

## Decoding The Hindu Article

# Finland, Sweden inch closer to becoming part of NATO

Bloc chief expects the joining process to be very quick

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BERLIN

Finland's government declared a "new era" is underway as it inches closer to seeking NATO membership, hours before Sweden's governing party on Sunday backed a plan to join the trans-Atlantic alliance amid Russia's war in Ukraine.

Russia has long bristled about NATO moving closer to its borders, so the developments will be sure to further anger Moscow.

NATO Secretary-General **Jens Stoltenberg said on Sunday the process for Finland and Sweden to join** could be very quick. He also didn't expect Turkey to hold up the process.

Speaking after top diplomats from the alliance's 30 member states met in Berlin, Mr. Stoltenberg also expressed his hope that Ukraine could win the war as Russian military advances appear to be faltering.



**Unyielding strength:** Sanna Marin, left, and Sauli Niinistö at a press conference in Helsinki, Finland, on Sunday. •AFP

In Finland, President Sauli Niinistö and Prime Minister Sanna Marin confirmed earlier statements that their country would seek membership in NATO during a joint news conference at the Presidential Palace in Helsinki. The Nordic country, which was nonaligned before changing its stance on NATO, shares a long border with Russia.

The Finnish Parliament is expected to endorse the decision in the coming days. A formal membership applica-

tion will then be submitted to NATO headquarters in Brussels, most likely at some point next week.

Sweden, also nonaligned, moved a step closer to applying for NATO membership after the governing Social Democratic party met on Sunday and backed the decision. The plan to join the alliance will be discussed in Sweden's parliament on Monday, and Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson's Cabinet will make an announcement later that day.

## Decoding The Hindu Article

### Vocabulary

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
Spurt	(Noun): a sudden marked burst or increase of activity or speed.	उछाल
Gullible	(Adjective): easily persuaded to believe something; credulous	आसानी से धोखा खानेवाला

### Static News

The North Atlantic Treaty also called the North Atlantic Alliance, is an intergovernmental military alliance between 30 member states – 28 European states, the United States, and Canada. Established in the aftermath of World War II on the insistence of the Truman administration in the United States, the organization implements the North Atlantic Treaty, which was signed on 4 April 1949.

Formation	4 April 1949
Headquarters	Brussels, Belgium
Chairman of the NATO Military Committee	Lt. Admiral Rob Bauer

### Grammar

#### GENERAL RULES OF CONVERSION ACTIVE VOICE TO PASSIVE VOICE:

1. The subject in the active voice becomes the object in the passive voice and the object in the active voice becomes the subject in the passive voice.
2. Put 'by' in front of the subject in the passive voice.
3. Use 3rd form of verb + is/ am/ are/ was/ were/ been/ being according to the tense in passive voice.
4. There is no passive voice of present/ past/ future perfect continuous sentences and future continuous.
5. Generally, passive voice can be made of transitive verb i.e. verbs which have an object attached to them.
6. Sentences of an intransitive verb cannot be converted into passive voice. They laughed- No passive  
The laughed at- The teacher was laughed at by them.  
In the first sentence, there is no object thus it cannot be converted into passive voice. But in the second sentence 'teacher' is the object thus its passive voice is possible.

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## Decoding The Hindu Article

# Sensex slumps 2% as investors dump bank, technology stocks

‘Volatility to persist on rising interest rates globally, and high inflation’

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
MUMBAI

Key benchmark indices fell sharply on Monday following selling pressure in banking and IT stocks. The S&P BSE Sensex slid 1,172.19 points, or 2.01%, to 57,166.74.

The top losers included Infosys, which fell 7.27%, HDFC (4.81%), HDFC Bank (4.74%), Tech Mahindra (4.69%) and Wipro (3.67%).

Similarly, the NSE Nifty index fell 302 points, or 1.73%, to 17,173.65 points.

“Lower-than-expected results from heavyweights like Infosys and HDFC Bank impacted sentiments,” said Ajit Mishra, VP, research, Religare Broking Ltd. “Mixed



**Weight loss:** Weaker-than-expected results at heavyweights hit sentiment, says Religare’s Mishra. •FILE PHOTO

trend was seen among the sectoral indices wherein IT and banking were the top laggards while auto, FMCG and energy were the gainers.

“We believe global cues as well as the outcome of Q4 earnings will continue to add

volatility in the coming sessions. Hence, we would remain cautious on the markets and suggest traders to keep their position hedged,” Mr. Mishra added.

