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ALL ABOUT EVE (1950)

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Jaiswal and Sandeep help RR crush MI

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Congress calls for action against Modi

Party alleges that the PM, in his speech during a campaign rally, invoked religion and religious symbols to create enmity between groups, says the 'only remedy is disqualification'; Kharge seeks time from Modi to 'educate' him on the Congress manifesto; EC declines to comment on the speech

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI
In a strong pushback against Prime Minister Narendra Modi's claims that the Congress manifesto talks about redistributing wealth to Muslims, the principal Opposition party on Monday approached the Election Commission (EC), seeking action against Mr. Modi.

In its official representation to the EC, the Congress alleged that the Prime Minister invoked religion and religious symbols to create enmity between groups and argued that "the only remedy compatible with the principle of zero tolerance against corrupt practices is the disqualification of the candidates who try to create a divide..."

The party delegation, led by Abhishek Singhvi, however, did not argue for disqualification before the commission. Separately, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, who had described Mr. Modi's remarks as "hate speech", sought an appointment with the Prime Minister to "educate" him about the Congress's poll promise document.

The EC, however, declined to comment even as the Prime Minister's speech, made at a rally in Banswara of Rajasthan on Sunday, has snowballed into a major political controversy.

'Garnut of offences'
"The Prime Minister has to be held accountable by the EC for the brazen trampling of the Model Code of Conduct as well as the whole gamut of offences — electoral and otherwise — committed by him and his party," the Congress said in a representation, adding, inaction by the poll panel would tarnish its legacy.

When and where did the Congress say that we will distribute people's land and gold among Muslims? When and where did we say that a survey would be conducted to value the property of individuals, gold held by women and silver owned by tribal families?
P. CHIDAMBARAM
Former Finance Minister

Saviour and nemesis

A woman uses plastic covers to save her maize crop from birds on the outskirts of Hyderabad, on World Earth Day, on Monday. NAAGRA GOPAL

Terminate 25,753 persons hired in Bengal schools: HC

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA
The Calcutta High Court on Monday directed the termination of the appointment of 25,753 teachers and non-teaching staff, which was done through a State Level Selection Test (SLEST) in 2016, in West Bengal government-sponsored and aided schools.

The Division Bench also directed the CBRT to probe the appointment process and submit a report within three months.

The return of the salaries from all those who obtained jobs through unfair means along with interest calculated at 12% per annum and ordered district magistrates under whose jurisdictions the candidates resided to take expeditious steps to realise such amount.

'Illegal order'
West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee termed the court order "illegal" and said her government would challenge the verdict in the Supreme Court.

INSIDE



President Murmu honours Padma award winners

NEW DELHI
A host of prominent personalities, including former Vice-President M. Venkiah Reddy, actor-turned-politician Mithun Chakrabarty and singer Usha Uthup were conferred with Padma awards by President Droupadi Murmu on Monday. » PAGE 4

'Candidates with criminal cases won more seats'

NEW DELHI
An omnicurve curio report in the Supreme Court said candidates with criminal cases won more seats in the 17th Lok Sabha than those who led lawful lives. The report highlighted the dire need for the electorate to know who they are voting to power. » PAGE 6



Israeli official resigns over Hamas attack

TEL AVIV
The head of Israeli military intelligence, Maj. Gen. Aharon Haliva, resigned on Monday over the failures surrounding Hamas's October 7 attack on Israel, the military said. He became the first senior Israeli figure to step down during the war. » PAGE 14

After dip in turnout, EC forms task force to track heatwave risks

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI
Concerned that heatwave conditions could have resulted in a dip in voter turnout in the first phase of the Lok Sabha election, the Election Commission (EC) on Monday formed a task force comprising officials from the commission, the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), and the Union Health Ministry to review the impact of prevailing weather conditions on health and humidity five days before each phase of polling.

Will look into Karnataka drought, says Centre in SC

Krishnaada Rajagopal
NEW DELHI
The Central government on Monday assured the Supreme Court that "something will be done" to resolve the drought worries of Karnataka in a week's time. Meanwhile the court reminded Centre and Karnataka about the need to amicably resolve differences arising in a federal structure, calling the Union and States 'equal partners'.

Congress will not win election nor will CAA be revoked, says Shah

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday said neither would the Congress ever come to power, nor would laws such as the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and the criminal laws would ever be revoked.

He was responding to remarks made by former Home Minister and senior Congress leader P. Chidambaram on Sunday in Kerala that the CAA would be repealed in the first session of Parliament if the INDIA bloc came to power.

'Appasement politics' Shah said, Congress leaders were talking about abolishing the CAA and empower the common people of the country and protect their rights. "Blindly by the politics of appeasement, the Congress has lost its nerve upon seeing its crushing defeat in the last phase," he said.

He said that through the CAA, the priority of the BJP government was to pro-

vide Indian citizenship and secure the rights of persecuted members of the Hindu, Buddhist, Jain, Christian, Sikh, and Parsi communities from Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Bangladesh.

"This law represents the fundamental principles of the Constitution. P. Chidambaram is insulting the dreams of the architects of the country's independence who advocated for these laws by talking about scrapping them. CAA is the nation's law and it ensures that no one can stop citizenship from being granted to the brothers and sisters of Hindu, Buddhist, Jain, Christian, Sikh, and Parsi communities, who have suffered religious persecution and come to India," he said.

Mr. Shah added that by abolishing 150-year-old laws, the BJP has, for the first time in India's history, attributed indelicacy to the legal system. Congress still did not want to abandon its mentality of slavery.

I am getting blessings of Muslim women: PM

Congress, Samajwadi Party follow a policy of 'appeasement' but have done little to improve socio-economic conditions of Muslims, says Modi

Anil Kumar CHANAYANA

Underscoring his contribution to uplifting Muslim women and backward sections in the minority community, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday accused the Congress and the Samajwadi Party of following a policy of "appeasement" and yet doing nothing to uplift the socio-economic condition of the Muslim community. Addressing a rally in Aligarh, Mr. Modi said he saved the lives of Muslim women and their families by "passing a law against (instant) triple talaq."

Mr. Modi said when he worked for the interests of Muslims, the Opposition got worried because, over the years, people at the top had gotten away with all the advantages.

Referring to his friendship with Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman, Mr. Modi said he had ensured an increase in Haj quota and relaxation in visa norms. The government took an important decision by allowing Muslim women to go for the Haj without a mehrum (male companion). I am getting blessings (blessings of women).



Narendra Modi and Yogi Adityanath at a rally in Aligarh, ANI

pointed the V-C of the university that holds an influential position in the Muslim world. Earlier, continuing with his thirly-wielded hand against the Opposition, Mr. Modi accused the Congress again of planning to redistribute power: "The property belonging to monasteries and temples and mosques (backwards and everyone, that is being eyed, where will that money go? Remember Manmohan Singh, he said that the majority has the first right on money, revenue and resources," he said.

Later in the day, in a historic move, the government announced Prof. Naima Khatroon as the next Vice-Chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University. She is the first woman to be ap-

Tejashwi lists politicians with 'more siblings'

The Hindu Bureau PATNA

Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader and former Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav on Monday came out with a list of political leaders who had several siblings or children.

It was aimed at countering speeches by Raj Kapil of Tami Nadu under the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005 seeking to know "more children" of Ms. Murmu had returned a decision or decisions taken by the Prime Minister, the Council of Ministers, the Cabinet, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), the Parliament, Union Ministers, and Union agencies. He also wanted to know the number of times the President had returned for reconsideration a decision taken by a State or Union Territory Legislature.

Shivendra Chaturvedi, Director, Rashtrapati Bha-

'No data available on President returning files for reconsideration'

S. Vijay Kumar CHENNAI

The Rashtrapati Bhavan has said that no information is available on President Pratibha Patil returning any decision taken by the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers for reconsideration.

On the files pertaining to a petition filed by Raj Kapil of Tamil Nadu under the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005 seeking to know "more children" of Ms. Murmu had returned a decision or decisions taken by the Prime Minister, the Council of Ministers, the Cabinet, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), the Parliament, Union Ministers, and Union agencies. He also wanted to know the number of times the President had returned for reconsideration a decision taken by a State or Union Territory Legislature.

Shivendra Chaturvedi, Director, Rashtrapati Bha-

van in his reply said no such information was available as regards any decision or decisions taken by the Prime Minister, the Council of Ministers, the Cabinet, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), etc., being returned for reconsideration.

On the files pertaining to States and Union Territories, he said the RTI Act application was being transferred online to the "Ministry of Home Affairs being the nodal Ministry and custodian of records in the matter". He added that the petitioner could file an appeal under Section 19D of the Act within a month before the Officer on Special Duty/Appellate Authority in case he was aggrieved or not satisfied with the reply.

Mr. Kapil, a lecturer in criminology, said he was surprised at the response from the Rashtrapati Bhavan since it had neither confirmed nor denied the President of India had returned any decision of the Prime Minister, Council of

Ministers, etc., for reconsideration. Even if the Union Home Ministry was the custodian of the files and decisions pertaining to the States and Union Territories, the President's Secretariat not sharing information requested under the RTI Act, he wondered.

"Modi's saying that no such information is available is an incomplete and misleading reply. How can Rashtrapati Bhavan not have such data, which is crucial not only in the constitutional functioning of the States and Union Territories, but in ensuring accountability and transparency in the system?" he said. A similar response was given by the Rashtrapati Bhavan when a student from Chennai sought to know under the RTI Act the number of times the then President Ram Nath Kovind had returned a decision of the Prime Minister, Council of

'Congress is eyeing wealth of temples, monasteries'

Shubhomoy Sikdar KANPUR

Amid the row over Prime Minister Narendra Modi's claim that the Congress's election manifesto promised distribution of property, land, and gold to Muslims if elected, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday pointed the Congress further by suggesting that the party was eyeing the wealth held by monasteries and temples in the country.

At an election rally in support of BJP candidate Bhupraj Nag in Kanpur, the Home Minister aggressively defended the remarks. "The Congress is eyeing the wealth of monasteries and temples in the country. Earlier, continuing with his thirly-wielded hand against the Opposition, Mr. Modi accused the Congress again of planning to redistribute power: "The property belonging to monasteries and temples and mosques (backwards and everyone, that is being eyed, where will that money go? Remember Manmohan Singh, he said that the majority has the first right on money, revenue and resources," he said.

Any failure to take action will mar EC's credibility: Yechury

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

CPIM(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury shot off a letter to the Election Commission demanding action against Prime Minister Narendra Modi for making inflammatory remarks in his speech in Rajasthan, Mandir Marg, Jaipur, on Monday. While, the INDIA bloc parties in a coordinated effort called upon citizens to send emails to the election panel raising this issue.

On Sunday, Mr. Modi said in Banswara, "Should your hard-earned money be given to those with more children, infiltration? Flagging in the speech, Mr. Yechury said that this amounted to targeting one particular community and stood in total breach of Section 123 (3) of the Representation of People's Act and the Model Code of Conduct. "This is as brazen as it could get in indulgence in hate speech directed against a community. We are disappointed at this regard."



Sitharam Yechury

banning leaders for such hate speeches," he said, in his letter to Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar.

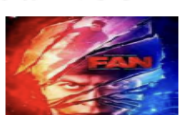
Mr. Yechury also called for an FIR to be lodged in this regard against Mr. Modi. "Any failure on the part of the EC to take suitable action will mar its credibility as an autonomous institution and lead to further violation of the environment for a free and fair poll," he said. Polit Bureau member Brijendra Karar also filed a complaint with the Mandir Marg police station in this regard.

Film trailers are not promises, only meant to create a buzz: SC

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday held in a judgment that a film trailer is not a promise or an agreement. It said that a producer cannot be held liable for unfair trade practices if the contents of the promo do not feature in the actual movie.

A song, dialogue, or a short visual in a promotional trailer may be seen in the context of the multifarious uses of advertisements. These could be used to popularise or to create a buzz about the release of the film, rather than to purely represent information about the contents of the film," a Bench headed by Justice P.S. Narasimha observed. The judgment set aside an order of the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission in 2012, directing Yash Raj Films to pay ₹10,000 as



The court's verdict came while hearing an appeal by Yash Raj Films.

Civilian shot dead outside mosque in J&K's Rajouri

The Hindu Bureau SRINAGAR

Unknown gunmen shot dead a civilian in the Pir Panjal Valley's Rajouri district on Tuesday evening, officials said.

Initial reports suggested that unknown gunmen fired a bullet on a man identified as Mohammad Razaq, 40, when he was coming out of a mosque in Rajouri's Shadra Sharief area.

"The victim was declared dead at a nearby hospital, officials said. Security forces could not immediately identify the attackers.

Search operation A major search operation was launched in the area, officials added. The victim was a government employee and worked in J&K's Social Welfare Department. He is also a trailer in an office of a private firm.

SC agrees to hear Centre's petition for 'administrative allocation' of spectrum

Krishnanadas Rajagopal NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to hear an application from the Union government to allow the administrative allocation of "certain class of spectrum, rather than by competitive auctions.

In 'administrative allocation' of spectrum, the government decides the method for selecting operators to distribute airwaves, considering a scarce resource. The oral mentioning was made before Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud by Attorney General K. Venkatesh, who appeared for the Centre.

"The application filed by the Union government said spectrum was assigned not only for commercial telecom services but also for discharge of sovereign and public interest functions such as security, safety, disaster preparedness, etc. "There are also *sat* general categories of usage ow-

network, including methods of assignment of spectrum, other than auction, in suitable cases to best subservise the common good". During the oral mentioning, advocates Prashant Bhushan and Chiranjeev D'Souza, who had appeared for the Centre for Public Interest Litigation (CPIL), one of the lead petitioners in the case, said the 2012 judgment had used the word "must" to show that auction was mandatory in the allocation of spectrum and no other methods could be allowed.

Chief Justice Chandrachud said the court would consider this aspect. "When the case comes up, we will see what it is," he said, agreeing to list it soon. In September 2012, a Constitution Bench, deciding based on the 2G spectrum case, said it was now time to "firm up a spectrum assignment fra-

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Wenkaiah Naidu, Mithun, Usha Uthup, Padma honoured with Padma awards

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Former Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu, actor-turned-politician Mithun Chakravorty, singer Usha Uthup and tennis player Anand Paopao were among a host of prominent personalities who were conferred with Padma awards by President Droupadi Murmu on Monday.

Along with Mr. Naidu, Sulabh International's four-time Bharatnatyam dancer Padma Subrahmanyam were conferred with Padma Vibhushan. Chief Justice Chandrachud said the court would consider this aspect. "When the case comes up, we will see what it is," he said, agreeing to list it soon. In September 2012, a Constitution Bench, deciding based on the 2G spectrum case, said it was now time to "firm up a spectrum assignment fra-



President Droupadi Murmu conferring Padma Vibhushan on former Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu and singer Usha Uthup in New Delhi on Monday, ANI & PTI

gist Tejas Madhusudan Patel, veteran Marathi film director Dattatray Ambadas Kulkarni were conferred with Padma Shri awards. Padma Shri awardees include master carpet weaver from Uttar Pradesh Hariyanshu Singh, Madhya Pradesh's folk singer Kalu Choudhary, Bangladeshi singer Rezwana Choudhury Bannia and Chikara, an embroidery artist from Uttar Pradesh Nandini Chakravorty. Padma Bhushan recipients include popular folk singer from West Bengal Gita Roy Sarkar. Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, were present at the function.



Padma Shri awardees include master carpet weaver from Uttar Pradesh Hariyanshu Singh, Madhya Pradesh's folk singer Kalu Choudhary, Bangladeshi singer Rezwana Choudhury Bannia and Chikara, an embroidery artist from Uttar Pradesh Nandini Chakravorty. Padma Bhushan recipients include popular folk singer from West Bengal Gita Roy Sarkar. Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, were present at the function.



ma, banker Kalpana Morparia, philanthropist Kiran Nadar, social worker from Haryana Anand Singh, and folk singer from Uttar Pradesh Urmila Srivastava. The Padma awards ceremony also witnessed a bearwarm employee when noted folk dancer from Assam Drona Bhuyan made Gajjali and Deodhani dance form gestures to express his gratitude as he walked on the red carpet to receive the Padma Shri from the President. (With PTI inputs)

Film trailers are not promises, only meant to create a buzz: SC

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday held in a judgment that a film trailer is not a promise or an agreement enforceable by law. A producer cannot be held liable for unfair trade practice if the contents of the promo do not feature in the actual movie.

“A song, dialogue, or a short visual in a promotional trailer may be seen in the context of the multifarious uses of advertisements. These could be used to popularise or to create a buzz about the release of the film, rather than to purely represent information about the contents of the film,” a Bench headed by Justice P.S. Narasimha observed.

