory she had just earned from the government she is still coming to terms with the dramatic turn her life has taken



Over the past few months "It is unbelievable, five months back, I was a nobody. Now I have international medals", she says referring to the bronze medals in the T35 and 100m and 200m events at World Para Athletics Championship and a brace of bronze

in the same events or the Paris Paralympics months. "I'm nervous like that, it is hard to forget where you have come from." Belonging to Washapur, village in Uttar Pradesh, Musafar Nagar District, just the second girl child of her parent

was born with deformed feet. "People would say 'de to ladi' after the wedding (she is a girl in the first place and on the top of that she is born with a disability) I don't think many people were happy at my birth, everyone wanted a boy" within six months of her birth her legs were put in a cast, but that did little to improve her posture. By the time she turned seven someone suggested she wear a splint and further slipped into them for eight years. I had all sorts of treatments people called me a cure but my parents were adamant to me no. they did whatever they could do to me.

## INDIA STARTED OLYMPIC CAMPAIGN WITH 4-0 VICTORY OVER MOROCCO

### MERI REPORTER

Bengaluru: Second seeds India got their Olympic campaign off to a good start with a 4-0 win in the open section over Morocco, seeded 9th, in the opening round in Budapest on Wednesday. Typically, a top team plays relatively weaker teams in the first couple of rounds. World Championship challenger D Gulnara sat out the first round. R Pugganavalli scored the first point of the day for India

playing a flawless game against IM Mohamed Tamer with white. Vidit Gujrathi and P Harikrishna too waked up a point each. On board 3 playing with black fees ajay nagairi opted for a quiet piece sacrificed against Jaques albino and the regular didn't love it a whole lot. The evaluation bar helped in favour of white, the world no. of 4 didn't managed to see himself and the team through to a 4-0 win in the opener. In the women section India who have upped gear to become top seeds - were paired against Jamaica in last

## PARIS FIASCO: GOT NO SUPPORT FROM IOA, ALLEGES VINESH

### MERI REPORTER

New Delhi: Vinesh Phogat has accused Indian Olympic Association (IOA) president PT Usha of not extending enough support to her during the Paris Olympic where the wrestler was disqualified

before her 50kg final weight for not making her weight in. The two time world Championship bronze medalist became the first Indian woman to reach an Olympic final but was ousted after being found 100gm over

height at the weight in, having sneaked in out through the rig to keep some shed the weight, she accused, whether was hospitalized when Usha went to look on her, a photograph of this was circulated to the media by IOA.

Phogat who was asked politics on her return and filled nomination for baryana assembly elections claimed in an interview on YouTube that the picture was taken without her consent "you are on a hospital bed where you don't know what happening in life

outside. You are going through one of the worst phases of your life. at that place just to show everyone you are standing with me you clicked a photo without telling me and then putting it on social media to say that you are standing

with me, what's not how you show support, what was it other than forgoing? I don't know what support I got there. PT Usha was on visited me at the hospital. one photo was clicked like you said in politics lot happens behind closed doors. similarly, politics happened there in (Paris) as well. That's why I was heartbroken.

# ENTERTAINMENT



## POPULARITY OF ENERGY DRINKS AMONG ADOLESCENT

- There is a steady rise in popularity of energy drink among adolescents with approximately 68% of them consuming these drinks worldwide. In India it is estimated around 71% of adolescent in urban areas consume energy drinks.
- This despite the fact that health experts have warned why energy drinks are a big NO for adolescents or their effects on the health is very harmful.

## WHAT ARE SOME SAFER ALTERNATIVE FOR ENERGY BOOST

- Drinks such as coconut water, protein shakes, natural fruit juices, frozen fruit slushies, fruit yogurt drinks, herbal tea, lassi etc are some safe alternative to boost energy, stay hydrated and healthy.
- Other things that helps in getting better quality sleep and help in staying fit and healthy are:-
- 1) Regular physical exercise
  - 2) Consistent sleep routine with 8-10 hours of sleep daily.
  - 3) Eating a balanced nutritious diet daily
  - 4) Reducing screen time
  - 5) Increasing physical movement in leisure time such as walking, playing sports, stretching etc
  - 6) Doing meditation daily.

## MERI REPORTER

Recently, Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Minister, Dharamdas Babu Athwa announced that they would issue an order banning the sale of energy drinks which high caffeine content within a 500 meter radius of schools in the state.

## ARE SPORTS DRINKS BETTER THAN ENERGY DRINKS?

Sports drinks are different from energy drinks or they do not contain sugar, sodium and potassium, which aid in rehydrating athletes engaged in prolonged physical exercise.

## QUIZ TIME



- 1) Which country has been given a rest in general assembly hall to the next UN member state?
  - a) Palantia
  - b) Trinidad
  - c) Sri Lanka

# THE BIG Q CAN THESE DRINKS BOOST OUR METABOLISM?

Energy drinks have become a popular pick-me-ups for teens, after providing a quick burst of energy and focus. But Dr. Nikhil spells out the adverse effects of these energy drinks....

the excessive the flashy cars and catchy slogans, these beverages may be fueling more than temporary boost.

## WHY ARE ENERGY DRINKS HARMFUL FOR TEENAGERS?

- Leads to sleep alteration:- shortened sleep duration and poor sleep quality consistently linked with increased frequency of energy drinks consumption.
- Affects mental health and emotional well being:- consuming energy drinks could lead to mental health issues like anxiety, stress, depression, smaller attention span and behavioural issues.
- Affects physical health:- As energy drink contains caffeine and sugar, they are likely to cause palpitation, dehydration, increased blood pressure and sometimes irregular heart rate.

- 2) Name the singer who has officially considered Kanda Harris in the US?
  - a) Rihanna
  - b) Taylor Swift
  - c) Beyonce
- 3) Who is the world's richest woman?
  - a) Françoise Bettencourt Meyers
  - b) Nita Ambani
  - c) Alice Walton
  - d) Who first ever conducted

- 4) Spokenalk?
  - a) Akshay Kumar
  - b) Kalpana Chawla
  - c) Rakhi Sharma
- 5) Friendliest animal on the earth?
  - a) Dolphins
  - b) Elephants
  - c) Ducks
  - d) First Prime Minister of India?
  - e) Nehru Ji

- 6) Rajeev Gandhi
  - a) Indira Gandhi
- 7) Largest species of birds?
  - a) Toucans
  - b) Macaques
  - c) Guenous
  - d) Baboon
- 8) Which of the following primates is Native to India?
  - a) Baboon
  - b) Toucans
  - c) Guenous
  - d) Macaques