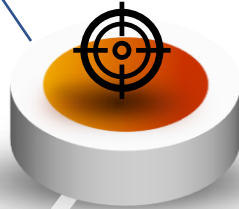


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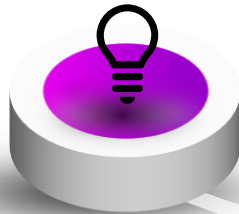
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The Hindu



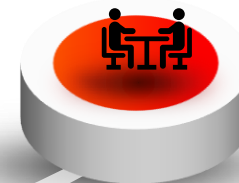
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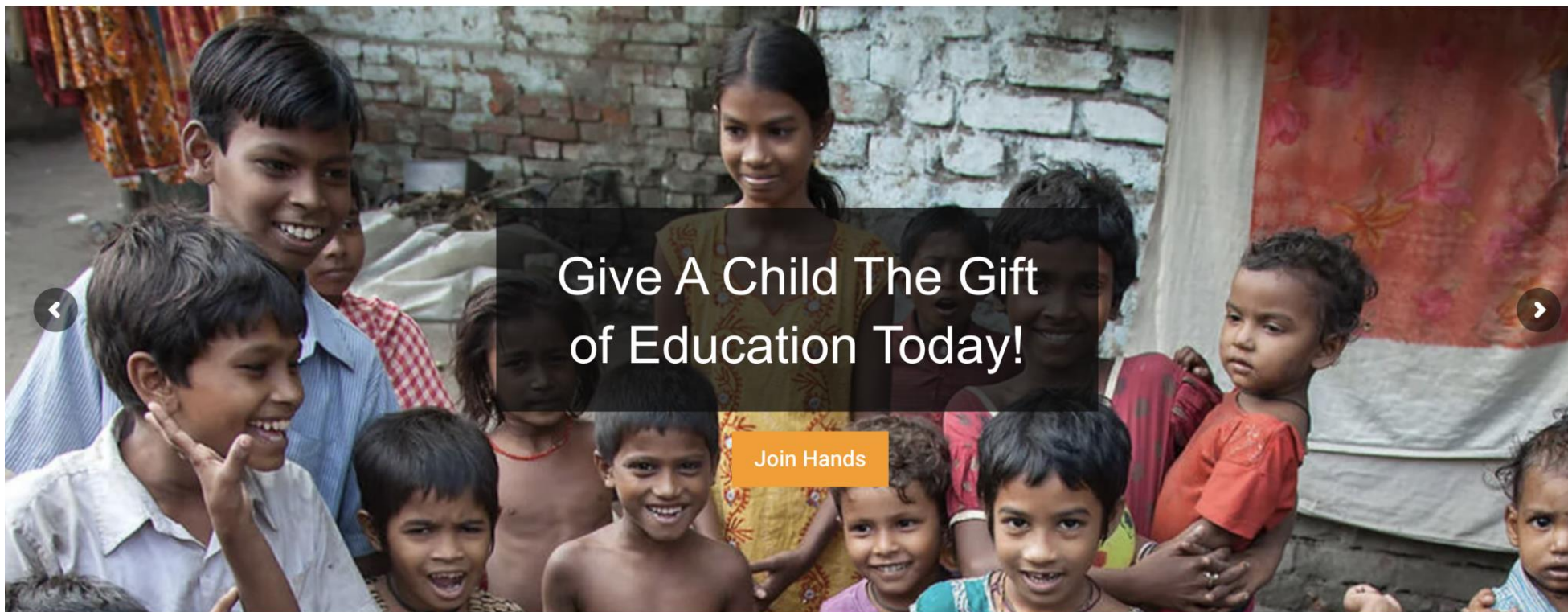
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5,534
Volunteers



671
Contributors



1,231
Kids



24
States



Let no one challenge India's secularism.

Atal Bihari Vajpayee





INSIDE



NDA targets 95 seats in Assam Assembly polls

GUWAHATI Buoyed by the favourable panchayat election results, the Bharatiya Janata Party-led National Democratic Alliance has set a target of winning 95 seats in the 2026 Assembly elections in Assam, a PAGE 2

Hasina blamed for deadly drive to quell protests

DHAKA Bangladesh's former PM Sheikh Hasina masterminded a deadly crackdown on mass protests that prompted her ouster last year, prosecutors at a domestic war crimes tribunal said on Monday, a PAGE 14

India won't bend to Pakistan's nuclear blackmail, says Modi

Operation Sindoor not over, cessation of hostilities only a pause, says PM in his address to the nation; Pakistan's actions in the next few days will be evaluated for any further action, he adds; he sidesteps Trump's claims on U.S. intervention

Nistula Hebbar

Operation Sindoor is still on, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday in his first address to the nation after the operation got under way on May 7. He added that India "will not tolerate any nuclear blackmail" while acting against terror and its sponsor, Pakistan.

India has established a "new normal" in dealing with terror incidents - of responding to them in a language that the terrorists understood, he said.

'Zero tolerance'

Referencing the surgical strikes of 2016 and the Balakot air strikes of 2019 in his address, he said that zero tolerance of terrorism



Operation Sindoor is now India's established policy in the fight against terrorism, marking a decisive shift in India's strategic approach. The operation has set a new standard, a new normal in counter-terrorism measures



only take place on the issues of terrorism, and on the issue of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. "Talks and terror cannot go together, terror and trade cannot go together, and water and blood (referring to the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty) cannot go together," he said during the televised address. He sidestepped

Trump claims to have stopped a 'nuclear conflict'

NEW YORK/WASHINGTON U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday claimed that his administration stopped a "nuclear conflict" between India and Pakistan. "I think it could have been a bad nuclear war," Mr. Trump said, a PAGE 5

U.S. President Donald Trump's statement that his administration had helped halt the conflict.

Referring to the presence of Pakistani Army of Fatah at the funeral of the terrorists killed in Operation Sindoor, Mr. Modi said it had unmasked the fact that the Pakistani state was a sponsor of terror.

In future, India will not

distinguish between terrorists and their sponsors, he said the Pakistani state. He said that Balakot and Murtide (two of the terror camps hit by Indian forces) were "universities of terrorism", with links to every big terror attack in the last few years, including the 9/11 attacks and that on the London tube system.

The agreement came during talks between the Directors-General of Military Operations (DGMOs) of India and Pakistan on Monday.

The agreement effectively taken forward the understanding reached between the DGMOs on Saturday to stop all firing and military activity. While the understanding was breached by Pakistan within a few hours, guns have now fallen silent and the skies remained devoid of drones on Sunday night, the Army confirmed.

Earlier in the day, Air Marshal A.K. Bharti, Director-General of Air Operations (DGAO), said that in spite of some minor damages, "all our military bases and systems continue to remain fully operational, and ready to undertake any further missions, should the need so arise."

The DGAO also highlighted the role of air defence weapons, including the older and battle-proven ones, in minimising damage to both civilian and military infrastructure.

"I would like to highlight again that in every single domain that Operation Sindoor has been prosecuted, there has been total synergy between the three Services," noted Lieutenant General Ranjit Singh, Director-General of Military Operations.

The Directors-General

All Indian military bases will remain ready for combat

Dinakar Puri
NEW DELHI

India and Pakistan on Monday agreed to "consider immediate measures to ensure troop reductions" from the borders and forward areas, the Army said, adding that their commitment to not fire a single shot or initiate any aggressive and inimical action will continue.