The judgment set aside an order of the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission in 2017, directing Yash Raj Films to pay ₹10,000 as



The court's verdict came while hearing an appeal by Yash Raj Films Pvt Ltd.

compensation besides litigation costs to a schoolteacher, Afreen Fatima Zaidi, aggrieved by the exclusion of a song in Bollywood movie *Fan*.

Allowing the appeal filed by the film production firm, a Bench of Justices Narasimha and Aravind Kumar said there was no “deficiency” in service and the complainant wrongly assumed that a promotional trailer is an offer or a promise.

Venkaiah Naidu, Mithun, Usha Uthup, honoured with Padma awards

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

Former Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu, actor-turned-politician Mithun Chakraborty, singer Usha Uthup and tennis player Rohan Bopanna were among a host of prominent personalities who were conferred with Padma awards by President Droupadi Murmu on Monday.

Along with Mr. Naidu, Sulabh International's founder Bindeshwar Pathak and Bharatanatyam dancer Padma Subrahmanyam were conferred with Padma Vibhushan.

Pathak was given the award posthumously and it was received by his wife, Amola.

Apart from Mr. Chakraborty, popularly known as Mithunda, singer Usha Uthup, former Uttar Pradesh Governor Ram Naik and industrialist Sitaram Jindal were conferred with the Padma Bhushan.

Gujarat-based cardiolo-



President Droupadi Murmu conferring Padma Vibhushan on former Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu and singer Usha Uthup in New Delhi on Monday. ANI & PTI



gist Tejas Madhusudan Patel, veteran Marathi film director Dattatray Ambadas Mayaloo, alias Rajdutt, and Chandreshwar Prasad Thakur, a physician known for his contribution to research and policy on Kala Azar, were the other notable Padma Bhushan recipients.

Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, were present at the function.

Padma Shri awardees include master carpet weaver from Uttar Pradesh Khalil Ahamad, Madhya Pradesh's folk singer Kaluram Bamaniya, Bangladeshi singer Rezwana Choudhury Bannya and Chikankari embroidery artist from Uttar Pradesh Naseem Bano and Rajbongshi folk singer from West Bengal's Cooch Behar Gita Roy Barman.

Other notable awardees included Mr. Bopanna, spiritual figure from Tripura Chitta Ranjan Debbar-

ma, banker Kalpana Morparia, philanthropist Kiran Nadar, social worker from Haryana Gurvinder Singh and folk singer from Uttar Pradesh Urmila Srivastava.

The Padma awards ceremony also witnessed a heartwarming moment when noted folk dancer from Assam Drona Bhuyan made Ojapali and Deodhani dance form gestures to express his gratitude as he walked on the red carpet to receive the Padma Shri from the President.

(With PTI inputs)



The Government of India instituted two civilian awards-Bharat Ratna & Padma Vibhushan in 1954.



The latter had three classes namely Pahela Varg, Dusra Varg and Tisra Varg.



These were subsequently renamed as Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri vide Presidential Notification issued on January 8, 1955.

-
- Padma Awards, which were instituted in the year 1954, is announced every year on the occasion of Republic Day except for brief interruption(s) during the years 1978 and 1979 and 1993 to 1997.
 - The award is given in three categories, namely,
 - Padma Vibhushan for exceptional and distinguished service;
 - Padma Bhushan for distinguished service of a high order; and
 - Padma Shri for distinguished service.
 - All persons without distinction of race, occupation, position or sex are eligible for these awards. However, Government servants including those working with PSUs, except doctors and scientists, are not eligible for these Awards.

-
- The awards are presented by the President of India usually in the month of March/April every year where the awardees are presented a Sanad (certificate) signed by the President and a medallion.
 - The recipients are also given a small replica of the medallion, which they can wear during any ceremonial/State functions etc., if the awardees so desire. The names of the awardees are published in the Gazette of India on the day of the presentation ceremony.
 - The total number of awards to be given in a year (excluding posthumous awards and to NRI/foreigners/OCIs) should not be more than 120.
 - The award does not amount to a title and cannot be used as a suffix or prefix to the awardees' name

-
- All nominations received for Padma Awards are placed before the Padma Awards Committee, which is constituted by the Prime Minister every year.
 - The Padma Awards Committee is headed by the Cabinet Secretary and includes Home Secretary, Secretary to the President and four to six eminent persons as members.
 - The recommendations of the committee are submitted to the Prime Minister and the President of India for approval.

Padma Awards - one of the highest civilian Awards of the country, are conferred in three categories, namely, Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri. The Awards are given in various disciplines / fields of activities, viz.- art, social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports, civil service, etc. 'Padma Vibhushan' is awarded for exceptional and distinguished service; 'Padma Bhushan' for distinguished service of high order and 'Padma Shri' for distinguished service in any field. The awards are announced on the occasion of Republic Day every year.

2. These Awards are conferred by the President of India at ceremonial functions which are held at Rashtrapati Bhawan usually around March / April every year. For the year 2024, the President has approved conferment of 132 Padma Awards including 2 duo cases (in a duo case, the Award is counted as one) as per list below. The list comprises 5 Padma Vibhushan, 17 Padma Bhushan and 110 Padma Shri Awards. 30 of the awardees are women and the list also includes 8 persons from the category of Foreigners / NRI / PIO / OCI and 9 Posthumous awardees.

Padma Vibhushan (5)

SN	Name	Field	State/Region/Country
1	Ms. Vyjayantimala Bali	Art	Tamil Nadu
2	Shri Konidela Chiranjeevi	Art	Andhra Pradesh
3	Shri M Venkaiah Naidu	Public Affairs	Andhra Pradesh
4	Shri Bindeshwar Pathak (Posthumous)	Social Work	Bihar
5	Ms. Padma Subrahmanyam	Art	Tamil Nadu

Padma Bhushan (17)

SN	Name	Field	State/Region/Country
6	Ms. M Fathima Beevi (Posthumous)	Public Affairs	Kerala
7	Shri Hormusji N Cama	Literature & Education - Journalism	Maharashtra
8	Shri Mithun Chakraborty	Art	West Bengal
9	Shri Sitaram Jindal	Trade & Industry	Karnataka
10	Shri Young Liu	Trade & Industry	Taiwan
11	Shri Ashwin Balachand Mehta	Medicine	Maharashtra
12	Shri Satyabrata Mookherjee (Posthumous)	Public Affairs	West Bengal
13	Shri Ram Naik	Public Affairs	Maharashtra
14	Shri Tejas Madhusudan Patel	Medicine	Gujarat
15	Shri Olanchery Rajagopal	Public Affairs	Kerala
16	Shri Dattatray Ambadas Mayaloo alias Rajdutt	Art	Maharashtra
17	Shri Togdan Rinpoche (Posthumous)	Others - Spiritualism	Ladakh
18	Shri Pyarelal Sharma	Art	Maharashtra
19	Shri Chandreshwar Prasad Thakur	Medicine	Bihar
20	Ms. Usha Uthup	Art	West Bengal
21	Shri Vijaykanth (Posthumous)	Art	Tamil Nadu
22	Shri Kundan Vyas	Literature & Education - Journalism	Maharashtra

IN BRIEF



Actor Ranveer Singh files complaint in deepfake case

Hollywood actor Ranveer Singh, who was recently the target of a deepfake video, lodged a complaint with the Mumbai Police's Cyber Crime Cell on Monday. "We have filed a police complaint and First Information Report (FIR) against the social media handle promoting the AI [Artificial Intelligence]-generated deepfake video of Mr. Singh," the actor's spokesperson shared in a statement. "The AI generated deep fake video has the actor giving his political opinion and endorsing a particular political party from his recent Varanasi visit. In the original video, which was edited, the actor was at a fashion show in the same city."

SC issues notice on plea filed by slain journalist's mother

The Supreme Court on Monday did not immediately stay the bail granted by the Delhi High Court to four men serving a double life sentence for the cold-blooded murder of journalist Saurav Vishwanathan in the national capital while she was returning home from work in 2008. A Bench of Justices Bela M. Trivedi and Pankaj Mishra however issued notice to the National Capital Territory of Delhi and the four convicts Ravi Kapoor, Amit Shukla, Rajesh Singh Malik, and Ajay Kumar — on the petition filed by the victim's mother challenging the bail order and the suspension of sentence of the convicts.

Court rejects Kejriwal's plea for consultation with doctor

A Delhi court on Monday rejected the plea filed by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal seeking directions to Tihar Jail authorities for consultation with the doctor for 15 minutes daily through video conference. Mr. Kejriwal had also sought administration of insulin on which Special Judge, Kavari Rajwaj of the Sessions Court, directed the authorities of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS-Delhi) to constitute a medical board which will take a call on the same. The court also directed the AIIMS Medical Board to prescribe a diet and exercise plan for Mr. Kejriwal, if required and relevant data regarding his vital statistics.

Delhi HC seeks CBI response on Harsh Mander's petition

The Delhi High Court on Monday asked the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to respond to a plea by human rights activist Harsh Mander and his NGO seeking quashing of an FIR lodged against them for alleged violation of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act. The court issued notice to the CBI on the petition and asked the agency, which orally assured the court that it was not going to arrest Mr. Mander as of now, to file its status report before the next date of hearing on August 29. Advocate Amanpat Sharma representing the CBI said no coercive action would be taken against the activist till the next date of hearing.

'Accused in criminal cases won more seats in 17th LS'

Voters are entitled to know about the criminal antecedents of the law makers, says the report; 18% candidates had criminal cases against them, 12% faced serious criminal charges, it points out

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

An *amicus curiae* report in the Supreme Court said candidates with criminal cases won more seats in the 17th Lok Sabha than those who led lawful lives. The report, which has come even as polling in the General Elections for the 18th Lok Sabha has moved to the second phase, highlighted the dire need for the electorate to know who they are voting to power.

It said the right to information of voters was part of their fundamental right to free speech and expression. "Voters are entitled to know about the criminal antecedents of the lawmakers which would include the progress of the trial and the reasons for delay," the report said.

The *amicus curiae* senior advocate Vijay Hansaria said in his report pushed for a dedicated tab on the homepages of State High Courts giving specific and detailed information, district wise, of criminal trials against legislators. The tab should prominently display the progress of each individual



Keeping count: The *amicus curiae* report pushed for a dedicated tab on the homepages of State High Courts' websites. FILE PHOTO

"The same was the position in 2019 Lok Sabha polls in which out of 7,928 candidates, 1,500 candidates, out of which 1,070 candidates [13%] were serious criminal cases. However, out of 514 elected members of 17th Lok Sabha [2019-2024], 225 members [44%] had criminal antecedents against them," he noted.

Mr. Hansaria said details of cases in Special Courts designated to try MPs and MLAs were not accessible on websites. "The Supreme Court may consider directing that a model website be created on the pattern of National Judicial Data Grid to upload real-time information. For this purpose, this court may constitute a committee under the chairmanship of a sitting judge of the Supreme Court," the *amicus curiae* recommended.

"This is his 20th report, dated April 20, 2024. The report said data collected by him from the Registrar of State High Courts show that 4,472 criminal cases were pending against lawmakers as on January 1, 2024. Fresh cases against legislators in 2023 numbered 1,746. However, 2,018 criminal cases against them were decided last year. "Although a number of cases are decided, yet a large number of cases are pending trial for a long period. In the 19th report the *amicus curiae* pointed out that out of 5,175 cases pending as on November 2022, 2,116 [40%] cases were pending for more than two years," he noted.

"Cases pending out," the report pointed out. "The *amicus curiae*, as *amicus curiae*, keeps a hawk's eye for the Supreme Court on criminal cases against lawmakers. This is his 20th report,

SC allows termination of pregnancy of minor rape survivor

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

In this case, even the First Information Report (FIR) of the crime was registered only on March 20 after the 24-week limit permissible for abortion. The FIR has recorded the commission of offence under Section 376 (rape) of the Indian Penal Code and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act. A Bench of Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud and J.B. Pardiwala agreed with the recommendation of a medical board that the "continuation of pregnancy against the will of the minor may impact her physical and mental well-being".

State to take expenses. The State government has agreed to take the expenses for the procedure, after care and her transportation. The relief is rare as the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act caps the upper limit for termination of pregnancy at 24 weeks for married women as well as for those in special categories, including rape survivors, and other vulnerable women, such as the differently-abled and minors.

2 women Navy officers return after historic transoceanic expedition

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Indian Navy Sailing Vessel, *INSV Tarini*, returned to her base port after a historic transoceanic expedition of nearly two months by two women officers of the Indian Navy, the first from India to accomplish such a feat, the Navy said on Monday. The expedition was undertaken in double-handed mode by Lieutenant Goda K. on board that the Lieutenant Commander Roopa A. The expedition was flagged off from Goa by renowned circumnavigator and their mentor Commander Abhilash Toyer (Retd), on February 28. After 21 days of navigation through the unpredictable elements of the Indian Ocean, *INSV Tarini* arrived at Port Louis,



Great wins: *INSV Tarini* returns to her base port following a historic transoceanic expedition of nearly two months duration, in Goa. (PTI)

Mauritius, on March 21, the two officers boarded the vessel. The historic moment was celebrated with a series of events where the officers interacted with government officials from the Mauritius Coast Guard and the Indian High Commission, the Navy said. "The vessel also undertook a training exercise with the Mauritius Coast Guard embarked,

Rajnath Singh lauds bravery of soldiers deployed in Siachen



On the ground: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at Siachen Base Camp, in Ladakh on Monday. PTI

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday visited Siachen glacier, the world's highest battlefield, and carried the ground-level assessment of the security situation and also interacted with soldiers deployed there. In addition to the Base Camp, Mr. Singh also visited the Kumar post located at around 15,600 feet.

Post the aerial reconnaissance, Mr. Singh lauded 40 years of the Operation Meghdoot, which was launched by the Indian Army on Siachen, narrowly thwarting Pakistan's attempts to seize control of the icy heights of Siachen on the Soltoro ridge. Mr. Singh also laid a wreath at the Siachen War Memorial.

He also discussed the aspects associated with the operational challenges with the Commanders on

ground, it stated. "We are leading a peaceful life as we have an assurance that our brave soldiers stand steadfast at the borders. In the times to come, when the history of national security is written, the acts of bravery and iron-clad will of our soldiers in the icy cold heights of Siachen will be remembered with pride," Mr. Singh said addressing soldiers. "The Siachen glacier is a symbol of India's sovereignty and determination. April 13, 2024 marked 40 years of the Operation Meghdoot, which was launched by the Indian Army on Siachen, narrowly thwarting Pakistan's attempts to seize control of the icy heights of Siachen on the Soltoro ridge. Mr. Singh also laid a wreath at the Siachen War Memorial.

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compliments underscored the Indian Navy's commitment to promoting gender equality and empowering women in the time domain. Undeterred by the challenges encountered during their expedition, the officers demonstrated a combination of seamanship and resilience," the statement said. "The message, a clear preparation for their next monumental voyage, a circumnavigation of the globe, the Sagar Parikrama-IV expedition, is being scheduled to commence in September this year, according to the Navy. On Sunday, *INSV Tarini* was flagged in by the Commanding Officer, *INS Mandovi*, and Naval Station Commander North Goa at the boat pool of *INS Mandovi* in the presence of naval personnel and families of the station.

strengthening bilateral ties and fostering goodwill between the two maritime nations," the statement said. Following a historic schedule at Port Louis, Lt. Cdr. Dilna and Lt. Cdr. Roopa, the officers departed on March 30, and during the return trip, they faced continuous challenges posed by heavy winds, adverse sea states, and rough seas, the Navy said. "Their ac-

THE CROSSWORD 14156 (set by Dr. X)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50

To solve this puzzle online, get access to our crossword site, at <http://www.thehindu.com/crossword>

1 Remarkably on a roll, fine girl is uncompromising (3-2-7)
18/23 Where surfer might be enjoying a run of success (2,3,2,2,4)
21 Displays a rampant, abnormal growth of cells (5)
23 See 18
24 Usually limp about to devour English dish (4,3)
25 Letch shyly filming a model in thong (7)
26 New drug smuggled by reckless drug pusher (6)
27 Old film about time travel at inauguration is theatrical (5)
Down
1 Led astray after drinking num in picnic (6)
2 Sharpness of unionist in American town (6)
3 Egg allergen affected specialised part of cell (9)
4 Sick, surrounded in wraps - man's emaciated (3,4)
5 Scoundrel seducing son, a dreaded Jamaican perhaps? (5)
7 Error to capture pawn after time trouble in state of panic (8)
8 Institute in Senegal transformed process of preserving fodder (8)
9 Perky comedian perfects voice-over without distress (4,4,4,2)
15 Favourite fork to eat salad (4,5)
18 Hunters pursue small opossum finally into lair (8)
17 Reportedly international model turned despondent, tackling business essentially (12-4)
19 Importance of pain in both sides of chest (6)
20 Feverish man with cold and spam (6)
22 Slip in base after drinks (5)

SUDOKU

		1						9
	5	1	2					7
3			9		4	5		
	7	1		6				
6	2		5		9	4	5	
	1	5			9			
9	1	3		8				4
			3		2			
7				9				

Solution to previous puzzle

4	6	5	7	9	1	2	3	4	8
4	3	8	5	9	1	2	3	4	8
2	8	6	1	7	9	4	5	3	6
5	1	4	2	3	7	9	8	6	5
6	2	9	5	4	5	2	8	3	7
7	6	1	3	4	5	2	8	9	7
8	4	9	7	3	2	6	1	7	3
3	2	5	8	9	2	6	1	6	7

FAITH

Anantazhwan's guru bhakti

The popular saying, mata, pitha, guru, devam, wherein God is placed after guru, makes us understand that only a guru can help one attain God. Many of our saints, such as Anantazhwan, have shown by example that a guru is supreme, said Tirukkandathal Fr. Venkatesh.

