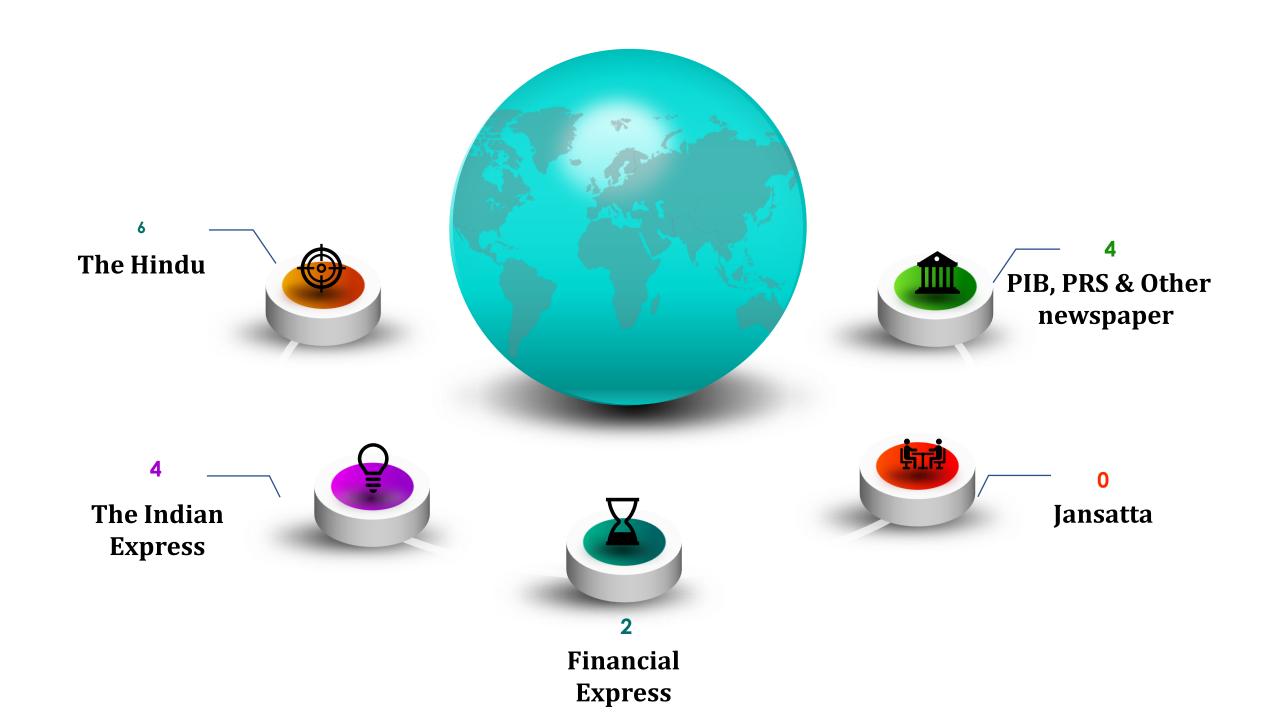
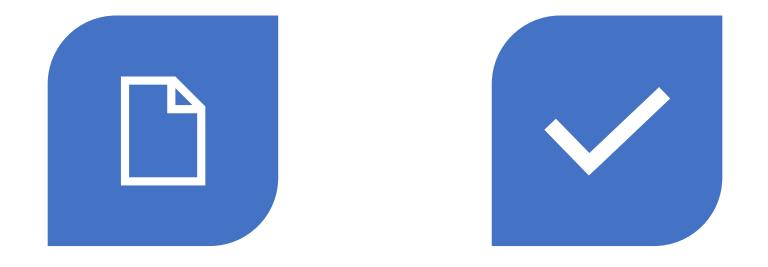
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States

# Health is not valued till sickness comes.

Thomas Fuller



...

A blanket of dust hangs in the sky over Karyavya Path in New Delhi on Thursday, as a mirage forms on a hot afte

Widening gap The government said merchanover exports stood at \$38.49 billion in April, the imports were at \$64.91 billion

points storm

Trade deficit grows to \$8.65 billion

in April as merchandise imports rise

grew 9% to \$38.49 billion in April 2025, while the im-bilite of the system of the system of the system as philosanity faster 19.1% to findicanity faster 19.1% to findica

Source: ONE, Ministry of Commerce and Industry

-

Masih on Thursday decided t

devote an entire day on May 21 to hear arguments for and against an interim order to stay

the provisions of the Waqf Act. "We will not take up any other

matters on May 20," the Chie Justice said in PAGE 4

10 'extremists'

gunned down

10 armed extremists in Manipur's Chandel district on Thursday. Officials said it was one of the biggest operations in recent years. \*10 cadres

were neutralised and a sizea quantity of arms, amm

have been recovered," the Eastern Command posted

Jaishankar calls

Taliban's Acting

Foreign Minister

NEW DELHI Marking the first Minister-level outreach, External Affairs Minister 5. Jasihankar on Thursday held a telephone conversation with the Vecting Alghan Foreign Minister / Amer Khan Muttag. The Taliban administration and India have been intensifying bies since the outfit came to power in Kabul

**CM** 

on X. » PAGE 4

NEW DELHI

in Manipur GUWAHATI The Assam Rifles gunned do SE 18.244

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

India's total trade deficit,

counting both merchan-dise and services, widened to \$8.65 billion in April,

compared with \$5.77 bil-lion in April last year, ac-cording to the data from

the Ministry of Commerce and Industry released on

dia, Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal also men-

Sunii Barthwal also men-tioned that India's total ex-ports, including merchan-dise and services, stood at \$824.9 billion in 2024-25, the highest-ever, up 6% from 2023-24. Merchandise exports

hursday. While briefing the me-



T.N. CM slams Presidential Reference to top court on

Strongly condemning a Presidential Reference to the Supreme Court under Article 143 of the Constitu-tion on the timeline im-posed for Governors and the President to act on Bills, Tamil Nadu Chief Mi-nister M.K. Salin on Thurs-day said it was a desperate and the second State ap-cratically elected State apcratically elected State governments by placing them under the control of Governors serving as agents of the Centre. President Droupadi Murmu, in a rare move, had sought the opinion of the Supreme Court through a Presidential Rethrough a Presidential Re-ference on Tuesday, on whether the court can "me-perbet the manner of con-duct of Governors and the point Sate MBs don't co-text of Governors and the point Sate MBs don't co-text by Mass the sate of the sate of the sate of the sate of Judicial orders can dictate by What time and vermors should function under Articles 200 and 201 of Constitution. (34.43%), fruits and vegeta-bles (30.72%), and marine products (17.81%) marked a The services sector, ho wever, witnessed the op-posite trend, with exports move as "an attempt to subvert the Constitutional position" settled by the top court in the Tamil Nadu widening their lead over imports. Services exports for April, an estimation becase against the Governor and other precedents. The President's move to seek clarity arose from an

for April, an estimation be-cause the final data from the Reserve Bank of India arrives with a month's lag, grew 17% in April 2025 to \$35.31 billion. Services im-ports, on the other hand, grew just 4.6% to \$17.54 bil-lion in April, taking the ser-vices trade surplus to \$17.77 billion. April 8 judgment of a Bench of Justices J.B. Pardi-Benn of Jistices J.M. Farder a petition filed by the Tamil Nadu government chal-lenging the Governor's de-under Articles 200 and bills and his subsequent bills and his bills and his and his bills and his his his bills a

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growth in April 2025.

RELIEF IN SERVICE

-26.4

200, 201, re

deer whether, in the absence of whether, in the absence of any constitutionally pre-scribed time limit for Go-vernors and President, posed and manner of exer-cise of powers be pre-scribed through judicial orders. "Can the Constitu-tional powers of the Presi-tured by a judicial order exercising Article 1422 is Article 142 limited to mat-ters of procedural law or testions contrary to of its scribed under Article 145 (3) of the Constitution. The Reference further asked the court to clarify the constitutional options before a Governor when a rections contrary to or inconsistent with existing substantive or procedural provisions of the Constitu-tion?" it asked. Indirectly questioning the "deer validity of the med" assent, the Refe-

Bill is presented to him under Article 200. It raised rence has queried if a law made by a State Legislature could even "be considered a law in force without the action while in office] an absolute bar to judicial re-view in relation to the ac-tions of a Governor under Article 200?" the Pres tial Reference sought.

A 193

of law or fact, present or future, of public

dent. The Reference asked

#### consideration by the Presi-ing a law?" it asked. It said the "concept of deemed assent" of the Pre-sident and the Governor, sident and the Governor, introduced in the judg-ment, was alien to the con-stitutional scheme. The Reference has also The Reference has also raised questions about a two-judge Bench of the court pronouncing judg-ments on "substantial questions of law... without questions of law... without referring it to a minimum five-judge Bench as pre-

doubts as to whether the "constitutional discretion of Governors and the President under Articles 200 and 201, respectively, was even justiciable. "Is Article 361 of the Constitution fim munity given to President and Governors from legal

## Question of clarity

President Droupadi Murmu has sought clarity from the Supreme Court on the 'scope and contours' of Article 142

Presidential **Reference:** Article 143 of the Constitution empowers the President to seek advice from the Supreme Court on questions of law or fact, present or future, of public importance

The President has raised 14 questions, which include:

Can SC impose timelines and dictate the manner of exercise of powers by Governors and the President under Article 200, 201, respectively? Can deemed consent to Bills be given through a judicial order?

What are constitutional options before a Governor when a Bill is sent for his assent. Is he bound by the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers?

#### THE HINDU News

#### IN BRIDE



#### Former Defence Secretary takes charge as UPSC head

Former Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar took charge as Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) on Thursday. He was administered the oath of secrecy by Lt. Gen. Raj Shukla (Retd.), the senior-most member of the Commission, Mr. Kumar belongs to the 1985 batch of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) of Kerala Cadre. During a career spanning 35 years, he has served in key positions in the Kerala Government as well as in the Centre. In his last assignment, he served as Secretary, Ministry of Defence.

#### Tushar Mehta to lead lawyers' team in Tahawwur Rana trial

The Centre has appointed a team of lawyers The Centre has appointed a team of lawyers train against extradited Pakistani-Canadian terrorist Tahawwur Hussain Rana in the 26/1 Mumbai terror attack case. In a notification, the exercising the powers conferred under the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008 and the Iharatya Nagarik Surakaba Santhia, 2023, The NIA secured Rana's extradition from the U.S. after years of sustained efforts and arrested him atter years of sustained efforts and arrested him on April 10 upon his arrival here. Rana is accused of being involved in the conspiracy behind the 2008 strikes orchestrated by Pakistan-based terrorist group Lashkar-e-Taiba in which 166 people were killed and over 238 injured. \*\*\*



<u>Suhasini Haidar</u> Sobhana K. Nair

he government is planning to send planning to send multi-party delega-tions for a diplomatic out-reach with other countries to present India's point of view on the recent India-Pakistan conflict in the wake of the Pahalgam at-tack, in which 26 tourists were killed by unidentified terrorists. terrorists. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) did not res-

Affairs (MEA) did not res-pond to requests for a com-ment on the plan and why the government fielt it was required. The govern all-party delegations mir-rors similar initiatives by previous United Progres-sive Alliance (UPA) and Na-tional Democratic Alliance make India's case abroad on crucial issues. 23. They will visit various on crucial issues. As per sources, the dele-gations will comprise prominent leaders and parlia-mentarians from across the political lines. It will also have former diplomats and other specialists. The multiple groups will leave for different destinations oss the world on Ma

BJP workers ho or', in Srinagar or

Singh, to lead the military 25. They will visit various capitals and interact with both government and civil society groups. Sources al-so confirmed that former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad, who leads the Demo-metic Decement Anad "The idea is to bring the focus back on the core is-sue of terrorism, which perhaps has not received the necessary attention from the world leaders," an Ormediate Back

from the world leaders," an Opposition Rajya Sabha member said. The move comes after the Indian government strongly refuted U.S. Presi-dent Donald Trump's claim on his behind-thecratic Progressive Azad Party, and All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AI-MIM) chief Asaduddin Owaisi are likely to be part of the delegations. Since the Pahalgam attacks on April 22 and Operation Sin-door, the Narendra Modi scene role in bringing the hostilities between India government has projected India's "secular" image, choosing two women of different faiths, Colonel Soand Pakistan to a pause Under Operation Sindoor, India conducted strikes on nine terror locations inside Pakistan and Pakistan-oc fiya Qureshi and Wing Commander Vyomika Vyomika pied Kashmir on May 7.

