



Timor-Leste Bestows Top Civilian Honor on President Murmu

[Source: PIB](#)

Recently, President Horta of Timor-Leste awarded President Droupadi Murmu the **Grand-Collar of the Order of Timor-Leste**, recognizing her contributions to public service, education, and women's empowerment.

- President Murmu and Prime Minister Gusmão observed the signing of **three** MoUs covering Cultural Exchanges, the collaboration between Prasar Bharati and Timor-Leste Radio & Television (RTTL), **and visa exemptions for diplomatic, official, and service passports.**

East Timor:

- **East Timor also known as Timor-Leste** is bounded by the **Timor Sea to the southeast, the Wetar Strait to the north**, the Ombai Strait to the northwest, and western Timor (part of the Indonesian province of East Nusa Tenggara) to the southwest.
- **East Timor comprises the eastern half of Timor Island**, the western half of which is part of Indonesia.
- **East Timor**, colonised by **Portugal** in the 18th century, was **annexed by Indonesia in 1975 after Portugal withdrew**, leading to a long struggle for independence.
- In a **1999 UN-supervised referendum, East Timorese voted for independence**, which led to further violence until peace-keeping forces intervened, and the **country was officially recognized by the UN in 2002.**
- East Timor has applied for **ASEAN** membership and currently holds observer status.

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