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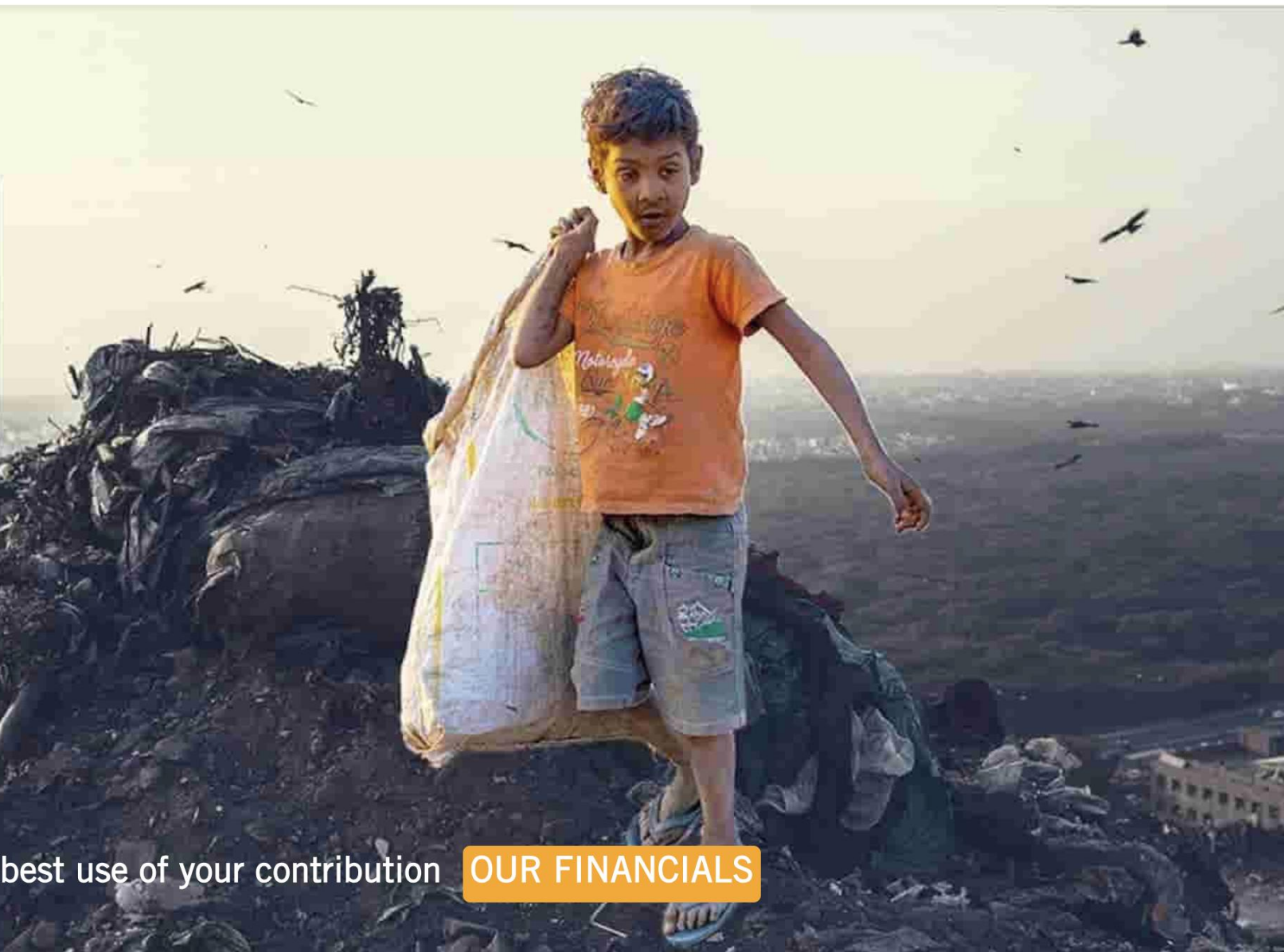




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A quote by Stephen King is overlaid on a photograph of a beach at sunset. The quote is displayed in white text on a dark, semi-transparent rectangular background. The background image shows a sandy beach with a surfboard lying on it. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm, golden glow over the scene. The ocean waves are visible in the distance, and a dark cliffside is on the left. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

Get busy living or  
get busy dying.

Stephen King

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**Defence production at peak in FY24**  
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**INSIDE**

**Amid apathy, Iran holds run-off Presidential poll**  
DUBAI  
Iranians voted on Friday in a run-off Presidential election between a conservative former nuclear negotiator and a reformist lawmaker, with both men trying to convince a sceptical public to cast ballots. > PAGE 12

**Congress slams govt. over mobile phone tariff hikes**  
NEW DELHI  
The Congress on Friday questioned how three leading mobile service providers, Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea were allowed to hike their tariffs unilaterally, without any regulation and oversight. > PAGE 4

**About ₹99 lakh paid to Agniveer Kumar's family**  
NEW DELHI  
About ₹99 lakh has been given to the family of Agniveer Ajay Kumar in three tranches beginning February 13, Army sources in the know said. The remaining amount of about ₹65 lakh will be paid soon, they said. > PAGE 5

**Need adequate rest, loco pilots rest Rahul Gandhi**  
NEW DELHI  
Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Friday met a group of loco pilots of Indian Railways who complained of "inadequate rest due to under staffing". Party sources said Mr. Gandhi met around 50 loco pilots from all over India. > PAGE 4

**Starmmer new U.K. PM as Labour Party wins polls**

It secures 412 seats; Conservative Party is down to 121 seats in the 650-seat House of Commons | Rishi Sunak retains Richmond seat; far-right party Reform UK wins vote share of 14 per cent | Following victory, the country's 58th PM spoke of change, which is the party's central theme

Seiram Lakshman LONDON

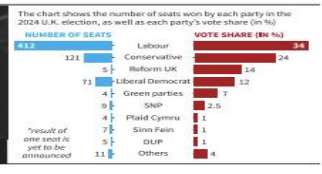
**THE** U.K.'s Labour Party, led by Keir Starmer, won the July 4 general election by a landslide, securing 412 (211) seats with Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's Conservative Party down to 121 (250) seats in the 650-seat House of Commons. Nevertheless, the vote shares told a story of a more modest victory for Labour, while confirming the Conservative defeat, with Labour getting 35% and the Conservatives 24%. Labour had consistently polled 20 points ahead of the Conservatives in opinion polls. "In many ways, this looks more like an election the Conservatives have lost than one Labour has won," political scientist and psephologist John Curtice wrote on the BBC's website.

**Advantage Starmer**

Keir Starmer's Labour Party bore the fruit of the U.K.'s disenchantment with the ruling Tories, who suffered a 20-point drop in vote share to get only 121 seats.

New dawn! New British Prime Minister Keir Starmer and wife Victoria arrive at 10 Downing Street on Friday. REUTERS

The Liberal Democrats gained 63 seats, taking their tally to 71 seats. The Eurosceptic, anti-immigrant Reform UK party won five seats but a vote share of 14%, eating into the Conservative vote. Following Labour's victory, King Charles III, the country's monarch, appointed Mr. Starmer the U.K.'s Prime Minister, the country's 58th. Standing



day, shining once again on the country with the opportunity — after 14 years — to get its future back," he said. "Our work is urgent and we begin it today," Mr. Starmer said, as he vowed to work for all Britons.