The Hindu Bureau

MEA spokespersor Randhir Jaiswal at a pres conference in the capital on May 13 said that the goernment did not devia from its stated policy, that "any issues pertaining to the Indian Union Territory of J&K have to be ading Afghan Foreign Minis-ter' Amir Khan Muttaqi. ter' Amir Khan Mussas The conversation can dressed by India and Pakis-tan bilaterally". days after the Taliban ad-ministration, which India is yet to officially recog-Past governments too have reached out across nise, condemned the dead-ly terror strike in Pahalgam the aisle to assist them in presenting the country's view point and for better of April 22 that left 26 inn

view point and for better people-to-people out-reach. In 1994, Prime Mi-nister P/V. Narasimha Rao sent Leader of the Opposi-tion Atal Bihari Vajpayee, former J&K Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah, Salman Khurshid and other lead-ers to make India's case at the United Nations Human Biebte Commission

ISRO set to launch earth observation

satellite using PSLV rocket on Sunday

Rights Commission (UNHRC) in Geneva, where a Pakistan-sponsored reso-lution that sought to cen-ume India on human rights sure India on human rights in J&K was defeated. MP and former Human

MP and former runnan Resources Development Minister Kapil Sibal had ap-pealed to the government last week to consider send-ing such delegations after Operation Sindoor. He had led a similar delegation to Africe in 2008. Africa in 2008

with Taliban's Acting Foreign Minister Kallol Bhattacherjee Muttagi condemns the terror strike in Pahalgam on April 22 Marking the first Minister-level outreach to the Tali-ban administration in Af-ghanistan, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Thursday held a telephone that left 26 dead

Jaishankar speaks

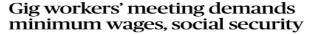
cused on the wellbeing of the Afghan people and in that direction, the Governonversation with the 'Actment of India has allowed the Taliban to gradually take charge of the Afghan missions in Delhi, Mumbai and Hyderabad to cater to the consular requirement of Afghan students, visitors

cents dead and dozens 'No Taliban link' injured. "Good conversation

Rebutting reports in Pakis-tan media that attempted to link the Taliban with the "Good conversation with Acting Afghan Foreign Minister Mawlawi Amir Khan Mutaqi this evening. Deeply appreciate his con-demnation of the Pahal-gam terrorist attack," said Mr. Jaishankar in a mes-sage on X. Mr. Mutaqi had hosted senior Indian diplo-hosted senior Indian diplo-bul on April 27 against the backdron of erowine India. to link the Taliban with the developments in Kashmir, Mr. Jaishankar further said, "Welcomed his firm rejec-tion of recent attempts to create distrust between In-dia and Afghanistan through false and baseless reports."

reports." Hafiz Zia Ahmed, director of public communica backdrop of growing India-Pakistan hostilities follow-ing the attack in Pahalgam. The Taliban administration at the Taliban's "Minis try of Foreign Affairs", made a detailed post on X announcing that Mr. Muttion and India have been intensifying ties since the taqi asked Mr. Jaishankar to help in securing more outfit first came to power Indian visas for Afghan pa-Indian visas for constructions tients and visitors. He also urged the Go-vernment of India to help in Kabul on August 16, 2021, though India has not yet fully normalised rela-tions with the outfit. In-

in freeing Afghan pridia's official policy has fo-



ments. Janpahal secretary

#### + The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

A roundtable held here on Thursday on platform work in the country re-commended minimum wages, social security and wages, social security and legal protections for gig and platform workers. The meeting demanded a tri-partite welfare Board for partite welfare Board for gig workers in all States and at the Central level comprising representa-ployers and governments. The meeting, titled "Current developments, challenges and way for challenges and way for governmental organisa-tion, Janpahai, and the Gig Workers Association decki Workers Association decki ween stakeholders to iden-

Dharmendra Kumar said the outcome of the meet-ing would be sent to the policymakers so that a more equitable gig econo-my could be created in the country. Representatives from the Union and State go-vernments and interna-tional organisations adcountry. ween stakeholders to iden tify the way forward in ensuring gig workers' rights within the context of existing policy developdressed the meeting

12 As if it has no variety for someone interested in haute couture

SM (1999)



a minimum wage/income for the workers based on their logged-in hours. "The The testimonies shared The testimonies shared by workers in the meeting pointed towards "harsh realities of work" in the sector. "The dictatorial and insensitive attitude of the companies is a regular feature in their life. There continuous reduction in the rate cards for workers should be stopped," it demanded adding that sur-charge collected from con-sumers should be properly are no avenues of redress. Their IDs are blocked, and they are thrown out of work for the smallest mis-takes or no mistakes. Soshared with the workers. It also urged the Centre to declare a social security policy for online platform



Sriharikota. The ISRO on Thursday said the PSLV was moved from the Payload Integra-tion Facility to the Mobile Service Tower at the space-port in Sriharikota for further integration. EOS-09 is an earth ob-servation satellite which is expected to boost India's summellance convolution ditions round the clock. Chandrayaan-5 meet The ISRO and the JAXA, the space agency of Japan, jointly conducted the third face-to-face Technical Insurveillance capabilities in all-weather conditions. The satellite is equipped

terface Meeting (TIM-3), for the Chandrayaan-5/Lunar Polar Exploration (LU with C-band synthetic PEX) mission at the ISRO aperture radar enabling capturing of high-resolu-tion images of earth's sur-Headquarters in Bengaluru on May 13 and 14. face under all-weather con

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5 1 ject executives, and techn cal team members from the ISRO, JAXA, and Mit

nar lander, which will car-ry the MHI, Japan-made lu-nar rover. ISRO, apart from developing the lunar lan-der, is also responsible for developing a free scientific

SA, all thematically connected with the explora-tion and in-situ analysis of the volatiles reserved in sion), the Chandrayaan-5/ the lunar polar region

SUDOKU To solve this puzzle online TH G R O S SWO R D + 14486 get across to our crossword site. # https://gro.page.link/jp/in 9 6 Go slow inside city (4) З 7 Mixing pain and love softly (5) 1 18 Certainly hard to follow most of class (4) 4 19 Called in are soldiers! Time for understanding! (11) 2 1 8 З 22 Take off day to teach (not American, not English) (6) 23 No, no! Certainly not! Team Spirit's almost all gone permanently! (8) 25 Sea creature, bold and fiercely alive, gobbles up heart of dive 6 4 26 Wasting years in sarcasm, out of bounds wise men from time o Sangams or Keezhadi (4,3) 9 6 1 Down 2 3 5 Judge's playful, grabs lady's sides, stingy creature! (9) A threat can be assured (6) 8 5 3 Sounds like correct practice (4) Oldest boon in form of a precious mineral (10) DIFFICULTY RATING: 5 Release notice (8) Mostly notice odd part of blood (5) An unfit peon becoming a writer! (8,3) 13 Critical: Cry not - Work hard at home ignoring one's heart! (10) ss quotes about one American giant found in the woods 14 Mostly oriental sense of pride, passing over good chocolate Est black humokin (7) 16 Prophetic visual about Gunners (8) 20 Some term in English for fur (6) Production about Putin's houses (6)

21 Foreigner involves in crime to get established (3,2)

24 Get container for audience [4]

#### FAITH

#### Idol made by Bhogar

Pathani hili is known by different naress – Sivagiri, Sakti-giri and Idumban Sulai. Arunagirinah bassang 96 Ti many siddhara iku ang basa enduram. There is a symbolism behind the use of nine herbs. The number nine is significant here. Hindu philoso-phy talks of navadwara (nine holes), for the exit of waste pny tasks of navadwara (mine notes), nor the exit of waste and bodily fluids – two eyes, two ears, two nostrils, mouth, anus and genitalia. The body is the house in which the atma resides. This house has nine exit points, and this house is cleaned of all doshas by Pazhani Murugan. The

house is cleaned of all doshas by Pazhani Murugan. The Murugan Ido Imade of nine berbs symbolises this. A sub-stance known as mooppu or karma has been used in the lorshaad, chest and below the hip. In the standard standard state of the standard state panchamritham (made with the pulp of fruits), sandal pante, rose water, tender coconut water, tapana kalaas wa-are added). These abhishelas help preserve the image made by Bhogar with navapashanam. Pamban Swanigal was a grate devotee of Pazhani Murugan. He wrote 120 werses, in which he referred to Pazhani Murugan as Dan-Pazhani even once. Pazhani even once

ANX

LUPEX mission will be the fifth mission in the Chan-drayaan series of lunar missions, in common with JAXA, to study the lunar volatile materials, in cluding lunar water, in the vicinity of a Permanent Shadowed Region in the lu-nar south pole," ISRO said. The mission will be launched by IAXA onboard its H3-24L launch vehicle, carrying the ISRO-made lu-nar lander, which will car-

der, is also responsible for developing a few scientific instruments for the mis-sion. The scientific instru-ments for this mission would be contributed by ISRO, JAXA, ESA and NA-



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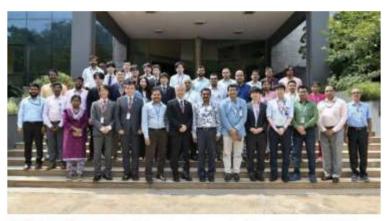
# ISRO set to launch earth observation satellite using PSLV rocket on Sunday

#### The Hindu Bureau BENGALURU

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is all geared up for its 101st launch with the PSLV-C61 / EOS-09 mission to be launched at 5.59 a.m. on Sunday from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.

The ISRO on Thursday said the PSLV was moved from the Payload Integration Facility to the Mobile Service Tower at the spaceport in Sriharikota for further integration.

EOS-09 is an earth observation satellite which is expected to boost India's surveillance capabilities in all-weather conditions. The satellite is equipped with C-band synthetic aperture radar enabling capturing of high-resolution images of earth's surface under all-weather con-



**Collaboration on:** Participants at a meet of the ISRO and JAXA in Bengaluru on May 13 and 14 for the Chandrayaan-5 mission. ISRO

ditions round the clock.

#### Chandrayaan-5 meet

The ISRO and the JAXA, the space agency of Japan, jointly conducted the third face-to-face Technical Interface Meeting (TIM-3), for the Chandrayaan-5/Lunar Polar Exploration (LU-PEX) mission at the ISRO Headquarters in Bengaluru on May 13 and 14.

The meeting was attended by senior officials, project executives, and technical team members from the ISRO, JAXA, and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries (MHI), Japan.

"Following the legacy of Chandrayaan-1, Chandrayaan-2 (orbiter-based lunar exploration), Chandrayaan-3 (lander-rover based in-situ exploration) and the forthcoming Chandrayaan-4 (India's first lunar sample return mission), the Chandrayaan-5/ LUPEX mission will be the fifth mission in the Chandrayaan series of lunar missions, in collaboration with JAXA, to study the lunar volatile materials, including lunar water, in the vicinity of a Permanently Shadowed Region in the lunar south pole," ISRO said.

The mission will be launched by JAXA onboard its H3-24L launch vehicle, carrying the ISRO-made lunar lander, which will carry the MHI, Japan-made lunar rover. ISRO, apart from developing the lunar lander, is also responsible for developing a few scientific instruments for the mission. The scientific instruments for this mission would be contributed by ISRO, JAXA, ESA and NA-SA, all thematically connected with the exploration and in-situ analysis of the volatiles reserved in the lunar polar region.

## 1. Key Highlights:

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is set to launch the PSLV-C61/EOS-09 mission at
   5:59 a.m. on Sunday from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.
- The satellite to be launched is EOS-09, an earth observation satellite aimed at enhancing India's surveillance capabilities under all-weather conditions.

- 2. Technical Features of EOS-09:
  - Equipped with C-band Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR):
    - Enables high-resolution imaging of Earth's surface, irrespective of weather conditions.
    - Enhances surveillance along India's borders and coastlines.
  - Applications:
    - Border surveillance: Keeps a check on sensitive areas, particularly in the north and northeastern regions.
    - Disaster management: Assists in tracking natural disasters like floods and landslides.
    - Environmental monitoring: Tracks changes in land cover and deforestation.

## 3. Chandrayaan-5 Mission:

- Collaborative Effort:
  - Joint mission between ISRO and JAXA (Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency).
  - Conducted the third face-to-face Technical Interface Meeting (TIM-3) for Lunar Polar Exploration (LUPEX) Mission on May 13 and 14 in Bengaluru.
- Objective:
  - To study lunar volatile materials, including lunar water, in a Permanently Shadowed Region (PSR) of the lunar south pole.
- Launch Vehicle:
  - H3-24L Launch Vehicle: Provided by JAXA.
  - ISRO-made lunar lander to carry the MHI, Japan-made lunar rover.