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The Directors-General



Air Marshal A.K. Bharti

Drone downed in Punjab: official

JAMMU/CHANDIGARH A "surveillance drone" was downed in Jalandhar of Punjab on Monday night, Deputy Commissioner Himanshu Agarwal said. Meanwhile, suspected drones were being engaged at Samba in J&K, the Army said, a PAGE 17

(Operations) Army, Navy, and Air Force, underscored how the country's air defence grid functioned seamlessly to shoot down the waves and waves of incoming drones, loitering munitions, and missiles launched by Pakistan between May 7 and 10.

The DG, Naval Operations, Vice Admiral A. N. Pramod said their powerful Carrier Battle Group (CBG) with formidable offensive capability was able to operate "with impunity and maintained an uncontested presence" in the area of operations. "Effectively it compelled the Pakistani air elements to remain bottled up close to the Makran coast, denying any opportunity to be a threat in maritime space."

Air Marshal Bharti decried into how the Indian armed forces managed to minimise the damage to both civilian and military infrastructure in the country.



Test cricket's shining jewel

Virat Kohli, one of the modern-day greats in the classical format, has decided to call it a day. The glittering moments of his illustrious career

9,230

Kohli (9,230) is the fourth highest run-getter for India after Sachin Tendulkar (34,133), Rahul Dravid (13,292) and Sunil Gavaskar (10,122)

121

His tally of catches (121) is the third-most for the country behind Dravid (209) and V.V.S. Laxman (135)

Kohli captured India the most number of times

Virat Kohli has captured India the most number of times in the ICC Test series wins

No. 1 spot

Under his leadership, India held the No. 1 spot in the ICC Test rankings for five consecutive years (2016-21)

He equalled Ponting's record when he led India to nine straight Test series wins

He equalled Ponting's record when he led India to nine straight Test series wins between 2015 and 2017

Test series win

on Australian soil (2013-19 Border-Gavaskar Trophy)

four hundreds

in an overseas Test series

seven double centuries

in the seven Test series wins in Australia

115 and 141

On his captaincy debut (2014-15 Border-Gavaskar Trophy) Down Under, Kohli made 115 and 141 to achieve the double in his first game in charge

In 2018, Kohli

was the only captain to score a century in the first Test of the series

NCW slams trolling of Misri, family, seeks restraint

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The National Commission for Women (NCW) on Monday condemned the online trolling of Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and his family after he announced India and Pakistan halting military actions against each other.

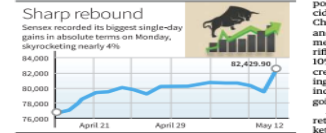
It also shared of the phone number of Mr. Misri's daughter was a "grossly irresponsible act".

REPORT ON PAGE 16

Markets mark massive gains as border tensions and U.S.-China trade war ease

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty registered their biggest single-day gains in absolute terms on Monday, skyrocketing nearly 4%, as border tensions between India and Pakistan eased and the U.S. and China agreed to lower tariffs.



The 30-share BSE Sensex soared by 2,975.43 points, or 3.74%, to settle at a more than seven-month high of 82,429.90. During the day, it rallied 3,041.5 points, or 3.82%, to a high of 82,495.97.

The 50-share Nifty of NSE skyrocketed 916.70 points, or 3.82%, to close at 24,924.70. In intra-day trade, the barometer zoomed 936.8 points, or 3.90%, to 24,944.80.

Monday was the best day for Indian bourses since April 9, 2020, when

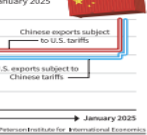
Associated Press
GENEVA

U.S. and Chinese officials said on Monday that they had reached a deal to roll back most of their recent tariffs and call a 90-day truce in their trade war to allow for more talks on resolving their trade disputes.

Trade Representative Jackson L. Davis, who announced the tariff reductions at a news conference in Geneva with Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said the U.S. has agreed to drop its 145% tariff rate on Chinese goods by 15 percentage points to 130%, while China agreed to lower its rate on U.S. goods by the same amount to 10%.

China's Commerce Ministry said the two sides agreed to cancel 91% in tariffs on each other's goods

Slash on tariffs



and suspend another 24% in tariffs for 90 days, bringing the total reduction to 15 percentage points.

The Ministry called the agreement an important step for the resolution of the two countries' differences and said it lays the foundation for further cooperation.

This initiative aligns with the expectations of producers and consumers in both countries and serves the interests of both

All Indian military bases will remain ready for combat

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

India and Pakistan on Monday agreed to “consider immediate measures to ensure troop reduction” from the borders and forward areas, the Army said, adding that their commitment to not fire a single shot or initiate any aggressive and inimical action will continue.

The agreement came during talks between the Directors-General of Military Operations (DGMOs) of India and Pakistan on Monday.

The agreement effectively takes forward the understanding reached between the DGMOs on Saturday to stop all firing and military activity. While the understanding was breached by Pakistan within a few hours, guns have now fallen silent and the skies remained devoid of drones on Sunday night, the Army confirmed.

Earlier in the day, Air Marshal A.K. Bharti, Director-General of Air Operations (DGAO), said that in spite of some minor damages, “all our military bases and systems continue to remain fully operational, and ready to undertake any further missions, should the need so arise.” The DGAO also highlighted the role of air defence weapons, including the older and battle-proven ones, in minimising damage to both civilian and military infrastructure.

“I would like to highlight again that in every single domain that Operation Sindoor has been prosecuted, there has been total synergy between the three Services,” noted Lieutenant General Rajiv Ghai, Director-General of Military Operations.

The Directors-General



Air Marshal A.K. Bharti

Drone downed in Punjab: official

JAMMU/CHANDIGARH

A “surveillance drone” was downed in Jalandhar of Punjab on Monday night, Deputy Commissioner Himanshu Aggarwal said. Meanwhile, suspected drones were being engaged at Samba in J&K, the Army said. PTI

(Operations) Army, Navy, and Air Force, underscored how the country’s air defence grid functioned seamlessly to shoot down the waves and waves of incoming drones, loitering munitions, and missiles launched by Pakistan between May 7 and 10

The DG, Naval Operations, Vice Admiral A. N. Pramod said their powerful Carrier Battle Group (CBG) with formidable offensive capability was able to operate “with impunity and maintained an uncontested presence” in the area of operations. “Effectively it compelled the Pakistani air elements to remain bottled up close to the Makaran coast, denying any opportunity to be a threat in maritime space.”

Air Marshal Bharti delved into how the Indian armed forces managed to minimise the damage to both civilian and military infrastructure in the country.

Key Points:

1. Agreement between India and Pakistan:

- Both countries agreed to take **immediate measures** to ensure **troop reduction** along the borders and forward areas.
- Commitment to **not fire a single shot** or initiate any **aggressive or inimical action** will continue.

2. Talks between DGMO of India and Pakistan:

- Agreement followed **talks between the Directors-General of Military Operations (DGMOs)** on Monday.
- The agreement was to **halt firing and military activities**, but the ceasefire was breached by Pakistan within a few hours.

3. Operational Readiness of Indian Military Bases:

- Despite minor damages, **all military bases and systems remain fully operational.**
- Indian military bases are ready to undertake any **further missions** if needed.
- The DGMO emphasized the **synergy between Army, Navy, and Air Force** during Operation Sindoor.