**Sunak concedes defeat** in Yorkshire, the outgoing Prime Minister, Mr. Sunak, who managed to retain his Richmond seat, conceded

and took responsibility for the results. Mr. Sunak's political future has been in doubt as some polls projected that he would lose his own seat. "The Labour Party has won this general election and I've called Sir Keir Starmer to congratulate him on his victory," Mr. Sunak said, adding that power would change hands "in a peaceful and orderly manner". Later, as he left No.10 Downing Street for the last time, Mr. Sunak apologised to his supporters and said he would step down from the post of party leader. Mr. Sunak, a 44-year-old father of two girls, asked the public to support Mr. Starmer and his family as they transition into No.10. He also made a reference to his being the first non-white British Prime Minister.

"One of the most remarkable things about Britain is just how unremarkable it is," he said. "That two generations after my grandparents came here with little, I could become prime minister, and that I could watch my two young daughters light Diwali (Diwali) candles on the steps in Downing Street," he said.

Mr. Sunak and his wife, Anitha Murthy, were then driven to Buckingham Palace, to cheer and boost

from onlookers. Mr. Sunak offered his resignation to King Charles.

With Mr. Sunak's departure, the question of party leadership remains open. Former Leader of the House of Commons and a possible candidate for the leadership of the party, Penny Mordaunt, lost her Portsmouth North seat to Labour by a wafer-thin margin of 780 votes, ruling out her leadership run. Another possible contender, Jacob Rees-Mogg, also lost his seat as did several other high-profile Conservatives, including former Defence Secretary Grant Shapps, who lost his Hertfordshire seat. The education secretary, culture secretary and justice secretary also lost their seats.

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**Flow of life**



Jeemay Begina, a healthcare worker holds a baby girl born on a boat over the Brahmaputra river in flood-ravaged Assam. A medical team was taking a pregnant woman to a health centre in Morigaon district when she went into labour. AP (REPORT ON PAGE 5)

**A.P. in crisis, needs more than special category status: CM**

Sobhana K. Nair Nistala Hebbar NEW DELHI

In the national capital for the first time since becoming Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister for the fourth time, Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leader N. Chandrababu Naidu said the State's economy has gone beyond the stage of even a special category status. "We need to rebuild and reconstruct every institution in the State. It is far beyond just demanding a special category status," he told *The Hindu*.

His remarks assume significance since the NDA government has already ruled out special category status to any State. Mr. Naidu's stance rules out any immediate possibility of a conflict between the BJP and the TDP.

**Tough start**  
Comparing his earlier tenures in power, Mr. Naidu said this time he is starting his tenure "not from scratch but far below that". "When I first came to power (1995), there was a lot of euphoria among our party cadres. We had our work cut out. In the second tenure (1999), we were to go forward from where we had left. My third tenure (2014) was tough because the State had suffered a settlement campaign. This tenure, by far, is the most difficult. We are starting from scratch, but far below that," he said.

He accused his predecessor, YSR Congress leader Jagan Mohan Reddy, of leaving the State in a sorry economic position. Mr. Naidu clarified that his party on Tuesday evening for the second leg of his visit, to Vienna.

**Scrapping NEET-UG not a good idea: Centre to SC**

Krishnadas Rajagopal NEW DELHI

The Centre in the Supreme Court on Friday said it is irrational to scrap the undergraduate National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET-UG) 2024 in its entirety.

The government further indicated that cancelling a part-India exam would not be advisable in the "absence of any proof of any large-scale breach of confidentiality".

The government said a drastic move like a re-examination would jeopardise the future of lakhs of honest students. The National Testing Agency (NTA), which conducts NEET, in a separate affidavit, said the alleged irregularities were localised at Patna and Gujarat, respectively.

The exam agency was also against cancelling the test for all.

In its affidavit before the top court, the Union government argued that honest candidates should not suffer for the crimes of others. It said the competing interests of honest and successful NEET-UG 2024 candidates should be taken into consideration while addressing petitions seeking re-examination. The focus should be to segregate the wrongdoers from the innocent ones rather than call for the cancellation of the exam.

A three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud is scheduled on July 8 to hear over 25 separate petitions concerning various aspects, irregularities and seeking myriad reliefs, including fresh conduct of NEET-UG 2024.

**Modi's visit to Russia purely bilateral, conflict in Ukraine on the agenda: Foreign Secretary**

Subanshi Haider NEW DELHI

The timing of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Russia is "purely bilateral", said Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra, dismissing suggestions that his talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin on July 9 would appear in contrast to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) summit scheduled in the U.S. on the same day. The summit is expected to focus on the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Briefing the media about the upcoming visit on July 8 and 9, he said that when the two meet for the



Packed agenda! Vladimir Putin and Narendra Modi are scheduled to meet for a number of events during the July 8-9 visit. (IIS PHOTO)

on nuclear power reactors in India high on the agenda. U.S. President Joseph Biden is hosting the transatlantic group of NATO for a special 75th anniversary summit, which will also have Asia-Pacific leaders and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy as guests from July 8-10. "With regard to the scheduling of Prime Minister [Modi's] visit to Russia... we look at our relationship with Russia purely through a bilateral framework of reference. The annual summit has not been held since 2021 and it has been scheduled now. I would not read any other significance into the meeting except that we attach great importance to it," Mr. Kwatra said, downplaying any comparison to the parallel summit in the U.S. He said India's position on the Russia-Ukraine conflict is consistently in favour of dialogue and diplomacy and a settlement that includes the two parties. Mr. Modi and Mr. Putin are expected to meet for a number of events during the two-day visit. Mr. Modi will land in Moscow on Monday afternoon, and Mr. Putin will host him for dinner that evening. PM will leave on Tuesday evening for the second leg of his visit, to Vienna.

# Starmmer new U.K. PM as Labour Party wins polls

It secures 412 seats; Conservative Party is down to 121 seats in the 650-seat House of Commons

Rishi Sunak retains Richmond seat; far-right party Reform UK wins vote share of 14 per cent

Following victory, the country's 58th PM spoke of change, which is the party's central theme

**Sriram Lakshman**  
LONDON

The U.K.'s Labour Party, led by Keir Starmer, won the July 4 general election by a landslide, securing 412 (+211) seats with Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's Conservative Party down to 121 (-250) seats in the 650-seat House of Commons.

Nevertheless, the vote shares told a story of a more modest victory for Labour, while confirming the Conservative defeat, with Labour getting 35% and the Conservatives 24%. Labour had consistently polled 20 points ahead of the Conservatives in opinion polls.

"In many ways, this looks more like an election the Conservatives have lost than one Labour has won," political scientist and psephologist John Curtice wrote on the BBC's website.



**New dawn:** New British Prime Minister Keir Starmer and wife Victoria arrive at 10 Downing Street on Friday. REUTERS

## Advantage Starmer

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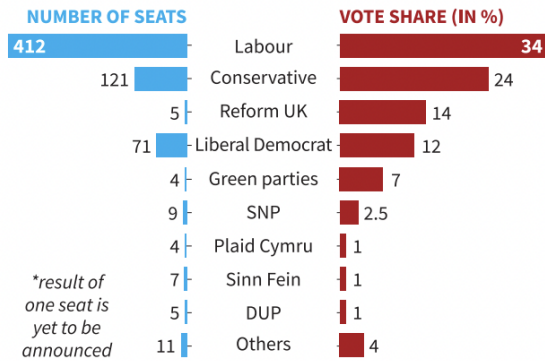
The Liberal Democrats gained 63 seats, taking their tally to 71 seats. The Eurosceptic, anti-immigrant Reform UK party won five seats but a vote share of 14%, eating into the Conservative vote.

Following Labour's victory, King Charles III, the country's monarch, appointed Mr. Starmer the U.K.'s Prime Minister, the country's 58th. Standing

outside London's iconic Tate Modern in the early hours of Friday morning, the 61-year-old Mr. Starmer spoke of change, Labour's central theme, reflecting "a changed Labour Party" and a change to 14 years of Tory government.