Born in the Tamil month of Chithirai, under the Chittirai star, Anantazhwan was one of the many sishyas of Ramanuja, the great preceptor, at Srirangam.

One day, Ramanuja was discoursing on Nammazhwar's Tiruvandizh. The deity of Tiruvengadam appeared in a dream to Ramanuja and said though Nammazhwar had sung of flowers in abundance, none was being offered to him. The next day Ramanuja asked his sishyas to volunteer for service at Tiruvengadam. While most demurred, Anantazhwan volunteered, and Ramanuja appreciated him, hailing him as Ananta 'aarnpillai' (only man in the crowd). Anantazhwan and his wife established a garden and a lake near on the south west side of the Tiruvengadam temple, which is flourishing even today. Moved by the hard work of the duo, God appeared as a small boy, carrying soil and began to baffle them. Anantazhwan was irritated and threw a crowbar at him, injuring the deity. The deity reached the precincts, he found the deity bleeding from the jaw and realised God has sported with him. As a horrified Anantazhwan apologised, God smilingly said, He would sport the wound with pride.

To this day, He offers darshan with the injured jaw, and the crowbar too is displayed at the entrance of the temple. A guru's order always ends well for the disciples.

2 women Navy officers return after historic transoceanic expedition

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The Indian Naval Sailing Vessel *INSV Tarini* returned to her base port at Goa on April 21 after a historic transoceanic expedition of nearly two months by two women officers of the Indian Navy, the first from India to accomplish such a feat, the Navy said on Monday.

The expedition was undertaken in double-handed mode by Lieutenant Commander Dilna K. and Lieutenant Commander Roopa A. The expedition was flagged off from Goa by renowned circumnavigator and their mentor Commander Abhilash Tomy (Retd), on February 28.

After 22 days of navigating through the unpredictable elements of the Indian Ocean, *INSV Tarini* arrived at Port Louis,



Great win: *INSV Tarini* returns to her base port following a historic transoceanic expedition of nearly two months duration, in Goa . PTI

Mauritius, on March 21, the Indian Navy said. This historic moment was celebrated with a series of events where the officers interacted with government officials from the Mauritius Coast Guard and the Indian High Commission, the Navy said. “The vessel also undertook a training sortie with personnel from the Mauritius Coast Guard embarked,

strengthening bilateral ties and fostering goodwill between the two maritime nations,” the statement said.

Following a hectic schedule at Port Louis, Lt. Cdr. Dilna and Lt. Cdr. Roopa, the officers departed on March 30, and during the return trip, they faced continuous challenges posed by heavy winds, adverse sea states, and rough seas, the Navy said. “Their ac-

complishments underscore the Indian Navy’s commitment to promoting gender equality and empowering women in the maritime domain. Undeterred by the challenges encountered during their expedition, the officers demonstrated exceptional seamanship and resilience,” the statement said.

The two officers now prepare for their next monumental voyage, a circumnavigation of the globe, the Sagar Parikrama-IV expedition, on *INSV Tarini*, scheduled to commence in September this year, according to the Navy.

On Sunday, *INSV Tarini* was flagged in by the Commanding Officer, *INS Mandovi*, and Naval Station Commander North Goa at the boat pool of *INS Mandovi* in the presence of naval personnel and families of the station.

A lesson from Taiwan in quake resilience

In the last two decades, major earthquakes have occurred in many parts of the world including Indonesia, Japan, China, Italy, Nepal, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Ecuador, Mexico, Morocco, and the Turkey-Syria border. On April 3, Taiwan was struck by an earthquake of 7.4 magnitude. These earthquakes cannot be treated as random occurrences, as earthquake-prone regions share some tectonic similarities.



C.P. Rajendran
is an adjunct professor at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru, and author of the book 'The tectonic face: The Story of Indian Earthquakes'

Earthquakes occur in certain regional bands. The spatial distribution is explained by the theory of plate tectonics, which explains how the Earth's outermost layer, the lithosphere, is broken into 15 major fragments or plates which are constantly moving relative to each other. This is why powerful earthquakes are concentrated along convergent plate boundaries like the Himalayas or tectonic product of the convergence of the Indian and Eurasian plates.

The earthquake in Nepal in 2015 caused severe devastation in central Nepal but spared India. This was an example of an earthquake originating from under the Himalayas. On April 4, 2024, the region around Manali in Himachal Pradesh was struck by an earthquake of magnitude 5.3. On the same day, 119 years ago, an earthquake occurred near Kangra, not far from Manali, killing thousands of people and leveling the buildings in the region.

The story of two earthquakes in the Taiwan region. The Philippine Sea plate is moving northwest towards the Eurasian plate at a velocity of about 7.8 cm per year, which is faster than the motion of the Indian plate. Lying 160 km off the coast of China, Taiwan was formed at a convergent boundary of the Philippine and Eurasian plates in the western Pacific Ocean. It is a country of strong earthquakes. The latest one occurred near the city of Hualien on the eastern coast. In 1999, the Chi-Chi

earthquake of magnitude 7.7 occurred in the central part of Taiwan and impacted the western region. It killed more than 2,400 people and left 11,305 wounded. It caused more than 50,000 buildings to collapse and partially damaged as many.

The Hualien earthquake killed at least 13 people and injured about 1,000. Most of the deaths were caused by earthquake-triggered rockfalls and not by toppled buildings. Despite being of nearly comparable magnitude, the 2024 earthquake has caused minimal damage compared to the 1999 earthquake.

What is remarkable is that even in Hualien city, located within the epicentre of the latest earthquake, where shaking is expected to be most intense, only about 50 residential buildings and a nine-storey building partially collapsed. In the capital city of Taipei, only 10 houses were severely damaged. These were reported to have been constructed before the implementation of stringent building codes following the 1999 Chi-chi earthquake.

The 1999 earthquake was a major wake-up call that led to the implementation of reforms to improve emergency response and disaster management. The government passed the Disaster Prevention and Protection Act and set up two national centres to handle earthquake coordination and training. Between the Chi-Chi and Hualien earthquakes, Taiwan mounted a consistent effort in implementing building code-revised structures, and overcoming inadequacies in the enforcement and non-compliance of seismic codes. These codes, unique to a particular region, are progressively based on local earthquake activity, building types, and construction methods. Indian code IS 1893 specifies seismic designs based on seismic zonation maps so that buildings do not collapse. In some parts of India, traditional architectural styles possessing earthquake resistivity can be rediscovered and encouraged.

subsidies to improve the quake resistance of buildings. Taiwan has been able to reach sound scientific judgements based on how severe the shaking would be in each location. With the knowledge of the frequency of earthquakes in each source and how severely the ground shakes in a particular area, specific seismic codes can be designed, and specific construction norms can be followed. Taiwan could also use new technologies such as seismic dampers and base isolation systems. Taiwan's most iconic building, Taipei 101, escaped damage during the latest earthquake. One of the components that helped the building retain its integrity was a tuned-mass damper, a 660-metric-ton steel sphere suspended by cables within the tower. This acts as a giant pendulum to counter any motion of the building.

What India can do As India is going through a major phase of infrastructural expansion in many tectonically unstable regions including the Himalayas, sometimes flagrantly violating the norms that should be followed in ecologically sensitive areas, earthquake safety should be of particular concern. All infrastructural projects must comply with seismic safety regulations. The Taiwan earthquake provides important lessons for India. These include following seismic codes, constructing safer engineered structures, and overcoming inadequacies in the enforcement and non-compliance of seismic codes. These codes, unique to a particular region, are progressively based on local earthquake activity, building types, and construction methods.

STATE OF PLAY

D. Suresh Kumar
sureshkumar_d@thehindu.co.in

Statistical inaccuracies only complicate attempts to predict election results. This became clear in Tamil Nadu after polling ended in all the erstwhile constituencies on April 19. This time, Tamil Nadu is suspended by cables within the tower. This acts as a giant pendulum to counter any motion of the building.

On the evening of April 19, the political discourse was dominated by various interpretations of voter turnout. Right-wing supporters and some anchors of television news channels headquartered in Delhi and Mumbai animatingly discussed the likely reasons for, and implications of, an "increased" voter turnout in certain constituencies.

The trigger for the excitement with seismic safety norms that should be followed in ecologically sensitive areas, earthquake safety should be of particular concern. All infrastructural projects must comply with seismic safety regulations. The Taiwan earthquake provides important lessons for India. These include following seismic codes, constructing safer engineered structures, and overcoming inadequacies in the enforcement and non-compliance of seismic codes. These codes, unique to a particular region, are progressively based on local earthquake activity, building types, and construction methods. Indian code IS 1893 specifies seismic designs based on seismic zonation maps so that buildings do not collapse. In some parts of India, traditional architectural styles possessing earthquake resistivity can be rediscovered and encouraged.

Jumping the gun on polling day

How the confusion over voter turnout in Tamil Nadu could have been avoided

Tamil Nadu

Mr. Annamalai was in the fray. As per the data, the constituency had "pooled" 71.17% votes as opposed to 63.84% five years ago. Likewise, the three constituencies in Chennai had all recorded turnouts of more than 67%, an unusual achievement that was not seen even during some swing elections. In Chennai South, the BJP had fended former Telegana Governor Tarlochan Soundararajan. Supporters of the BJP and the anchors, lost no time in declaring that the Modi-Annamalai factor was at work here. Some of them even went as far as to predict victories of the BJP candidates with record margins.

On the other hand, Mr. Annamalai and Chennai Central candidate Vinod P. Selvam sent out different signals from the ground when they complained that the names of 1 lakh voters, who they believed were "BJP supporters", were deleted from the electoral rolls in their respective constituencies. Their remarks were inferred by the BJP's critics as a form of "anticipatory bail out".

However, the euphoria over the data was short-lived. Amid conflicting constituency-level reports on actual voter turnouts, Mr. Sahoo made a statement that the turnout for elections. Of particular interest to the anchors was Communist Party of India's (CPI) announcement that the CPI had obtained from the polling station. By midnight, new data

released by the Election Commission of India (ECI) showed that not only was the overall voter turnout lower compared to 2019, but also that the polling percentage in Coimbatore and the three Chennai constituencies were not dramatically different from the previous election. The overall voter turnout stood at 69.72%. It was 64.89% in Coimbatore, 60.1% in Chennai North, 54.17% in Chennai South, and 53.96% in Chennai Central. In nearly 30 seats, the polling percentage had dipped by at least two percentage points compared to the last election. In Chennai Central, it had dipped by over 5 points. Clearly, there was no "pull factor" on account of Mr. Modi's eight public meetings or roadshows or Mr. Annamalai's aggressive campaigning. Also, contrary to what was initially claimed, Chennai voters did not show an inclination to vote in greater numbers to collectively vent their frustration over the "mishandling" of the floods in December.

Polling data issued by the ECI on the day of voting has always been subject to scrutiny. However, this time, the final numbers were significantly different compared to the first round of data. "The data which we get till now is based on inputs from polling stations obtained at our office. All the polling stations are able to provide their data. Hence, that is like a sample of polling stations," Mr. Sahoo said, explaining the variance.

If Mr. Sahoo's disclaimer of data was "like a sample of polling stations" and the statistical interpreters may not have jumped the gun, the credit to the Modi-Annamalai factor and instead safely waited until more complete counting of votes, to make their inferences.

A fact check on Modi's controversial speech in Rajasthan

While one claim about Muslims bearing more children is erroneous, another regarding a statement by Manmohan Singh was deliberately misinterpreted

DATA POINT

Vineesh Radhakrishnan
& **Rohitha Bose Varshney**

On Sunday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a series of controversial statements at a public meeting in Rajasthan. He referred to Muslims in India as "those who have a large number of children" and claimed that former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said in 2005 that Muslims had the first claim on the country's resources". He alleged that the 2024 Congress manifesto proposes to distribute people's wealth among Muslims if the party is elected to power. He made this claim by combining sections in the manifesto which addresses wealth inequality, and connecting those points to the former Prime Minister's speech in 2006. A fact-check using government data shows that the claim that Muslims give birth to more children is erroneous. **Table 1** shows the fertility rates of women across all religious groups. The fertility rate is the average number of children a woman is expected to have in her lifetime. A rate of 2.1 (the "replacement level") means that the population will stay the same. The fertility rate of Muslims along with the fertility rates of all other religious groups have been drastically declining over the years. As per 2019-21 data, the fertility rate of Muslims was 2.36, much closer to the replacement level. Also, the gap between the fertility levels of Hindus and Muslim women (B-A in table) has sharply reduced from 0.81 to 0.42. In the two decades, this trend holds true even among the most populous States (Uttar Pradesh).

for the upliftment of SC/STs, other backward classes, minorities and women and children...We will have to devise innovative plans to ensure that minorities, particularly the Muslim minority, are empowered to share equitably in the fruits of development. They must have the first claim on resources." While Dr. Singh's statement was aimed at all vulnerable sections of society, his emphasis on Muslims was singled out by Mr. Modi. Dr. Singh's worry about all vulnerable sections, especially Muslims, is backed by data that show that Muslims lagged behind other religious groups on several indicators when he made these remarks. **Table 2** shows that across sexes, the share of Muslims who did not go to school was much higher than other religious groups in 2005-06. While a higher share of Muslims continued not to go to school even in 2019-21, the gap narrowed. Similarly, the share of Muslims who completed 12 years of schooling was the lowest among all the religious groups in 2005-06 and continued to be so in 2019-21. **Table 3** shows that the neonatal mortality rate (NMR) and under-five mortality rate (U5MR) among Hindus and Muslims across two periods. NMR refers to the number of deaths during the first month of life per 1,000 live births. The lower the figure, the better. The decrease in NMR among Hindus has been much greater than among Muslims. In 1998-99, the NMR among urban Hindus was 36.6, which was much higher than the 25.9 among urban Muslims. The gap narrowed in 2005-06 to 30.9 among urban Hindus and 21.6 among urban Muslims and 21.6 among urban Muslims. A higher drop in NMR among the Hindu population when compared with the Muslim population was also seen in rural areas. An analysis of U5MR also shows a similar trend.

Busting myths

The data for the charts were sourced from the National Family Health Surveys

Note appear:
Prime Minister Narendra Modi at an election rally in Rajasthan, April

Table 1: The table shows the total fertility rates (TFR) of women from various religious groups.

Religion	1999-04	2005-06	2019-21
Hindu (A)	2.78	2.59	2.13
Muslim (B)	3.59	3.4	2.63
Christian	2.44	2.34	1.99
Sikh	2.26	1.95	1.58
Buddhist	2.13	2.25	1.74
Jain	1.9	1.94	1.9
B-A	0.81	0.81	0.49

Table 2: The table shows the TFR of Hindu and Muslim women for the five most populous States in two periods.

State	2005-06	2019-21
U.P.	3.73	4.33
Bihar	3.86	4.81
Maharashtra	2	2.85
WB	1.93	3.15
MP	3.16	3.06

Table 3: Share of females and males across religious groups who did not attend school/complete 12 years of schooling.

Religion	No education		<12 years of schooling	
	2005-06	2019-21	2005-06	2019-21
Hindu	40.5	28.5	17.2	17.1
Muslim	47.9	29.1	6.6	11.4
Christian	19.7	17.9	21.5	23.9
Sikh	24.7	23.2	19.8	23.4
Buddhist	26.2	23.7	9.7	18.5
Jain	1.5	1.5	1.9	1.9

Table 4: The table shows the NMR and the U5MR among Hindus and Muslims in 1998-99, 2005-06 and 2019-21.