## • Historical Context:

- Builds on the legacy of previous Chandrayaan missions:
  - Chandrayaan-1 (orbiter),
  - Chandrayaan-2 (orbiter-based lunar exploration),
  - Chandrayaan-3 (lander-rover based in-situ exploration).
- LUPEX Mission: Planned as a joint exploration of lunar water and volatiles.

## 4. Collaboration and Scientific Contributions:

- The mission also includes scientific instruments developed by ISRO, JAXA, ESA, and NASA.
- Instruments are designed to support in-situ analysis of volatiles in the lunar polar region.

## RIL gets \$2.9 bn in India's biggest loan since 2023

#### FE BUREAU Mumbai, May 15

**RELIANCE INDUSTRIES (RIL) HAS** secured a dual-currency loan worth \$2.9 billion, according to sources. It is the largest offshore loan raised by an Indian company in over a year. The loan agreement was signed last week and will see participation of 55 banks, making it the largest bank group for a syndicated loan in Asia so far this year.

The loan is split into two parts: a \$2.4-billion tranche in US dollars and a second tranche in Japanese yen valued at 67.7 billion yen (\$462 million).

This transaction has pushed foreign currency loan volumes raised by Indian companies to around \$10.4 billion so far in 2025 — the guickest year-to-date pace in at least a decade, Bloomberg data showed.

While syndicated lending in the broader Asia-Pacific region (excluding Japan) has slumped to a twodecade low of \$29 billion in G3 currencies-US dollars, euros and yen-India has stood out.

The latest borrowing comes as the Mukesh Ambani-helmed company continues to ramp up investment across its diverse businesses. In his address at RIL's annual general meeting (AGM) in August 2024, Ambani had laid out an ambitious roadmap, stating the group aimed to break into the world's 30 most valuable companies, up from its current position in the top 50.

Ambani pointed to the group's increasing focus on deep technology and advanced manufacturingwhich necessitated increased investments. He also outlined new plans for the company's 'new energy' division, projecting it to match the scale and profitability of Reliance's traditional oil-to-chem- Bloomberg data show.

#### **DUAL CURRENCY**



The loan agreement was signed last week and will see participation of 55 banks The The loan is split into a

transaction \$2.4 billion has pushed tranche in US foreian dollars and currency loan volumes raised a second tranche in by Indian firm to around Japanese yen \$10.4 bn so valued at 67.7 bn yen far in 2025

Reliance Industries has repayments worth \$2.9 bn, including interest payments, due this year

icals (O2C) business within five to seven years.

The group also committed to major investments in biogas, plastics and polyester production. These include the establishment of 55 compressed biogas plants by 2025, a pilot project for an integrated energy plantation, and expanded capacity in polyvinyl chloride (PVC), chlorinated PVC (CPVC), and specialty polyester by 2026–27.

RIL has repayments worth about \$2.9 billion, including interest payments, due in 2025,

## 1. Key Highlights:

- Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) has secured a dual-currency offshore loan worth \$2.9 billion, the largest offshore loan raised by an Indian company in over a year.
- The loan is split into two parts:
  - \$2.4 billion tranche in US dollars.
  - 67.7 billion yen (\$462 million) tranche in Japanese yen.

## 2. Loan Details:

- The agreement was signed last week, involving 55 banks, marking it the largest bank group for a syndicated loan in Asia for this year.
- The transaction has pushed **foreign currency loan volumes** raised by Indian companies in 2025 to around **\$10.4 billion**, the fastest year-to-date pace in a decade.

## **3. Economic Context:**

- Syndicated Lending Trends:
  - Syndicated lending in the Asia-Pacific region (excluding Japan) has dropped to a two-decade low of \$29 billion in G3 currencies (US dollars, euros, yen).
  - Despite the overall slump, **India stands out** with RIL's significant borrowing.
- Foreign Currency Loans in 2025:
  - Indian companies raised \$10.4 billion in foreign currency loans, indicating the quickest year-todate pace in a decade.

## 4. Strategic Investments:

- Expansion Plans:
  - At RIL's annual general meeting (AGM) in August 2024, Mukesh Ambani laid out an ambitious roadmap aiming to make RIL one of the top 30 most valuable companies globally from its current position in the top 50.
- Key Investment Areas:
  - New Energy Division:
    - Focus on **advanced manufacturing** and **green energy**.
    - Plans to expand the **oil-to-chemicals (O2C)** business within **5 to 7 years**.
  - Biogas and Plastics:
    - 55 compressed biogas plants by 2025.
    - Integrated energy plant projects.
    - Expansion in PVC, CPVC, and specialty polyester production by 2026-27.



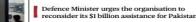
B Mangalunu & Tirachinapal

At Bhuj Air Force station, he lauds the IAF role

in successfully carrying out Operation Sindoor



### Pak. will use IMF aid to fund terror: Rainath



Adani terminates pact with Celebi S at two airports

NEARBY

Chernal & Colesbatore is Bengalara is Hyde

MUMPAL/NEW DELH MUMBAI/NEW DELEH Adani Airport Holdings Ltd. said it has terminated the ground handling concession agreement with Turkish firm Celebi at Mumbai and Ahmedabad airports with immediate effect and has asked it to handover all groun handling facilities. Earlier, the Centre had revoked Celebi's security clearance, to PAGE 11



**Rushdie attacker** awarded 25-year imprisonment

SC denies bail to

two accused in A.P. liquor scam

case on Friday. The accused were serving in former Chief

Minister V.S. Jaganmohar

Reddy's office. » PAGE 3

A STATISTICS

India focused on

building relations

with Afghanistan'

NEW DELHI A day after External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar held a

telephone conversation with

Foreign Minister' Mawlawi Ami Khan Muttaqi, officials in New Delhi said India would "do whatever is necessary\* in near future to establish stronger relation with the Taliban-ruled

CM C

the with the 'Acting Afghan

country. » PAGE 5

The Case

clearances 'illegal'

the 2017 notification and

2021 Office Memorandum (OM) of the Centre, which

recognised the grant of ex post facto ECs, and con-

post facto ECs, and con-nected government circu-lars, orders and notifica-tions as illegal and arbitrary. It, however, said ECs granted till date under the 2017 notification and the 2021 OM would be un-affected by the judgment.

FULL REPORT ON

» PAGE 5

Krishnadas Rajagopal

The Supreme Court on Fri-day held the grant of ex

post facto or retrospective Environmental Clearances

(EC) by the Centre to build-

(EC) by the Centre to build-ing projects and construc-tions a "gross illegality". It restrained the Union go-vernment from granting ex post facto clearances in any form to regularise illegal constructions.

constructions. The court struck down

NEW DELHI NEW DELHI The Supreme Court has said an accusation of political bias alone against a ruling regime cannot secure anticipatory bail and denied protection from arrest to two accused in the Andhra Pradesh liquor scam

MAYVILLE ted of stal

The man convicted of stabbing Salman Rushdie on a New Yor lecture stage in 2022, leaving the author blind in one eye, was sentenced Friday to serve any other country," the De-fence Minister said. 25 years in prison. A jury found Hadi Matar, 27, guilty of attempted murder and assault in February. Mr. Rushdie did not return to the court for his the sentencing. >> PAGE 12



Air Force (IAF) for eliminat-ing terror camps in Pakis-tan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) in just 23 minutes under Operation nounced financial assis-tance to rebuild the terror infrastructure of the Lash-kar-e-Taiba and the JeM lo-cated in Muridke and Bahaminutes under Operation Sindoor, Mr. Singh said, walpur, Mr. Singh called upon the IMF to reconsider its \$1bn assistance to Isla-mabad and refrain from "India's actions under Op-eration Sindoor were just a trailer, we will show the full picture, if need be". "The world heard the echoes of India's valour and might" when missiles were mabad and refrain from providing any support in the future as well. "Pakis-tan will spend the tax col-lected from its citizens to give around ₹14 crore to Masood Azhar, the head of dropped inside the enemy territory, Mr. Singh added. Saying that the Pakistan

had an-

Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) terrorist organisation, even though he is a UN-designated terrorist," the De-fence Minister said. Higlighting the role of the IAF in Operation Sin-door, Mr. Singh said that the IAF spearheaded this the IAF spearheaded this campaign against terro-rism, and during the oper-ation, it not only dominat-ed the enemy, but decimated them. India's fighter aircraft were capa-ble of striking every corner

of Pakistan without cross-ing the border. "The world has witnessed how IAF destroyed terror camps and later Pakistan's airbas-es. The IAF gave the proof es. The IAF gave the proof that India's war policy and technology have changed. They conveyed the mes-sage of new India that we are not just dependent on weapons and platforms imported from abroad, but Made in India equipment have become a part of our military power. The wea-

**Opposition** to Defence Research and De-Defence Research and De-velopment Organisation played a tremendous role. During the visit, Mr. Singh interacted with per-sonnel from the three Ser-vices, Border Security Force (BS-R), and other se-curity agencin the neuronant security situation and onjoin diplomatic outreach efforts NEW DELHI amentary Affairs Ministe Kiren Rijiju has reached out to senior leaders from the senior leaders from the Opposition and the nuling National Democratic Aliance (NDA) as the government gets ready to send eight delegations, to major countries in Europe, West Asia, and Africa, to present India's point of view on the recent conflict with Pakistan According to sources security situation and op-erational preparedness by senior commanders. Bhuj saw waves o drones during the four-day intense military confronta tion following India's preci Pakistan. According to sources, several leaders have accepted the invitation. These sion strikes on nine terror camps in Pakistan and PoK on the night of May 6-7. Lt. Gen. Dheeraj Seth, Southern Army comman-der, briefed the Minister on delegations, comprising roughly 10 members each, will have parliamentarians, former der, briefed the Minister on the "exemplary role" being played by the Indian Army and the BSF operating un-der the Bhuj-based. Inde-pendent Infantry Brigade, an Army official said. "The visit highlights the coordi-nated efforts of all security forces in ensuring the safe-ty and security of critical securit in the notion." diplomats, and strategic experts.» PAGE 4 pons manufactured in In-dia are also impenetrable," the Minister said. Pat for BrahMos missile On the BrahMos supers ic missile, Mr. Singh said Pakistan had itself accept-ed the power of the missile. This Made in India missile assets in the region." Army's Air Defence un-its, deployed near Bhuj and Naliya, have successfully This Made in India missile showed Pakistan the light of day in the darkness of night, he said, also lauding India's air defence system, in which Akash and other radar systems made by the neutralised multiple hos tile Pakistani drones in re

Operation Sindoor was just a trailer, will show

the whole movie, if required, the Minister adds

o Kolkata a Habball a Mohal o Malapporen a Mumbal a Lucknew a Cattack o Patri

Lost and found SWL-21 onnel rescued six crew members of a cargo ship, MSV Solomoth, that sank off the Mangaluru coast or ming leaving them adrift in a dinghy special app Retrospective green Centre seeks to enhance

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan

The Ministry of Finance is

taking a direct interest in

the Reserve Bank of India's

review of its rules relating

fect how much dividend it

to capital buffers, which af

fect how much dividend it can send to the govern-ment, The Hindu has learnt. The RBI's officers have been since January this year reviewing the central bank's Economic Capital

6

NEW DELH

#### prisoners but fail to agree on truce at talks in Turkive Agence France-Presse ISTANBUL

#### Russia and Ukraine agreed a large-scale prisoner ex-change, said they would trade ideas on a possible ceasefire and discussed a potential meeting between Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Vladimir Putin in their first diment rults in once three direct talks in over three years on Friday. But coming out of the highly anticipated talks in Istanbul, which lasted just wer 90 minutes, there

over 90 minutes, there were few signs of more sig-nificant progress toward ending the three-year war. Kylv was seeking an "un-conditional ceasefire" to pause a conflict that has destroyed large swathes of Ukraine and displaced mil-lions of people. Moscow has consistent-ly rebuffed those calls, and the only concrete agree-ment appeared to be a deal to exchange 1,000 prison-ers each. 'Satisfied with results' "Satisfied with results' The two sides also said they would "present their vision of a possible future ceasefire", said Russia's top negotiator, Vladimir Medinaky, Russia also took note of Ukraine's request for a meeting of Presidents Putin and Zelensky, he said. "Overall, we are satis-fied with the results and

111 (1997)



principle to meet again" and would present ceasemeeting, and criticised Russia for not taking the fire ideas "in writing". Mr. Fidan sat at the head talks "seriously" Both Moscow and Wash and Ukrainian de and Ukrainian de facing each other from the room sh But progress fundamental iss peared minimal. During the tal rainian source

lelegations	need for a meeting bet-
er, footage	ween Putin and US Presi-
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ssues ap-	Trump has said "noth-
S	ing's going to happen" on
ilks, a Uk-	the conflict until he meets
told APD	Dutin face to face

6 ABL

cent days, effectively foil ing attempts to target vital military installations, the official added. Russia, Ukraine will swap

Common ground: Russian, Ukrainian and Turkive officials at the

that Russia was making "unacceptable" territorial demands in a bid to derail Putin 'afraid' Nevertheless, the fact the meeting took place at all

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of a table - with Russian ington have talked up the
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Russia and Ukraine agreed

indirect funding by the IMF, an international or-ganisation, for terror? Any financial assistance to Pa-kistan is no less than terror funding. The funds India gives to the IMF should not be used, directly or indi-ectly, to create terror in-rastructure in Pakistan or Appreciating the Indian

dividends from the RBI

Framework (ECF), which

currently keeps the bank's Contingency Risk Buffer (CRB) at 5.5%-6.5% of its balance sheet, and trans-

ferring the surplus or divi

dend to the government. The Ministry of Finance

The Ministry of Finance is conducting a "parallel" review process to arrive at its own findings on the buffers, a government offi-cial told The Hindu.