"And now we can look forward, walk into the morning, the sunlight of hope, pale at first, but getting stronger through the

The chart shows the number of seats won by each party in the 2024 U.K. election, as well as each party's vote share (in %)



day, shining once again on a country with the opportunity – after 14 years – to get its future back," he said. "Our work is urgent and we begin it today," Mr. Starmer said, as he vowed to work for all Britons.

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and took responsibility for the results. Mr. Sunak's political future has been in doubt as some polls projected that he would lose his own seat.

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manner". Later, as he left No.10 Downing Street for the last time, Mr. Sunak apologised to his supporters and said he would step down from the post of party Leader. Mr. Sunak, a 44-year-old father of two girls, asked the public to support Mr. Starmer and his family as they transition into No.10. He also made a reference to his being the first non-White British Prime Minister.

"One of the most remarkable things about Britain is just how unremarkable it is," he said. "That two generations after my grandparents came here with little, I could become prime minister, and that I could watch my two young daughters light Divali [Deepavali] candles on the steps in Downing Street," he said.

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from onlookers. Mr. Sunak offered his resignation to King Charles.

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**LABOURED CHANGE**  
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# UK gets its first-ever female FM

**BLOOMBERG**

July 5

**THE UK'S FIRST** female Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rachel Reeves, had an early taste for breaking glass ceilings.

Growing up in south London in Margaret Thatcher's Britain of the 1980s, the state-educated girl who would rise to become the nation's finance minister took pride in beating all-comers — mostly boys who went to fee-paying schools — in local chess tournaments. "There was a lot of snobbery," she recalled years later.

It's that drive that has taken Reeves, 45, from a comprehensive school in Beckenham to 11 Downing Street as the first woman to take charge of Britain's finances following the Labour Party's landslide win in Thursday's general election.

She inherits from the outgoing Conservatives an economy with sluggish growth, debt at near 100%



Rachel Reeves inherits from the outgoing Conservatives an economy with sluggish growth. Reeves and Starmer spent the past three years trying to reassure businesses and the markets

of gross domestic product and the highest tax burden in 70 years.

"I am under no illusions about the scale of the challenge that I will inherit," Reeves told the BBC in an interview shortly after the election campaign began. "We have to make

difficult decisions."

The new occupant of No. 11 knows that some of her calls won't be popular, especially with the Labour left. After years of Tory austerity policies, some more activist members want to see her loosen the Treasury purse strings and pour cash into Britain's buckling public services.


Instead, Reeves and Labour leader Keir Starmer have spent the past three years trying to reassure businesses and the financial markets that the party has moved on since the left-wing leadership of Jeremy Corbyn, and won't revert to the tax-and-spend policies traditionally associated with the party.

The duo has ruled out increases in income tax, national insurance, value added tax and corporation tax — the Treasury's four main revenue raisers. They've said none of their plans require any other taxes to rise, and have promised to adhere to fiscal rules.



- **Labour Party's Victory**

## **1. Election Results**

1. Labour Party, led by Keir Starmer, won the July 4 general election.
  2. Secured 412 seats, a gain of 211 seats.
  3. Conservative Party, led by Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, won 121 seats, a loss of 250 seats.
- 

# 1. Vote Share

1. Labour: 35%
2. Conservative: 24%
3. Reform UK: 14%
4. Liberal Democrats: 12%
5. Green Party: 7%
6. Other smaller parties: Remaining percentages.

# Leadership Transition

## Keir Starmer as New Prime Minister

- Keir Starmer becomes the U.K.'s 58th Prime Minister.
- Emphasized a theme of change and a "changed Labour Party."
- Committed to working for all Britons.

## Rishi Sunak's Resignation

- Rishi Sunak conceded defeat and offered his resignation to King Charles III.
- Managed to retain his Richmond seat.

## Remarks on Change and Stability

- Starmer highlighted the opportunity for Britain to regain its future after 14 years.
- Called for public support as his family transitions to No. 10 Downing Street.

# Political Reactions

## Conservative Party's Reflection

- Sunak reflected on the remarkable journey of becoming the first non-White British Prime Minister.
- Acknowledged the challenges and responsibilities of leadership.

- **Potential Leadership Contenders**

- Penny Mordaunt and Jacob Rees-Mogg mentioned as possible contenders for Conservative leadership.
- Other high-profile Conservatives, including Grant Shapps, lost their seats.

## Implications

## Labour's Agenda

- Labour's victory seen as a mandate for change.
- Focus on addressing the urgent needs of the country.

## Conservative Party's Future

- Facing internal challenges and the need for leadership restructuring.



**Who won the majority of seats in the U.K. general election held on July 4, and what was the resulting number of seats secured?**

- A) Conservative Party, 250 seats.
- B) Liberal Democrats, 63 seats.
- C) Labour Party, 412 seats.
- D) Reform UK, 121 seats.









# Wet another jolt to BRS as six of its Council members join Congress

### The defection has increased Congress party's strength in Telangana Legislative Council to 12; BRS MLCs number has been reduced to 21; most of these MLCs were originally from Congress but crossed over to the BRS when it was in power

**R. Ravikanth Reddy**  
HYDERABAD

In yet another setback to the Bharat Rashtra Samiti (BRS), six of its members in the Legislative Council joined the Congress late on Thursday in the presence of Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy.

The MLCs are Dande Vital, Bhanu Prasad, B. Dayanand, Prabhakar Rao, Egge Mallasham and Basavaraju Saraih.

From various segments Their joining would boost the Congress party's number in the Council to 12. It already has six MLCs in the Upper House. The BRS MLCs number has been reduced to 21 now.

Those who joined the Congress on Thursday come from various segments. Dande Vital is elected from Adilabad local body, Bhanu Prasad from Karimnagar local bo-



New inings: BRS MLCs with Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy after joining the Congress in Hyderabad on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

dy; Prabhakar Rao from Rangareddy local body; Egge Mallasham from MLAs' quota, Boggarapu Dayanand and Basavaraju Saraih from the Government's quota from the village, who has been elected to the British Parliament from Ashford, one of the constituencies in Kent.

Mr. Joseph's victory is historic as the Conservatives have been mostly dominant in Ashford since the seat was established 139 years ago. He has become a well-known figure within the Indian diaspora in Ashford and was elected Labour councillor for Aylesford and East Star Ward last year.

# Kerala-born Sojan Joseph wins British Parliament seat

**The Hindu Bureau**  
KOTTAYAM

As the Labour Party registers a landslide victory in the U.K. general elections, Onamthuruth — a quaint village nestled in the back-water landscape of Kottayam — has erupted in celebrations.

The highly coveted swine disease has been confirmed in the pigs at the farm in Velloththara.

Disinfection measures The Thrissur Collector has directed the district animal husbandry officer to cull the pigs and bury them, according to an official release here on Friday.

A team consisting of doctors, livestock inspectors, and attendants will carry out the culling operations, and further primary disinfection measures will then be taken. The area within one-km radius of the affected farm has been declared as a disease-free zone and the area within 10-km radius has been declared a disease surveillance area.

# Cabinet expansion, not floor test, may be Hemant Soren's real task in election year

**NEWS ANALYSIS**

**Amrit Bherai**  
RANCHI

On July 8, when Hemant Soren, who has become the Chief Minister of Jharkhand for the third time, takes a floor test, he will do so amid challenges thrown up by a changed political landscape in a State that is going to the polls later this year.

