



Galgotias hosts e-kike challenge to promote green mobility

GREATER NOIDA, UP

GALGOTIAS University hosted the 9th edition of the SIEP E-Bike Challenge from April 3 to April 7, 2026, bringing together engineering students and innovators from across India to compete in sustainable mobility solutions. Organised by the Imperial Society of Innovative Engineers (ISIE IN-DIA) under its SIEP (Skill, Innovation & Employability Program) initiative in collaboration with Galgotias University, the national-level event attracted more than 350 participants and 23 teams from multiple states including Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Kerala, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Goa, and Uttarakhand. The competition was centered on electric bikes, with participants designing, developing, and testing functional E-Bike prototypes with a strong focus on energy efficiency, innovation, performance, and real-world applicability.

Mercedes-Benz India clocks record sales at 19,363 units

The company also recorded a 7.45 per cent growth in the January-March 2026 quarter, selling 5,131 units compared to 4,775 units in the same period last year

NEW DELHI

GERMAN luxury carmaker Mercedes-Benz India on Thursday reported its highest-ever annual sales, retailing 19,363 units in FY25-26, up 2.29 per cent from 18,928 units in the previous fiscal, driven by strong demand for its top-end and core luxury segments.

The company also recorded a 7.45 per cent growth in the January-March 2026 quarter, selling 5,131 units compared to 4,775 units in the same period last year.

The German luxury carmaker said its performance was supported by a strong product portfolio, network upgrades, and a differentiated customer experience.

The top-end luxury segment remained a key growth driver, a 16 per cent increase in FY2025-26 and a 25 per cent rise in the March quarter. The segment includes models such as the S-Class, Mercedes-Maybach range, EQS SUV and AMG portfolio.

Notably, the segment accounted for 27 per cent of Mercedes-Benz India's total sales during the fiscal. Waiting periods for these models currently range from four months to up to a year for select models such as the AMG G 63.

The company's 'core' segment -- comprising the C-Class, E-Class LWB sedans, and GLC and GLE SUVs -- also contributed significantly to overall volumes.



The long-wheelbase E-Class continued to be the highest-selling luxury car in India, maintaining strong demand across markets.

However, the Entry Luxury segment saw an 18 per cent decline during the fiscal, amid increasing competition from lower-priced offerings backed by market incentives.

The company said it remains focused on offering feature-rich products aligned with long-term brand positioning rather than volume-driven strategies. Electric vehicles continued to gain traction, with battery electric vehicles accounting for 20 per cent of the company's top-end luxury sales in FY2025-26. Sales of top-end electric vehicles priced above Rs 1.4 crore surged 85 per cent during the year, driven

by demand for models such as the EQS SUV and EQS Maybach SUV.

Mercedes-Benz India is also set to launch the CLA electric vehicle on April 24, marking the introduction of its next-generation software-defined vehicles in the country.

On the network front, the company plans to expand its retail presence with over 20 new luxury outlets in 2026 under its 'Go to Customer' strategy. It will enter new markets such as Visakhapatnam and Varanasi, while strengthening its presence in existing markets, including Bengaluru, Mumbai, Delhi-NCR, Pune, and Goa.

The expansion will be supported by an investment of over Rs 450 crore by franchise partners over the next two years, with a continued focus on enhancing customer experience through upgraded facilities and adoption of advanced technologies.

Ayush to showcase research, health initiatives on World Homoeopathy Day

The forum will bring together leading policymakers, researchers, practitioners and delegates to deliberate on the evolving role of homoeopathy

NEW DELHI

THE Ministry of Ayush will commemorate the 'World Homoeopathy Day 2026' on April 10 at Vigyan Bhawan with a two day interactive forum to showcase research advancements, public health initiatives and policy developments in homoeopathy, an official statement said on Thursday.

The event, organised by the Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy, will also feature deliberations on strengthening scientific validation, ethical standards, and integration of homoeopathy into mainstream healthcare systems, the statement from the Ministry of Ayush said.

The forum will bring together leading policymakers, researchers, practitioners and delegates to deliberate on the evolving role of homoeopathy in building sustainable healthcare systems.

Special sessions will explore the role of homoeopathy in preventive and promotive healthcare, management of lifestyle and chronic diseases, and its contribution to reducing dependency on conventional pharmacotherapy.



Discussions will also focus on eco-friendly pharmaceutical practices, biodiversity conservation, and the importance of integrating traditional knowledge with modern scientific research.

Amid rising healthcare costs, increasing burden of chronic diseases, and growing concerns such as antimicrobial resistance, the event will underline homoeopathy's potential as a sustainable medical system.

The homoeopathy system is characterised by a minimal ecological footprint, rational resource use, and a focus on stimulating the body's innate healing mechanisms, the ministry said.

'World Homoeopathy Day 2026' is expected to further

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reinforce India's leadership in promoting traditional systems of medicine, the statement said.

The event will also serve as a platform to foster dialogue, collaboration and innovation among stakeholders, to make healthcare effective,

equitable, environmentally conscious and sustainable.