FULL REPORT ON » PAGE 11

## Russia, Ukraine will swap prisoners but fail to agree on truce at talks in Turkiye

#### Agence France-Presse ISTANBUL

Russia and Ukraine agreed a large-scale prisoner exchange, said they would trade ideas on a possible ceasefire and discussed a potential meeting between Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Vladimir Putin in their first direct talks in over three years on Friday.

But coming out of the highly anticipated talks in Istanbul, which lasted just over 90 minutes, there were few signs of more significant progress toward ending the three-year war. Kyiv was seeking an "un-

conditional ceasefire" to pause a conflict that has destroyed large swathes of Ukraine and displaced millions of people.

Moscow has consistently rebuffed those calls, and the only concrete agreement appeared to be a deal to exchange 1,000 prisoners each.

#### 'Satisfied with results'

The two sides also said they would "present their vision of a possible future ceasefire", said Russia's top negotiator, Vladimir Medinsky. Russia also took note of Ukraine's request for a meeting of Presidents Putin and Zelenskyy, he said. "Overall, we are satisfied with the results and



Common ground: Russian, Ukrainian and Turkiye officials at the talks in Istanbul on Friday. AFP

ready to continue contacts," Mr. Medinsky added.

Ukraine's top negotiator, Defence Minister Rustem Umerov, confirmed the prisoner swap in a separate statement and also said a ceasefire and a possible presidential meeting had been discussed.

Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan, who presided over the talks, said the sides had "agreed in principle to meet again" and would present ceasefire ideas "in writing".

Mr. Fidan sat at the head of a table - with Russian and Ukrainian delegations facing each other, footage from the room showed.

But progress on more fundamental issues appeared minimal.

During the talks, a Ukrainian source told AFP that Russia was making "unacceptable" territorial demands in a bid to derail negotiations.

#### Putin 'afraid'

Nevertheless, the fact the meeting took place at all was a sign of movement. Putin declined to travel to Turkey for the meeting, which he had proposed, sending a second-level delegation instead. Zelensky said Putin was "afraid" of meeting, and criticised Russia for not taking the talks "seriously".

Both Moscow and Washington have talked up the need for a meeting between Putin and US President Donald Trump on the conflict.

Trump has said "nothing's going to happen" on the conflict until he meets Putin face-to-face.

## 1. Key Highlights:

- Russia and Ukraine agreed to a large-scale prisoner exchange during talks in Istanbul, but failed to reach a ceasefire agreement.
- The discussions marked the **first direct talks in over three years** between representatives from both sides.
- The only concrete outcome was an agreement to exchange 1,000 prisoners each.

## 2. Details of the Talks:

- The talks lasted over 90 minutes and were held in Istanbul, mediated by Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan.
- Russia and Ukraine expressed satisfaction with the progress made, though no ceasefire agreement was finalized.
- The Ukrainian side demanded an "unconditional ceasefire", but Moscow refused.
- The meeting also involved discussions on a potential meeting between Presidents Putin and Zelenskyy.

## **3. Statements and Reactions:**

- Russia's Stance:
  - Russian top negotiator Vladimir Medinsky stated that they would present their vision for a possible future ceasefire.
  - Russia termed Ukraine's demands as "unacceptable", which they believe are intended to derail the talks.
- Ukraine's Stance:
  - Ukraine's Defence Minister Rustem Umerov confirmed the prisoner swap and indicated that ceasefire proposals were discussed.
  - Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy criticized Putin for not attending the talks, calling it a sign of "fear" and a lack of seriousness.

#### **INBRIBE**



#### ASI completes conservation work in Lodhi-era stepwell

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), in The Archaeological Survey of India (ASD), in collaboration with the World Monuments Fund India (WMF) and the TCS Foundation, has successfully completed the conservation work of 'Rajon ki Baoli', a 16th-century stepwell, located in Mehrauli Archaeological Park in New Delhi. "The 'baoli' (reservoir) was cleaned, de-silted, and connected to reserve device." and connected to proper drainage systems. Fish were introduced to help maintain water quality. Traditional materials like lime plaster and mortai were used to preserve the original character of the structure. The restoration was guided by historical records to retain the site's Lodi-era authenticity", a senior ASI official said.

#### Delhi High Court refuses interim bail to PFI leader

The Delhi High Court has rejected interim bail or The Delhi High Court has rejected interim bail on medical grounds to the banned Popular Front of India's (PFI) leader A.S. Ismail, who is accused in a terror case, noting that he was showing improvement. The court said the latest report by an AIMS medical board showed his condition would not deteriorate if interim bail was not granted. "Material on record indicates that the methods of the state of the sta granted. Insertial of records indicates that our appellant (Ismail) is being given proper treatment and he is showing improvement even when he is in incarceration. This indicates that the appellant is being given proper treatment in juil," the court is define the record of indicates the properties of the second seco said. The court further ordered iail authorities to ake him to AIIMS once every month



environmental clearances

THE HINDI

News

Before starting a new project or expanding one, a clearance must be obtained, says court; concept

Judicial stand: Development cannot come at the cost of the environment, says the Supreme Court. FILE PHOTO

government had issued the legal constructions through retrospective ECs, the court said the govern-ment was only protecting 2017 notification despite a clear declaration of the law in favour of prior EC by the nts who Supreme Court in the Com-mon Cause judgment the project proponents who had committed gross illegality by commencing con-struction or operations in same year. "The reason why a re-

Ionni to teguini se inegal The court struck down the 2017 notification and 2021 Office Memorandum (DM) of the Centre, which in effect recognized the in effect recognized the in effect recognized the and connected govern-ment circulars, orders, and notifications as illegal and completely arbitrary. charge arbitrary. clarified that ECs already granted till date under the "The reason why a re-trospective EC or an ex post facto clearance is alien to environmental jurispru-dence is that before the is-suance of an EC, the statu-tory notification warrants a careful application of mind, besides a study into the likely consequences of a proposed activity on the environment." Instite Oka these illegal constructions without obtaining prior EC. "Before undertaking a new project or expanding or modernising an existing one, an EC must be ob-tained... The concept of an ex post facto EC is in dero-gation of the fundamental wrincelese of ouricommen principles of environmen-tal jurisprudence and is an anathema to the EIA Notifi-cation of January 27, 1994," granted till date under the environment," Justice Oka 2017 notification and the 2021 OM would be unaf-fected by the judgment. Accusing the Centre of "crafty drafting" to clear il-Justice Oka observed.

SC questions

plea against

deportation

Rohingya

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

explained. The effect of granting an *ex post facto* clearance would amount to giving permission to complete The judgment said the

of an ex post facto nod is in derogation of basic principles of environmental jurisprudence, it add Kallol Bhattacherjee the construction of a pro-ject which had started without prior EC. In cases in which the construction was already completed and activities had begun, the retrospective EC would feedlinete constinuation. facilitate continuation. Thus, in effect, the *ex post facto* EC regularised something which was illegal with retrospective effect. Referring to the 2021 OM, the court said the Union government had "cle-verly" avoided the words "ex post facto", but the provisions had the effect of al-lowing a retrospective regime. On Thursday, Mr. Jaish-ankar, in his conversation with the source of the source of the humanitarian support to Afghanistan, which has been approximate the source informed that some of the requirements of the Tail been under consideration in India and that Mr. Nutta-qi had raised the require foreign Scretary Ukram "The 2021 OM talks about the concept of deve-lopment. Can there be de-velopment at the cost of the environment? Conser-union of the environment velopment at the cost of the environment? Conser-vation of the environment and its improvement is an essential part of the con-cept of development. The refore, going out of the way by a summary with the the program of the start caused harm to the envi-caused harm to the envi-caused harm to the envi-cated by the courts... Even the Central government

the Contral government has a duty to protect and improve the natural envi-ronment," Justice Oka un-derscored.

VSSC Director says ISRO is

committed to sustainable

A day after External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar held a telephone conversation with the 'Acting Afghan Fo-reign Minister' Mawlawi Amir Khan Muttaqi, off-cials here said India would undortaka. "Iheld meenet undertake "bold moves" on Afghanistan and "do whatever is necessary" in near future to establish stronger relation with the Taliban-ruled country. As part of that process, fourth Plack will provide South Block will consider the possibility of extending humanitarian assistance to the Afghan refugees who have been forcefully repa-triated by Pakistan. On Thursday, Mr. Jaish-

#### SC strikes down retrospective | India to do whatever is necessary to build ties with Afghanistan'

"bold move" on Taliban controlled Afghanistan and that New Delhi at and that New Delhi at-tached 'lot of significance' to the Jaishankar-Muttaqi conversation as it came against the backdrop of the upcoming visit of Mr. Mut-taqi to Iran and China. Mr. Muttaqi and Mr. Jaishankar had discussed cooperation with the Tali-ban to take advantage of which isohan poron in hear. which is acquiring greater importance as India has banned trade through the Pakistan border, India had cleared 160 Afghan truck carrying dry fruits and nuts through Attari but these vehicles remained stranded on the Pakistan 'New normal'

side till Friday, when Pakis tan allowed them to enter India. "New normal" The Tailban have de-scribed Mr. Muttaqi's mui-ti-nation visit next week as part of Afghanistan's "ac-tive foreign policy" which has been shaping up Ka-bul's "balanced" posture in South Asia. Officials here indicated that India is will-ing to do "whatever is ne-cessary" regarding the Tacessary" regarding the Ta-liban in the present

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri when the two met in Dubai on January 8. Officials here said that short of formal recogni-tion, India will make a liban in the present context, which has been described as a "new nor-mal" by the External Af-fairs Ministry.

#### **CJI praises Justice Bela** Trivedi for being firm, fearless, and dedicated

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#### + The Hindu Bureau

Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai on Friday lauded Jus-tice Bela M. Trivedi for her meteoric rise from the sub-ordinate judiciary to be-come the 11th woman Judge appointed to the Su-preme Court. June 0. but Friday

on June 9, but Friday marked her last working day. Chief Justice Gavai and Justice A.G. Masih accom-Mehta. The Chief Justice, hopanied Justice Trivedi on the Ceremonial Bench held wever, deplored the Su-preme Court Bar Associa-tion (SCBA) for deciding to not hold the traditional ofn honour of the retiring The Chief Justice said he

ficial farewell ceremony for found Justice Trivedi firm Justice Trivedi. "There are different types of judges. There are some who give relief. There are others who do not give relief. Judges are ultimately human beings. Everybody has different Justice Trivedi. fearless, and dedicated as a learless, and dedicated as a judge. Justice Trivedi, who was elevated to the top court on August 31, 2021, was hailed by members of the Bar, Attorney-General R Venkataramani and Sol-

Corruption in bank? Book removed a Toy traded by Electrical Engineer (5,4 Debut in first test, Rohit to hit out (5)

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orates cot, kisses and leaves the first partner (

te taken primarily in secrecy (2,3,2)
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cate Rachna Shirvastava, vice-president of SCBA, for attending the Ceremonial Bench despite the resolu-tion of the Bar body. Justice Masih said he was sorry that the tradi-tional SCBA farewell cereprising Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, questioned the authenticity of materials placed before it by petimony was not being held. In her speech, Justice Trivedi reflected on the

judgment on a plea filed by Vanashakti, an NGO, res-

vanashakti, an NGO, res-trained the Union govern-ment from granting ex post facto clearances in any form to regularise illegal constructions.