4. Air Marshal A.K. Bharti's Statement:

- Indian military continues to stay **ready and operational**, even after the ceasefire agreement.
- Highlighted the **role of air defense weapons**, including **older and battle-proven ones**, in reducing damage to both **civilian and military infrastructure**.
- The **defense grid functioned seamlessly** to shoot down **incoming drones, munitions, and missiles** launched by Pakistan.

5. Naval Operations:

- Vice Admiral A.N. Pramod stated that the **Carrier Battle Group (CBG)** was able to operate with **impunity**, maintaining an **uncontested presence**.
- Compelled **Pakistani air elements to remain at a safe distance** along the Makaran coast.

6. Drone Downed in Punjab:

- A **surveillance drone** was downed in **Jalandhar, Punjab** on Monday night.
- **Suspected drones** were engaged at **Samba in J&K**.
- Indian air defense system continues to detect and neutralize **incoming drones and missiles**.

Trump claims U.S. averted 'nuclear conflict'

Suhasini Haidar

NEW DELHI

The U.S. did not just “broker the ceasefire” between India and Pakistan, it averted a “nuclear conflict”, said U.S. President Donald Trump in his latest claims, adding that he had threatened to stop trade with both countries unless they agreed to end hostilities.

The comments, the first statement the U.S. President made in person at the White House on the developments, were rebutted by Indian government sources, who said there had been “no reference to trade” during talks between Indian and U.S. officials over de-escalating the situation last week.

“I said [to the Indian and Pakistani leadership], let’s stop it. If you stop it, we’re doing trade. If you don’t stop it, we’re not going to do any trade,” Mr. Trump told reporters at



U.S. President Donald Trump with Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the White House in Washington on February 13 this year.

the White House on Monday, repeating some of the claims he had made over the weekend in social media posts and added that trade was the “big” reason the two sides reached an understanding to stop military action against each other. He added that the U.S. is “negotiating with India” at present, disclosing for the first time that the U.S. planned to start negotiating on trade with Pakistan as well.

Government sources, however, denied the claim. The sources said that after the commencement of Operation Sindoor on May 7, U.S. Vice-President J.D. Vance had spoken to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on May 9, while U.S. Secretary of State and NSA Marco Rubio spoke to External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on May 8 and to National Security Adviser Ajit Doval on May 10, when the ceasefire agreement was made.

“There was no reference to trade in any of these discussions,” they said.

Mr. Trump also said that U.S. officials had “stopped the nuclear conflict” between India and Pakistan. “I think it could have been a bad nuclear war. Millions of people could have been killed. So I’m very proud of that,” the U.S. President said in his comments.

Misri to brief panel

The controversial statements are likely to be raised by Opposition MPs at the next parliamentary committee meeting on external affairs, expected to be held next Monday, when Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri is expected to brief on the developments between India and Pakistan.

It is unclear whether Mr. Trump’s reference to a possible nuclear conflict was connected to widespread speculation about the im-

pact of India’s air strikes on May 10 on a suspected nuclear site in an area called the Kirana Hills near the PAF’s Mushaf base in Saragodha. When asked about the reports, Air Marshal A.K. Bharti said Indian forces did not know about the site. “We did not hit Kirana Hills, whatever is there,” he added. However, the government has not so far clarified on record about Mr. Trump’s other contentions, including the claim of mediation.

As *The Hindu* had reported, several former diplomats had criticised Mr. Trump’s comments, in two social media posts about the U.S.’s role in India-Pakistan talks, saying that they violate India’s principles against third-party mediation, hyphenation with Pakistan, or internationalisation of internal issues.

(With inputs from Dinakar Peri and Sobhana K. Nair)

Key Points:

1. Claim by U.S. President Donald Trump:

- Trump stated that the U.S. did not just broker the **ceasefire** between India and Pakistan, but also **averted a nuclear conflict**.
- He claimed that he threatened to **stop trade** with both countries unless they agreed to end hostilities.
- Trump mentioned that **U.S. officials stopped the nuclear conflict** and expressed pride in the role played by the U.S.

2. Indian Government's Response:

- Indian government sources **denied the claim** and stated that there was **no reference to trade** during discussions between Indian and U.S. officials.
- Indian sources stated that U.S. Vice-President **J.D. Vance** spoke to Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** on May 9, and **U.S. Secretary of State** and **NSA Marco Rubio** spoke to **External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar** and **National Security Adviser Ajit Doval** on May 8 and 10, respectively.
- The Indian government emphasized that the ceasefire was reached through **direct bilateral communication** between India and Pakistan, without any U.S. mediation.

3. Trump's Statement:

- Trump said that his threat to stop trade was the **big reason** why the two sides stopped military action.
- He mentioned that the U.S. is currently **negotiating trade with India** and plans to **negotiate with Pakistan**.

4. Claim about Nuclear Site:

- Trump referenced an airstrike on a suspected **nuclear site in Kirana Hills**, part of the PAF's Mushaf base in Sargodha.
- Air Marshal A.K. Bharti denied the claim, stating that **Indian forces were not aware of such a site**.

5. Political Reaction and Criticism:

- The statement sparked controversy and is likely to be raised by **Opposition MPs** at the upcoming **Parliamentary Committee meeting on External Affairs**.
- Several diplomats criticized Trump's statement, suggesting it violates **India's principles against third-party mediation**.



Test cricket's shining jewel

Virat Kohli, one of the modern-day greats in the classical format, has decided to call it a day. The glittering moments of his illustrious career

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Kohli (9,230) is the fourth highest run-getter for India after Sachin Tendulkar (15,921), Rahul Dravid (13,265) and Sunil Gavaskar (10,122)

121

His tally of catches (121) is the third-most for the country behind Dravid (209) and V.V.S. Laxman (135)

Kohli captained India the most number of times

68 matches **40 wins** **11 draws** **17 losses**

He is also the country's most successful skipper. Only Graeme Smith (53), Ricky Ponting (48) and Steve Waugh (41) have registered more victories as Test captain

Under his leadership, India held the

No. 1 spot

in the ICC Test rankings for five consecutive years (2016-21)

He equalled **Ponting's record** when he led India to

nine straight Test series wins

between 2015 and 2017

He was at the helm when India registered its maiden Test series win on Australian soil (2018-19 Border-Gavaskar Trophy)

During the 2014-15 tour Down Under, he became the first Indian to score **four hundreds** in an overseas Test series

Kohli is the only captain to score **seven double centuries** in Tests and the only Indian to make seven Test hundreds in Australia

On his captaincy debut (2014-15 Border-Gavaskar Trophy) Down Under, Kohli made

115 and 141 in the two innings in Adelaide, becoming the first Indian to achieve the double in his first game in charge