For the first time in the State, no MLA was sworn in as a Minister along with the Chief Minister. Sources in Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) said it was a well-planned strategy not to swear in any Minister before the floor test.

"Had the names of Ministers been announced before the floor test, Hemant Soren would have

from Congress but crossed over to the BRS when it was in power. Apart from these two more MLCs of the BRS have crossed with the Congress for some time and they include Kuchukalla Damodar Reddy and Patnam Mahender

# At ₹.27 lakh crore, defence production registered a new high in 2023-24, says Centre

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The country has recorded the highest-ever growth in indigenous defence production in value terms in the financial year (FY) 2023-24, the Defence Ministry said on Friday.

As per the data received from all Defence Public Sector undertakings (DPSUs), other PSUs manufacturing defence items, and private companies, the value of defence production in the country has gone up to a record-high figure of ₹1,26,887 crore, reflecting a growth of 16.7% over the defence production of the previous financial year, the Ministry said in a statement.

The value of defence production in FY 2022-23 was ₹1,08,684 crore.

"Of the total value of production [in FY] in 2023-24, about 79.2% has been contributed by DPSUs/other PSUs and 20.8% by the private sector. The data show that in terms of abso-

lute value, both DPSUs/other PSUs and private sector have recorded a steady growth in defence production," the statement said.

The feat has been achieved by the government reforms, initiatives and ease of doing business brought in by the government in the past 10 years through its reform and self-reliance, it stated.

New milestones "The Make in India programme is crossing new milestones year after year,

Mahato, has become Lok Sabha members. Bringing the total number of MLAs in the Assembly to 76. Mr. Soren requires 39 MLAs to win the floor test.

With 46 MLAs, the Chief Minister is expected to sail through. Lok Sabha members like Vibin Hembram and Chandra Linda may cause trouble, given that they are in the Opposition playing any tricks is negligible. The Opposition has 39 MLAs, including two Independent MLAs, Hembram and Yadao. During the floor test of the Champai Soren government, the former Lok Sabha member, Sita Soren, the eldest daughter-in-law of JMM supremo Shibu Soren, has been expelled from the party after she resigned and joined the BJP to contest the Lok Sabha election. Two BJP MLAs, Manish Jaiswal and Dhullu

coalition government had 46 MLAs — 30 of the JMM, 15 of the Congress and one of the Rashtriya Janata Dal. Later, one MLA each from the CPI-M and Nationalist Congress Party (A) Fawakhand (NCP) joined the coalition. Two MLAs of Jharkhand Vikas Morcha, Pradep Yadav and Bandrud Hickey, joined the Congress, taking the total number of MLAs to 50.

Gutha Sukhender Reddy too might join the Congress as he has been critical of the BRS party for quite some time. Mr. Reddy's son Armit Reddy joined the Congress before the Parliament election after he was denied ticket by the BRS. Mr. Sukhender Reddy was elected as MP from the Congress and joined the BRS. After completing his term he was elected as BRS MLC and made the Council Chairman.

Repercussions The latest round of defections come a day after BRS senior leader K. Govaha Rao quit the party and joined the Congress in the presence of A.P. Siddhulu. Mr. Rao subsequently met the Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdish Prasad and the Chief Minister. Mr. Rao sought the provision of a 90% grant in Central government scheme for drinking water supply, irrigation, horticultural

# 'Indo-Russian venture delivered 35,000 assault rifles to MoD'

**Dinakar Peri**  
NEW DELHI

Just ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Russia, the Indo-Russian venture Limited (IRRL), a joint venture between the two countries, has produced and transferred 35,000 Kalashnikov AK-203 assault rifles to the Indian Ministry of Defence, Russian state corporation of Russia announced on Friday.

"The IRRL joint venture, co-founded by Robonexport on the Russian side, has completed the first phase of the project to produce AK-203 Kalashnikov assault rifles in India. To increase the degree of localisation, all necessary equipment has been shipped to the Korwa Ordnance Factory in Amheri, Uttar Pradesh state, and production facilities are now fully equipped," said Alexander Mikheev, Director of Robonexport in a statement.

"This made it possible to produce and deliver a

batch of 35,000 Kalashnikov assault rifles to the Indian Army within the timeframe agreed with the Ministry of Defence of India."

Mr. Modi is scheduled to visit Russia on July 8 and 9 for the 22nd annual summit.

As reported by *The Hindu* in May, the initial talks for creation of a defence industry-related ecosystem in the Eastern region as per the A.P. Reorganisation Act. He requested Ms. Sitharaman to give early approval of funds for completion of the Polavaram irrigation project and assistance for the development of the

capital city of Amaravati. In his interaction with Mr. Rajnath Singh, Mr. Naidu sought Central support for creation of a defence industry-related ecosystem in the Eastern region as per the A.P. Reorganisation Act.

Besides, Mr. Naidu asked for industrial incentives for the backward regions as per the A.P. Reorganisation Act. He requested Ms. Sitharaman to give early approval of funds for completion of the Polavaram irrigation project and assistance for the development of the capital city of Amaravati. In his interaction with Mr. Rajnath Singh, Mr. Naidu sought Central support for creation of a defence industry-related ecosystem in the Eastern region as per the A.P. Reorganisation Act.

# Andhra Pradesh CM seeks Central support for snoring up State's finances

**The Hindu Bureau**  
VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu met Union Ministers Nirmala Sitharaman (Finance), Ramnath Singh (Defence) and J.P. Nadda (Parliament) in New Delhi on Friday.

He took multiple issues to the Ministers' notice and deliberated on a mechanism for effective coordination and timely intervention of the Union government in matters pending resolution.

Mr. Naidu requested Ms. Sitharaman to extend support to Andhra Pradesh in terms of Bill on Finance improved. He also sought additional borrowing space to enable the State to meet the accrued debt servicing obligations that followed bifurcation.

The Chief Minister sought the provision of a 90% grant in Central government scheme for drinking water supply, irrigation, horticultural



Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu with Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, in New Delhi on Friday. AP

and other projects being implemented in Rayalaseema and north coastal regions of the State.

Industrial incentives Besides, Mr. Naidu asked for industrial incentives for the backward regions as per the A.P. Reorganisation Act. He requested Ms. Sitharaman to give early approval of funds for completion of the Polavaram irrigation project and assistance for the development of the

# Trinamool MLAs sworn in by Speaker; Governor cries foul

**Shiv Sabay Singh**  
KOLKATA

Over a month after getting elected, two MLAs of the Trinamool Congress were on Friday administered the oath of office during a special session of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly by Speaker Biman Banerjee.

The development triggered a furore in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly with Governor C. V. Amanna Rose accusing the Speaker of gross impropriety.

"The oath ceremony is being sent to the Speaker by Speaker Biman Banerjee. The development triggered a furore in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly with Governor C. V. Amanna Rose accusing the Speaker of gross impropriety.

"The oath ceremony is being sent to the Speaker by Speaker Biman Banerjee. The development triggered a furore in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly with Governor C. V. Amanna Rose accusing the Speaker of gross impropriety.

# Trinamool MLAs sworn in by Speaker; Governor cries foul

**Sayanika Banerjee and Riyaz Hussain**  
DELHISHI BHARATI



Sayanika Banerjee and Riyaz Hussain would be sworn in on Thursday. The West Bengal Legislative Assembly was on Friday administered the oath of office during a special session of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly by Speaker Biman Banerjee.

These developments came at a time when the relationship between the Raj Bhawan and the West Bengal government has been strained with the Governor filing a defamation suit against Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

# At ₹1.27 lakh crore, defence production registered a new high in 2023-24, says Centre

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The country has recorded the highest-ever growth in indigenous defence production in value terms in the financial year (FY) 2023-24, the Defence Ministry said on Friday.