Trivedi reflected on the plurality in the Bench and Bar of the Supreme Court. "Ultimately, what matters most is institutional inte-It refused to stay further deportation of Rohingya refugees, remarking that sigrity, which sustains na-tional integrity," she said. milar relief had been de-nied by the court earlier.

Woke up bloodshot, of a bluish colour (4-3)
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 Out of den, Bin Laden gave explosive unobstructed (9)
 Out of den, Bin Laden gave explosive unobstructed (7)
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ded group, led by gender-ambiguous person, met the journo

own Recede from battle with electricity board (3.3)

recode from battle with electricity board [3,3] Perhaps our boases have a Tesls, rendered [6] UK school certificate changes, Chinese is removed Fly with group in empty tarbajets above earth (6] Stud made a mistake, lost rupees and had out (8] Concentrating on LDC is in, managed by a Lieuter (10)

osit millions in the centre, it's mine (8) Standards of dirty casks terrible (10) We are in the centrel aware of strange tree (4.4) Oddly Smith is wearing glasses, primarily elegant and suave

18 Doctors hold viewpoint on promotional materials (8) Asserts that sins will leave a void inside (6)

All the plant & animal life in a region have boron traces (6)

Listener captivating police officer and engineer simpler (6)
 Sailor has sex appeal just a small part (1,3)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. https://grgo.page.link/jjpTn



eco-friendly systems using semi-cryogenic, cryogenic, and liquid oxygen-meth ane propellants. In this context, he also under-scored the critical role of chemical engineering in India's technological advancement, particularly in



Vijay, Director, Interna-tional Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metal-lurgy and New Materials; and S.K. Manu, Deputy Di-

rector, VSSC, also spoke during the session. EVINCE 2025 is themed



FAITH

#### Her presence saves

When Lord Rama told Sita to stay back and not come with Him to the forest, She said that even if She were given a chance to be in heaven, She would reject it, if it meant be-ing away from Him. Finally, Rama agreed to take Sita with Him. In the Ramayana, we find that whenever Sita was beside Rama, He did not kill anyone, said M.A. Venkatakrish nan in a discourse. Even when someone deserved to b killed, Rama spared the person's life, if Sita was besid Him. When Viswamitra took Rama to the forest to protect his Vedic altar, he told Rama to kill Tataka. And Rama Him, When Viswamirra took Rama to the forest to protect billed the demoness. At this time, Rama was not married. When Rama, Lakohmana and Sita were in the forest, Vi-radha confronted them and carried away Rama and and Lakshmana being carried away. The astra was killed. Although Rama was married at the time of this killing. Sita and its were not together, when Viradha was killed. Although Rama was married at the time of this killing. Sita and he were not together, when Viradha was killed. Married and the start of the start of the start of the cut off her nose and ears, he complained to Khara, and he sent asuras to kill Rama. Rama asked Lakshmana to gailed all the aurus sent by thrar. So here again, Sita was not with Him when he killed the asuras. Rama chaed Maricha, who was in the forms of a golden to bit killed Maricha, Rama did not kill Soorpanakha, adth-ough she threatened Sita. That again, was because Sita was

ough she threatened Sita. That again was because Sita was with Him. Kakasura pecked at Sita's breast and the wound bled. But Kakasura's life too was spared because of Sita's 975642 presence.

NCW aims at raising gender sensitivity on campus

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The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The National Commission for Women on Friday launched "Campus Call-ing", an initiative that aims to enhance gender sensitiv-ity, raise awareness on the prevention of sexual ha-regement and address or rassment, and address cy bercrimes impacting students. It marks a significant

step towards building gen-der-sensitive and cybersafe educational spaces across the country, with NCW and Yuvamanthan, a youth de velopment platform, lead ing the charge in empower ing youth and fostering safe environments for all sate environments for all, according to a statement. The programme aims to reach over 1,000 universi-ties and colleges, making it one of the most extensive youth-centric initiatives undertaken by the NCW.

EVINCE 2025 is themed on 'The art and science of artificial intelligence and additive manufacturing for revolutionising the design and production of mate-rials.'

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DIFFICULTY RATING:

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vancement, particularly in the space sector. Presiding over the ses-sion, M.C. Dathan, Mentor (science) to the Chief Mi-nister of Kerala, and form-er VSSC Director, said

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The Supreme Court on Fri-day criticised petitioners who claimed 43 Rohingya refugees, including women and children, were dropped in the Andaman sea for deportation to Maxmore. hicle systems reflects a rong commitment to sus-Myanmar. "When the country is passing through a difficult time, you come up with fanciful ideas," Justice Su-rya Kant asked them. tainable space exploration practices, S. Unnikrishnan Nair, Director, Vikram Sa-rabhai Space Centre (VSSC), has said. had made in developing Dr. Nair was speaking af-Dr. Nair was speaking at-ter inaugurating a two-day national conference on Emerging Vistas in Chemi-cal Engineering (EVINCE 2025), organised by the In-The Bench, also comtioner Mohd Ismail and dian Institute of Chemical others, represented by se-nior advocate Colin Engineers, Thiruvananthapuram chapter, here on Friday. Friday. Emphasising the grow-ing role of sustainable tech-nologies in the space are-na, he noted the advancements the ISRO

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## CJI praises Justice Bela Trivedi for being firm, fearless, and dedicated

#### The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai on Friday lauded Justice Bela M. Trivedi for her meteoric rise from the subordinate judiciary to become the 11th woman judge appointed to the Supreme Court.

Justice Trivedi is retiring on June 9, but Friday marked her last working day. Chief Justice Gavai and Justice A.G. Masih accompanied Justice Trivedi on the Ceremonial Bench held in honour of the retiring judge.

The Chief Justice said he found Justice Trivedi firm, fearless, and dedicated as a judge. Justice Trivedi, who was elevated to the top court on August 31, 2021, was hailed by members of the Bar, Attorney-General R. Venkataramani, and Sol-



Justice Bela M. Trivedi

icitor-General Tushar Mehta.

The Chief Justice, however, deplored the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) for deciding to not hold the traditional official farewell ceremony for Justice Trivedi.

"There are different types of judges. There are some who give relief. There are others who do not give relief. Judges are ultimately human beings. Everybody has different views... But I must openly deprecate the stand taken by the association (SCBA)... Such a stand ought not to have been taken by the association," Chief Justice Gavai said.

The Chief Justice, however, expressed his appreciation to senior advocate Kapil Sibal, president of SCBA, and senior advocate Rachna Shirvastava, vice-president of SCBA, for attending the Ceremonial Bench despite the resolution of the Bar body.

Justice Masih said he was sorry that the traditional SCBA farewell ceremony was not being held.

In her speech, Justice Trivedi reflected on the plurality in the Bench and Bar of the Supreme Court. "Ultimately, what matters most is institutional integrity, which sustains national integrity," she said.

## 1. Key Highlights:

- Chief Justice of India (CJI) B.R. Gavai praised Justice Bela M. Trivedi for her firmness, fearlessness, and dedication as a Supreme Court judge.
- Justice Trivedi is the 11th woman judge appointed to the Supreme Court and will retire on June 9.
- Her last working day was marked on Friday, where CJI Gavai and Justice A.G. Masih accompanied her on the Ceremonial Bench.

## 2. Achievements and Career:

- Justice Trivedi was appointed to the Supreme Court on August 31, 2021.
- She rose from the **subordinate judiciary** to the **apex court**, symbolizing a **meteoric rise** in her career.
- CJI Gavai appreciated her tenacity and commitment to upholding justice, describing her as "firm, fearless, and dedicated."

## 3. Controversy Over Farewell:

- CJI Gavai criticized the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) for not holding the traditional farewell ceremony for Justice Trivedi.
- He openly expressed that such a decision by SCBA was inappropriate.
- However, CJI acknowledged the presence of senior advocates Kapil Sibal and Rachna Shrivastava at the Ceremonial Bench despite the SCBA's resolution.

## 4. Justice Trivedi's Reflections:

- In her farewell speech, Justice Trivedi emphasized the plurality of the Bench and Bar in the Supreme Court.
- She stated that "institutional integrity" is more important than individual perspectives, emphasizing that judges are human beings with different views.
- Justice Trivedi expressed that **institutional integrity** is essential to maintain **national integrity**.



en, competing to get de

#### More stars join protest letter over Gaza 'genocide'

#### Agence France-Presse

Hollywood heavyweights Joaquin Phoenix, Pedro Pascai, Ritz Ahmed and Gailfermo del Toro have industry's silence on what it called "genocide" in Gaza, the organisers confirmed on Friday. The petition, signed by more than 370 actors and filmmakers, also denounced Israel's killing of featured in the documentary *Put Yong: Soil in* 

featured in the documentary Put Your Soul in Your Hand and Walk, which premiered at the Cannes film festival on Thursday.

The organisers of the letter said the French ac tor Juliette Binoche, who is chairing the jury at Cannes, also added her name to the letter, along

Cannes, also added her name to the letter, along with Rooney Mara, U.S. indie director Jim Jar-musch and Lupht star Omar Sy. Binoche initially seemed to pull back from sup-porting it as the festival opened on Tuesday, in-stead delivering a tribute to Hassouna, who was killed with 10 members of her family the day after she learned the film would be shown at Cannes. she learned the film would be shown at Cannes. "She should have been here tonight with us," an emotional Binoche said at the opening ceremony. The growing protest comes after several days of mounting bloodshed in the besieged Palestinian territory, with L2D people killed on Thursday and 50 reported dead since midnight. Schrinder L1st star Raigh Fiennes as well as Ri-

chard Gere, Mark Ruffalo, Guy Pearce, Susan Sa-randon, Javier Bardem, and directors David Cro-nenberg, Pedro Almodovar, Alfonso Cuaron, Mike Leigh said they were "ashamed" of their industry's failure to speak out about Israel's siege of Ga-za in the original letter.

#### **Residents of Afghan capital are forced** to choose between water and food

Kabul faces a looming water crisis driven by unruly, rapid urbanisation, population growth and climate change; interventions by Taliban have been hampered by financing and technical capacity; close to 80% of Kabul's ground water is contaminated and it is tapped by over I lakh unregulated wells

Agence France-Presse KABUL very week, Bibi Jan scrapes together band's meagre daily wage to buy precious water from rickshaw-drawn tankers that supply residents of Af-ghanistan's increasingly parched capital. Kabul faces a looming water crisis, driven by un-ruly and rapid urbanisa-tion, mismanagement over tion, mismanagement over years of conflict, and cli-mate change, meaning pe-ople like Bibl Jan are some-times forced to choose between food and water. "When my children have only tea for a few days, they say. You bought days, they say, 'You bought water and nothing for us'," the 45-year-old housewife said, describing reusing her supplies for bathing, dishes and laundry.

Early warnings Experts have long sounded the alarm over Kabul's wathe alarm over Kabul's wa-ter problems, which are worsening even as many backed off big infrastruc-ture projects and slashed inding to Alghanistan took power in 2021. "There could be no goond wher in baba body and where in baba goond where in baba goong where in the start goong baba goong baba goong baba goong baba goong baba goong goongoong goongoong goong goong goong goongoongoong goongoong g

Mr. Mayar said. "As time goes on, the problems are only increas-ing," he added, as popula-tion growth outstrips ur-ban planning and climate change drives below-avermore cautious, citing limit-ed consistent and reliable data, but say the situation age precipitation.



is clearly deteriorating. The Taliban authorities is clearly deteriorating. A 2030 cliff is a "worst-case acenario", said water resources management even if slated development projects are completed in a few years, it "does not mean the situation would become better than now". "As fine arms on the The Taliban authorities have launched projects ranging from recycling wa-ter to building hundreds of small dams across the country, but larger inter-ventions remain hampered by financing and technical canacity capacity. 'Decreasing day by day'

They remain unrecognised by any country since they ousted the Western-backed government and imposed their severe interpretation of Islamic law, with restrictions on women being a

major sticking point. They have repeatedly called for non-governmen-tal groups to reboot stalled projects on water and cli-mate change, as Alghanis-shest effects" in the region, according to the United Na-tions. The water and energy ministry wants to divert the Taliban takeover

The water and energy ministry wants to divert water from the Panjshir riv-er to the capital, but needs \$300 million to \$400 million. A dam project near Kabul would ease pres-sures but was delayed after

the Taliban takeover. For now, Kabul's prim-ary drinking water source is groundwater, as much as 80% of which is contami-nated, according to a May reputed to the source of the target of the source of the target of the source of the target of the source of the wells across the city that are regularly deepend or are regularly deepened or run dry, the NGO said.