In **2018**, Kohli won the ICC Test cricketer of the year award



U.S., China agree to roll back recent tariffs for talks to end trade dispute

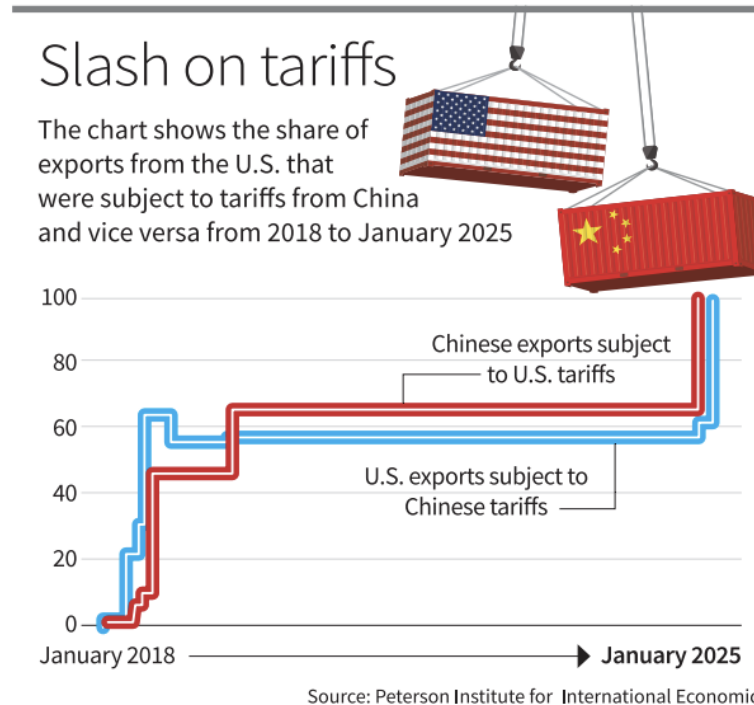
Associated Press

GENEVA

U.S. and Chinese officials said on Monday that they had reached a deal to roll back most of their recent tariffs and call a 90-day truce in their trade war to allow for more talks on resolving their trade disputes.

Trade Representative Jamieson Greer, who announced the tariff reductions at a news conference in Geneva with Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said the U.S. has agreed to drop its 145% tariff rate on Chinese goods by 115 percentage points to 30%, while China agreed to lower its rate on U.S. goods by the same amount to 10%.

China's Commerce Ministry said the two sides agreed to cancel 91% in tariffs on each other's goods



and suspend another 24% in tariffs for 90 days, bringing the total reduction to 115 percentage points.

The Ministry called the agreement an important step for the resolution of the two countries' diffe-

rences and said it lays the foundation for further cooperation.

"This initiative aligns with the expectations of producers and consumers in both countries and serves the interests of both

nations as well as the common interests of the world," a Ministry statement said.

The two U.S. officials struck a positive tone as they said the two sides had set up consultations to continue discussing their trade issues. The high tariff levels would have amounted to a complete blockage of each side's goods – an outcome neither side wants, Mr. Bessent said at the news briefing following two days of talks in Geneva.

"The consensus from both delegations this weekend is neither side wants a decoupling," Mr. Bessent said. "And what had occurred with these very high tariff... was an embargo, the equivalent of an embargo. And neither side wants that. We do want trade."

1. Agreement Overview:

- The U.S. and China have agreed to **roll back recent tariffs** as part of a **90-day truce** to allow for more trade negotiations.
- The decision aims to **resolve ongoing trade disputes** and avoid further economic disruptions.

2. Tariff Reductions:

- **U.S. Concessions:**

- The U.S. agreed to **drop its 145% tariff rate on Chinese goods** by 115 percentage points to **30%**.
- Additional **24% tariffs** will be **suspended for 90 days**, totaling a **115 percentage point reduction**.

- **China's Concessions:**

- China agreed to **reduce tariffs on U.S. goods** by the **same amount (10%)**.
- Both sides aim to **reduce the impact of the trade war** on their economies.

3. Statements from Officials:

- **U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer:**
 - Emphasized that the agreement **lowers tariff rates significantly**.
- **China's Commerce Ministry:**
 - Highlighted the move as a **step towards resolution** and the **benefit of both countries**.
- **Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent:**
 - Stressed that the agreement prevents the "**complete blockage of goods**" between the two countries.

4. Background and Context:

- The trade war between the U.S. and China has led to **high tariff levels**, almost creating a **blockage of goods**.
- Both sides had **imposed high tariffs** in the past few years, leading to **economic tensions**.




5. Future Prospects:

- Both countries have **set up consultations** to continue discussions on trade issues.
- The **90-day truce** will allow for **further cooperation** and **reduction of economic barriers**.

6. Economic Impact:

- If the truce holds, it could **ease trade tensions** and **restore market confidence**.
- The **rollback is expected to benefit both producers and consumers** by **lowering costs**.

Visual Insight:

- A chart from the **Peterson Institute for International Economics** shows the **progressive reduction in tariffs** from **2018 to January 2025**.
- 

1. General Impact on India:

- The **temporary trade agreement** between the U.S. and China has **divided opinions** among trade experts.
- Some believe it will **open up export opportunities** for India, while others fear that **investments directed to India** due to high tariffs on China might **return to China**.

2. Positive Aspects for India:

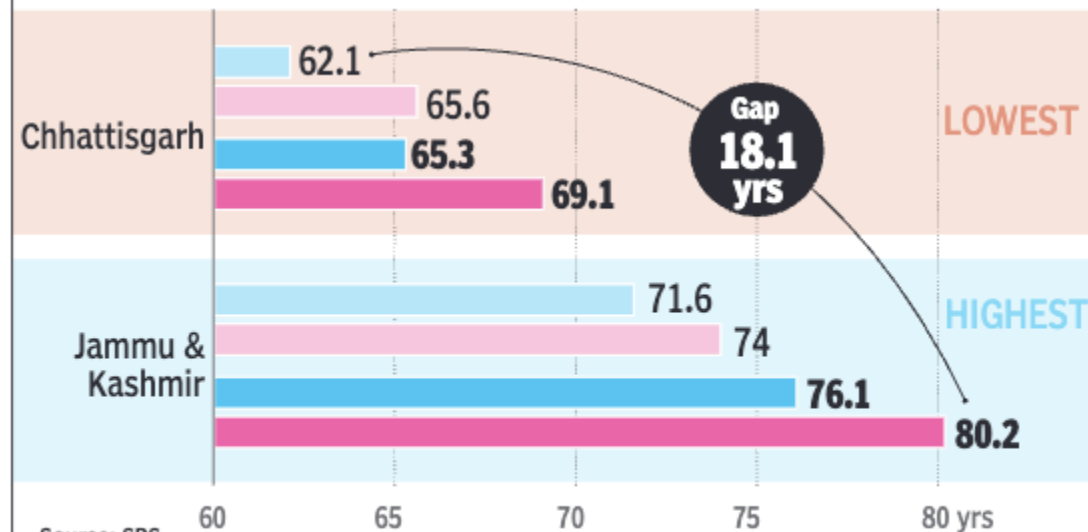
- According to **S.C. Ralhan**, President of **Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO)**:
 - India can **strengthen exports** in sectors relatively **insulated from U.S.-China trade**, such as:
 - **Pharmaceutical APIs**
 - **Gems and Jewellery**
 - **Engineering Goods**
 - **Organic Chemicals**
 - **IT-Enabled Services**
 - The reduction in tariffs may **lower the risk of Chinese goods dumping** into India.

Where People Have Longest, And Shortest, Lives In India

There's an 18-year gap between a man born in Chhattisgarh, the state with India's lowest life expectancy, and a woman born in J&K, where people have the country's longest lifespans

Life Expectancy At Birth

■ Rural- Male ■ Urban- Male
■ Rural- Female ■ Urban- Female



IN BRIEF



30 from Tamil Nadu injured in bus accident in Tirupati

As many as 30 devotees suffered severe injuries in a bus accident near Agarala at Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh on Sunday night. According to sources, an Andhra Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (APSRTC) bus was coming from Tiruvannamalai in Tamil Nadu, when it lost control and hit a culvert on the Agarala Highway. The Chandragiri police immediately reached the spot. The injured, mostly children, were rushed to Ruia Hospital in Tirupati.