As per the data received from all Defence Public Sector undertakings (DPSUs), other PSUs manufacturing defence items, and private companies, the value of defence production in the country has gone up to a record-high figure of ₹1,26,887 crore, reflecting a growth of 16.7% over the defence production of the previous financial year, the Ministry said in a statement.

The value of defence production in FY 2022-23 was ₹1,08,684 crore.

“Of the total value of production [VoP] in 2023-24, about 79.2% has been contributed by DPSUs/other PSUs and 20.8% by the private sector. The data show that in terms of abso-



FY24's figure reflected a growth of 16.7% over the previous year's defence production.

lute value, both DPSUs/PSUs and private sector have recorded a steady growth in defence production,” the statement said.

The feat has been achieved due to the policy reforms, initiatives and ease of doing business brought in by the government in the past 10 years with a focus on attaining self-reliance, it stated.

## **New milestones**

“The Make in India programme is crossing new milestones, year after year,

under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Many congratulations to our industry including DPSUs, other PSUs manufacturing defence items and the private industry. The government is committed to creating more conducive regime for developing India as a leading global defence manufacturing hub,” Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on X.

In addition, the spiralling defence exports have contributed tremendously to the overall growth in indigenous defence production, the Ministry pointed out.

Defence exports touched a record-high of ₹21,083 crore in FY 2023-24, reflecting a growth of 32.5% over the last fiscal when the figure was ₹15,920 crore.

In the past five years (since 2019-20), the value of defence production has been increasing steadily, and has grown by over 60%, the statement added.

## Record Defence Production

## Highest Growth in Defence Production

- India recorded the highest-ever growth in indigenous defence production in FY 2023-24.
- Total value of production reached ₹1,26,887 crore, a 16.7% increase over the previous year's ₹1,08,684 crore.



- **Contributions to Defence Production**

- Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) and other Public Sector Units (PSUs) contributed 79.2%.
- Private sector contributed 20.8%.

## Policy Impact

Growth attributed to policy reforms, initiatives, and ease of doing business.

Focus on self-reliance under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

# Milestones and Exports

## New Milestones in 'Make in India'

- The 'Make in India' programme is achieving new milestones annually.
- Defence production has grown by over 60% in the last five years (since 2019-20).

## Defence Exports

Defence exports reached a record high of ₹21,083 crore in FY 2023-24, a 32.5% increase from the previous year's ₹15,920 crore.

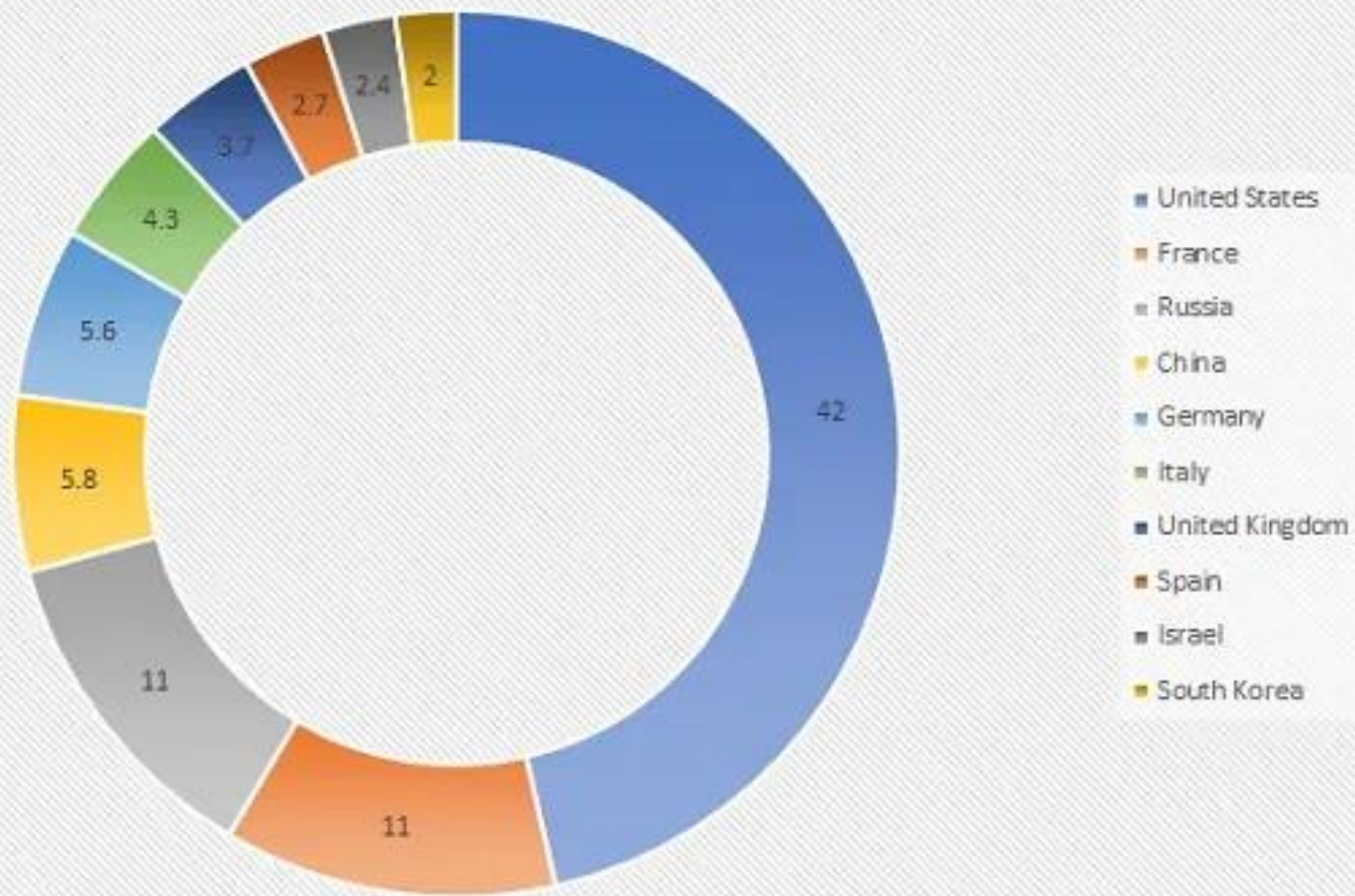
Spiralling defence exports have significantly contributed to overall growth.

- **What was the total value of India's defence production in FY 2023-24 and its growth percentage compared to the previous year?**
- A) ₹1,08,684 crore with 10% growth.
- B) ₹1,26,887 crore with 16.7% growth.
- C) ₹1,26,887 crore with 20% growth.
- D) ₹1,08,684 crore with 15% growth.