Religion	Urban			Rural		
	1998-99	2005-06	2019-21	1998-99	2005-06	2019-21
Hindu	36.6	30.9	21.6	43.3	33.3	27.9
Muslim	57.7	41.8	25.9	57.9	44.9	32.9
Muslim (change)	NA	-5.7	-12.5	NA	-10.5	-15.4
Hindu (change)	NA	-5.7	-12.5	NA	-10.5	-15.4
Muslim	25.9	21.6	18.7	43.6	40.1	25.9
Muslim (change)	NA	-4.3	-2.9	NA	-3.5	-14.2

With inputs from Rachha Tanya Robson and Smith B.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO APRIL 23, 1974

Public sector emerges out of the red

New Delhi, April 22: Public sector enterprises collectively earned a net profit of Rs. 17.74 crores in 1972-73, as against a net loss of Rs. 19.16 crores in 1971-72. This is the first time the public sector as a whole has emerged out of the "red" of the 10 running enterprises in 1972-73, 67 earned a total net profit of Rs. 104.46 crores, while the remaining 34 suffered a total net loss of Rs. 86.72 crores.

The net profit was arrived at after allowing Rs. 28 crores for depreciation and amortisation. Rs. 12 crores write off of deferred revenue expenditure, Rs. 162 crores for interest payments and Rs. 63 crores for taxation. The information is given in the annual report of the Ministry of Public Enterprises and Industrial Undertakings of the Central Government (1972-73) placed before Parliament to-day.

The foreign exchange earned from exports by public sector manufacturing enterprises during the year amounted to Rs. 74 crores as against Rs. 66 crores in the previous year. The Ministry of Hindustan Steel declined from Rs. 219 crores in 1971-72 to Rs. 15.3 crores in 1972-73. Other exports were iron ore, petroleum products, machine tools and wrist watches, electronic communication equipment and aircraft. In addition foreign exchange of the order of Rs. 125 crores was earned by air and shipping corporations and ship repair units through services rendered. Of this, the earnings by the two air corporations and the subsidiaries are India Charters account for Rs. 77 crores, the shipping corporation Rs. 44.5 crores for ship repair and aircraft overhaul units Rs. 2.5 crores.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO APRIL 23, 1924

Plague in the Punjab

Lahore, April 22: Plague continues to rage in an intense form during the past two weeks. There were approximately 2,200 cases and 1,700 deaths, making a total of 71,416 cases and 54,073 deaths since the beginning of the year. This is no decline in Lahore and elsewhere. The Punjab has turned in the south of the Province and a general decline in severity of epidemic will shortly become apparent. The Public Health Department with the assistance of some sixty Medical officers engaged as emergency staff are continuing these efforts to limit the ravages of the disease.

Busting myths

The data for the charts were sourced from the National Family Health Surveys



Vote appeal:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi at an election rally in Rajasthan. ANI

Table 1: The table shows the total fertility rates (TFR) of women from various religious groups

Religion	NFHS 2 (1998-99)	NFHS 3 (2005-06)	NFHS 4 (2015-16)	NFHS 5 (2019-21)
Hindu (A)	2.78	2.59	2.13	1.94
Muslim (B)	3.59	3.4	2.62	2.36
Christian	2.44	2.34	1.99	1.88
Sikh	2.26	1.95	1.58	1.61
Buddhist	2.13	2.25	1.74	1.39
Jain	1.9	1.54	1.2	1.6
B - A	0.81	0.81	0.49	0.42

Table 2: The table shows the TFR of Hindu and Muslim women for the five most populous States in two periods

State	2005-06		2019-21	
	Hindus	Muslims	Hindus	Muslims
U.P.	3.73	4.33	2.29	2.66
Bihar	3.86	4.81	2.88	3.63
Maharashtra	2	2.85	1.69	2.06
WB	1.93	3.15	1.47	2.03
MP	3.16	3.06	1.97	2.4

Table 3: Share of females and males across religious groups who did not attend school/complete 12 years of schooling

Religion	Female				Male			
	No education		>12 years of schooling		No education		>12 years of schooling	
	2005-06	2019-21	2005-06	2019-21	2005-06	2019-21	2005-06	2019-21
Hindu	40.5	28.5	12.2	17.1	17.1	12.9	20.7	23.8
Muslim	47.9	29.1	6.6	11.4	26.3	17.9	11.7	14.6
Christian	19.7	17.9	23.5	23.9	11.7	11.2	22.7	24.8
Sikh	24.7	23.2	19.8	23.4	14	14.2	20.3	25.8
Buddhist	28.2	22.7	9.7	18.5	9.5	8.4	19.3	26
Jain	1.6	4.8	52.1	43.4	0.4	2.3	62.4	51.5

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Religion	Female				Male			
	No education		>12 years of schooling		No education		>12 years of schooling	
	2005-06	2019-21	2005-06	2019-21	2005-06	2019-21	2005-06	2019-21
Hindu	40.5	28.5	12.2	17.1	17.1	12.9	20.7	23.8
Muslim	47.9	29.1	6.6	11.4	26.3	17.9	11.7	14.6
Christian	19.7	17.9	23.5	23.9	11.7	11.2	22.7	24.8
Sikh	24.7	23.2	19.8	23.4	14	14.2	20.3	25.8
Buddhist	28.2	22.7	9.7	18.5	9.5	8.4	19.3	26
Jain	1.6	4.8	52.1	43.4	0.4	2.3	62.4	51.5

Table 4: The table shows the NMR and the U5MR among Hindus and Muslims in 1998-99, 2005-06 and 2019-21

Religion	Neonatal mortality rate (NMR)						Under 5 mortality rate					
	Urban			Rural			Urban			Rural		
	1998-99	2005-06	2019-21	1998-99	2005-06	2019-21	98-99	05-06	19-21	98-99	05-06	19-21
Hindu	36.6	30.9	18.4	53.8	43.3	27.9	69.6	54.7	31.7	116.2	82.5	46.6
Hindu (change)	NA	-5.7	-12.5	NA	-10.5	-15.4	NA	-14.9	-23	NA	-33.7	-35.9
Muslim	25.9	21.6	18.7	43.6	40.1	25.9	57.9	44.8	32.8	94.1	82.2	42.9
Muslim (change)	NA	-4.3	-2.9	NA	-3.5	-14.2	NA	-13.1	-12	NA	-11.9	-39.3

With inputs from Rachita Tanya Rabboni and Sruthi B.

KUALA LUMPUR

Malaysia is set to build a massive semiconductor design park: PM



Malaysia Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim on Monday announced plans to build a massive semiconductor design park. A prominent player in the semiconductor industry for decades, Malaysia accounts an estimated 13% of global back-end manufacturing. The park will be located in Selangor state. **AFP**

GAZA STRIP

'About 200 bodies exhumed at Gaza hospital since Saturday'



Gaza's Civil Defence agency said on Monday that health workers had uncovered around 200 bodies over the past three days of people killed and buried by Israeli forces at a hospital in Khan Younis. The organisation said that several of the bodies recovered from inside the Nasser Medical Complex had decomposed. **AFP**

ISLAMABAD

Iran President vows to boost trade with Pakistan to \$10 billion a year



Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi and Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif vowed on Monday to boost trade between the neighbouring nations to \$10 billion a year, as Mr. Raisi commenced a three-day visit in the Pakistani capital. The visit comes as the two nations seek to mend ties after tit-for-tat military strikes this year. **REUTERS**

WARSAW

Poland ready to host NATO nuclear weapons, says President Duda



Poland President Andrzej Duda on Monday said his country is ready to host NATO's nuclear arms after Russia reinforced its armaments in neighbouring Belarus and the Russian exclave of Kaliningrad. He spoke after a visit to New York, where he held meetings at the UN and discussed the war in Ukraine with Donald Trump. **AFP**

'Rwanda deportation flights in 10-12 weeks'

Sunak to push through a Bill, the current version of which declares Rwanda a safe country to send asylum seekers; this clause was designed to circumvent a UK Supreme Court ruling that said the policy was unlawful; over 5,000 people arrived in the UK in the first quarter of this year

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said on Monday he would push through a parliamentary vote on his government's highly controversial Rwanda deportation legislation, as he promised that flights would begin taking asylum seekers to Rwanda in 10-12 weeks.

A record number — just under 5,000 — arrived in the UK, on boats via the English Channel in the first quarter of this year, according to U.K. government data. Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, India and Bangladesh were the top five countries of origin for migrants arriving in Britain in 2023.

"Parliament will sit



Standfast resolves: Britain's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak speaks during a press conference at the Downing Street on Monday. **AFP**

there tonight — and vote — no matter how late it goes," Mr. Sunak said at a press conference at Downing Street on Monday. The House of Commons and Lords were scheduled to

consider the Safety of Rwanda (Asylum and Immigration) Bill on Monday. The bill, which was introduced by Mr. Sunak's Conservative party, does not have a majority, had passed

amendments last week to exempt Afghan asylum seekers who had helped British operations in Afghanistan and to establish an independent body to review Rwanda's asylum system.

Immigration is a highly sensitive issue in the U.K., which is moving towards a general election in the second half of 2024. The initial plan to send illegal migrants to Rwanda was announced by the Boris Johnson government in 2022. The policy has faced numerous legal challenges, including from the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) and no flights to Rwanda have taken place to date.

The current version of the Rwanda Bill declares that Rwanda is a safe coun-

try to send asylum seekers — a clause designed to circumvent a November 2023 U.K. Supreme Court ruling that said the policy (as it existed at the time) was unlawful. The deportation process would kick off as soon as the vote was over, Mr. Sunak said, as he outlined some of the preparations — from courtrooms to security escorts and flight slots.

People smuggling — "The first flight will leave in 10-12 weeks," he said, — implying that the earlier declared spring deadline would not be met. He said multiple flights would take place through the summer (June-August) and was "re-signed to the idea that you will never fully solve this problem."

Mr. Sunak's party has trailed the opposition Labour Party in polls for some time and stopping the boat crossings has been one of the Prime Minister's pledges. On Monday, he accused Labour of not having a plan to prevent boat crossings and was "re-signed to the idea that you will never fully solve this problem."

The Conservatives have focused on the role of peo-

Senior Israeli official resigns for failing to prevent Hamas attack

Associated Press
TEL AVIV

The head of Israeli military intelligence resigned on Monday over the failures surrounding Hamas' unprecedented October 7 attack, the military said, becoming the first senior figure to step down.

Maj. Gen. Aharon Halliva's decision could set the stage for more resignations among Israel's top security brass over Hamas's attack in which 1,200 people were killed, most of them civilians, and roughly 250 people were taken as hostages into Gaza.

"The intelligence director under my command did not live up to the task we were entrusted with. I carry that blame day with me ever since, day after

Maj. Gen. Aharon Halliva's decision could set the stage for more resignations among Israel's top security brass.

day, night after night. I will carry the horrible pain of the war with me forever," Mr. Halliva wrote in his resignation letter.

While Mr. Halliva and others have accepted blame for failing to stop the attack, others have stepped short, most notably Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who has said he will answer tough questions under my command did not live up to the task we were entrusted with. I carry that blame day with me ever since, day after

With super majority in Majlis, Muizzu's hands are strengthened in Maldives

NEWS ANALYSIS

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

After his party won a decisive majority in Sunday's general elections, Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu has both executive powers and parliamentary backing to shape the island nation's policies for the next five years.

Provisional results showed that the ruling People's National Congress (PNC) secured 71 out of the 93 seats in parliament or People's Majlis, as it is known in the island nation. The party was preparing to hold a huge celebration titled "Welcome — to the People's Nation's Majlis", in capital Male on Monday night.

Serious setback
The opposition Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP), which had put up a similar, impressive show in 2019, winning 65 out of 87 seats then, faced a serious setback in this election, losing in most constituencies. The party secured only a dozen seats.

Significantly, candidates affiliated to the two new formations of former Presidents Abdulla Yameen and Mohamed Nasheed, which split, respectively, from Mr. Muizzu and President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, failed to win a single seat.

"I am still in some kind of shock, and trying to make sense of the results," said Ibrahim Ismail, a former MP from the MDP, an academic and a prominent voice in the country's pro-democracy reform



Mohamed Muizzu movement since the early 2000s.

"This sort of three-fourths majority allows them to even rewrite the Constitution. And it's always a red flag when one party is able to do that in a democracy," he told *The Hindu* from Male. Mr. Ismail added that the new composition also gave rise to fears over the possible undermining of the rule of law.

"How a party (PNC) that is not known to espouse democratic values might deal with such absolute power is a major concern. The MDP for all its internal weaknesses is a party rooted in democracy and human rights. Also, it offers more space for diverse voices and dissent within," Mr. Ismail contended.

Internal fissures
While citing the MDP's internal fissures, especially around the split of former president Yameen, as one of the chief reasons for the

electorate's disillusionment with the party, the former MP said Mr. Solih "went overboard" with his "India First" policy, much like his predecessor Mr. Yameen, who "did the same with China".

All the same Mr. Muizzu's foreign policy priorities are no secret. After making "India out" his poll plank in last year's Presidential race, he gave it policy direction, eventually getting New Delhi to agree to replace its military personnel with civilians. Around the same time, he pledged to elevate strategic ties with China.

Policy priorities
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According to Ahmed Mohamed, a former diplomat who served as the Maldives' Ambassador to India during President Yameen's term, the results of the general election in the Maldives only point to a continuing trend observed in the past two elections.

"There is a widespread belief among the public that in order to sustain progress, development, and prosperity, the government must secure an absolute majority in the Majlis," he told *The Hindu*.

Aqua city



Flooded buildings and streets after heavy rains in China's Qingyuan city in the southern Guangdong province on Monday. Four persons were dead and 100 missing as storms battered southern China, forcing the evacuation of tens of thousands of people. **AFP**

EU launches probe, threatens to suspend TikTok Lite app's 'addictive' rewards

Agence France-Press
LONDON

The EU on Monday launched a probe into TikTok's spin-off Lite app and threatened to suspend an "addictive" feature on it that rewards users for watching and liking videos, amid child-safety concerns.

TikTok Lite arrived in France and Spain in March allowing users aged 18 and over to earn points that can be exchanged for goods like vouchers or gift cards through the app's rewards programme.

The European Commission said in a statement it has concerns about the app's "risks of serious



The European Commission said it has concerns about the TikTok's 'risks of serious damage for the mental health of users'. **REUTERS**

damage for the mental health of users", including "excessive use" and "addictive" features. TikTok Lite last week failed to provide a risk assessment for the spin-off app by an April 18 deadline, the

commission said, demanding the company now hand it over by Tuesday.

TikTok, owned by China's ByteDance, has until Wednesday to present a formal defence.

Commission's warning
The commission also warned if TikTok failed to reply to the request, it could impose fines of up to 1% of its total annual income or of its global turnover and periodic penalties up to 5% of its average daily income or annual turnover worldwide.

TikTok said it would continue discussions with the commission but insisted the programme was not available to minors.

Kyiv warns situation on front will worsen in May

Agence France-Press
KYIV

The situation for Ukraine on its front line is likely to steadily deteriorate in coming weeks, Ukraine's head of military intelligence said in an interview published on Monday.

His assessment comes as outgunned and outnumbered Ukrainian forces struggle to hold back Russian troops, who have gained ground in recent months and are expected to soon step up their offensive.

"In our opinion, a rather difficult situation awaits us in the near future," Kyrylo Budanov told the BBC's Ukrainian service.

"But it is not catastrophic to hold the front in particular. It will be a difficult period in mid-May, early June," Mr. Budanov said.

Kremlin's gains
Russia has in recent weeks regularly claimed new gains in eastern Ukraine.

On Monday, Russia's Defence Ministry said its troops had seized the village of Novomyrskivka, some 20 km away from Vuhledar, which Russian forces have been trying to capture.

It announced other gains near the eastern town of Chasiv Yar over the weekend. Taking control of Chasiv Yar's strategic heights would open the road for Russia to other important towns in the Donbas region of eastern Ukraine.

'Rwanda deportation flights in 10-12 weeks'

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Steadfast resolve: Britain's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak speaks during a press conference at the Downing Street on Monday. AFP

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People smuggling

“The first flight will leave in 10-12 weeks,” he said, implying that the earlier declared spring deadline would not be met. He said multiple flights would take place through the summer (June-August) and beyond.

The Conservatives have focused on the role of peo-

ple smuggling gangs as part of their messaging around the deportation Bill and Mr. Sunak, on Monday, said the gangs were currently targeting vulnerable Vietnamese migrants, whose numbers had “increased tenfold” and who accounted for “almost all” the increase in migrant-carrying small boats arriving across the English Channel.