Nine arrested for camping in reserve forest in Seshachalam

Forest officials have taken nine persons into custody on charges of trespassing into the reserve forests of Seshachalam biosphere in Andhra Pradesh and illegally trekking, camping and cooking inside the ecologically sensitive Talakona forest. The unauthorised trek was organised by one Soma Sekar, who ran an Instagram page offering adventure trips. Forest officials said offenders may face jail terms of up to seven years and fines of ₹10,000 or more.

Erumely airport: govt. seeks to speed up land acquisition

Aimed at expediting land acquisition for the Sabarimala greenfield international airport, the authorities will soon open a special tender office in Erumely or Kanjirappally in Kerala. Official sources said a special tender too would be appointed for coordinating the acquisition process. An office of the general land acquisition tender under the Revenue department had already launched proceedings for a detailed survey of land.

'Mentally ill' man held for prank call to naval base

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The Harbour police in Kochi have arrested a man in a case registered in connection with a phone call received at the Kochi naval base seeking to know the location of the aircraft carrier INS Vikram last Friday.

The accused has been identified as a 35-year-old native of Kozhikode district. According to sources, he claimed to be undergoing psychiatric treatment, though this remains to be verified.

He has been booked under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita for cheating by impersonation and Official Secrets Act. Charges under the Official Secrets Act are non-bailable. As per the FIR, the accused had claimed to be calling from the Prime Minister's Office.

India always chose Buddha over yuddha, says Kharge

The Congress leader was speaking after paying respects to the Buddha on Buddha Purnima near Kalaburagi, when nation is under threat, we must rise above caste and religion, he adds

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

We are at the crossroads today, torn between choosing war and embracing Buddha's ideology of peace, said Mallikarjun Kharge, Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha. "When a nation's security is under threat, we must rise above caste and religion to stand united by setting aside all differences," he added.

He emphasised that Constitution, democracy, and religion can survive only if the nation survives. Mr. Kharge appealed to the people not to lose their self-confidence in this "war-like" situation.



Paying homage: Mallikarjun Kharge and wife Radhabai Kharge felicitate monks at Buddha Vihar, on Monday. *AKHIL KULKARNI*

Recalling the recent terror attack in Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir, Mr. Kharge said Pakistan that had lost wars to India in the past, was again provoking a conflict. India is a peace-loving country, and it always preferred Buddha (peace) over yuddha (war and conflict).

Soldiers hailed "Any war brings only harm and disrupts people's lives. However, at times war becomes unavoidable because of the sheer nature of circumstances and we must accept it," he added.

The veteran leader praised the sacrifices of the soldiers guarding the borders and said that the country stands with every decision taken by the armed forces.

He said the Buddha's ideologies and teachings have gained relevance and influence globally, while it was not spreading as widely in India.

Sunny Joseph assumes charge as Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee president

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Three-time MLA Sunny Joseph, who took charge as president of the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) here on Monday, said his focus will be on a united effort as the party prepares for two crucial elections in 2025 and 2026.

Mr. Joseph and MP Adoor Prakash took charge, respectively, as KPCC president and UDP convenor, while MP Sh. Parambil and MLAs P.C. Vishnuvardhan and A.P. Anil Kumar took charge as KPCC working presidents. Senior Congress leaders



Sunny Joseph takes charge as KPCC president S. Sudhakaran.

emerge victorious in the local body polls scheduled to be held later this year and the State Assembly elections in 2026.

Mr. Joseph said he was among those present to witness the change of guard at a function held at the KPCC State headquarters here.

Passenger suffers head injury as train berth falls on her

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI

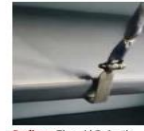
A woman train passenger suffered a head injury after the middle berth of a sleeper class coach fell while she was asleep. The incident happened on Train No. 22653 Chennai Palakkad Express shortly after it crossed Jolarpet early on Monday.

The victim's husband alleged that first aid was not provided by the railway authorities for more than an hour until the train reached Salem where an ambulance was arranged.

According to railway sources, Suria Murugan, 35, of Chennai, was sleeping on a lower berth when the unoccupied middle berth suddenly fell on her around 1.15 a.m. Other passengers alerted her husband Jyothi Jayashankar who was sleeping in another coach. On seeing Ms. Suria bleeding with a head injury, he sought medical assistance from the Travelling Ticket Examiner (TTE) and other railway employees on the train.

'No first-aid kit'

"There was no first-aid kit in the train. They did not even provide a cotton roll. The TTE said we could get down at the next stop (Morrappur) and seek help there. But what can we do at an unknown place in the middle of the night? My wife managed to control the bleeding with a piece of cloth and we waited for almost an hour-and-a-half so far as Salem," Mr.



Perilous: The middle berth that collapsed on a woman passenger on the express train.

Jayashankar told *The Hindu*.

On arrival at Salem around 2.40 a.m., the ambulance paramedics did basic dressing and shifted Ms. Suria to the Government Hospital. "We later took an autorickshaw and went to a private hospital. My wife had a deep cut on the forehead and underwent sutures. There was no assistance from the Railways. It is shocking that a train with about 1,000 passengers does not have even paramedics or a first-aid box," he said.

Railway sources said the chain and locking mechanism of the middle berth was found to be normal when inspected at Dindigul Junction. The coach was allowed to run through the service without any change.

Southern Railway spokesperson M. Senthil Selvan said the "berth may have fallen owing to improper locking of the berth hook by the passenger. The coach was 19 years old and fit for operation.

Khaki sweep



Glamour on guard: Heavy police deployment at the Charminar. The heightened security comes as Miss World 2025 contestants are scheduled to visit the historic monument as part of a Heritage Walk on Tuesday evening, in Hyderabad on Monday. *SCHWARTZ/REUTERS*

B-SMILE to start with ₹7,000 crore financial commitment from Karnataka government

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited (B-SMILE), a dedicated special-purpose vehicle (SPV) to execute big ticket infrastructure projects in the city, will have an initial financial commitment of ₹7,000 crore from the Karnataka government, but is authorised to attract private investments as well.

This dual approach is designed to enable greater flexibility and resource mobilisation for large-scale urban infrastructure projects, sources said.

However, the company will be fully owned by the State. According to the Memorandum of Association, the government of Karnataka will hold a 90% equity stake in the company.



Metro train tunnel work under progress near Bamboo Bazar metro station in Bengaluru.

while the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) will retain the remaining 10%.

B-SMILE will be governed by an 11-member board, led by a full-time Chief Executive Officer, who is an IAS officer. The board will include the Mayor of Bengaluru, the Commissioners of the Ban-

galore Development Authority and the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board, the Engineer-in-Chief of the BBMP, and three experts from the private sector. This blend of public officials and domain specialists is expected to lend both administrative strength and technical expertise to the organisation.

The board is expected to be further revamped after the implementation of the Greater Bengaluru Governance Act, 2024 and when the present BBMP is split into multiple corporations.

One of the first major tasks before B-SMILE will be to oversee construction of 40 km of tunnel roads under the city, which is part of a larger blueprint to decongest surface traffic.

Kerala Education Minister hails Supreme Court verdict dismissing plea to enforce NEP in three States

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

Kerala's Minister for Higher Education R. Bindu has hailed the Supreme Court verdict to dismiss a plea seeking enforcement of the National Education Policy (NEP), including the three language formula, by Tamil Nadu, Kerala and West Bengal governments.