“We expect FY23 to witness continued volatility in

equity markets, especially in the first half of the year with rising interest rates globally and high inflation, which is expected to persist,” Naveen Kulkarni, chief investment officer, Axis Securities, said.

### ‘Debt funds to equity’

“In this scenario, we expect money to move from long-duration debt funds to equity funds in the second half of the year, which should bode well for equities,” he said.

“We continue to remain positive on... metals, hospitals, hospitality, oil refining, capital goods. Some underperforming sectors might include discretionary consumption, IT, NBFCs,” Mr. Kulkarni added.

## Vocabulary

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
Laggards	(Noun): a person who makes slow progress and falls behind others.	फिसड्डी

## Static News

The BSE SENSEX (also known as the S&P Bombay Stock Exchange Sensitive Index or simply SENSEX) is a free-float market-weighted stock market index of 30 well-established and financially sound companies listed on the Bombay Stock Exchange. The 30 constituent companies which are some of the largest and most actively traded stocks, are representative of various industrial sectors of the Indian economy.

Published since 1 January 1986, the S&P BSE SENSEX is regarded as the pulse of the domestic stock markets in India. The base value of the SENSEX was taken as 100 on 1 April 1979 and its base year as 1978–79. On 25 July 2001 BSE launched DOLLEX-30, a dollar-linked version of the SENSEX.

## Grammar

### PREPOSITIONS OF TIME:

Basic examples of time prepositions include: at, on, in, before and after. They are used to help indicate when something happened, happens or will happen. It can get a little confusing though, as many different prepositions can be used. Prepositions of time examples in the following sentences are in bold for easy identification.

For example:

☞ I was born on July 4th, 1982.



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## Decoding The Hindu Article

# 'The greatest victory of all time'

Vimal underlines the reason for Prannoy's selection

**RAKESH RAO**  
NEW DELHI

Vimal Kumar has seen it all in Indian badminton.

As a player, he saw the golden years of Prakash Padukone and Syed Modi. He was a regular member of the Indian Thomas Cup team campaigns from 1981 to 1991 in his international career spanning 15 straight years. From 2000, he has regularly accompanied the Indian teams.

Accompanying the victorious team as manager, Vimal called it "the greatest" and elaborated.

### Very different

"We had Prakash Padukone winning the All England (in 1980) and then Gopi Chand (in 2001). Saina Nehwal and K. Srikanth became World No. 1, P. V. Sindhu won the World title (in 2019) but to win the biggest team title in the game is something very different. I can't explain the feeling, the joy.

Vimal praised Lakshya Sen for his display despite suffering from food-poison-



Prannoy... fabulous show. •  
BADMINTONPHOTO/COURTESY OF BWF

ing before he left for Bangkok. A National selector, Vimal underlined H.S. Prannoy's role in the deciders against Malaysia (in the quarterfinals) and Denmark (in the semifinals) and explained his selection.

"We chose Prannoy because he has some very impressive victories this season, including one over

World No. 1 and Olympic champion Viktor Axelsen in November. I'm so happy Prannoy justified his selection.

### Thanks for the support

Prannoy, on his part, said, "I'm thankful to those who supported me. I've always performed well under pressure. I'm proud of this type of team. I've done justice to my selection."

Chirag Shetty, brilliant in the doubles match in the company of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, said, "We had this belief of doing well in the competition. We were there to contend because we felt we had the team to win. Once we return from dinner, we will dance, like we do after every victory."

Srikanth, whose unbeaten streak in six matches was the pillar on which India's campaign rested, said "Today is a special day. We don't get to play as a team much. To be in the Thomas Cup final and win, makes it special. And the feeling will take time to sink in."

## Decoding The Hindu Article

### Vocabulary

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
Moot	(Verb): raise (a question or topic) for discussion; suggest (an idea or possibility).	विचार करना

### Static News

The Thomas Cup, sometimes called the World Men's Team Championships, is an international badminton competition among teams representing member nations of the Badminton World Federation (BWF), the sport's global governing body. The championships have been conducted every two years since the 1982, amended from being conducted every three years since the first tournament held in 1948–1949.

India is the current champion, having won its first title after beating title holders Indonesia 3-0 in the 2022 edition.

### Grammar

Finished actions, states or habits in the past.

1. We use it with finished actions, states or habits in the past when we have a finished time word (yesterday, last week, etc.).