Centred on the theme "Homoeopathy for Sustainable Health," this year's observance will highlight how homoeopathy offers a holistic, cost-effective and environmentally responsible approach to healthcare—aligned with global priorities such as Universal Health Coverage and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 3 on Good Health and Well-being.

Over the years, homoeopathy has witnessed growing acceptance globally, especially in community healthcare and public health interventions, and the ministry has been actively expanding its reach through evidence-based practices, improved accessibility, and integration into national health programmes, the statement said.

Homoeopathy first entered India in 1810 when German missionaries began distributing the medicines.

India has 3.45 lakh registered homoeopathy doctors, 8,593 homoeopathy dispensaries, 277 homoeopathy educational institutions and 34 research centres.

More than accessories: How Gen Z is wearing their identity

They use tech accessories to match their outfits, bling out their phone cases and trying to stand out as much as possible

NEW DELHI

TODAY'S Gen-Z have embraced adolescence through their style and it's deeply personal. They carry accessories around as a form of self-expression and identity.

For this cohort, what they carry becomes an extension of who they are, often sparking conversations and helping them connect with like-minded people. What Gen-Z wear is a reflection of how they feel, live and see themselves.

Trends such as Labubus, adorable little keepsakes such as cherry stems to bows, hearts etc. are now increasingly being used as bag charms. Often described as 'emotional support charms', they are all the rage right now.

While these accessories

realme Buds T500 Pro
Mini Size. Mighty Performance



complete a look, tech accessories such as colourful phone cases, smart rings and funky wireless earphones are now a part of the morning routine for youngsters to kick start their day. For them, these accessories are extensions of their personalities just like clothes, hairstyles and jewellery. It's no surprise then that the search for the best compact TWS is no longer just about sound, but also about design, portability, and how seamlessly it fits into everyday style.

Style for this generation is

a culmination of a lot of elements. They use tech accessories to match their outfits, bling out their phone cases and trying to stand out as much as possible.

Gen Z is all about these unique, creative pieces that indicate that a tiny spark is all it takes. Tech accessories now play such an integral role in their appearance and can significantly impact opinions in their peer groups. Having a trendy earphone shows your style, that you are creative as well as confident.

Pvt sector's role crucial for R&D, innovation: Jitendra

NEW DELHI

MINISTER of State for Science and Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh, on Thursday called upon the private sector to step up participation in research and development (R&D), stressing that stronger industry engagement is key to building a robust innovation ecosystem in India.

The minister said the government has taken several enabling measures, including opening up sectors such as space and nuclear energy to private players and introducing mechanisms like the Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) fund, but noted that industry must now respond with greater investment and collaboration.

Speaking at the release of two reports by NITI Aayog on easing R&D processes, Dr Singh said that reforms should focus not just on system design but on the actual experience of researchers. Highlighting India's grow-

ing scientific capabilities, he said the country has abundant talent that is increasingly recognised globally, but institutional and procedural bottlenecks continue to affect outcomes.

At the same time, the minister flagged limited private sector participation in research funding and execution, saying government support alone cannot sustain long-term innovation.

He cited initiatives such as 'One Nation, One Subscription' for research journals as steps to improve access to knowledge, and stressed that streamlining routine processes like approvals, funding flows and administrative clearances can significantly enhance research productivity.

Suman Bery, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog, said the initiative to ease R&D processes is based on long-standing demands from the scientific community to reduce administrative burden and improve efficiency.

Haryana aims towards water sustainability with World Bank funds

Planned over a six-year period, the initiative represents a comprehensive and structured effort to strengthen water management systems in the state

CHANDIGARH

IN a significant push towards long-term water sustainability, Chief Secretary Anurag Rastogi on Thursday chaired a high-level meeting with the World Bank Appraisal Mission, marking a decisive step forward in the implementation of the ambitious 'Water Secure Haryana' programme.

The programme, with a total outlay of Rs5,715 crore, including a Rs4,000 crore World Bank loan, is aimed at improving the efficiency, reliability and sustainability of agricultural water use across the state.

Planned over a six-year period, the initiative represents a comprehensive and structured effort to strengthen water management systems in the state. The project will be implemented through a co-ordinated approach in-



volving the Irrigation and Water Resources Department, which has been allocated Rs3,328 crore, the Micro-Irrigation and Command Area Development Authority with an outlay of Rs1,500 crore, and the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, which will utilise Rs887 crore.

This convergence of departments is expected to ensure integrated planning and effective execution.

Satbir Singh Kadian, Engineer in Chief, Irrigation and Water Resources Department, informed that the programme has been designed

to bring a structural transformation in water governance by leveraging modern technology, strengthening institutions and promoting farmer-centric interventions.

It will be implemented across 15 clusters covering 48.94 lakh acres, benefiting a significant portion of the state's cultivable command area.

A key focus of the initiative is the adoption of data-driven water management systems, including digital databases and real-time monitoring mechanisms, to improve irrigation efficiency and service delivery.