Addressing a press meet here on Monday, Ms. Bindu said that the NEP and the recent UGC regulations encroached into the rights

of the States and were against federal principles. They were against Constitutional provisions and created a lot of difficulties to the States.

The protest against these developments were ubiquitous. The apex court verdict is in keeping with the basic tenets of the Constitution, she said.

phase of the proposed Science City in Kottayam on May 29. The centre, spread over 47.147 sq. ft., features science galleries, 3D exhibition centre, science park, seminar hall, and innovation hub.

Syed Mohammed
HYDERABAD

In 1934, the then princely State of Hyderabad had granted six months of paid leave to employees of the Nizam government to undertake pilgrimages to Islamic holy sites such as Mecca and Medina (in present-day Saudi Arabia), Mashhad (Iran), and other significant places like Najaf, Karbala, and Baghdad (Iraq), besides Jerusalem.



Secular move: The archives showed that Gangotri and Yamunotri were also considered as pilgrimage sites by the Nizam govt. *PII*

However, the policy came under review when Ram Swaroop Tandon, a Hindu employee in the Nizam administration, submitted a petition seeking similar leave for a pilgrim-

age. His request triggered internal deliberations about existing rules and the need for equitable treatment of employees from different faiths, considering the religious diversity of Hyderabad State.

A file preserved at the Telangana State Archives and the Government of India (TSARI) details how the petition was handled. It was first examined by the Law Department and later referred to the Finance Department. The latter noted that, according to the service Rules, Muslim employees were explicitly permitted to avail leave for pilgrimages to Mecca for Hajj, Medina for the Prophet's Mosque, and Shia holy sites such as Najaf, Karbala, and Baghdad.

"Given that Jerusalem was mentioned, it was noted that Christians and Jews in the Nizam's employ could also make use of this concession. When Tandon's request came, the government decided to grant leave to Hindus on similar lines," Zareena Parveen of TSARI, who studied the file, said. The file shows that Gangotri and Yamunotri were also considered as pilgrimage sites.

At that time, the Prime Minister was Maharaja Kishen Pershad, a Punjabi Khatri, she said. A council, which also included Pershad, convened and recommended that the legislation which would allow Hindu employees to make yatras. In July 1934, a firman was issued amending the Service Rules, officially granting Hindu employees six months of leave with advance salary to undertake religious yatra.

B-SMILE to start with ₹7,000 crore financial commitment from Karnataka government

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

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Metro train tunnel work under progress near Bamboo Bazar metro station in Bengaluru.

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Predatory Pricing

- **New regulations replaced** the 2009 rules by removing **market value** as a benchmark and redefining **total cost** to include **depreciation** and exclude **financing overheads** [daily business expenses] for greater clarity.
 - It uses a **sector-agnostic (neutral), case-by-case approach**, better suited for dynamic digital markets.
- **CCI** is a **statutory body** established under the **Competition Act, 2002** to promote fair competition, prevent anti-competitive practices, and protect consumer interests.

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Terms Related to Anti-Competitive Practices

Cartels

Associations of independent businesses or countries to **regulate pricing and production** (typically illegal).

Mergers

Mergers **combine** companies into **one entity**, potentially reducing competition and attracting regulatory scrutiny.

Price Discrimination

Charging **different prices to different customers** for the same product/service.

Price Fixing Agreements

Competitors agreeing to set a **fixed price for their products/services**, eliminating competition and inflating prices.

National Technological Day

Celebrating India's Technological Progress

May 11

Theme: "YANTRA" -
Transformation through
advanced research

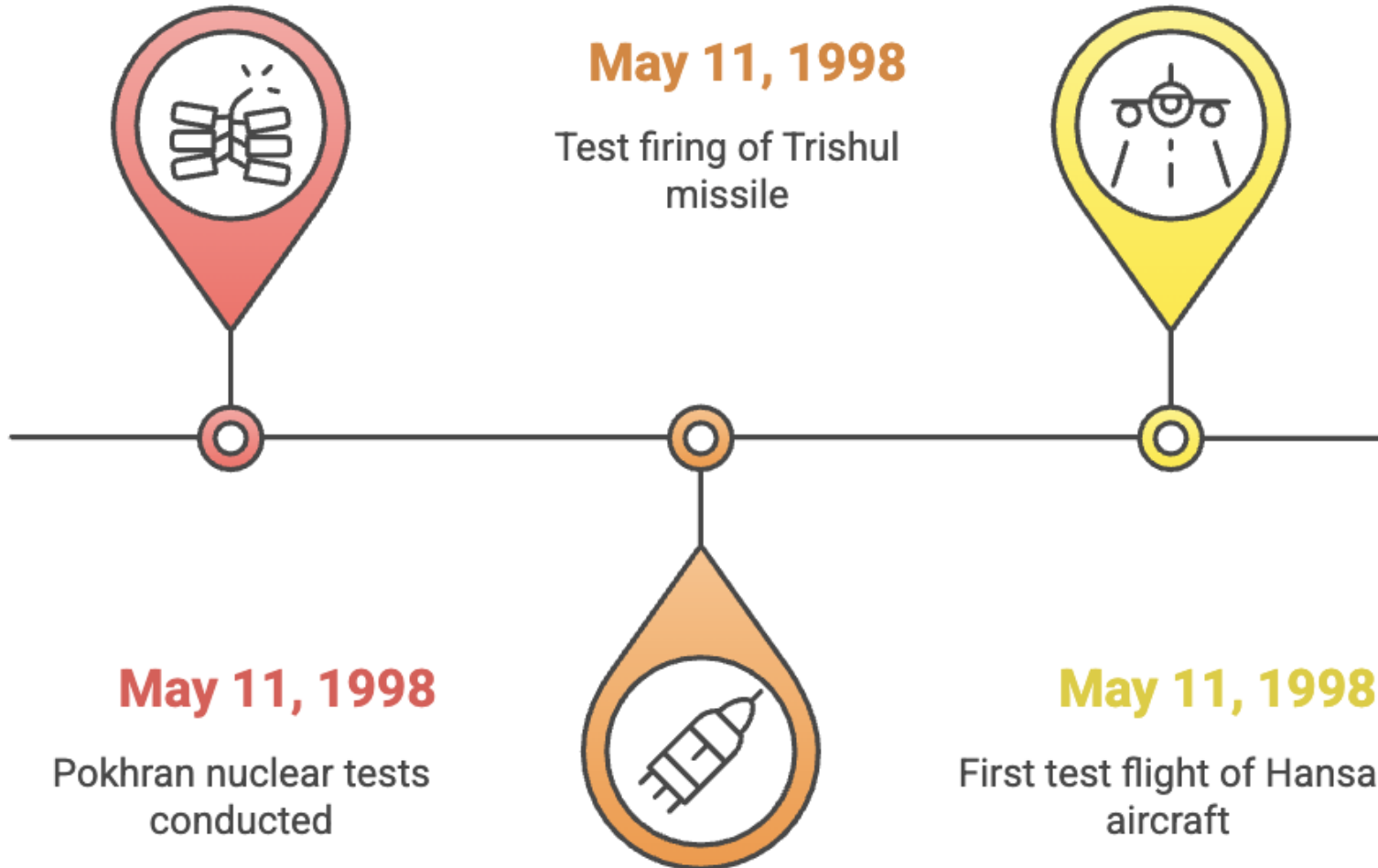


May 11

27th National
Technological Day of
India



Celebrating India's Technological Milestones



Ancient India's Contributions to Global Science



The Idea of Zero

Aryabhata introduced the symbol for zero, enabling modern arithmetic operations.