<b>Rank &amp; Nation</b>	<b>Power Index</b>	<b>Total Military Personnel (est)</b>	<b>Percentage of GDP spend in Defense</b>
#1 United States	0.0699	2127500	3.13%
#2 Russia	0.0702	3570000	4.64%
#3 China	0.0706	3170000	1.57%
#4 India	0.1023	5137550	2.26%
#5 South Korea	0.1416	3820000	2.60%
#6 United Kingdom	0.1443	1108860	1.91%
#7 Japan	0.1601	328150	1.07%
#8 Turkiye	0.1697	883900	0.79%
#9 Pakistan	0.1711	1704000	0.82%
#10 Italy	0.1863	289000	1.47%

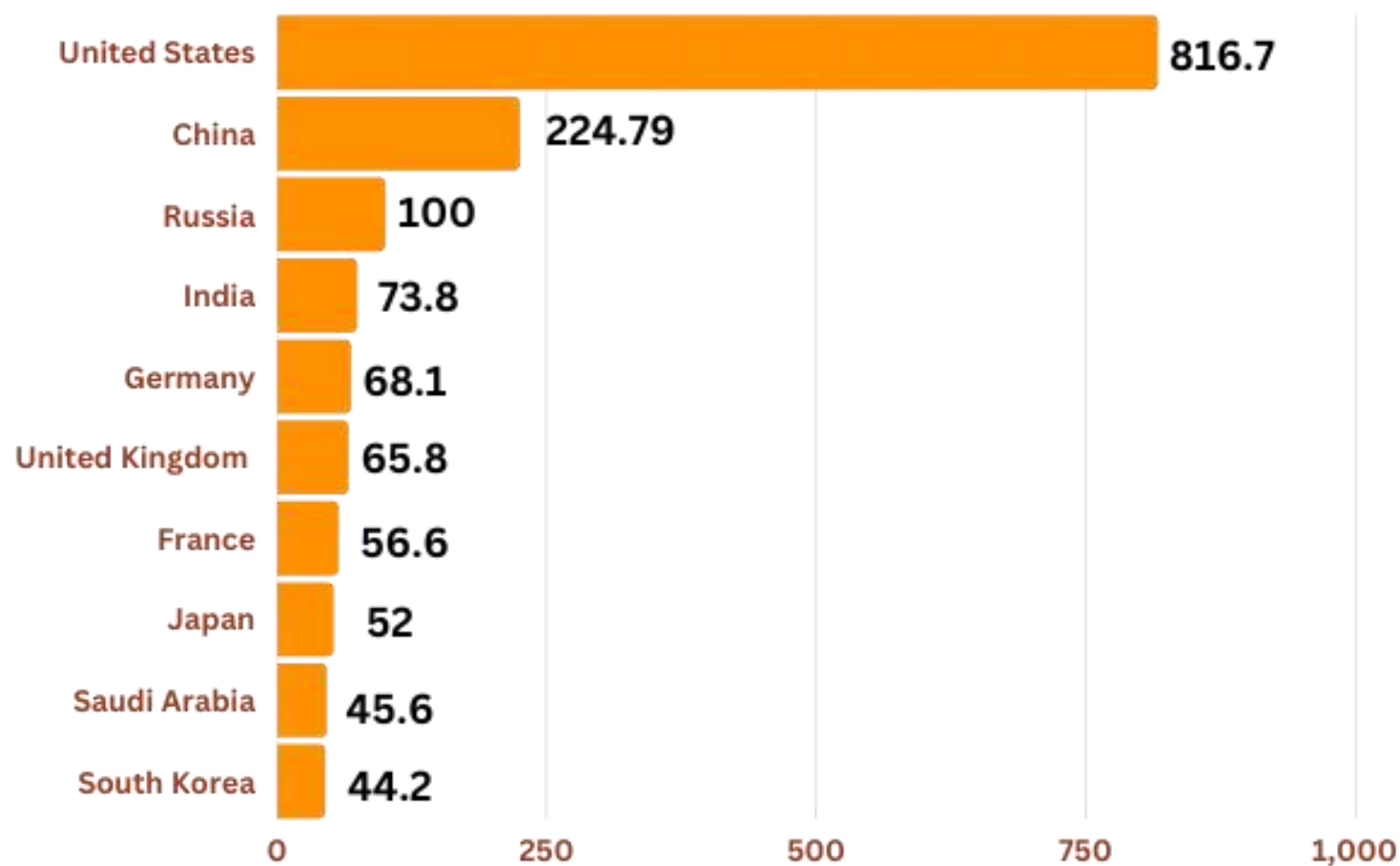
## Share of Global Arms Exports (2019-2023)

Source: SIPRI, March, 2024



# TOP 10 MILITARY SPENDING COUNTRIES

(Billion US Dollar)



DATA YEAR: 2023

INFOGRAPHICS: FAIR TEAM



# 'Indo-Russian venture delivered 35,000 assault rifles to MoD'

**Dinakar Peri**  
NEW DELHI

Just ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Russia, the Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited (IRRPL), a joint venture between the two countries, has produced and transferred 35,000 Kalashnikov AK-203 assault rifles to the Indian Ministry of Defence, Rostec state corporation of Russia announced on Friday.

"The IRRPL joint venture, co-founded by Roboronexport on the Russian side, has completed the first phase of the project to produce AK-203 Kalashnikov assault rifles in India. To increase the degree of localization, all necessary equipment has been shipped to the Korwa Ordnance Factory in Amethi, Uttar Pradesh state, and production facilities are now fully equipped," said Alexander Mikheev, Director General of Roboronexport in a statement.

"This made it possible to produce and deliver a

batch of 35,000 Kalashnikov assault rifles to the Indian Army within the timeframe agreed with the Ministry of Defence of India."

Mr. Modi is scheduled to visit Russia on July 8 and 9 for the 22nd annual summit.

As reported by *The Hindu* in May, the initial lot has been handed over to various Army Units and the later batches are being inspected and will be handed very soon.

Under an over ₹5,000 crore contract signed in July 2021, over 6.1 lakh AK-203 assault rifles are to be manufactured in India with technology transfer from Russia, by a joint venture Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited (IRRPL).

As reported by *The Hindu* earlier, as per contractual terms, the first 70,000 rifles will be produced in India with a phased increase in the extent of localisation from 5% to 70%. The remaining rifles will be produced with 100% localisation.

# Indo-Russian Venture's Achievement

## Delivery of Assault Rifles

- Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited (IRRPL), a joint venture, delivered 35,000 Kalashnikov AK-203 assault rifles to the Indian Ministry of Defence.
- The first phase of the project has been completed ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Russia.

## Joint Venture Details

Co-founded by Rosoboronexport on the Russian side.

Production facilities at the Korwa Ordnance Factory in Amethi, Uttar Pradesh, are fully equipped.

## Localization Efforts

Equipment necessary for production has been shipped to India.

Efforts to increase localization: initial production to achieve 5% localization, with a phased increase to 70%.

Remaining rifles will be produced with 100% localization.

## Contract and Future Plans

The project is under a ₹5,000 crore contract signed in July 2021.

A total of 6.1 lakh AK-203 rifles are to be manufactured in India with technology transfer from Russia.

Initial lot handed over to various Army units, subsequent batches to be delivered soon.

## Significance

The project highlights the commitment to indigenization and self-reliance in defence production.

Alexander Mikheev, Director General of Rosoboronexport, emphasized the importance of the localization efforts.

- **What is the main purpose of the Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited (IRRPL) joint venture?**
- A) To export rifles to other countries.
- B) To produce and localize the production of Kalashnikov AK-203 assault rifles in India.
- C) To establish a research center for advanced weaponry.
- D) To train Indian soldiers in the use of Russian rifles.







## COMMANDER

Swachata Badhao, Tandrusti Badhe

5 YEARS

## Slim Hide Flush Tank Kahan...?

Space Saving

• Badi Todfod + Deewaar Ko Leakage Se Bachayen

## Slim hide

BUSINESS AS USUAL  
BY UNNAY



### Metrics for reforms, easing compliance burden: PM's plan to SC

HARIKISHAN SHARMA & SAMRITA NAYAK DUTTA  
NEW DELHI, JULY 5

FROM DEVELOPING metrics to encourage competition among states to governance reforms to identifying one impactful project that needs to be commissioned and one ground-breaking project in the first 100 days; from reducing the citizens' compliance burden and pushing women-led development to making them more self-reliant, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given a 16-point "directive" to Secretaries at the Centre. The Indian Express has eared.