Groundwater can be re-charged, but more is drawn each year than is re-

billion-gallon) deficit, ex-perts say. "It's a very se-rious problem... Water is decreasing day by day in the city," said Shafiuliah Zahidi, who heads central Ka bul operations for the state-owned water compa ny UWASS. Water systems designed decades ago serve just 20%

of the city's population, which has exploded to around six million over the past 20 years, said Mr. Za hidi

"Use less water" At one of Kabul's 15 pump-ing stations, maintenance manager Mohammad Eb-san said the seven-year-old well is already producing less water. Two others less water. Two others nearby sit dry. "The places with shallower water levels are dried out now," said 53-year-old Ehsan, who has worked in water manage

+

ment for two decades, as he stood over an old well. It once produced water

It once produced water from a depth of 70 m, but a newer well had to be bored more than twice as deep to be the second to be the Bibl Jan and many other Kabulis are forced to lug water in heavy jugs from tankers. Wells or buy it from tankers.

These suppliers charge at least twice as much as the state-owned utility, with potable water even more pricier in a country plenished in Kabul, with an estimated annual 76-million-cubic-metre (20where 85% of the popula tion lives on less than a dol lar a day.

> It is an inte but one that could drag on Talks between the DR0



Defying gravity: Sri Wahyuni, also known by her nickname Ayu, grabs tips from spectators as she rides a motorcycle around the 'wall of leath', locally known as 'tong setan' or satan's barrel, at a fairground in Medan in North Sumatra, Indonesia recently, a

#### Palm oil supplants cash as school fees in DR Congo's rebel-held Goma

#### Agence France-Presse

Cash has become so scarce in Goma, the eastern Con-golese city seized by antiovernment fighters in January, that some parents are now paying school fees in cans of palm oil. in cans of palm oil. After the city fell to the Rwanda-backed M23 group, authorities in the Democratic Republic of Congo stopped supplying cash to banks in M23-con-trolled areas. Banks have since closed, cash polarity are all of Co-ma, the capital of North K3-un province are forced to

vu province, are forced to fend for themselves for their everyday purchases. "The priority at the mo-ment is to have something to eat," said Richard Mbueki, a teacher at the Majengo



No takers: Money changers set rates that are out of reach for people in DR Congo, one of the world's poorest countries. APP

school, as he lifted a can of oil left by a parent. "We are just getting by, this situa-tion is untenable," he said. Goods as fees Goods as fees Parents "show up at school offering food and the school asks them to pre-sent a sample", Augustin Vangisivavi, an official at

the Majengo school, said. The school then 'looks for which teachers are inter-ent to the scheme scheme scheme profise is set that corres-ponds to the market price, then the equivalent cur-rency is entered into the school's accounts before a receipt is issued, 'Mr. Van-

successful and experts be lieve the authority should be limited to centralising

wards a draft peace agree-ment, have yet to have any ment, have yet to have any the Congolese living in M23-controlled areas. Money changers set for many people in one of the world's poorest coun-tries, promyting the M23 or der to limit excesses. The M23 has set up a f-nancial authority while open and has called on peopen and has called on pe-ople to put their savings in-to it. So far it has not been

and Rwanda, who have

committed to work to wards a draft peace agree

taxes paid to the arme gisiyayi said.

#### 50 years since first woman scaled Everest, a thousandth ascent is on the way

#### Agence France-Presse

With her all-woman team, she had struggled to find sponsors for her expedi-tion, often being told that they would be better off On May 16, 1975, Japan's Junko Tabei became the first woman to climb to the top of Mount Everest. Half looking after their chil-dren. "All men limit our likes and I do not want to a century later, the world's be limited," Ms. Tabei highest mountain is set to record its thousandth aswrote in her notebook cent by a woman upon her return. Scaling the 8.849 metre-Eleven days later, a Tibe-

Scaling the 8,849 metre-high peak has mainly been a male achievement. By May 2025 women had reached the top 962 times, while men had got there 11,955 times, according to an analysis of figures from the Himalayan Database. Eleven days later, a ribe-tan woman, Phantog, reached the peak from the opposite side. She believed she had got there first, only she had got there first, only learning that she had been pipped at the post by Ms. Tabei after she completed her descent. In her notebock, Ms. Ta-bei laid out her next objec-tives: climb k2, the world's second highest peak, and return to work for a cklen-

Won't 'be limited' When Ms. Tabei reached the peak of Everest in 1975, 38 men had preceded her. 



Japan's Junico Tabei (left), the first woman to climb Mount Everest, and Nepalese Lhakpa Sherpa, who has claimed the female record for the number of ascents: by May she had done 10.4FP tific journal.

Few women sherpas Since then, Everest has been climbed by 870 diffe-rent women of 85 different nationalities, some having succeeded several times. 1

After Nepali climbers, the United States, india and China have sent the most sent 39% of the women. The sherpas, the Nepal guides who accompany their clients up Everet, are who climbed in 2012, is 

currently the only woman to be a certified Nepali guide who received an in-ternational diploma in 2018. "This is a challenging field, even more so if you are a girl. There were peo-ple who said this is not a No oxygen girl's job, that I won't get work," she said. Before her, Pasang Lhamu in 1993 became the first Nepali woman to reach the top of Everest. During her descent she remained back top of Everest. During her descent she remained back utfering from altitude sickness and both died of exhaustion. She became anational beroine and the experiment of the second of the the second capital of Kath-the second the second of the the second the second of the the second the second of the the second the second of the success. Her successor Lhakpa

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Sherpa, the second Nepali woman to reach the sum-mit in 2000, has since claimed the female record for the number of ascents: route than that allowed by her permit, Ms. Bradey de-cided not to claim her achievement at the Nepali tourism ministry, but it by May she had done 10. was recognised years later When women and mer are taken together, only 229 ascents, or less than Thirteen years after Junko 1%, succeeded without ox Tabei, New Zealand's Lydia Bradey became in 1988 the first woman to reach the nist woman to reach the summit without an oxygen bottle, a respiratory aid which compensates for the effects of altitude. As she

ygen. Ms. Bradey and only nine other women are on nine other women are on the list. "This is a different ball game from climbing with supplemental oxygen. Maybe women are a little Maybe women are a little bit more aware of that," Germany's Billi Bierling, the director of the Hima-layan Database which tracks expeditions to the top of Everest, said. The cost of the ascent varies from \$45,000 to \$200,000. AB

## 50 years since first woman scaled Everest, a thousandth ascent is on the way

#### Agence France-Presse PARIS

On May 16, 1975, Japan's Junko Tabei became the first woman to climb to the top of Mount Everest. Half a century later, the world's highest mountain is set to record its thousandth ascent by a woman.

Scaling the 8,849 metrehigh peak has mainly been a male achievement. By May 2025 women had reached the top 962 times, while men had got there 11,955 times, according to an analysis of figures from the Himalayan Database.

#### Won't 'be limited'

When Ms. Tabei reached the peak of Everest in 1975, 38 men had preceded her.

CM (

With her all-woman team, she had struggled to find sponsors for her expedi-

sponsors for her expedition, often being told that they would be better off looking after their children. "All men limit our likes and I do not want to be limited," Ms. Tabei wrote in her notebook upon her return.

Eleven days later, a Tibetan woman, Phantog, reached the peak from the opposite side. She believed she had got there first, only learning that she had been pipped at the post by Ms. Tabei after she completed her descent.

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Few women sherpas

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In her notebook, Ms. Tabei laid out her next objectives: climb K2, the world's second highest peak, and return to work for a scien-



Japan's Junko Tabei (left), the first woman to climb Mount Everest, and Nepalese Lhakpa Sherpa, who has claimed the female record for the number of ascents: by May she had done 10. AFP

After Nepali climbers, the United States, India and China have sent the most men to the summit – and sent 39% of the women.

The sherpas, the Nepali guides who accompany their clients up Everest, are

almost all men. Everest's home Nepal accounts for half of the ascents by men, but only 9% of those by women: 90 ascents by 66 different women.

Dawa Yangzum Sherpa, who climbed in 2012, is currently the only woman to be a certified Nepali guide who received an international diploma in 2018. "This is a challenging field, even more so if you are a girl. There were people who said this is not a girl's job, that I won't get work." she said.

Before her, Pasang Lhamu in 1993 became the first Nepali woman to reach the top of Everest. During her descent she remained back with a colleague who was suffering from altitude sickness and both died of exhaustion. She became a national heroine and the trek from base camp at Everest today starts with an arch paying tribute to her.

Her successor Lhakpa

Sherpa, the second Nepali woman to reach the summit in 2000, has since claimed the female record for the number of ascents: by May she had done 10.

#### No oxygen

Thirteen years after Junko Tabei, New Zealand's Lydia Bradey became in 1988 the first woman to reach the summit without an oxygen bottle, a respiratory aid which compensates for the effects of altitude. As she made the ascent on her own, the other members of her expedition returned to the Nepali capital of Kathmandu, where they publicly cast doubt on her success.

Facing being thrown out

for having taken another

route than that allowed by her permit, Ms. Bradey decided not to claim her achievement at the Nepali tourism ministry, but it was recognised years later.

When women and men are taken together, only 229 ascents, or less than 1%, succeeded without oxygen. Ms. Bradey and only nine other women are on the list. "This is a different ball game from climbing with supplemental oxygen. Maybe women are a little bit more aware of that," Germany's Billi Bierling, the director of the Himalayan Database which tracks expeditions to the top of Everest, said.

The cost of the ascent varies from \$45,000 to \$200,000.

## 1. Historical Context:

- On May 16, 1975, Japan's Junko Tabei became the first woman to climb Mount Everest.
- The peak of 8,849 meters (world's highest mountain) had predominantly seen male climbers.
- By May 2025, women have reached the summit 962 times, while men have reached it 11,955 times.
- The data comes from the Himalayan Database.

## 2. Key Facts and Milestones:

Junko Tabei's Achievement:

- Faced resistance from sponsors who suggested she should be taking care of children.
- Documented her thoughts in a notebook, expressing her resolve to "not be limited" by societal expectations.
- Planned to scale **K2**, the second-highest peak, and return for a scientific journal.

## **3. Women in Mountaineering:**

Challenges Faced:

- Since **1975**, **870 different women from 85 nationalities** have climbed Everest.
- However, women account for only 9% of total ascents (90 ascents by 66 different women from Nepal).
- Dawa Yangzum Sherpa became the only certified Nepali woman guide in 2018.
- Stigma around **women as climbers** was prevalent, with society doubting their abilities.

Notable Climbers:

- Pasang Lhamu (1993): First Nepali woman to summit Everest, tragically died during descent.
- Lhakpa Sherpa (2000): Reached the summit and went on to set the female record of 10 ascents by May 2025.
- Lydia Bradey (1988): First woman to summit without oxygen, facing doubts about her achievement.

4. Unique Challenges of Climbing Everest:

Oxygen Dependency:

- Only 229 ascents (less than 1%) have been made without supplemental oxygen.
- Among these, **only 10 women** have managed this feat.
- The cost of the ascent ranges from \$45,000 to \$200,000.

## **Geographical and Economic Factors:**

- Nepal accounts for half of the male ascents but only a small fraction of female climbs.
- Sherpas, essential climbing guides, mostly belong to Nepal.
- Countries with most male climbers include Nepal, USA, India, and China, making up 39% of women climbers as well.

#### 14

#### THE HINDU Sport

BIG BLOW

ATHLETICS

T

aswaran. FILE PHOTO: SANDEEP SAXENA

Easwaran to

lead India-A;

get the nod

Sports Bureau

month.

cond match.