THE POLITICA

Nothing political about it

SCOTT BAUER, JEFF AMY AND JONATHAN J. COOPER

THE bluntest assessment of Republican failures during this week's elections in Wisconsin came from one of their own.

"We got our butts kicked," said US Rep Tom Tiffany, who is running for governor.

He was referring to Democratic victories in campaigns for the Wisconsin Supreme Court and the mayor's office in Waukesha, a conservative suburb outside of Milwaukee. But some Republicans were also rattled by a Georgia special election, where their candidate to replace Marjorie Taylor Greene in Congress won by a much slimmer margin than the party enjoyed in the past.

Taken together, the swings from red to blue added more data points to an increasingly clear picture of Democratic momentum heading into the November midterms, when control of the US House, US Senate and state governments around the country are up for grabs.

"In rural, urban, red, blue, Democrats have overperformed everywhere," said Jared Leopold, a Democratic consultant whose clients include Keisha Lance Bottoms, a candidate for Georgia governor. "That is a significant

Republican fears grow as Democrats keep notching election victories ahead of midterms

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canary in the coal mine about what November of '26 is going to look like."

Some Republicans insisted there was no need to panic, and their fundraising remains stronger than Democrats. Stephen Lawson, a Georgia strategist, said "the sky is not falling."

But he also said his party is running behind where it has been in the past, and Republicans need to be "looking at these results carefully."

A red alarm for Republicans'

Special elections can be notoriously unreliable as political benchmarks, but Democrats have consistently demonstrated surprising strength. They flipped a Texas state Senate district. They won a Florida state House seat in a district that includes President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort in Palm Beach.

Then they gained ground on Tuesday in the race to replace Greene, who resigned from Congress in January after a falling out with Trump.

Clay Fuller, the Republican candidate, prevailed by 12 points. Two years ago, Greene won by 29 points and Trump carried the district by almost 37 points. "That's a red alarm for Repub-

licans," said Democratic strategist Meredith Brasher.

Fuller defeated Shawn Harris, who plans to challenge him again in November.

Jackie Harling, the district's Republican chairwoman, said she believed that Greene's resignation energized Democrats while her party is suffering from "election fatigue."

"Marjorie Taylor Greene was like a freight train that you couldn't stop, and when she pulled out, it gave Democrats hope and it gave them a shot at winning something they believed was unwinnable," Harling said.

Slightly bluer side of purple'

Georgia has key races this year, including an open contest for the governor's office. Sen. Jon Ossoff, a Democrat, is trying to defend his seat as well.

There's reason to think that simmering discontent could boomerang back on Republicans just two years after Trump harnessed voters' anger with his comeback presidential campaign.

In November, Democrats defeated two Republican incumbents in statewide races for seats on the Public Service Commission, which regulates utilities. Rising electricity rates have been a fault line in recent campaigns,



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especially as enormous data centers are built to power artificial intelligence.

But Georgia Democratic Party Chair Charlie Bailey is trying to maintain modest expectations.

"We could cement ourselves, put ourselves, on the slightly bluer side of purple," he said. "We're not going to overnight turn into Colorado."

A very clear sign of momentum'

Wisconsin holds statewide elections for supreme court

seats, and liberals expanded their majority with a 20-point blowout victory on Tuesday.

Democrats saw gains in red, blue and purple counties when compared to another judicial race last year, which was also won by the liberal candidate.

"This to me was a very clear sign of momentum and enthusiasm for Democrats in the fall," said Wisconsin Democratic Party Chairman Devin Remiker.

The state has its own open race for governor this year, and Democrats are hoping to take control of the state legislature and oust Republican U.S. Rep. Derrick Van Orden.

"It's time for us to put this thing in overdrive," said Mandala Barnes, a Democratic former lieutenant-governor who is running for governor.

Milwaukee County Executive David Crowley, another Democratic candidate for governor, said it's clear that "people are really upset with the Republican Party and their brand right now."

"But that doesn't mean that they're automatically going to come over to the Democrats," Crowley said. "And that's why we have to continue to focus on the issues and speak to the val-

ues of all the voters here in the state of Wisconsin."

A lot of anxiety'

Tiffany, the Republican candidate for governor in Wisconsin, cautioned against reading too much into Tuesday's results.

He said "every election is unique," and he wasn't making any changes to his campaign. He said the key to winning will be to "paint that clear contrast of how we are going to help everyday Wisconsin-sinites."

But Democrats seemed to be making inroads, including in Waukesha. The city is located outside of Milwaukee in the Republican stronghold of Waukesha County. Democrat Alicia Halvensleben, president of the city's Common Council, defeated Republican Scott Allen, one of the most conservative members of the state Assembly.

She said Trump came up "a lot" when she was campaigning, although she thinks her victory came down to local issues and how the state legislature wasn't addressing them.

"There's so much uncertainty at the national level," Halvensleben said. "I think that level of uncertainty is causing people a lot of anxiety, all the way down to the local level."