These directions came during the PM's interaction with Secretaries on June 25, his first in the NDA's third term. Two days later, Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Saxena wrote to all Secretaries to "initiate immediate action" based on these.

Among the directions, the Prime Minister has asked the Secretaries to provide adequate opportunities to youth in "nation-building" by synergizing initiatives like National Service

BIG PICTURE  
PAGE 10

### BABA'S BUSINESS

THE GODMAN  
& HIS EMPIRE  
WHO IS SURAJPAL ALIAS BHOLEY BABA

EXPRESS NETWORK

BSP'S TAMIL NADU CHIEF HACKED TO DEATH  
BIHAR SUSPENDS 11 ENGINEERS OVER COLLAPSE OF BRIDGES

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

SOPAL KATESHYA  
RAJKOT, JULY 5

IN A photograph clicked at Bhachau police station in Gujarat's Kutch in the early hours of July 1, the arrested duo stood amidst their cameras. The alleged bootlegger, in a blue button-down shirt, and his "accomplice", Head Constable Nita Chaudhary, wore more than a white t-shirt and yellow pants, and with a hint of a sinister grin. The events that followed the dramatic chase and arrest of

## London Labour Landslide



Britain's new Prime Minister Keir Starmer and his wife Victoria outside 10, Downing Street in London on Friday. Reuters

### Starmer is UK's new PM: Will deliver change... rebuild faith in politics

KYLIE MACLELLAN, WILLIAM JAMES & SARAH YOUNG  
NEW DELHI, JULY 5

BRITAIN'S NEW Prime Minister Keir Starmer pledged on Friday to use his massive electoral majority to rebuild the country, saying he wanted to take the heat out of politics after years of upheaval and strife.

Standing outside his new office and residence at Number 10 Downing Street, Starmer acknowledged the scale of the

challenge after his party's landslide victory in a parliamentary election that ended 14 years of often tumultuous Conservative government.

He pledged that any improvements would take time, and he would need to first rebuild faith in politics. "This lack of trust can only be healed by actions, for words, I know that," he said. "Whether you voted Labour

or not, we are all in this together."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

### Mumbai Police close case against MP who joined Shinde Sena

SAGAR RAJPUT  
MUMBAI, JULY 5

JUST FOUR months after Ravindra Waikar moved from Sena UBT to the Shiv Sena led by Eknath Shinde, and won the Mumbai North West Lok Sabha seat, the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Mumbai Police filed a case against him, his wife Manisha, and four associates.

The Mumbai Police registered an FIR on September 14, 2023, based on a complaint by Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) engineer that Waikar used a plot of land reserved for a public garden to construct a hotel.

Now, in a C-summary report submitted to the court on

### Past chill, Delhi cautious as it warms to Labour realism, push on FTA

Modi congratulates Starmer on victory, praises Sunak for deepening ties

SHUBHAJIT ROY & RAVI DUTTA MISHRA  
NEW DELHI, JULY 5

WITHIN HOURS of the Labour Party, led by Keir Starmer, sweeping the polls in the United Kingdom ending 14 years of Conservative Party-ruled government, Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated

the newly elected leader on the "remarkable victory" and said he looked forward to "positive and constructive collaboration" to further strengthen bilateral ties.

"Heartiest congratulations and best wishes to PM, Starmer on the remarkable victory in the UK general elections. I look forward to our positive and

### Over 50 held so far, state launches awareness campaigns

RAVIK BHATTACHARYA & JOYPRAKASH DAS  
KOLKATA, NORTH 24 PARGANAS, JULY 5

WHEN 75-YEAR-OLD Bhagabati Mondal fice saw her grandson Prasen (26) tied to a tree close to the local primary health centre at Polente in West Bengal's Bidhanagar, she hardly recognised him. Bloodied and bruised, he was slumped over.

Around him stood four local residents, allegedly still beating him up. "I begged them to stop

and spare him, but they continued to whip him with a tree branch. I rushed to call neighbours. When I returned, he was dead," she says.

Prasen was one of the victims of a spate of recent mob lynchings in Bengal — all occurring after rumours of possible child rape (punch card) — as in Prasen's case — phone snatching (mobile theft). Four people have been killed and 10 injured in 13

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

### CPM poll review for Kerala flags cadres' arrogance, BJP rise

MANOJ G  
NEW DELHI, JULY 5

A MONTH after the CPI(M)-led LDF suffered a severe drubbing in the Lok Sabha elections in Kerala, the party's central leadership has identified the "erosion" of a section of its vote base in Kerala as one of the most serious issues facing it. The report also blames "arrogant behaviour" of cadres from "top to bottom" as well as corruption at all levels, saying these

## AFFIDAVITS FILED AHEAD OF JULY 8 HEARING: Gort, NTA oppose NEET retest, tell SC honest candidates will be hit

### Absence of any large-scale breach of confidentiality: Education Ministry

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G & RITIKA CHOPRA  
NEW DELHI, JULY 5

EXPRESSING its unwillingness to conduct the NEET-UG examination again, the Centre has told the Supreme Court that "scrapping the exam in entirety would seriously jeopardise the lakhs of honest candidates who attempted the question paper in 2024".

In an affidavit filed Thursday in the top court — it is set to take up on July 8 a clutch of petitions alleging exam paper leak and irregularities in the conduct of the NEET-UG on May 5, and demands for a retest, the Education Ministry makes no mention of a paper leak, only acknowledging that "some alleged instances of irregularities (cheating, impersonation, malpractices) during the conduct of NEET-UG 2024 examination have been reported".

In a separate affidavit, also filed Thursday, the National Testing Agency echoed the Education Ministry's stance, saying that "there has been no increase in the number of students who have taken the examination without adopting any alleged unfair means that must not also be jeopardised", it said.

### Change in NEET-PG: Two shifts on Aug 11, only at TCS centres

ANONNA DUTT  
NEW DELHI, JULY 5

THE NATIONAL Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences announced Friday that NEET-PG 2024, the qualifying examination for postgraduate medical courses which was postponed last month, will be conducted on August 11. The test, the NBEMS said, will be conducted in two shifts and the scores of the candidates will be normalised.

As the NBEMS announced the date of the examination, officials said it will be conducted only at TCS ION centres and not outsourced centres.

This is the first time that the test will be conducted in two batches. Sources said this will ensure that the examination is conducted in fewer centres.

"There has been an increase in the number of students appearing for the paper over the years. To ensure that the examination is completely secure and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

# Why China wants to build a rail network to Singapore, via Southeast Asia

**RISHIKA SINGH**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 5

DURING HIS visit to Malaysia last month, Chinese Premier Li Qiang said that China was willing to study a plan to connect its railway projects in the Southeast Asian countries of Malaysia, Laos, and Thailand for “enhancing regional connectivity”. Li was at the groundbreaking ceremony for a terminal station of Malaysia’s East Coast Rail Link (ECRL).

China has made major investments in the region under its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), billed as an attempt to enhance infrastructure development in Asia, Africa, and South America.

## What is the ECRL?

The nearly \$10 billion project is sometimes linked to a China-led “pan-Asian” railway network that would connect the southern Chinese city and transportation hub of

Kunming to Singapore, through lines across multiple Southeast Asian countries.

The 665km-long ECRL will connect Kota Bharu in the east with Port Klang, located on the strategically important Strait of Malacca on Malaysia’s west coast. It is expected to bring economic benefits through improved connectivity and tourism. Although work began in 2017, it was stalled amid funding constraints. It is now expected to be completed by 2027.