EXAMPLE: I went to the cinema yesterday.

2: We use it with finished actions, states or habits in the past when we know from general knowledge that the time period has finished. This includes when the person we are talking about is dead.

EXAMPLE : Leonardo painted the Mona Lisa.

Unreal or imaginary things in the present or future. We use the past simple to talk about things that are not real in the present or future.

EXAMPLE : If I won the lottery, I would buy a house.

I wish I had more time!

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## Decoding The Hindu Article

# SAT admits Ramkrishna's plea against regulator's order

SEBI asked to submit reply in 4 weeks; hearing on June 30

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
NEW DELHI

The Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) has admitted former NSE chief Chitra Ramkrishna's plea against a SEBI order in relation to governance lapses at the bourse and directed her to deposit an amount of ₹2 crore.

The appellate tribunal also directed NSE to deposit more than ₹4 crore towards leave encashment and deferred bonus of Ramkrishna in an escrow account as against SEBI's direction where the amount was to be parked in the Investor Protection Fund Trust.

In an order dated February 11, SEBI had slapped a penalty of ₹3 crore on Ms.



Chitra Ramkrishna

Ramkrishna for alleged governance lapses in a case related to the appointment of Anand Subramanian as the Group Operating Officer and Advisor when she was MD and CEO of the NSE.

Besides, the watchdog had asked NSE to deposit the excess leave encashment of

₹1.54 crore and the deferred bonus of ₹2.83 crore of Ms. Ramkrishna in the Investor Protection Fund Trust.

Passing a four-page order dated April 11, the tribunal said various questions that had been raised would be considered at the time of hearing. It also directed SEBI to submit its reply within four weeks, while listing the case for hearing on June 30.

"However... to balance the equities as well as balance of convenience, we direct NSE... to deposit ₹4.73 crore towards leave encashment and deferred bonus of the appellant in an escrow account of instead of depositing it in the Investor Protection Fund Trust," the tribunal said.

## Decoding The Hindu Article

### Vocabulary

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
Bourse	(Noun): a stock market in a non-English-speaking country, especially France.	विदेशी मुद्रा बाजार

### Static News

Securities Appellate Tribunal was mainly established to hear an appeal against the order passed by the SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India) or by an adjudicating officer under the SEBI Act, 1992.

Chitra Ramkrishna is an Indian businesswoman and the former CEO of the National Stock Exchange. In March 2022, she was arrested by the CBI for her involvement in the 'yogi scam'.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India is the regulatory body for securities and commodity market in India under the ownership of Ministry of Finance, Government of India. It was established on 12 April 1988 and given Statutory Powers on 30 January 1992 through the SEBI Act, 1992.

### Grammar

PAST PERFECT TENSE describes a completed activity in the past. It is used to emphasize that an action was completed before another action took place. Basically, it describes an event that happened in the past before another event in the simple past tense was completed in the past.

For Example:

☑ Krishna had baked a cake before you arrived. (It means Krishna's action happened before his/her arrival)

☑ They had painted the fence before I had a chance to speak to them.



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**Decoding The Hindu Article**

# Real and Villarreal hold the edge

Chelsea upbeat after big win; Bayern Munich must raise its game to avoid an upset

**CHAMPIONS LEAGUE**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
LONDON

The Champions League semifinal line-up will be settled this week, with Liverpool and Real Madrid needing to defend two-goal leads to make it through.

The other two games are more evenly **poised** with Villarreal and Manchester City only holding one-goal advantages. Here is a look at the two games to be played on Tuesday.

**Bayern Munich-Villarreal (0-1):** Bayern Munich must raise its game to avoid being upset by Spanish club Villarreal and keep alive its hopes for a quadruple of trophies this season. The six-time European champion struggled from the start of the first leg against Villarreal and was far from impressive with a 1-0 home win against relegation-threatened Augsburg in the Bundesliga on Saturday



**Protagonist:** Midfielder Groeneveld, right, put Villarreal ahead in the first leg of the quarterfinals. •AFP

when it had just four shots on goal and none on target in the first half.

Champion in 2020 by beating Paris Saint-Germain,

Bayern's title defence was ended by the French side in the quarterfinals last season.

Villarreal is trying to reach the last four of the Cham-

pions League for only a second time after 2006. The team based in a city of 50,000 people in southeastern Spain hadn't even made

it to the quarterfinals since 2009.