India-A squad: Abhimanyu

Press Trust of India

Saturday, May 17, 2025

#### RESPECT

Kohli should be incredibly proud of his Test career, says Bobat



frat's just business as usual, as he always is. There's enough of the Ira's just blasmas as an annual stantion on him, he doesn't want any mor sublic and the nation's attention on him, he doesn't want any mor of that. He should be incredibly proud of what he's done as a Test player. At RCB, we are all incredibly proud — RCB director of cricke

## K. MLRACI KLM nish Pandey said that the lack of a winning streak has burt KKR

It's been a patchy season for

Knight Riders, reckons Pandey

Manish Pandey said that the tack of a winning screan runs runs "Last time, we won a lot of games. This time we were winning and losing one. Our batting has been fine, and we have been bowling well. But it has been a little patchy. Hopefully, we have similar strong core next year and can win games like last year"

conflict has come to an

For RCB, if this energy For RCB, if this energy can translate into a solid performance, it can mean the sealing of a playoff

berth with two games left. A win for KKR, on the oth-

er hand, can keep it afloat. Table-topper Gujarat Ti-

tans seems primed for a top-two finish, while third-placed Punjab Kings

wouldn't want to squander

a fine opportunity to make a dash for a maiden title.

y's may Today's match

Sengaluru, 7.30 p.m

HEAD-TO-HEAD

RCB 1 KKR 2

PREVIOUS MEETING RCB won by seven wickets, 2025 Live on star sports 1 (SD & HO) & JOHOTSTAR

the full tournament run-ning up to June 3 despite being named in the West Indies squad that will meet Ireland and England for six combined ODIs starting May 21

combined ODIs starting May 21. For KKR, its overseas contingent, with the ex-ception of Royman Powell and Moeen Ali, has arrived but there is a back-break-ing job at hand. And not only does it have to win its remaining two matches, it needs favourable results el-sewhere.

1

RCB



Delhi Capitals confirmed that Mitchell Starr, in pic, will play no. Delhi Capitals contrimed that Mitchell Starc, *nn pic*, will play no further part in IPL 2025. In Starc's absence, DC will hope that left-armer Mustafizur Rahman fills the void in the remaining three league games. While Tritan Stubbs joined DC for its training sessi on Friday, Faf du Plessis' participation remains doubtful.

K.R. DEEP

finishes second behind Weber

Neeraj breaches the 90m mark but

Former Australian pacer Mitchell Johnson said it was not wise for of the IPL and urg overseas players to return for the remainder of the IPL and u them to prioritise safety over pay cheques. "While Cricket Au has empowered players to make their own decisions, the we ces can be heavy," Johr

#### **IPL aims for a resurrection** post a short interruption

ON AND OFF

The first match sees a rejuvenated RCB take on KKR; Gujarat Titans seems primed for a top-two finish, while Punjab Kings wouldn't want to squander a fine chance for a maiden title

#### N. Sudarshan

The Indian Premier League is not new or its I7-year history, two General Election cycles and two waves of the Co-vid-19 pandemic have thrown schedules asunder, comprelled a manke religcompelled a manic rejig-ging of the timetables and even forced the event out of the country, lock, stock, and barrel.

Tightly wound calendar In a tightly wound interna-tional cricket calendar, where one series literally bleeds into the other, the disturbances can feel like the snapping of a guitar string, rendering many a

chord incomplete and the instrument practically practically useless But IPL is also famous for its 'bouncebackability',

for its "bouncebackability", returning with increased might after every such upheaval. On Saturday, when it resumes after a to cross-border tensions between India and Pakis-tan, the hope is for another glimpus of the resurrection kinght Riders clash at the M. Chinnaawamy Stadium M. Chinnaawamy Stadium of the home stretch of this

of the home stretch of this year's competition - 13 league-stage contests and four playoff matches, in-

cluding the final on June 3.



#### Amol Karhadkar

N. Sudarshan Mumbai is likely to host at Playoffs qualification beck-ons Royal Challengers Benleast one of the four playoffs in IPL 2025, with Ahmedabad set to stage galuru while elimination stares Kolkata Knight Ridthe final.

ers in the face as the two sides meet in an Indian Sounded out The Hindu understands that the Mumbai Cricket Premier League fixture at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadi-Association (MCA) officials um here on Saturday A win for RCB over the defending champion will guarantee a top-four berth have been sounded out by the Board of Control for Cricket in India "to be reacricket in India "to be rea-dy for at least one, possibly the first two" playoff matches. The original fixtures of

to arrannee a top-loar berth and clear the course for it to stake claim for a top-two spot. For KKR, a defeat will out the stake claim for a top-two creating the stake will certainly fancy its chances, for it has all overseas per-sonnel – except injured - back after the week-long break, and has also seen skipper Rajar Patidar make preak, and has also seen skipper Rajar Patidar make suffering a hand injury in the game against Chennal Super Kings on May 3. Rob Rob Not 100, the The original fixtures of the IPL 2025 had followed the convention of award-ing the final and Qualifier 2 to the defending cham-pion and Qualifier 1 and Eliminator to the losing fi-nalisr.

As a result, Kolkata and Hyderabad were an-nounced as the venues for

the playoffs. The playoffs will begin on May 29, with the final to be played on June 3. SM (1998)



Points table

Ruyal Challenger: Punjab Kings

Mumbai Indians

Kolkata Knight Riders

Rajasthan Royals (E)

Key personnel: Kohli, post his Test retirement, will want to ensure that he takes RCB past the finish line this time around in the IPL. Mumbai Indians and K MURALI KUMAR

Delhi Capitals, in all proba-bility, will fight for the fourth spot while Lucknow fourth spot while Lucknow Super Giants, like KKR, is on the brink of crashing out, The already eliminat-ed Sunrisers Hyderabad, Rajasthan Royals and Chennai Super Kings would want to use the re-maining fixtures to gener-ate some amount of tail-wind to propel their compaign next user M W L NR PTS NRR 
 11
 8
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 11
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 15
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 12
 7
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 14
 1.156
 12 5 6 1 11 0.193 
 Lucknow Super Giants
 11
 5
 6
 0
 10
 -0.469

 Sunrisers Hyderabad (E)
 11
 3
 7
 1
 7
 -1.192

6 -0.718

ampaigns next year. "A break like this could help," said KKR's Manish Pandey. "I am pretty sure guys would have gone home, seen videos and tried to work on things that nnai Super Kings (E) 12 3 9 0 6 -0.992 And franchises will wish that the bodies haven't gone too cold, and it deesn't take much for the they didn't have the oppor-tunity to do. The only thing I am hoping for is to win the last two games and end athletes to spring back to most, it's good that the on a high"

RCB targets a playoff spot,

0

last of which was the nerve-wracking two-run win over CSK. Though it came nearly a fortnight that shows a team's char-pionship mettle. Another boost come with the news that all-rounder Romario Sheph-erd, hero in that win over CSK, will be available for

Rahane, K. NURALI KUMAR

KKR hopes to stay afloat



Finally! Neeral's third effort helped him cross the elusive 90m barrie

Neeral Chopra finally broached the elasive 90m throw but the ralibiaring indian had to settle for a many's juliant weber in a dramatic men's javelin contest in the Doha leg of ing series here on Friday. The 27y-series of the other ment has spear to 90.21m in his third attempt to John a list of javelin throwers, led Zelezay of Carchia, who spot with his sixth and final Zelezny of Czechia, who had recorded 90m-plus ef-forts. He became the third Asian and 25th overall to achieve the feat. throw that measured 91.06m. Two-time world champion and Paris Olympics bronze medallist Anderson However, Weber turned Peters of Grenada was the tables and took the top third with a 84.65m.

little warm and that helps "I am very happy to have breached the 90m mark but it's a bitter-sweet experience," said Neeraj. "My coach Jan Zelezny I told Julian that we can throw 90m. I am happy for him (Julian)." The other Indian in the fray, Kishore Jena finished eighth with a below-par throw of 78.60m. said today is the day when I can throw 90m. The wind helped as the weather was

#### Praggnanandhaa wins Superbet Classic Romania

PRIORITIES

#### Press Trust of India

CHESS

Indian Grandmaster R. Praggnanandhaa emerged champion in the Superbet Chess Classic Romania, the opening event of the Grand Chess Tour, here on Friday after winning the tie-breaks against French players Alireza Firouzja and Maxime Vachier-La-Karun, Harsh

grave. Praggnanandhaa edged out Vachier-Lagrave in the final tie-break game to take the tree wrize. and Vachier-Lagrave. The three finished with 5.5 points each after nine rounds nnai tte-break game to take the top prize. Earlier, he played out a of the trinied Starts to fail of the trinied Starts to fail first place with Firouzja game. draw with Levon Aronian of the United States to fin-ish in a three-way tie for first place with Firouzja

Abhimanyu Easwaran wili lead the India-A squad for the two tour games against England Lions starting on May 30 and the intra-team match against the senior trava interaction of the coun-try's five-match Test series againthe England next Alcaraz makes the summit month. Shubman Gill, one of the contenders for the Test captaincy following Rohit Sharma's retirement, and his Gujarat Titans team-mate B. Sai Sudharsan will clash as does Gauff

ITALIAN OPEN be available from the se-Agencies The selectors have included Karun Nair follo

ing a stellar domestic sea-son. Carlo Alcaraz advanced to his first Italian Open final with a 6-3, 7-6(4) victory over Lorenzo Musetti on Friday. It's the third final in

India-A squad: Abitmanyu Lasavaran (Capit, Yashawarat Micro-Capit, Ayshawarat Micro-Capit, AWis, Nicish Kumar Reddy, Sharaddi Thabur, Ishan Reddy, Manas Sunhar, Alach Deen, Harshit Rana, Asshul Kambod, Mabeel Ahmed, Rutang Deeliyaande, Harshi Rubay, The achedude: May 30 June 2: u Gely Scheller Lands Lasa, Asshul Carlo Capital Lans, Capital (Nerthampton), Jame 3:3-8: (Nerthampton), Jame 3:3-8: (Nerthampton), Jame 3:3-8: (Nerthampton), Jame 3:3-8: It's the third final in three clay-court events this season for Alcaraz, who won the Monte Carlo Mas-ters and finished runner-up in the Barcelona Open before, withdrawing from

....



On course: Alcaraz had the

up in the Barcelona Open before withdrawing from before withdrawing from of nigury. A four-time Grand Slam champion, Alcaraz is pre-paring to defend his title at Barty of Harter State State State State Champion, Alcaraz is pre-lant', but ruther "smart barts on buyes of the state State



## Windfall Praggnanandhaa after receiving his big prize from FIDE's Michael Khodarkovsky. FUCKR/GRAND CHESS TOUR

In other matches of the

day, World champion D. Gukesh played out a draw with USA's Fabiano Carua-na while American Wesley So held Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan. Gukesh after a topsy-tur-vy run, ended tied fifth on four points.

# Neeraj breaches the 90m mark but finishes second behind Weber

#### ATHLETICS

#### Press Trust of India DOHA

Neeraj Chopra finally breached the elusive 90m frontier with a 90.23m throw but the trailblazing Indian had to settle for a second place behind Germany's Julian Weber in a dramatic men's javelin contest in the Doha leg of the Diamond League Meeting series here on Friday.

The 27-year-old double Olympic medallist Indian sent his spear to 90.23m in his third attempt to join a list of javelin throwers, led by his current coach Jan Zelezny of Czechia, who had recorded 90m-plus efforts. He became the third Asian and 25th overall to achieve the feat.

However, Weber turned the tables and took the top

Finally! Neeraj's third effort helped him cross the elusive 90m barrier. AFP

spot with his sixth and final throw that measured 91.06m.

Two-time world champion and Paris Olympics bronze medallist Anderson Peters of Grenada was third with a 84.65m. "I am very happy to have breached the 90m mark but it's a bitter-sweet experience," said Neeraj.

"My coach Jan Zelezny said today is the day when I can throw 90m. The wind helped as the weather was little warm and that helps. I told Julian that we can throw 90m. I am happy for him (Julian)."

The other Indian in the fray, Kishore Jena finished eighth with a below-par throw of 78.60m.

## Scholar Rambhadracharya and lyricist Gulzar honoured with Jnanpith Award

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA New Delhi, May 16

**PRESIDENT DROUPADI MURMU** on Friday gave away the 58th Jnanpith Award to renowned poet-lyricist Gulzar and Sanskrit scholar Jagadguru Rambhadracharya for year 2023.

Sampooran Singh Kalra, popularly known as Gulzar, is celebrated for his works in Hindi cinema and considered one of the finest Urdu poets of this era. The poet-lyricist was not able to attend the ceremony due to 'health-related issues''.

Rambhadracharya, 75, the founder and head of Tulsi Peeth in Chitrakoot, is a renowned Hindu spiritual leader, educator and writer of more than 240 books and texts, including four epics.

The Sanskrit scholar was given a citation plaque, a cash prize and a bronze replica of Vagdevi Saraswati.