Mr Sunak's party has trailed the opposition Labour Party in polls for some time and stopping the boat crossings has been one of the Prime Minister's pledges. On Monday, he accused Labour of not having a plan to prevent boat crossings and was “resigned to the idea that you will never fully solve this problem”.



Location of Rwanda (dark blue)
in Africa (light blue)

Capital and largest city [Kigali](#)
🌐 [1°56′38″S 30°3′34″E](#)

Official languages [Kinyarwanda](#)
[French](#)
[English](#)
[Swahili](#)

Religion 93.8% [Christianity](#)
3.0% [no religion](#)
2.2% [Islam](#)
1.0% [other](#)^[1]

Demonym(s) [Rwandan](#) · [Rwandese](#)

Government Unitary [presidential republic](#) under an [authoritarian dictatorship](#)^{[2][3][4][5][6][7]}

• [President](#) [Paul Kagame](#)
• [Prime Minister](#) [Édouard Ngirente](#)

Legislature [Parliament](#)
• [Upper house](#) [Senate](#)
• [Lower house](#) [Chamber of Deputies](#)

Formation

- [Kingdom of Rwanda](#) 15th century
- Part of [German East Africa](#) 1897–1916
- Part of [Ruanda-Urundi](#) 1916–1962
- [Rwandan Revolution](#) 1959–1961
- [Republic declared](#) 1 July 1961
- [Independence from Belgium](#) 1 July 1962
- [Admitted to the UN](#) 18 September 1962
- [Current constitution](#) 26 May 2003

Area

- [Total](#) 26,338 km² (10,169 sq mi) ([144th](#))
- [Water \(%\)](#) 5.3

Population

- [2024 estimate](#) 14,300,291^[8] ([76th](#))
- [Density](#) 470/km² (1,217.3/sq mi) ([22nd](#))

GDP (PPP)

- [Total](#) ▲ \$42.346 billion^[9] ([139th](#))
- [Per capita](#) ▲ \$3,136^[9] ([165th](#))

GDP (nominal)

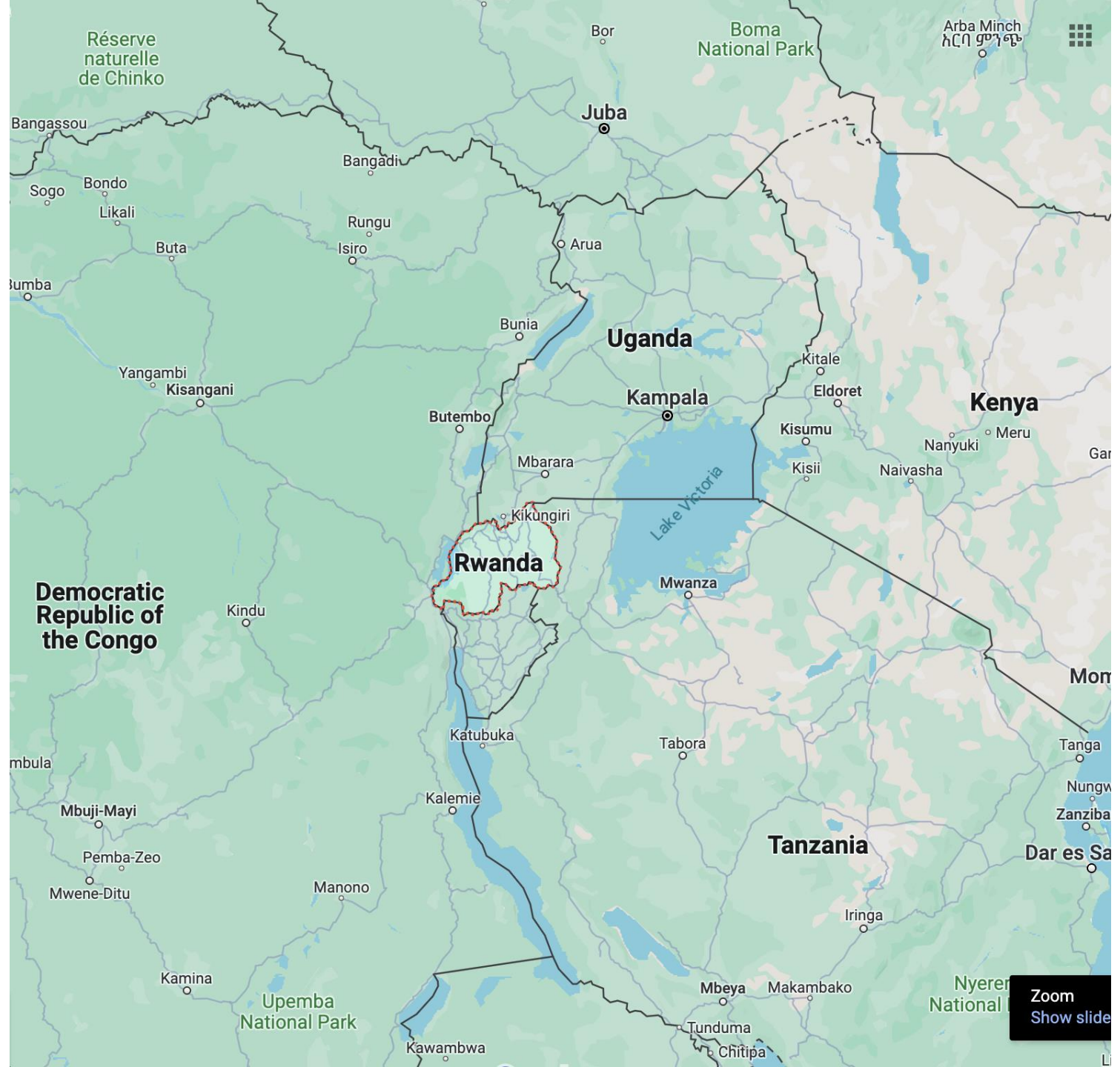
- [Total](#) ▲ \$13.927 billion^[9] ([129th](#))
- [Per capita](#) ▲ \$1,031^[9] ([167th](#))

Gini (2016)

43.7^[10]
medium

HDI (2022)

▼ 0.548^[11]
low ([161st](#))



Zoom
Show slide

WORDS OF WISDOM

A world champion's observation has proved prophetic



Former women's World champion Susan Polgar's tweet on Gukesh has had more than one eyeball views. "I said long before the recent success of young Indian players, Gukesh will go the furthest. He has the maturity beyond his years. He has the talent, motivation, fearless mentality, strong nerves, determination, and the X-factor."

THEN AND NOW
Gajewski's common factor between Anand and Gukesh



Gregorz Gajewski, who accompanied D. Gukesh as his second in Toronto, worked in a similar capacity with five-time World champion Viswanathan Anand. The Polish GM was ranked in the world's top-100 10 years ago. He is also part of the WestBridge Anand Chess Academy that trains Gukesh.

CRADLE OF CHAMPIONS
The nursery where talents like Gukesh, Pragg have blossomed



"Chess has always been a part of Chennai's culture and the decision to make chess a part of the curriculum has really helped it to bloom. Of course, they also have a champion like Anand to look up to, said S. Velupillai, the chess co-coordinator at the Velammal Institutions, the otome cradle of Gukesh and Praggnanandhaa.

TEAM EFFORT
Behind Gukesh's success lies the tale of his parents' sacrifices



Gukesh's parents put careers on hold to fuel his dream. Dr. Rajnikanth, an ENT surgeon, stopped practice in 2017 as the father-son duo travelled across the world when the prodigy chased the final GM norm, while mother Padma turned the primary breadwinner, taking care of the household expenses.

Gukesh earns the right to battle Ding Liren for the World crown

The 17-year-old holds Nakamura in the final round, emerges champion after Nepo and Caruana play out a draw; the Indian becomes the youngest-ever challenger Kasparov's record; Tan reigns supreme in women's section

CANDIDATES CHESS

Sports Bureau

D. Gukesh will play for the World chess championship as the youngest challenger in history.

The 17-year-old from Chennai won the qualifying event, the Candidates tournament, in Toronto after drawing his final round encounter with second seed Hikaru Nakamura of the United States on Sunday.

Gukesh had black pieces against Nakamura in their Queen's Gambit Accepted game which lasted 71 moves; it ended with just the two kings on the board. There was still the possibility of either top-seeded American Fabiano Caruana or Russian Ian Nepomniachtchi, who won the last two Candidates, catching up with Gukesh.

The two men were facing each other, and the winner could set up a tie-break match. But that game, after some fluctuations, was finally drawn. Gukesh will take on the reigning champion Ding Liren of China in the World championship match later in the year.

At 17, he has become the youngest-ever challenger for the World Chess Championship beating the record set by the Russian legend Garry Kasparov, in 1984, at the age of 20.

The women's tournament was won by China's Tan Zhongyi, who finished with nine points, 1.5 ahead of the competition.



Impressive display! Gukesh rose to the challenge against Nakamura by playing a solid game with black that left the American with much to ponder. FILE PHOTO

Koneru Humpy and R. Vaishali finished with 7.5 points and were placed second and fourth respectively.

Lei Tingjie of China, who was beaten by Humpy, also scored 7.5 points and was third. Vaishali defeated Russian Kateryna Lagno to register her fifth win in a row; that was after losing four in a row.

The results (14th and final round): Open: Hikaru Nakamura (USA) 8.5; draw D. Gukesh 8; Fabiano Caruana (USA) 8.5; draw with Ian Nepomniachtchi (Ukraine) 8.5; Nijat Abasov (Aze) 3.5; lost to

R. Praggnanandhaa 7; Alireza Firouzja (Iran) 5; draw with Vedat Gurbuzli 6.

Standings: 1. Gukesh 9, 2-4. Nakamura, Nepomniachtchi, and Caruana 8.5; 5. Praggnanandhaa 7.5; Gurbuzli 7; Firouzja 6; 8. Abasov 3.5.

Women: Anna Muzychuk (Ukr) 9.5; draw with Tan Zhongyi (Chn); Kateryna Lagno (Ukr) 6.5; lost to R. Vaishali 7; Lei Tingjie (Chn) 7.5; lost to Koneru Humpy 7.5; Alexandra Goryachkina (Rus) 7; draw with Nurgul Salimova (Ru) 6.5.

Standings: 1. Tan 9; 2-4. Humpy, Lei and Vaishali 7.5; 5. Goryachkina 7; 6. Lagno 6.5; 7-8. Salimova and Muzychuk 5.5.

Gukesh Factfile

- 2018: Wins the World Under-12 Championship. Wins five gold medals at the Asian youth championship.
- 2019: Becomes the second youngest Grandmaster in history at the time, at the age of 12 years, seven months and 17 days.
- 2020: Bags the individual gold medal at the Chennai Chess Olympiad, after registering eight successive wins.
- 2021: Crosses rating of 2700 elo points.
- 2023: Reaches quarterfinals of the Chess World Cup.
- Qualifies for the Candidates tournament.
- 2024: Wins the Candidates tournament as the youngest in history.

Being calm and composed did the trick for Gukesh



Viewananth Anand

D. Gukesh is the deserving winner of the Candidates tournament. The story of the last two rounds was only about him. He has become the youngest challenger in history.

In his very first candidates tournament, against some of the strongest players of all time and some of whom had played four or five Candidates tournaments, and Ian Nepomniachtchi, the winner of the last two Candidates, he handled the pressure well. Gukesh was the only one whose level didn't fluctuate much.

In the 13th round, against Alireza Firouzja, the opening didn't go well and he was just looking for play, but unexpected things started to happen under pressure. Gukesh was the calmer of the two. His moves were steady, and when Firouzja started to overreach, he grabbed the advantage and converted it efficiently, which is very difficult when you realise the implications of what you are doing; that you are going to take the lead in the tournament and so on.

The pressure was only going to build. Caruana defeated R. Praggnanandhaa. Then we had a dramatic last round, in which only a win against Hikaru Nakamura would have guaranteed Gukesh the first place, and he was black. He once again played one of his unusual openings in Queen's Gambit Accepted.

Nakamura never seemed to find his way against Gukesh. But the advantage was not big enough for Gukesh to play for a win. He got better, which at least guaranteed him a tie-break. He actually was facing a tie-breaker for some time, as Nepomniachtchi had managed to get into a lost position against Fabiano Caruana; that was the situation for two hours. The game ended in a draw. The participants must have been under enormous pressure at the end of such



Chennai's Super Kings: Anand, seen with Gukesh in 2019, says the youngster handled the pressure well. FILE PHOTO: M. KARUNAKARAN

Saluting the teen wonder

- India is exceptionally proud of Gukesh on becoming the youngest ever to win the Candidates — at only 17! Your journey from here leads to the World Championship and we'll be with you at every move. Go make history! Inspires millions! PIN NARENDRAN MISHRA
- What a triumph, Gukesh! The youngest ever to win the Candidates — at only 17! Your journey from here leads to the World Championship and we'll be with you at every move. Go make history! SACHIN TENDULKAR
- Heartly congratulations to young Gukesh for convincingly winning the Candidates. Inspiring performance! Whole India is proud of you! R.B. RAMESH
- The future is here. It's today. 22.04.2024 a date to remember is going to be Ding Liren vs Gukesh, World Chess Championship 2024! TANIA SACHDEV

Gukesh is in a hurry, says his coach Vishnu Prasanna

S. Prasanna Venkatesan

CHENNAI

"I am very happy. I think it's a very difficult event. Last few days were tense, because it was always close and we were so close to the goal," said Gukesh's coach Vishnu Prasanna to The Hindu on Monday.

Prasanna said he was very optimistic about his ward's chances of winning while they were preparing for the event. "I felt that every day after the Chennai event (which Gukesh had won in December), he was improving both mentally and chess-wise. So, I thought he was getting better every day. That was a clear sign for me that he was heading in the right direction. Asked if he'd ever



Gukesh and Vishnu Prasanna. FILE PHOTO

thought that Gukesh would achieve such a feat at just 17, he said: "What can I say? Just in a hurry! I mean, I didn't know if he would do this at 17. Apart from the age, I think chess-wise he was ready. But even if he hadn't done well, it was perfectly fine. Psychologically, that maturity to achieve that is the biggest difficulty."

A young knight who has the armoury to reign supreme

P.K. Ajith Kumar

Dommaraju Gukesh's final round game of the Candidates chess tournament against Hikaru Nakamura ended in a draw at the Great Hall in Toronto. After listening to the commentary on the ongoing game against Hikaru Nakamura and Fabiano Caruana for a while, Gukesh decided to take a walk with Gregorz Gajewski, his second (sparring partner). The stroll must have felt like the longest in his life.

The stress was worse than any he would have felt during the three weeks where he faced some of the world's best players twice. Gukesh's fortunes rested on the game between Nepomniachtchi, the winner of the last two editions, and Caruana, the top seed. A draw would have been ideal for Gukesh, but it looked unlikely with Caruana poised for a win.

That meant Gukesh would have had to play a tie-breaker the following day. If the result was a draw, the duo would remain on 8.5 points, along with Nakamura, the second seed, leaving Gukesh — who had nine points — the undisputed champion.

Gukesh knew nothing while on his stroll. The news about his straightforward triumph was broken to him by his father Dr. Rajnikanth. He ran towards his son and stopped him in his tracks, something none of his seven rivals, five of whom were rated above him, could do in Toronto.

Not many gave Gukesh a chance. He wasn't even the highest-rated Indian that was fellow Chennai-based R. Praggnanandhaa who is nine months older. Even five-time World champion Magnus Carlsen was surprised. The Norwegian had picked Caruana and Nakamura as the likeliest winners, followed by Nepomniachtchi. His prediction for Gukesh: I cannot imagine him



Everybody loves... Gukesh, given his exceptional talent and ability, is sure to be a hit among chess aficionados for a long time. FILE PHOTO

winning the Candidates. He is not quite ready yet to make the leap. In Carlsen's defence, Gukesh hadn't qualified for the Candidates till the last minute. It took him a Super Grandmaster tournament in Chennai in December first into record books — conducted for the purpose. Those following the

teenager closely won't find this triumph as completely shocking. Two years ago, at the Chennai Chess Olympiad, he had come up with an incredible show-winning his first eight games in a row for India-2 on the top board.

If someone could play like that at 15, there was every possibility that he could deliver in a tougher event when he became older and stronger. His evolving maturity and ability to make the right call was evidenced by his showing in the penultimate round game against Alireza Firouzja at Toronto where he avoided a draw and went for a win. Gukesh will soon begin preparing for his World title match against Ding Liren. Not many may want to bet against him walking further into record books — as the world's youngest-ever chess champion.