The Decimal System

India developed the decimal system, revolutionizing arithmetic calculations.

Numeral Notations

Indian numeral system, adopted by Arabs and later the West, became "Arabic numerals."

Fibonacci Numbers

The Fibonacci sequence was first recorded in India through Sanskrit prosody.

Binary Numbers

Pingala introduced the concept of binary numbers in his work on poetic meters.

Chakravala Method of Algorithms

Brahmagupta devised an early algorithm to solve quadratic equations.

Ruler Measurements

Harappan rulers had precise calibrations used in ancient architecture.

Theory of Atom

Kanad proposed an atomic theory centuries before John Dalton.

Heliocentric Theory

Aryabhata described Earth's rotation and revolution around the Sun.

Wootz Steel

High-quality Indian steel was renowned worldwide for its strength and pattern.

Smelting of Zinc

India pioneered the distillation process for zinc production.

Seamless Metal Globe

Mughals created seamless metal globes using lost-wax casting.

Plastic Surgery

Sushruta developed advanced surgical techniques, including rhinoplasty.

Cataract Surgery

Sushruta performed the first recorded cataract surgeries.

Ayurveda

Charaka laid the foundation for holistic medicine and preventive healthcare.

Iron-Cased Rockets

Tipu Sultan developed iron-cased rockets, influencing modern warfare.

India's Technological Achievements

- India secured the **39th** rank in the **Global Innovation Index 2024** and **6th** position in global **Intellectual Property (IP)** filings, as per the WIPO report.
- **The Network Readiness Index (NRI) 2024** also marked India's rise to **49th place from 79th in 2019**, showcasing advancements in ICT infrastructure and digital transformation.
- India has also emerged as the **third-largest startup ecosystem in the world**, fostering entrepreneurship and technological advancement.