**Real Madrid-Chelsea (3-1):** Chelsea coach Thomas Tuchel was candidly defeatist after the first leg, declaring the European champion's title defence to be over. A 6-0 Premier League rout of Southampton at the weekend might have restored some confidence after conceding seven goals in its previous two matches.

While Chelsea's Premier League target is just holding onto third place, Madrid is cruising at the top in Spain. So much so, Toni Kroos and Luka Modric were rested in a 2-0 win against Getafe that leaves Madrid 12 points clear.

There is still doubt about whether left back Ferland Mendy will play as he continues to nurse a muscle problem. Madrid has won eight of its last nine games in all competitions, with its lone setback a 4-0 home loss to rival Barcelona in the Spanish league in March.

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### Vocabulary

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
Poised	(Adjective): having a composed and self-assured manner. .	की ओर अग्रसर

### Static News

The UEFA Champions League is an annual club football competition organised by the Union of European Football Associations and contested by top-division European clubs. It was founded in 1955.

Bayern München e. V., also known as FC Bayern or Bayern Munich, is a German professional sports club based in Munich, Bavaria. It is best known for its professional football team, which plays in the Bundesliga, the top tier of the German football league system.

### Grammar

Non-finite Verbs are not actual verbs. They do not work as verbs in the sentence rather they work as nouns, adjectives, adverbs, etc. Non-finite verbs do not change according to the number/person of the subject because these verbs, also called verbals, do not have any direct relation to the subject. Sometimes they become the subject themselves. Basically, Non-finites are of three types: gerunds, infinitives and participles.



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**Decoding The Hindu Article**

# Vijay and Ramesh recall their long friendship with Sankar

**S. DINAKAR**  
CHENNAI

N. Sankar was **suave**, possessed a wealth of knowledge, and was articulate. He cared for sports and not surprisingly earned the respect of top flight sportspersons, including tennis aces **Vijay Amritraj** and **Ramesh Krishnan**.

Hearing the news of Sankar's demise, Tamil Nadu Tennis Association president **Amritraj** said, "Incredibly saddened to hear of the passing of our dear friend N. Sankar."

**Wonderful player**

He added, "My relationship with him started over 50 years ago watching and then playing against Sankar and Kumar on the clay courts of



N. Sankar with Vijay Amritraj. \*FILE PHOTO: R. RAGU

Chennai. He was a wonderful player, great in business, and an amazing lover and supporter of tennis."

Amritraj said, "I always enjoyed my time with him well after my career. He was a true gift to Tamil Nadu tennis before and after his stint

as president of TNTA."

The entire tennis fraternity in the State would dearly miss him, he said. He added, "I will miss him. Heartfelt condolences to his entire family."

Ramesh told *The Hindu*, "Sankar has known our fami-



Ramesh Krishnan. \*FILE PHOTO

ly for generations. In the late 50s, he used to play a lot with my grandfather, T.K. Ramanathan."

To the Krishnans, Sankar was a family friend. "He is very prominent in my father's wedding photos," revealed Ramesh. Although

Sankar was more connected to his father, the great Ramanathan Krishnan, and his grandfather, Ramesh said, "I played with him at the club level. He had a very neat style, clean game."

Ramesh remembered the ₹1 million clay court tournament at Chennai's Gymkhana Club in 1993.

"Sankar was the driving force behind that event. All the big players came. I defeated K.G. Ramesh in the final."

Talking about Sankar's qualities, Ramesh said, "He was sharp, very good company, and had a great sense of humour."

"What set him apart was that he could organise things. He was passionate about sports."

## Decoding The Hindu Article

### Vocabulary

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
Suave	(Adjective): harming, confident, and elegant (typically used of a man).	शिष्ट

### Static News

Vijay Amritraj is an Indian sports commentator, actor and retired professional tennis player from Madras. He was awarded the Padma Shri, India's 4th highest civilian honour, in 1983.

Ramesh Krishnan is a tennis coach and former professional tennis player from India. As a junior player in the late 1970s, he won the singles titles at both, Wimbledon and the French Open

### Grammar

Non-finite Verbs are not actual verbs. They do not work as verbs in the sentence rather they work as nouns, adjectives, adverbs, etc. Non-finite verbs do not change according to the number/person of the subject because these verbs, also called verbals, do not have any direct relation to the subject. Sometimes they become the subject themselves. Basically, Non-finites are of three types: gerunds, infinitives and participles.



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