Speaking at the award ceremony, the President commended Rambhadracharya's "multi-faceted contributions" to Sanskrit literature and society. "Rambhadracharya ji has set inspiring examples of excellence. You are endowed with manytalents and your con-



(Left) Rambhadracharya is a Hindu spiritual leader, educator, sanskrit scholar and writer of over 240 books; and Gulzar is celebrated for his works in Hindi cinema

tributions are multi-faceted. Despite being physically challenged, you have rendered extraordinary service to literature and society with your insight, or rather divine sight. You are an impromptu poet."

"The Sanskrit literature written by you is both plentiful and excellent. You are an extraordinary worshipper of the divine language Sanskrit. You have a special place among the best interpreters of Indian traditions," Murmu said.

She credited him for his

interpretation of Panini's "Ashtadhyayi" as well as commentaries on "Brahmasutra", "Bhagvad Gita" and major Upanishads. The President also congratulated 90-year-old Gulzar and wished for his full recovery.

PTI

"I send him my best wishes that he soon becomes fully healthy and active and continues to contribute to art, literature, society and the country."

"Gulzar sahab has kept alive his devotion towards literary creation for decades. It can be said that Gulzar sahab is a writerwho has established tenderness amidst harshness. People active in these fieldds should take inspiration and learning from his art and literary pursuits," she said.

According to the citation, Rambhadracharya "absorbed, read, and sang the great teachings that many find difficult to grasp, read, or articulate".

"At the age of five, he started delving into the Bhagavad Gita and at the age of seven, he began studying the Ramacharitmanas under the guidance of revered teachers. His comprehensive understanding of language and proficiency in all examinations in Sansknit earned him top and gold medals in university studies. This led many scholars and teachers to recognise his profound intellect and creative potential," it read.

An author of verses, poems, letters, prose, metrical compositions, Sanskrit literary works, Rambhadracharya has received the Sahitya Akademi Award in 2005 and Padma Vibhushan in 2015, among other honours.

The citation for Gulzar commended him for his "outstanding contribution to Indian literature and the world of Urdu writing".

- President Droupadi Murmu presented the 58th Jnanpith Award to:
  - Gulzar: Renowned poet-lyricist known for his work in Hindi cinema.
  - Jagadguru Rambhadracharya: Sanskrit scholar and spiritual leader.
- The award ceremony took place on May 16.
- Gulzar, due to **health issues**, could not attend the ceremony.

Gulzar:

- Full Name: Sampooran Singh Kalra
- **Profession**: Poet, lyricist, and filmmaker
- Achievements:
  - Considered one of the finest Urdu poets of his era.
  - Known for his lyrical contribution to **Hindi cinema**.
  - Honored for his "outstanding contribution to Indian literature and the world of Urdu writing".

#### Jagadguru Rambhadracharya:

- Age: 75 years
- Role: Hindu spiritual leader, educator, and Sanskrit scholar
- Literary Contribution:
  - Authored more than **240 books**, including **four epics**.
  - Contributions in Bhagavad Gita, Upanishads, Panini's Ashtadhyayi, and Brahmasutra.
  - Known for in-depth knowledge of Sanskrit literature.
- Recognition:
  - Described as a multi-faceted scholar despite being physically challenged.
  - Called an "extraordinary worshipper of the divine language Sanskrit".
  - Honored for "extraordinary service to literature and society".

## In US, baby healed with world's first personalised gene-editing treatment

#### Gina Kolata

omething was very wrong with Kyle and Nicole Muldoon's baby. The doctors speculated. Maybe it was meningitis? Maybe sepsis?

They got an answer when KJ was only a week old. He had a rare genetic disorder, CPS1 deficiency, that affects just 1 in 1.3 million babies. If he survived, he would have severe mental and developmental delays and would eventually need a liver transplant. But half of all babies with the disorder die in the first week of life.

Doctors at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia offered the Muldoons comfort care for their baby, a chance to forgo aggressive treatments in the face of a grim prognosis. "We loved him, and we didn't want him to be suffering," Muldoon said. But she and her husband decided to give KJ a chance.

Instead, KJ has made medical history. The baby, now 91/2months old, became the first patient of any age to have a custom gene-editing treatment, according to his doctors. He received an infusion made just for him and designed to fix his precise mutation.

the effort to save KJ were presenting their work Thursday at the annual meeting of the



KJ Muldoon was born with a rare genetic disorder, CPS1 deficiency, that affects just one in 1.3m babies

Cell Therapy and were also publishing it in the New England Journal of Medicine.

The implications of the treatment go far beyond treating KJ, said Dr Peter Marks, who was the FDA official overseeing gene-therapy regulation until he recently resigned. More than 30 million people in the US have one of more than 7,000 rare genetic diseases. Most are so rare that no company is willing to spend years developing a gene therapy that so few people would need. But KJ's treatment offers a new path for companies to develop personalised treatments without going through years of expensive development and testing.

Illnesses like KJ's are the The investigators who led result of a single mutation an incorrect DNA letter among the 3 billion in the human genome. Correcting it requires American Society of Gene & pinpoint targeting in an appro-

ach called base editing.

To accomplish that feat, the treatment is wrapped in fatty lipid molecules to protect it from degradation in the blood on its way to the liver, where the edit will be made. Inside the lipids are instructions that command the cells to produce an enzyme that edits the gene. They also carry a molecular GPS—CRISPR which was altered to crawl along a person's DNA until it finds the exact DNA letter that needs to be changed.

While KJ's treatment was customised so CRISPR found just his mutation, the same sort of method could be adapted and used over and over again to fix mutations in other places on a person's DNA. Only the CRISPR instructions leading the editor to the spot on the DNA with the mutation would need to be changed. Treatments would be cheaper, "by an order of magnitude at least," Marks said. The method, said Marks, who wrote an editorial accompanying the research paper. "is, to me, one of the most potentially transformational technologies out there." It eventually could also be used for more common genetic disorders like sickle cell disease. cystic fibrosis, Huntington's disease and muscular dystrophy. And, he said, it "could really transform healthcare." NYT

- 1. Key Highlights:
  - Historic Medical Achievement:
    - A baby named KJ Muldoon becomes the first patient to receive a custom gene-editing treatment.
    - The treatment cured **CPS1 deficiency**, a rare **genetic disorder** affecting **1 in 1.3 million babies**.
    - The disorder can lead to severe mental and developmental delays and may require a liver transplant.

#### 2. What is CPS1 Deficiency?

- A genetic disorder that severely impacts the liver, causing ammonia build-up.
- Life-threatening:
  - Half of the affected babies die within the first week of life.
- Symptoms:
  - Severe mental and developmental delays.
  - High risk of needing a liver transplant.

#### 3. Gene-Editing Breakthrough:

- Treatment Method:
  - Base Editing: A precise form of gene therapy to correct single-letter DNA errors.
- Technology Used:
  - CRISPR Molecular GPS: Guides to the exact DNA letter needing correction.
  - Lipid Molecules: Used to deliver the gene-editing enzyme to the liver.
- Process:
  - The treatment is delivered via **lipid-wrapped molecules** that **protect the DNA-editing enzyme** during transit through the bloodstream.
  - The enzyme makes a precise correction in the **DNA sequence** within the **liver cells**.

#### 4. Medical Impact:

- FDA Insight:
  - Dr. Peter Marks, former **FDA official**, oversaw gene therapy regulations.
  - Marks highlights the transformational potential of base editing.
- Advantages:
  - **Personalized Medicine:** Offers a tailored treatment for rare genetic disorders.
  - Broader Applications: Can be adapted for other genetic conditions like sickle cell disease, cystic fibrosis, and muscular dystrophy.
  - Cost Efficiency: A single, targeted therapy rather than years of testing.
- Revolution in Rare Disease Treatment:
  - Avoids the **lengthy approval process** of traditional gene therapy.
  - Could pave the way for quick, personalized treatments for over 7,000 rare genetic disorders.

## At nearly 5.4L, India ranks third in trademark filings

#### Rupali.Mukherjee @timesofindia.com

**New Delhi:** Reflecting strong business confidence, India ranked third globally in trademark filings, with nearly 5.4 lakh new applications in 2024, narrowing the gap with the US, the second-biggest filer with a little under 5.7 lakh applications.

China maintained its lead with 68 lakh filings, despite a steady three-year decline in activity.

According to data shared with **TOI** by Clarivate, a global provider of transformative intelligence, India witnessed 9.3% growth. The strong growth suggests an increasing awareness about the importance of creating brands and the value of intellectual among local property Indian businesses. It also indicates strong local commercial confidence and investment as businesses and entrepreneurs seek to take advantage of increasing

#### CHINA TOPS WITH 68L, US 2ND WITH 5.7L

Indian trademark application filing volume by year from 2015 to 2024



opportunities and consumer demand for new products and services in the Indian market, Robert Reading, head of IP content strategy at Clarivate, told **TOI**.

Over the past decade, the USPTO averaged 5% annual growth in trademark filing volume, while the Indian Trademark Office saw average annual growth of 10%. So, even though trademark filing activity is growing in the US, it is expanding faster in India, and the gap between the two in terms of overall volume is likely to close in 2025 or 2026, he added.

Drug company Alkem Labs led local companies with 4,931 trademark registrations as of Jan 1, 2025, followed by ITC (4,923).

The growth in India has been driven by a strong domestic brand sector, which accounts for over 95% of trademark applications filed annually in India, the latest Trademark Filing Trends 2025 report said.

## **Operation Black Forest**

 In one of India's largest anti-Naxal operations, 31 Maoists were killed in Operation Black Forest, conducted in Kurraguttalu Hills on the Chhattisgarh–Telangana border.



- Location: Karregutta Hills lie on the border of Bhadradri Kothagudem district (Telangana) and Sukma district (Chhattisgarh).
- <u>Topography:</u> Spread over 25–50 km, the terrain includes steep hills, caves, waterfalls, and dense forests ideal for guerrilla warfare and concealment.
- <u>Elevation</u>: Hills rise to nearly 5,000 feet, rendering them largely inaccessible even to locals.
- Local Names: Tribes refer to the hills as Black Hills or Carregutta.
- <u>Tribal Presence</u>: The region is inhabited by Koya,Gond, and Chenchu tribes, many of whom have been caught in the crossfire during decades of insurgency.
- <u>Other Active Maoist Zones</u>: Abujhmad (Chhattisgarh), Malkangiri (Odisha), Gadchiroli (Maharashtra) are other high-intensity Maoist strongholds.

## Ayurveda Day

The Government of India has officially **declared 23rd September** as **Ayurveda Day** through a Gazette notification.



## Word of the day

### **Decadent:**

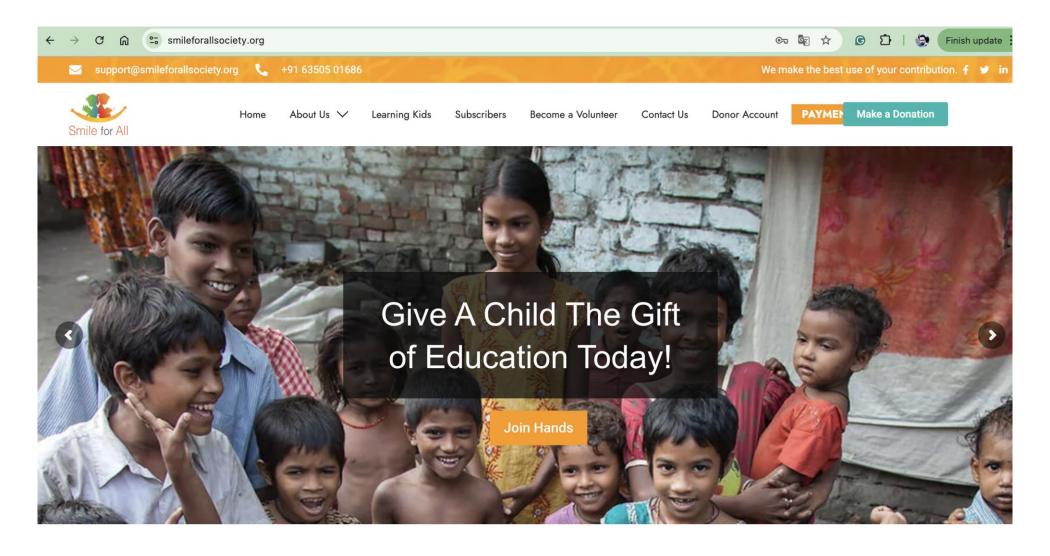
luxuriously self-indulgent; marked by excessive self-indulgence and moral decay

**Usage:** I spent a decadent day at the spa.

Pronunciation: newsth.live/decadentpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈdɛkədənt/

















24 States

# Thank you guys.