

International News

Taiwan becomes 1st in Asia to recognize same-sex marriage

In a first for Asia, Taiwan's Constitutional Court ruled in favour of same-sex marriage on Wednesday, punctuating a years-long campaign by advocates for gay rights in one of the continent's most liberal democracies. The ruling was greeted with rapturous applause outside the legislature near the court in the capital's centre.

aqueous

of or like water

arduous

demanding great effort, strenuous

Business News

'12% GST on agarbathi will affect industry'

Incense sticks likely to be dear by 15% for the consumer
 The tax on agarbathi under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) is now being dubbed as "Puja tax". For, the GST, which will be rolled out on July 1, has included agarbathi in the 12% tax bracket. This is expected to make incense sticks dear by 15% for the consumer.
 Till now, agarbathi enjoyed 0% VAT and excise duty in many States. In some States, however, it was charged a low VAT.
 "The 12% GST on agarbathi will affect the industry gravely. Agarbathi is used by the common man who will now be impacted by the higher tax. Most of the agarbathi manufacturers are cottage and village units, and many jobs and livelihood of women who roll agarbathis will be under threat," Indian Agarbathi Manufacturers' Association president Sarath Babu told presspersons here on Wednesday. Most of the agarbathi manufacturers follow the cottage industry model that generates employment to a large number of people in rural India, he added.

aroma

quality or surrounding atmosphere considered typical

atone

make repayment

National News

Science-nasa-spacewalk

Astronauts complete emergency spacewalk
 Two NASA astronauts aboard the International Space Station have completed an emergency spacewalk to replace a failed data relay box that controls some of the key hardware on the outpost. Expedition Commander Peggy Whitson and Flight Engineer Jack Fischer also installed antennae to boost wireless communication.

avarice

greed

concoct

invent, prepare by mixing together