Gukesh earns the right to battle Ding Liren for the World crown

The 17-year-old holds Nakamura in the final round, emerges champion after Nepo and Caruana play out a draw; the Indian becomes the youngest-ever challenger bettering Kasparov's record; Tan reigns supreme in women's section

CANDIDATES CHESS

Sports Bureau

D. Gukesh will play for the World chess championship as the youngest challenger in history.

The 17-year-old from Chennai won the qualifying event, the Candidates tournament, in Toronto after drawing his final round encounter with second seed Hikaru Nakamura of the United States on Sunday.

Gukesh had black pieces against Nakamura in their Queen's Gambit Accepted game which lasted 71 moves; it ended with just the two kings on the board.

There was still the possibility of either top-seeded American Fabiano Caruana or Russian Ian Nepomniachtchi, who won the last two Candidates, catching up with Gukesh.

The two men were facing each other, and the winner could set up a tie-



Impressive display: Gukesh rose to the challenge against Nakamura by playing a solid game with black that left the American with much to ponder. FIDE

The two men were facing each other, and the winner could set up a tie-break match. But that game, after some fluctuations, was finally drawn.

Gukesh will take on the reigning champion Ding Liren of China in the World championship match later in the year.

At 17, he has become the youngest-ever challenger for the World chess championship beating the record set by the Russian legend Garry Kasparov, in 1984, at the age of 20.

The women's tournament was won by China's Tan Zhongyi, who finished with nine points, 1.5 ahead of the competition.

Impressive display: Gukesh rose to the challenge against Nakamura by playing a solid game with black that left the American with much to ponder. FIDE

Koneru Humpy and R. Vaishali finished with 7.5 points and were placed second and fourth respectively.

Lei Tingjie of China, who was beaten by Humpy, also scored 7.5 points and was third. Vaishali defeated Russian Kateryna Lagno to register her fifth win in a row; that was after losing four in a row.

The results (14th and final round): Open: Hikaru Nakamura (USA) 8.5 drew D. Gukesh 9; Fabiano Caruana (USA) 8.5 drew with Ian Nepomniachtchi (FIDE) 8.5; Nijat Abasov (Aze) 3.5 lost to

R. Praggnanandhaa 7; Alireza Firouzja (Fra) 5 drew with Vidit Gujrathi 6.

Standings: 1. Gukesh 9; 2-4. Nakamura, Nepomniachtchi, and Caruana 8.5; 5. Praggnanandhaa 7; 6. Gujrathi 6; 7. Firouzja 5; 8. Abasov 3.5.

Women: Anna Muzychuk (Ukr) 5.5 drew with Tan Zhongyi (Chn) 9; Kateryna Lagno (Ukr) 6.5 lost to R. Vaishali 7.5; Le Tingjie (Chn) 7.5 lost to Koneru Humpy 7.5; Aleksandra Goryachkina (FIDE) 7 drew with Nurgyul Salimova (Bul) 5.5.

Standings: 1. Tan 9; 2-4. Humpy, Lei and Vaishali 7.5; 5. Goryachkina 7; 6. Lagno 6.5; 7-8. Salimova and Muzychuk 5.5.

Gukesh Factfile

2018: Wins the World Under-12 championship. Wins five gold medals at the Asian youth championship.

2019: Becomes the second youngest Grandmaster in history at the time, at the age of 12 years, seven months and 17 days.

2022: Bags the individual gold medal at the Chennai Chess Olympiad, after registering eight successive wins.

■ **Crosses rating of 2700 Elo points.**

2023: Reaches quarterfinals of the Chess World Cup.

■ **Qualifies for the Candidates tournament.**

2024: Wins the Candidates tournament as the youngest in history



Gukesh Dommaraju



Gukesh at the [2024 Candidates Tournament](#)

Full name	Dommaraju Gukesh
Country	India
Born	29 May 2006 (age 17) Chennai , Tamil Nadu, India
Title	Grandmaster (2019)
FIDE rating	2743 ↗ (April 2024)
Peak rating	2758 (September 2023)
Ranking	No. 16 ↗ (April 2024)
Peak ranking	No. 8 (September 2023)

Medal record [\[hide\]](#)

Representing  **India**

[Asian Games](#)



[2022 Hangzhou](#)

[Men's team](#)

BUSINESS AS USUAL By UNNY



SC: Denying women child care leave is violation of Constitution

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, APRIL 22

PARTICIPATION of women in the workforce is a constitutional entitlement and denying mothers child care leave violates this, the Supreme Court said Monday...



D Gukesh, 17, after winning FIDE Candidates 2024 tournament in Toronto. Michael Wiesner/FIDE

Gukesh scripts history, youngest challenger to world chess champ

AMIT KAMATH MUMBAI, APRIL 22

IF ANYONE still had any doubts about this, the era of the Indian teenage chess prodigies is here. Chennai boy D Gukesh, 17, has become the youngest winner of the prestigious Candidates chess tournament...

Why the win is significant EVER SINCE the pandemic, India has seen a chess boom. Streaming platforms have become popular and the GM count has gone to 16. Chennai host of the Chess Olympiad and IPL kind franchise league too kicked off. With this win, Gukesh has shown Indians don't just have the numbers, but quality too.

RELATED REPORT PAGE 17



TSMC and UMC, two of Taiwan's biggest chip firms, at the Hsinchu Science Park. Sumayarendra Barik

Amid India's chip push, Taiwan flags talent gaps, high import tariff

SUMAYARENDRA BARIK TAIPEI (TAIWAN), APRIL 22

A "CLUMBERSOME" administrative structure, lack of experienced engineers, high tariffs on electronics component imports and inadequate infrastructure — these are some of the challenges that India needs to address before chip companies from the island territory start to commit serious investments, a top Taiwanese government representative said Monday...

Taiwan Foreign Affairs Minister Joseph Wu

signing a long-negotiated free trade agreement (FTA) with Taiwan that would allow companies in the semiconductor supply chain to import components, equipment and material to India easily. "India is known to be very cumbersome in the process," he said.

REITERATES 'WEALTH DISTRIBUTION' CLAIM Day after, PM outreach in Aligarh: 'Ended triple talaq, raised Haj quota'



PM Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath with party candidates in Aligarh on Monday.

Targets Cong, SP for 'appeasement politics', says they did nothing for community

DHEERAJ MISHRA NEW DELHI, APRIL 22

A DAY after his remarks that the Congress, if voted to power, could distribute the nation's wealth among "infiltrators" and "those who have more children", Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday listed his initiatives for the Muslim community — from doing away with triple talaq to increasing Haj quota.

Addressing an election rally in Aligarh, he said: "Parties like the Congress and Samajwadi Party always practised politics of appeasement but not anything for the political, social and economic uplift of Muslims. When I talk about Pasmanda Muslims, they get spooked. Because people at the top took the benefits and forced Pasmanda Muslims into such conditions."

"The lives of many daughters, who were victims of triple talaq, are in danger. I am so relieved and so happy. I was following this crazy game (Caruana vs Nepomniachtch), and I was completely emotional. But now, after the

phone numbers of Banerjee and his PR, and tried to contact them," said Additional Commissioner (T) Anil Kumar Sharma.

The arrest comes a day after West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee accused the BJP of conspiring against her and nephew Abhishek Banerjee, and said this was "not safe" for Banerjee's life.

Reghe was taken to Kolkata Monday afternoon and booked under various IPC sections, including criminal conspiracy and criminal intimidation, and under provisions of the IT Act and the Whistleblowers Protection Act.

He had obtained the mobile

Man linked to Healey held for recce of TMC MP Abhishek's house: cops

SWEETY KUMARI & MOHAMED TAHER KOLKATA, MUMBAI, APRIL 22

KOLKATA POLICE said Monday that they have arrested a person from Mumbai, whose name had cropped up during the probe into the 26/11 terror attack for links with accused David Headley, for allegedly conducting a recce around the residence and offices of TMC MP Abhishek Banerjee.

Identifying the suspect as Rajaram Reghe, 53, the police said he was "planning something big" against the MP. Sources in

EXPRESS NETWORK BENGAL: HC SCRAPS APPOINTMENT OF TEACHERS, MAMATA PROTESTS PAGE 12

SC allows 14-yr-old rape survivor to terminate 30-week pregnancy

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, APRIL 22

THE SUPREME court on Monday allowed a 14-year-old rape survivor to terminate her almost 30-week pregnancy, terming it as a "very, very exceptional case". A bench presided by Chief Justice of India NV Ramana, which also included Justices Dinesh Kumar and Sanjay Karol, said the report has clearly stated that contin-

uation of the pregnancy against the will of the minor may impact negatively on the physical and mental well-being of a minor who is barely 14 years old. While the medical board said that "a certain degree of risk involved in every procedure for medical termination", it has "expressed that the threat to life of the patient if termination of pregnancy is carried out at this stage is not higher than the risk of delivery of a foetus in pregnancy," said the bench, also comprising Justice JB Pardiwala. The Medical Termination of

AMU gets its first woman V-C: Naima Khatoon



Naima Khatoon Gulrez

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, APRIL 22

NAIMA KHATOON Gulrez, the principal of Aligarh Muslim University's Women's College since 2014, has been appointed as the university's first woman Vice-Chancellor.

She is learnt to have taken charge as the new V-C Monday evening. The AMU Court had short-listed three candidates for the post and forwarded the names to President Droupadi Murmu for final selection last November. Professor Musaffar Urali Rabbani, former Dean, Faculty of Medicine, AMU, and Professor Faizan Mustafa, V-C, Chanakya National Law University, Patna, were the other frontrunners for the post.

Sources said Gulrez's appointment was cleared by the Election Commission (EC) with the condition that it would not be publicised and no political mileage would be drawn from it. The EC's 380-ahead was communicated to the Education Ministry on April 9.

A PhD in psychology from AMU, the new V-C was appointed as an lecturer in the same department in 1988, before being promoted to an associate professor. She continued there before joining as principal of the Women's College in 2014. She also taught at the



BJP's Mukesh Dalal receives the certificate of election after he won unopposed from Surat Lok Sabha seat, Monday.

Cong rejected, others withdraw, BJP wins Surat seat 'unopposed'

KAMAL SAIED & MANOJ CG SURAT, NEW DELHI, APRIL 22

A DAY after the nomination of the Congress candidate from Surat is rejected, the BJP's Mukesh Dalal was declared elected unopposed from the Lok Sabha seat, after the eight remaining nominees withdrew one by one. While four of them were independent, three belonged to little-known parties and one was a candidate of the BSP. Surat City BSP president Satish Sorawar alleged the hand of the BJP in the withdrawal of its nominee.

Pyarelal Bharti. Monday was the last date for withdrawal of nominations.

It is rare for candidates to win uncontested in Lok Sabha elections, with only 23 such known instances before this since independence (not counting by-polls) as per the Election Commission website. In the 10 won in the first two elections, 1951-1952 and 1957, when the pool of candidates was small, Dalal is the first ever BJP leader to win uncontested.

Before Dalal was declared the winner, the Congress, the BJP and BSP president Satish Sorawar alleged the hand of the BJP in the withdrawal of its nominee.

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

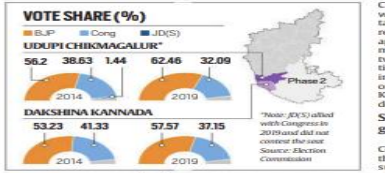
AKRAM UD-DIP, CHIKMAGALUR, MANGALURU, APRIL 22

BACK IN the 1990s, Kota Srinivas Poonyai was a regular speaker at the revivah Assembly near of Beahnavar in Karnataka's Udipi district. Three decades on, much has changed for the two. Poonyai is now the BJP's candidate from the Udipi-Chikmagalur Lok Sabha constituency, taking on Hegde for whom he once sought votes. Udipi-Chikmagalur falls

Cong banks on welfare to erode coastal Karnataka's saffron challenge

party in coastal Karnataka, often dubbed, the "laboratory of Hindutva", and party in Malnad. In other constituencies in the coastal Karnataka region, such as Dakshina Kannada, the Hindu right wing has Udipi-Chikmagalur that was at the centre of the hibah row, a couple of years ago. The Congress, facing an uphill battle, is now banking on the Saffron's welfare to erode coastal Karnataka's saffron challenge to break it down in the Lok Sabha elections. The Congress held Udipi-

Vote share (%)





Chikmagalur briefly after Hegde won it in 2012 bypoll negotiated by V Sankaranda Gowda's resignation as MP following his appointment as Karnataka chief minister in August 2012, two years later in the 2014 election the party fell again in 2019. It is an even bigger story of BJP dominance in Dakshina Kannada, which was formed after delimitation in 2008.

Support for Congress in Chikmagalur, some Congress workers conceded that the right was for Hegde. "The support for the BJP is diminishing," said a Congress worker. "The Congress is mostly relying on its position with the help of the former state minister's support base in Udipi district. People still remember Udipi was carved out of Dakshina Kannada, and its ing tenure as minister. The programme was to build better roads between Udipi and Chikmagalur and the extension of rail connectivity in the region." The Congress is mostly relying on its position with the help of the former state minister's support base in Udipi district. People still remember Udipi was carved out of Dakshina Kannada, and its ing tenure as minister. The programme was to build better roads between Udipi and Chikmagalur and the extension of rail connectivity in the region.

Support for Congress

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Former names	Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental College (1875–1919)
Motto	<i>'allam al-insān-a mā lam ya'lam</i>
Motto in English	Taught man what he knew not (Qur'an 96:5)
Type	Public
Established	1875; 149 years ago
Founders	Sir Syed Ahmed Khan
Academic affiliations	UGC , NAAC , AIU
Budget	₹1,036 crore (US\$130 million) (2019–20) ^[1]
Chancellor	Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin
Vice-Chancellor	Prof. Naima Khatoon
Rector	Governor of Uttar Pradesh
Students	39,367
Undergraduates	12,610 ^[2]
Postgraduates	5,756 ^[2]
Doctoral students	252 ^[2]
Location	Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh, India  27.9150°N 78.0788°E
Campus	Urban, 1,155 acres (467 ha)
Colours	

AMU gets its first woman V-C: Naima Khatoon



Naima Khatoon Gulrez

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 22

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India ranks 4th in global military spending

AGENCIES

Stockholm, April 22

INDIA WAS THE fourth largest military spender globally in 2023, a leading conflict think-tank said on Monday. At \$83.6 billion, the country's military expenditure was 4.2% higher than in 2022. At \$83.6 billion, the country's military expenditure was 4.2% higher than in 2022.

Meanwhile, global military expenditure grew 7% to \$2.43 trillion in 2023, the steepest annual rise since 2009 as international peace and security deteriorated.

As per the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) report, the 10 largest spenders in 2023, led by the United States, China and Russia, all increased their military spending.

Nan Tian, senior researcher at SIPRI's Military Expenditure and Arms Production

The top 15 spenders account for over 80% of world military expenditure in 2023



Programme, said: "States are prioritising military strength but they risk an action-reaction spiral in the increasingly volatile geopolitical and security landscape."

SIPRI said Russia raised spending by 24% to an estimated \$109 billion. Ukraine

increased spending by 51% to \$65 billion and received at least \$35 billion in military aid from other countries.

"Combined, this aid and Ukraine's military spending were equivalent to about 91% of Russian spending," the think-tank said.

It said NATO member countries' spending totalled 55% of the world's expenditure.

"For European NATO states, the past two years of war in Ukraine have fundamentally changed the security outlook," SIPRI researcher Lorenzo Scarazzato said.

"This shift in threat perceptions is reflected in growing shares of GDP being directed towards military spending, with the NATO tar-

get of 2% increasingly being seen as a baseline rather than a threshold to reach."

NATO member states are expected to set aside at least 2% of gross domestic product for defence expenditure by the alliance.

SIPRI said most European NATO members had boosted such spending. The U.S. raised it by 2% to \$916 billion, representing around two-thirds of total NATO military spending.

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NOTICE

Transfer of Equity Shares of the Company to Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF)

Shareholders of the Company are hereby informed that pursuant to the provisions of Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (Accounting, Audit, Transfer and Refund) Rules, 2016 ("the Rules"), as amended, the Dividends declared for the financial year 2016-2017, which remained unclaimed for a period of seven years are due to be credited to IEPF on October 26, 2024. The corresponding shares on which dividend was unclaimed for seven consecutive years will also be transferred as per the procedure set out in the Rules.