Buddha Purnima

Buddha Purnima Celebration

12th May

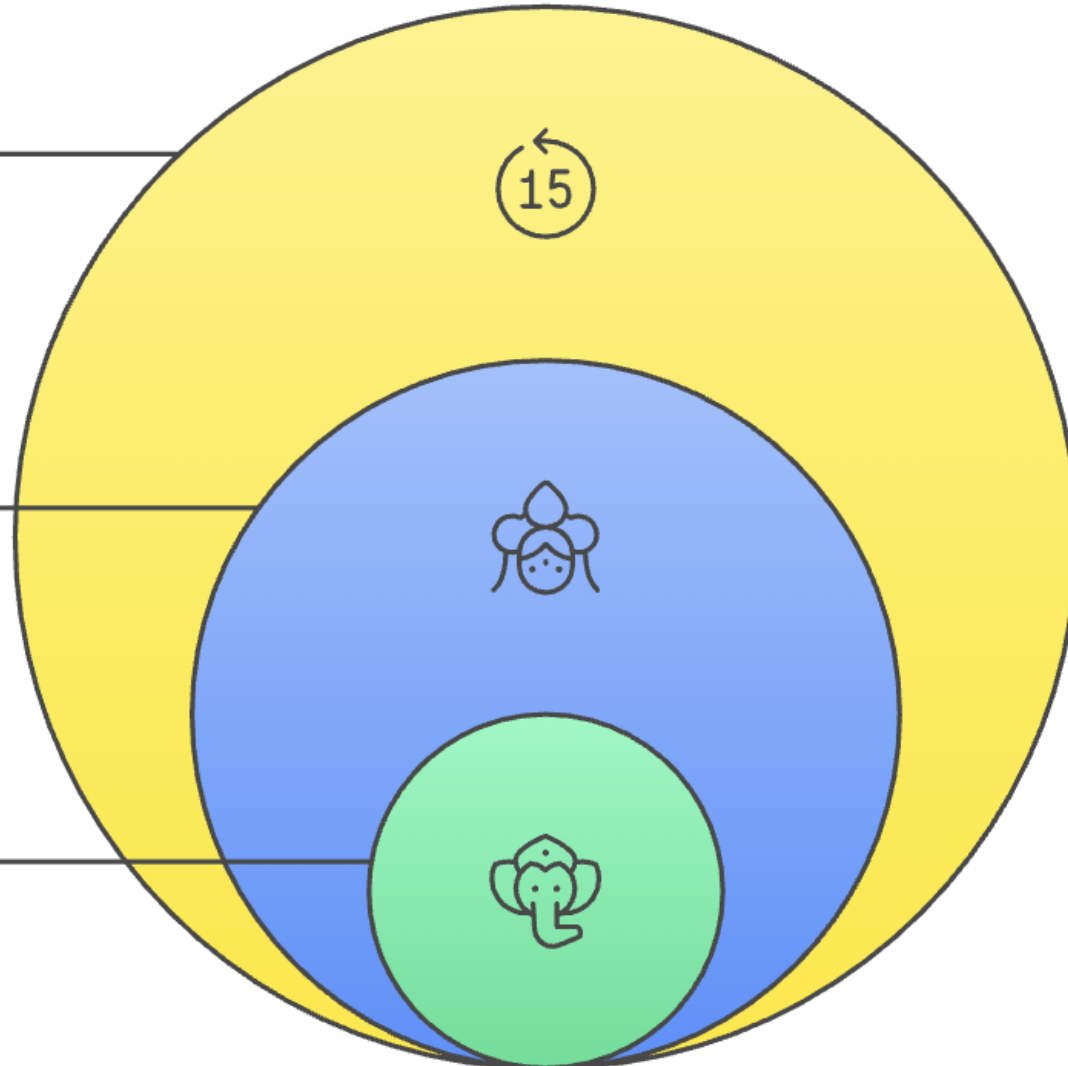
The specific date of the event

Vaishakh

The month of the celebration

Buddha Purnima

A significant Buddhist festival



Buddha Purnima's Core Values

Buddha Purnima

The most sacred festival for Buddhists

Vaishakh

Month of observance

Kindness

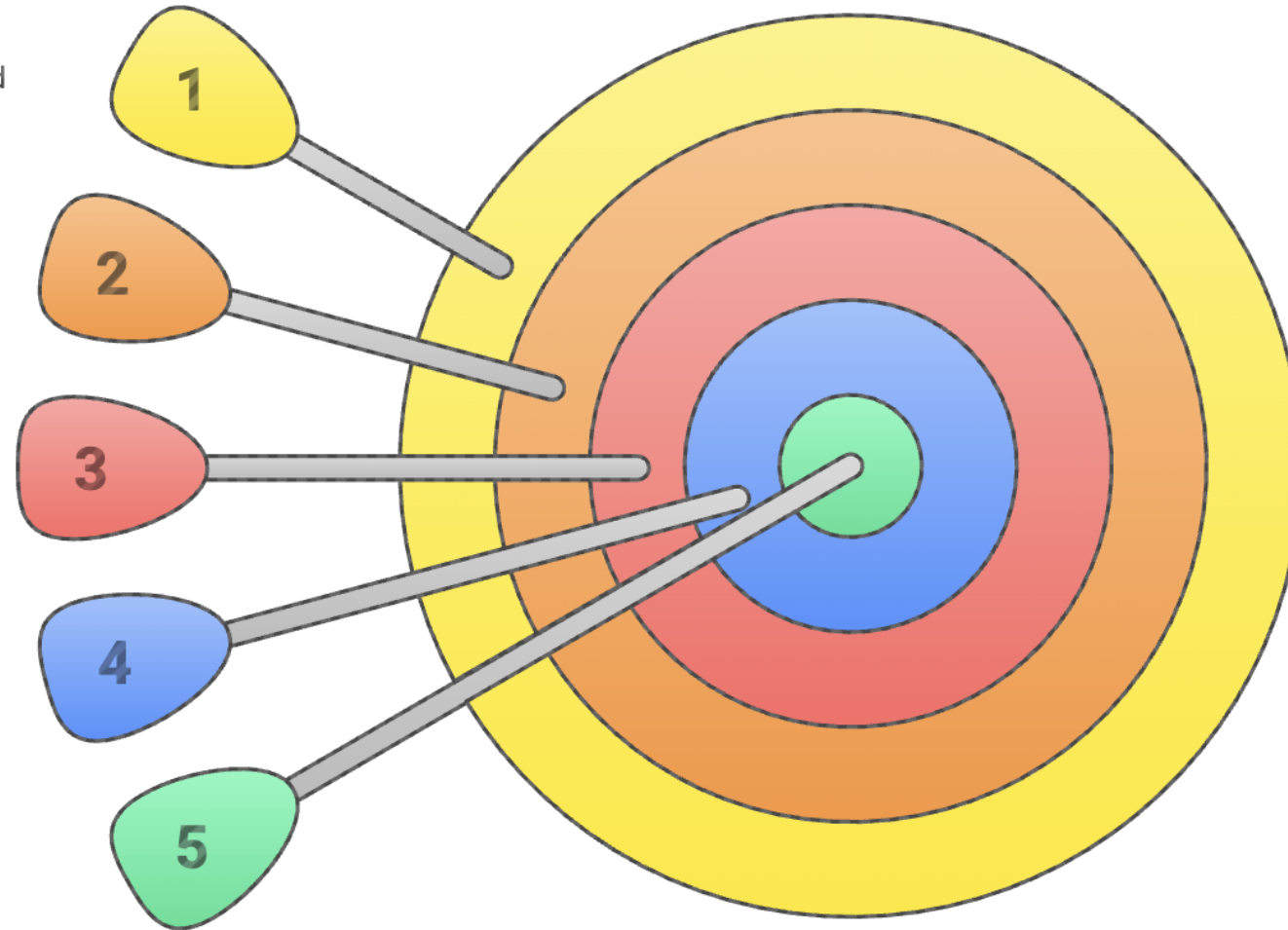
Compassionate living

Non-violence

Peaceful existence

Wisdom

Enlightened understanding





Important Places Associated with Gautama Buddha

Place	Present Location	Significance	Event Associated
Lumbini	Nepal	Birthplace of Gautama Buddha	Birth (563 BCE)
Bodh Gaya	Bihar, India	Attainment of Enlightenment under the Bodhi Tree	Enlightenment (528 BCE)
Sarnath	Uttar Pradesh, India	First sermon to five ascetics (Dharma Chakra Pravartan)	First Sermon (528 BCE)
Kushinagar	Uttar Pradesh, India	Place of Buddha's Mahaparinirvana (death)	Death (483 BCE)
Kapilavastu	Uttar Pradesh/Nepal	Siddhartha's early life as a prince	Childhood and Youth

Rajgir	Bihar, India	Buddha spent many rainy seasons here; teachings at Vulture's Peak	Important Discourses
Vaishali	Bihar, India	Announcement of Mahaparinirvana; last sermon	Last Sermon
Shravasti	Uttar Pradesh, India	Buddha spent 25 rainy seasons here; performed miracles	Longest Stay (25 Rainy Seasons)
Kosambi	Uttar Pradesh, India	Buddha preached at the Ghositarama Monastery	Monastic Life and Teachings
Sankasya	Uttar Pradesh, India	Buddha descended from Tavatimsa Heaven after preaching to his mother	Miracle of Descent

Word of the day

Guffaw:

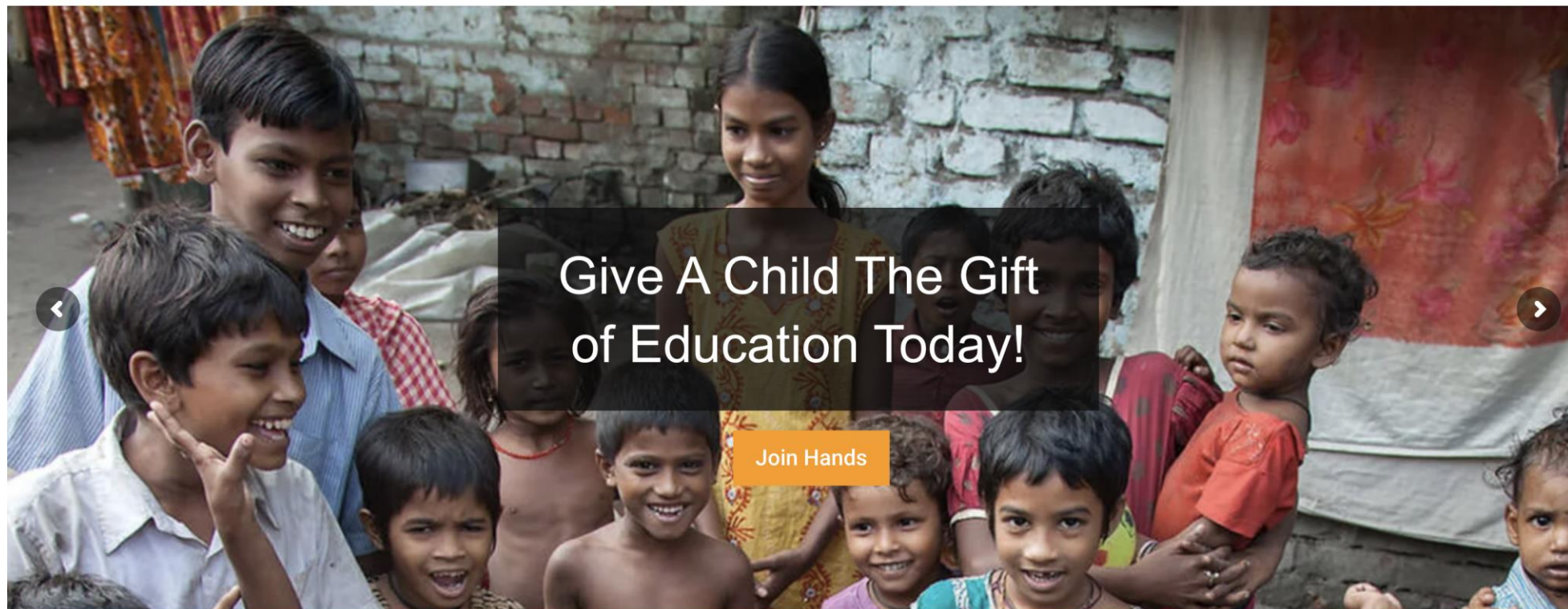
a burst of deep loud hearty laughter; laugh boisterously

Synonyms: belly laugh, laugh loudly

Usage: *As they guffawed loudly, the boss walked in.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/guffawpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /gə'fɔː/



5,534
Volunteers



671
Contributors



1,231
Kids



24
States



Thank you
guys.