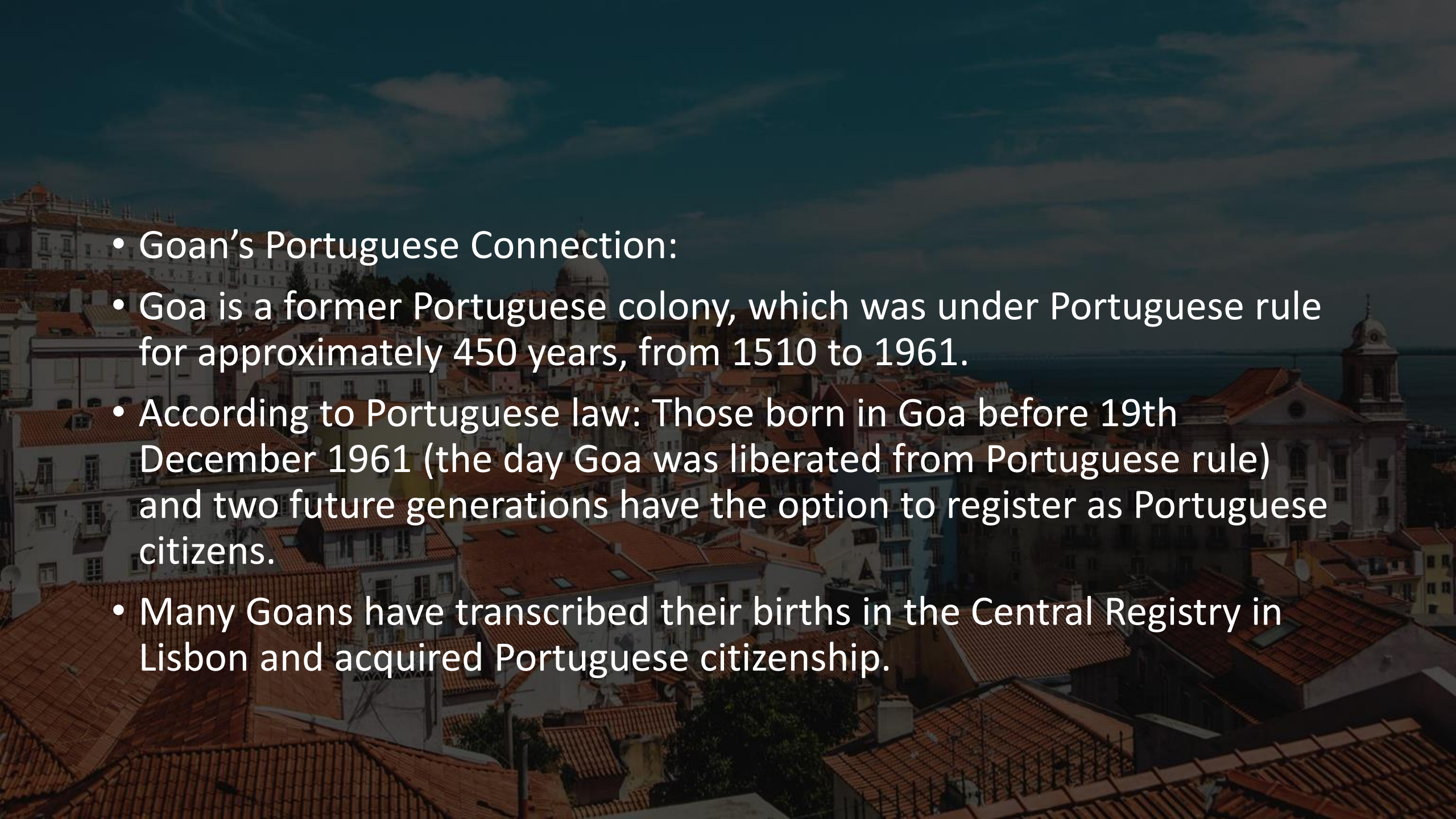
In compliance with the Rules, the Company has sent individual notices to all the concerned shareholders whose equity share(s) are liable to be transferred to the


Passport Revocations of Goans

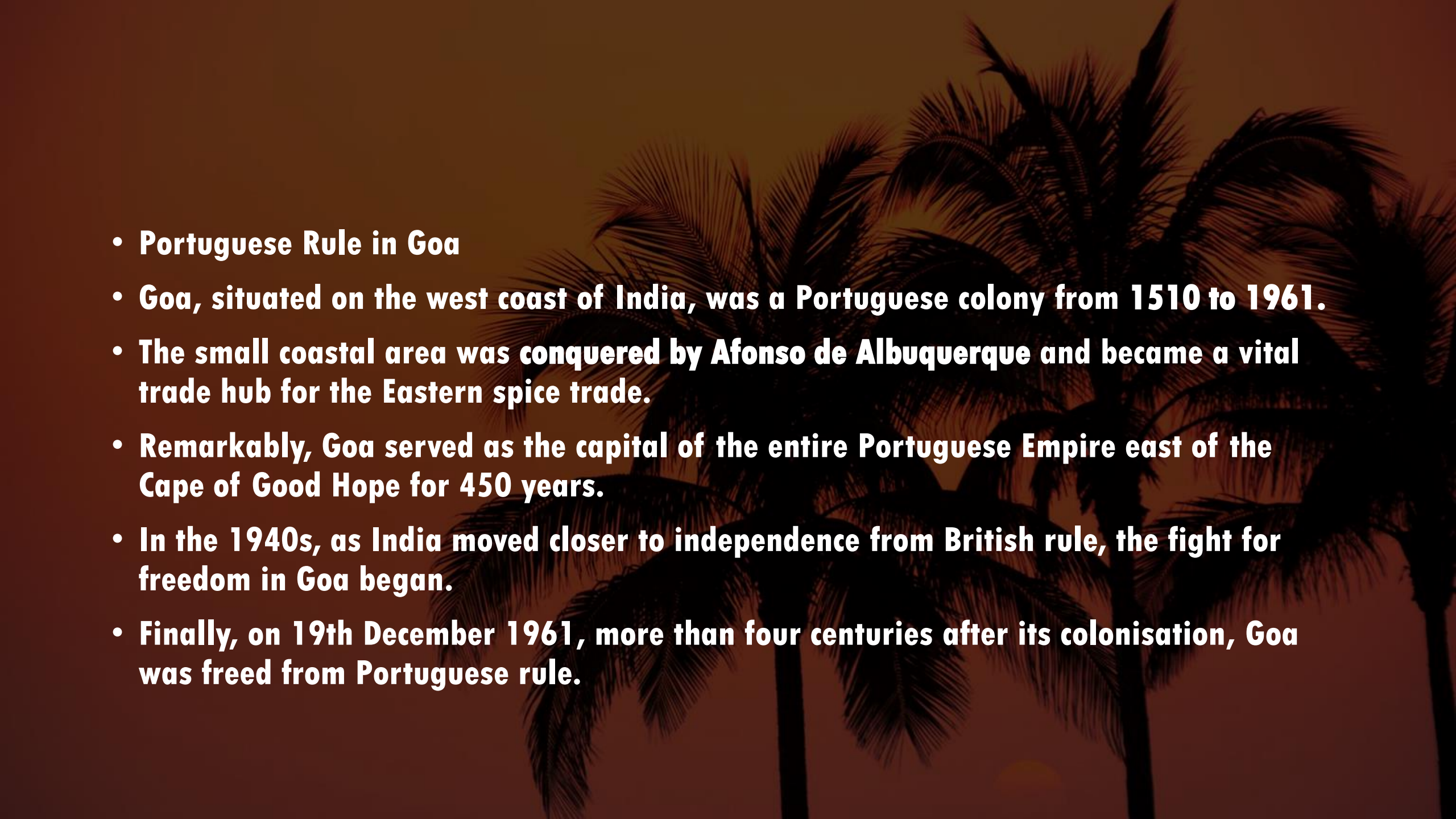


Recently, a memorandum issued by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has led to the revocation of passports of more than 100 people from Goa in the past few months.

These people, who may not have known about the memorandum, are accused of hiding important information when they tried to surrender their passports after becoming citizens of Portugal.

- 
- An aerial photograph of a historic town, likely in Goa, India, showing a dense cluster of buildings with red-tiled roofs. A prominent church with a tall spire is visible on the right side. The sky is a deep blue with some light clouds. The text is overlaid on the image in white.
- Goan's Portuguese Connection:
 - Goa is a former Portuguese colony, which was under Portuguese rule for approximately 450 years, from 1510 to 1961.
 - According to Portuguese law: Those born in Goa before 19th December 1961 (the day Goa was liberated from Portuguese rule) and two future generations have the option to register as Portuguese citizens.
 - Many Goans have transcribed their births in the Central Registry in Lisbon and acquired Portuguese citizenship.

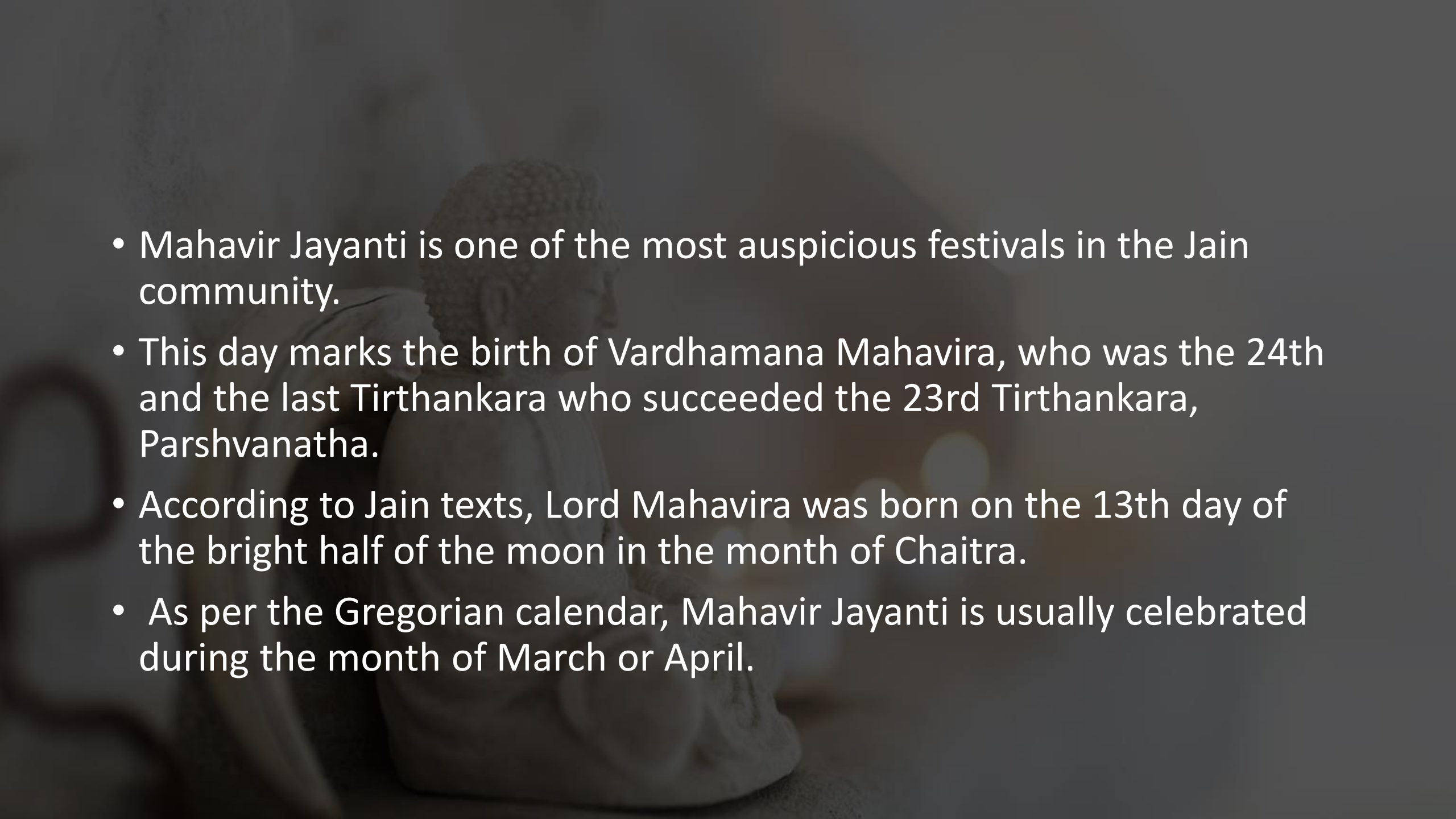
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- A Portuguese passport provides visa-free entry to several countries, including the UK and the European Union.
 - The allure of overseas employment and educational opportunities has driven Goans to seek Portuguese citizenship.

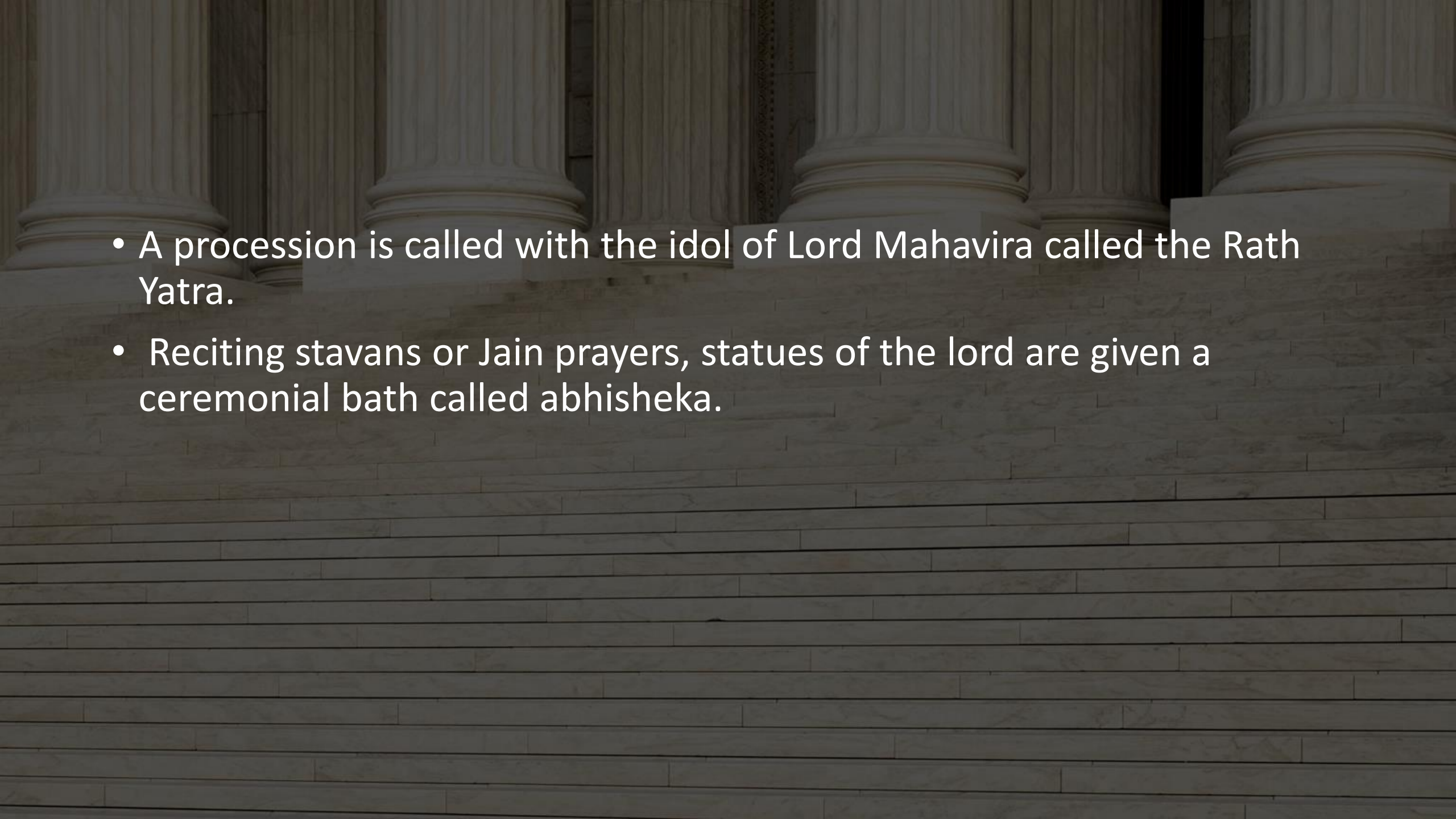
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- **Portuguese Rule in Goa**
 - **Goa, situated on the west coast of India, was a Portuguese colony from 1510 to 1961.**
 - **The small coastal area was conquered by Afonso de Albuquerque and became a vital trade hub for the Eastern spice trade.**
 - **Remarkably, Goa served as the capital of the entire Portuguese Empire east of the Cape of Good Hope for 450 years.**
 - **In the 1940s, as India moved closer to independence from British rule, the fight for freedom in Goa began.**
 - **Finally, on 19th December 1961, more than four centuries after its colonisation, Goa was freed from Portuguese rule.**



Mahavir Jayanti

- Recently, the Prime Minister of India inaugurated the 2550th Bhagwan Mahaveer Nirvan Mahotsav, on the auspicious occasion of Mahaveer Jayanti.
- Jains celebrate five Kalyanak's (major events) of every Tirthankar including Mahavir Swami Ji: Chyavana/Garbha (Conception) Kalyanak; Janma (Birth) Kalyanak; Diksha (Renunciation) Kalyanak; Kevaljnana (Omniscience) Kalyanak and Nirvana (Liberation/Ultimate Salvation) Kalyanak.
- Prime Minister has also released a commemorative stamp and coin on the occasion.

- 
- Mahavir Jayanti is one of the most auspicious festivals in the Jain community.
 - This day marks the birth of Vardhamana Mahavira, who was the 24th and the last Tirthankara who succeeded the 23rd Tirthankara, Parshvanatha.
 - According to Jain texts, Lord Mahavira was born on the 13th day of the bright half of the moon in the month of Chaitra.
 - As per the Gregorian calendar, Mahavir Jayanti is usually celebrated during the month of March or April.

- 
- A procession is called with the idol of Lord Mahavira called the Rath Yatra.
 - Reciting stavans or Jain prayers, statues of the lord are given a ceremonial bath called abhisheka.

VARDHAMAN MAHAVIRA

The 24th and last Tirthankara; succeeded the 23rd Tirthankara, Parshvanatha
(Mahavira was not the founder of Jainism)

BIRTH

- To King Siddhartha of Kundalgram and Queen Trishala, a Lichchhavi princess
- In 6th century BC, Vajji kingdom (modern day Vaishali, Bihar)
- Belonged to Ikshvaku dynasty

Mahavir Jayanti, one of the most auspicious festivals for Jains, marks the birth of Vardhamana Mahavira

SPIRITUAL LIFE

- Abandoned worldly life at age 30
- Attained '*kaivalya*' (omniscience) at age 42
- Delivered his first sermon at Pava (near Patna)

A symbol is associated with every Tirthankara, Mahavira's symbol was a lion

DEATH

- Believed to be passed away and attained Moksha at age 72 (5th century BC)
- Died at Pavapuri (near modern-day Rajgir, Bihar)

Moksha - liberation from the cycle of birth and death

TITLES

- Mahavira (great hero)
- Jaina/Jitendriya (who conquered all his senses)
- Nirgrantha (who is free from all bonds)

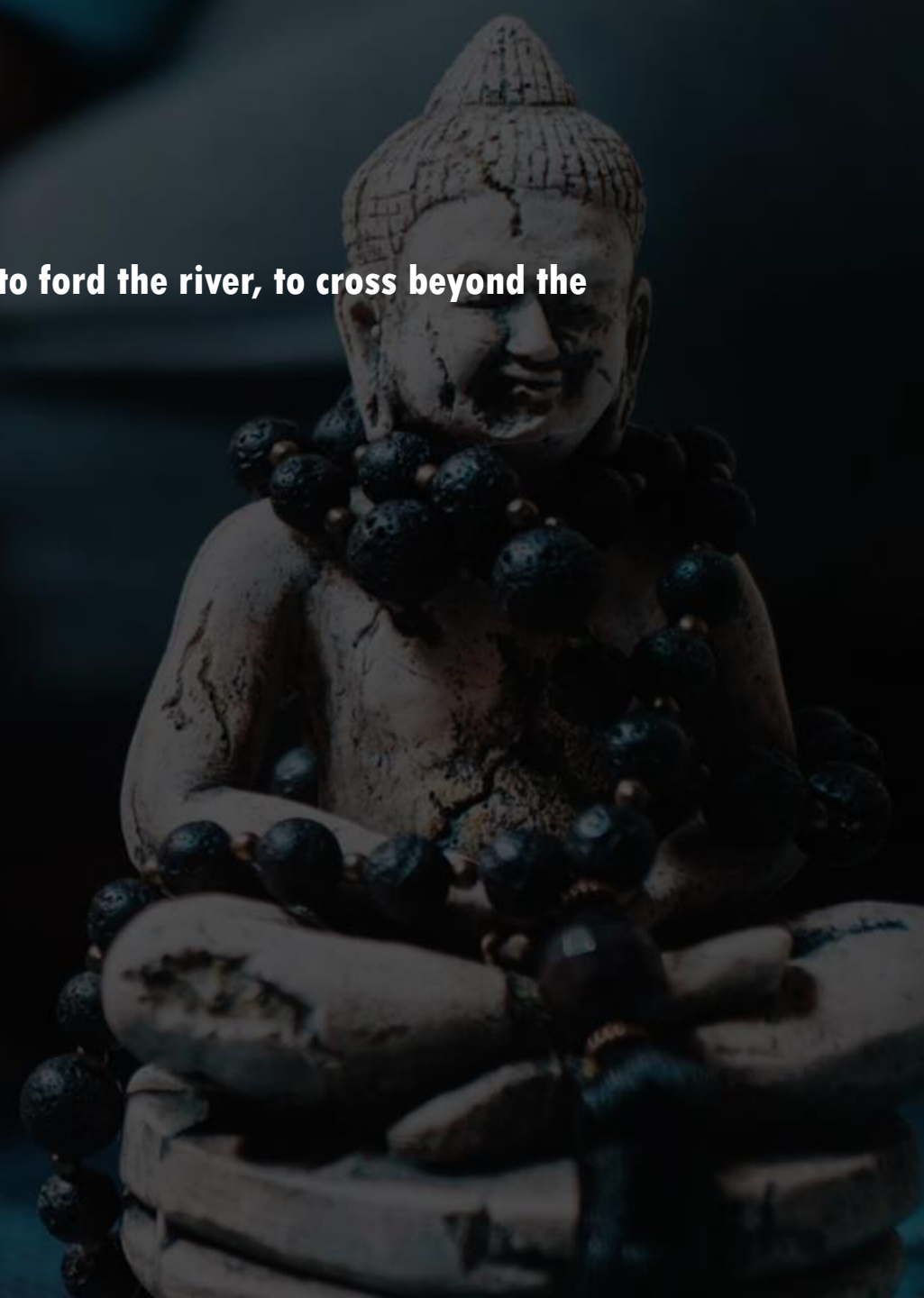
TEACHINGS (JAIN AGAMAS)

- Ahimsa (non-violence)
- Satya (truth)
- Asteya (non-stealing)
- Aparigraha (non-attachment)
- Brahmacharya (chastity) (propounded by Mahavira)

Mahavira and his disciples taught in Prakrit to teach ordinary people



- **What is Jainism?**
- **The word Jaina comes from the term Jina, meaning conqueror.**
- **Tirthankara is a Sanskrit word meaning 'Ford maker', i.e., one who is able to ford the river, to cross beyond the perpetual flow of earthly life.**
- **Jainism attaches utmost importance to ahimsa or non-violence.**
- **It preaches 5 mahavratas (the 5 great vows):**
 - **Ahimsa (Non-violence)**
 - **Satya (Truth)**
 - **Asteya or Acharya (Non-stealing)**
 - **Aparigraha (Non-attachment/Non-possession)**
 - **Brahmacharya (Celibacy/Chastity)**



Among these 5 teachings, the **Brahmacharya (Celibacy/Chastity)** was added by Mahavira.

The **three jewels** or Triratna of Jainism include:

- Samyak Darshana (right faith).
- Samyak Gyana (right knowledge).
- Samyak Charitra (right conduct).

In later times, Jainism got divided into **two sects**:

- **Shvetambaras** (white-clad) under Sthalabahu.
- **Digambaras** (sky-clad) under the leadership of Bhadrabahu.

The important idea in Jainism is that the **entire world is animated: even stones, rocks, and water have life.**

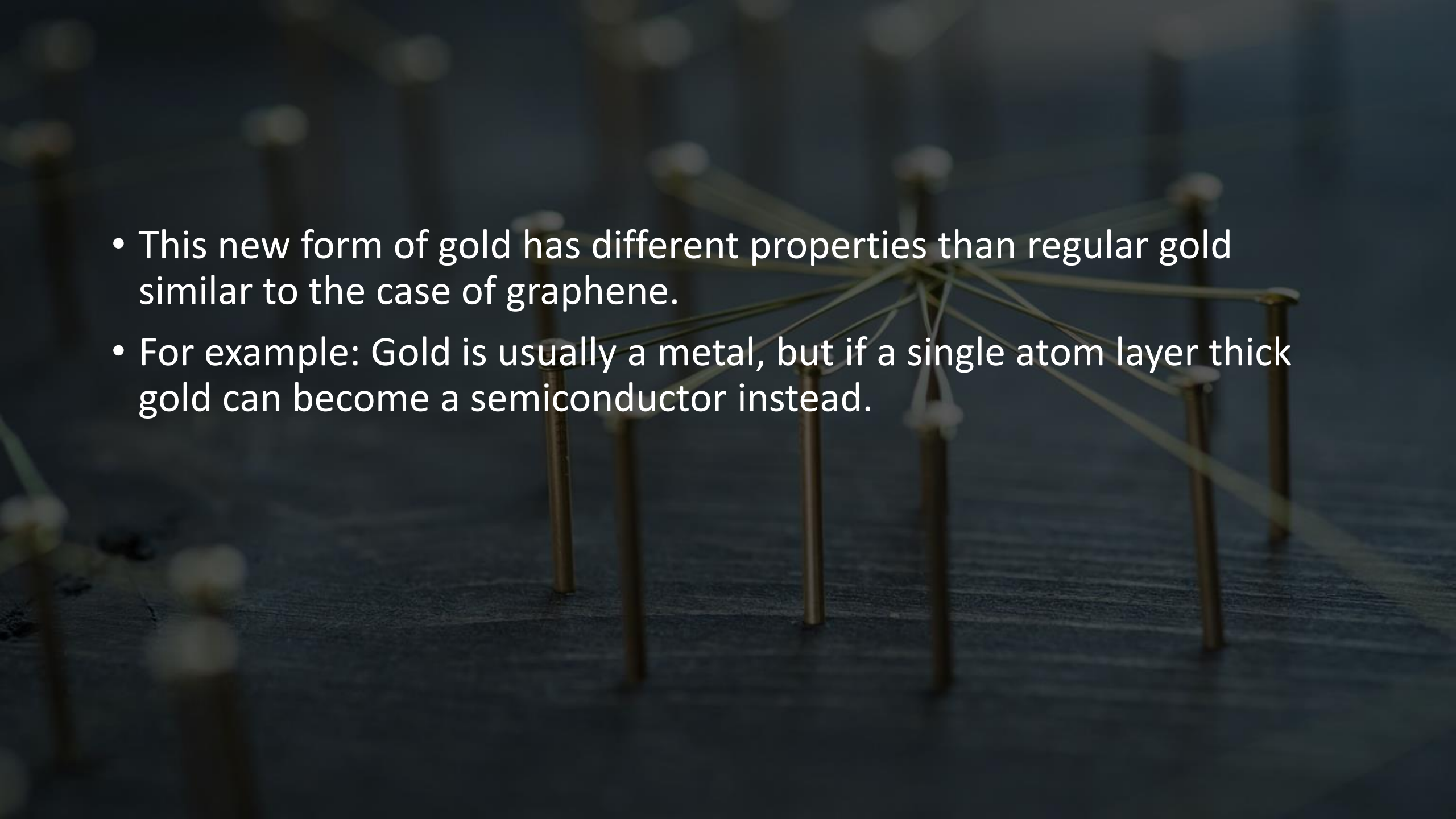
Non-injury to living beings, especially to humans, animals, plants, and insects, is central to Jaina's philosophy.



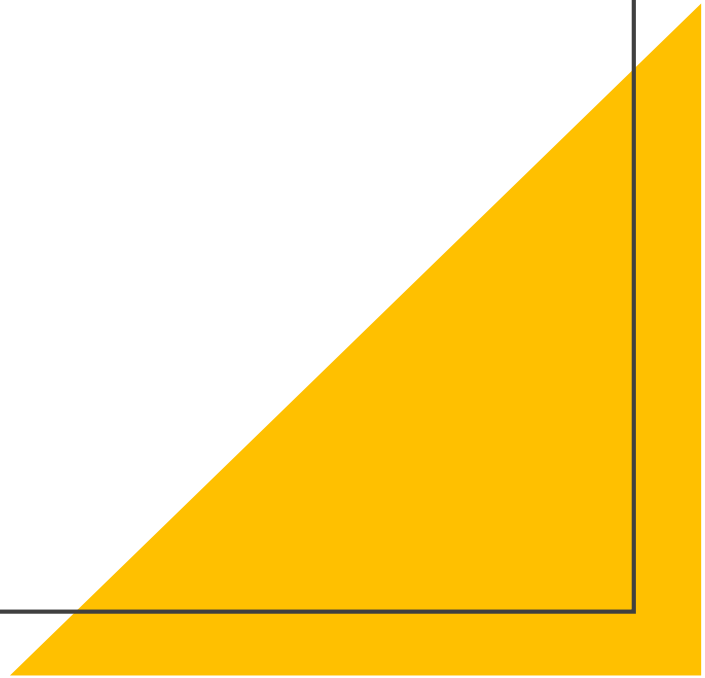
Goldene

Recently, researchers in Sweden have created 'Goldene' – a single-atom layer of gold that can be used in a variety of applications like hydrogen production, and water purification, production of value-added chemicals, communication, and much more.

They used a modified version of Murakami's reagent, inspired by an ancient Japanese smithing (forging art) technique, to selectively remove carbon in darkness and prevent cyanide formation, which dissolves gold.

- 
- This new form of gold has different properties than regular gold similar to the case of graphene.
 - For example: Gold is usually a metal, but if a single atom layer thick gold can become a semiconductor instead.

DURGA-2 (Directionally Unrestricted Ray Gun Array)



- DRDO is conducting tests on a prototype of its DURGA-2 laser defense system.
- **About**
- It damages or destroys its target using focused energy by means of lasers, microwaves or particle beams.
- Russia, France, Germany, the United Kingdom, Israel, and China already have this system.
- Their beams are not affected by the constraining effects of gravity or atmospheric drag.
-

- **Advantages**

- Directed energy weapons, also called **laser weapons**, if developed and deployed operationally, can neutralise any drone or ballistic missile attacks from the skies or even at the originating location as it can travel at the speed of the light. It can deflect the path of the missiles and can even destroy a fighter aircraft.
- The present generation of anti-aircraft or anti-missile systems are not considered fool-proof but the laser weapon promises to have 100 percent kill probability.

Euvichol-S

The image features a solid teal background. In the center, the text "Euvichol-S" is written in a clean, white, sans-serif font. Surrounding the text is a collection of overlapping, irregular, colorful shapes in shades of purple, magenta, orange, and yellow, creating a dynamic and abstract composition.

-
- Recently, the World Health Organisation (WHO) prequalified a new oral simplified vaccine for **cholera**.
 - **About the Euvichol-S**
 - Euvichol-S is a **simplified formulation** of the WHO prequalified inactivated **oral cholera vaccine, Euvichol-Plus**.
 - **Cholera, a deadly diarrheal disease, caused by the bacterium *Vibrio cholerae*, has been surging globally since 2021, with high case fatality rates** despite the availability of simple, effective, and affordable treatment.

Llama 3

Meta introduced its most capable Large Language Model (LLM), the Meta Llama 3.

About

It also introduced an image generator, which updates pictures in real-time even as the user types out the prompt.

What is Llama 3?

Llama or **Large Language Model Meta AI** is a family of LLMs introduced by Meta AI in 2023.

Llama 3, the latest iteration of its LLM and has been released in two sizes, **8B** and **70B** parameters.

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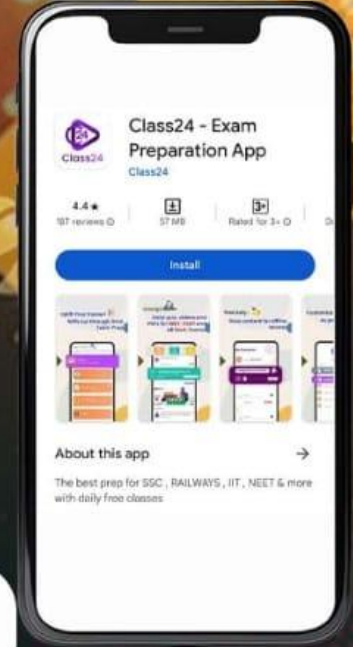
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A group of people are clapping in a dimly lit room. The focus is on the hands and forearms of several individuals, with some wearing watches. The background is blurred, showing more people and a window. An orange horizontal bar is located in the top left corner.

Thank you
guys.