In 2018, then-Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said the project would be frozen due to high costs. “I believe China itself does not want to see Malaysia become a bankrupt country,” he said. Work resumed in 2020, after a lower-cost deal was negotiated with China.

## What is the pan-Asian rail network?

Infrastructure projects to link Southeast Asian countries have been proposed in the past, including during European colonial

rule in the region.

More recently, the pan-Asian rail network was conceptualised in the form of three links — a western line from Kunming via Myanmar and Thailand; a central line via Laos and Thailand; and an eastern line via Vietnam, Cambodia, and Thailand.

Another line would connect Thailand’s capital Bangkok with Malaysia and Singapore, which sits at the mouth of the Malacca Strait. Around 30% of global trade passes through this strait.

## What is the rail network’s current status?

The project has faced roadblocks for multiple reasons. Only the Laos-China section has been operational since 2021. Like Malaysia, Thailand has also faced problems of high costs and been wary of taking assistance from China. The Thailand-China project is expected to be completed in 2028, but may be delayed.

Doubts have been expressed over the projected economic gains as well. Jonathan E Hillman, a political economist with the



Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), argued in his book, *The Emperor’s New Road: China and the Project of the Century* (2020), that the width of the railway tracks across these countries vary, making seamless cargo transportation challenging.

There are concerns over demand as well. “Most people travelling from Kunming to Singapore would still prefer to fly, which will remain cheaper, and faster. Likewise, cargo shuttled between the two destinations would be cheaper if transported first to the coast, and then by boat to Singapore. Most studies have found that a pan-Asian rail system would complement maritime shipping rather than compete with it,” Hillman wrote.

## What are China’s interests here?

Hillman noted that plans for the rail link project predate President Xi Jinping’s BRI. Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao mentioned it at the ASEAN summit in 2007. But “despite missing... deadlines, China has made the pan-Asian railway an even more central part

of its regional engagement,” he wrote.

China has direct influence in Southeast Asia on account of geography and strong economic and cultural ties. According to the Chinese government, “In 2023, the trade volume between China and ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) reached USD 911.7 billion.” This made them each other’s largest trading partners for the fourth year.

With the BRI, these ties can be further strengthened. China has emerged as a provider of loans for infrastructure projects in countries historically lacking them, despite apprehensions about their financing.

China’s aggressive moves, and territorial claims in the South China Sea have also made many countries in the region nervous, and Beijing hopes to leverage economic ties to develop goodwill and trust. It has rejected accusations of practising “debt trap diplomacy”, which involves providing loans at high interest rates, and then seizing control of strategic assets when the debtor countries fail to pay back.

**EXPLAINED  
STRATEGY**

# EAST COAST RAIL LINK (ECRL) PROJECT

> A **665km** rail line



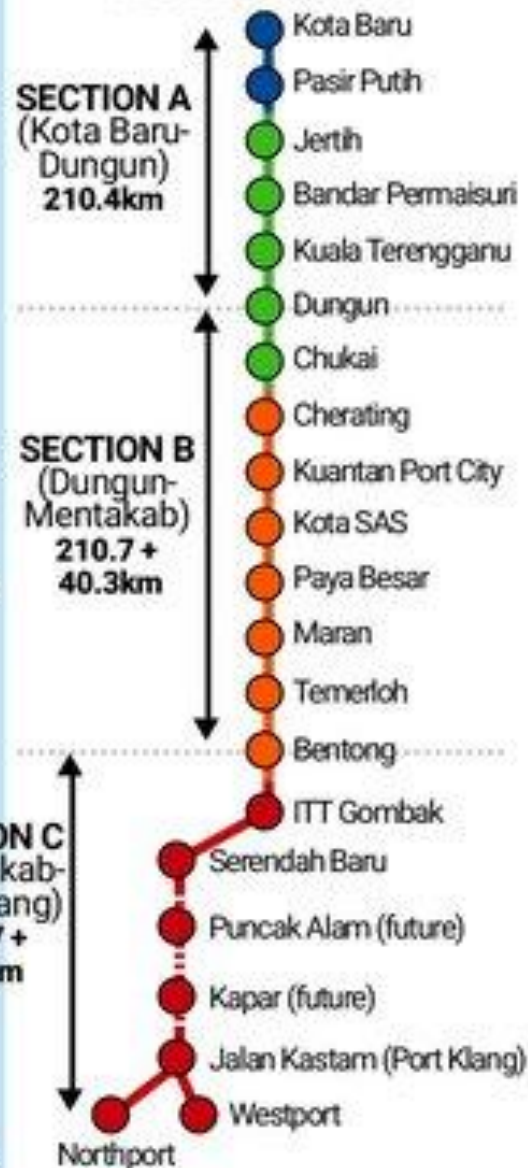
## LEGEND

- Station in Kelantan
- Station in Terengganu
- Station in Pahang
- Station in Selangor

Interconnectivity to ports



## ECRL Stations



# China - Thailand Railway Map



# China's Strategic Rail Network

## Project Overview

- China is planning to connect its railway projects in Southeast Asian countries, including Malaysia, Laos, and Thailand, to enhance regional connectivity.
- The initiative is part of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), aiming to improve infrastructure development in Asia, Africa, and South America.



- **East Coast Rail Link (ECRL)**

- The \$10 billion ECRL project will connect Kota Bharu in the east with Port Klang on Malaysia's west coast, facilitating trade and tourism.
- Work began in 2017 and is expected to be completed by 2027.

## Pan-Asian Rail Network

The network includes three main links:

- Western line: Kunming to Singapore via Myanmar and Thailand.
- Central line: Kunming to Singapore via Laos and Thailand.
- Eastern line: Kunming to Singapore via Vietnam, Cambodia, and Thailand.

Aims to connect Thailand's capital Bangkok with Malaysia and Singapore, passing through the Malacca Strait, which handles about 30% of global trade.





- **Current Status**

- The Laos-China section has been operational since 2021.
- Malaysia and Thailand have faced issues with high costs and dependence on Chinese loans.
- The Thailand-China project is slated for completion by 2028, though delays are possible.



- **China's Interests**

- Strengthening ties with Southeast Asian nations through economic and infrastructure development.
- Enhancing regional connectivity to support trade.
- Addressing concerns over China's aggressive moves in the South China Sea.

## Economic and Strategic Implications

Trade volume between China and ASEAN reached USD 911.7 billion in 2023.

Concerns over China's "debt trap diplomacy," involving high-interest loans and potential seizure of strategic assets if debts are not repaid.

---

**What is the main purpose of China's proposed rail network connecting Southeast Asian countries to Singapore?**

- 
- A) To establish military bases in Southeast Asia.
  - B) To enhance regional connectivity and facilitate trade and tourism.
  - C) To reduce China's reliance on sea routes for trade.
  - D) To promote cultural exchanges between China and Southeast Asian countries.



Pride Month

Pride Month, celebrated every June, is a time of reflection, celebration, and advocacy for the LGBTQ+ community. Its origins trace back to the Stonewall Uprising of 1969.

Over the decades, Pride Month has evolved from a single day of remembrance to a month-long celebration recognised globally.

**June**

Why is Pride Month Celebrated in June?

**1999**

In 1999, President Bill Clinton declared June as "Gay and Lesbian Pride Month."

**1969**

Pride Month commemorates the Stonewall Uprising of 1969 (New York), a pivotal event in the LGBTQ+ rights movement.

**June**

Subsequent presidents, including Barack Obama and Joe Biden, have continued this tradition, recognising June as LGBTQ Pride Month.

**1994**

LGBTQIA+ Rights in India In 1994, voting rights were legally granted to individuals identifying as a third sex.

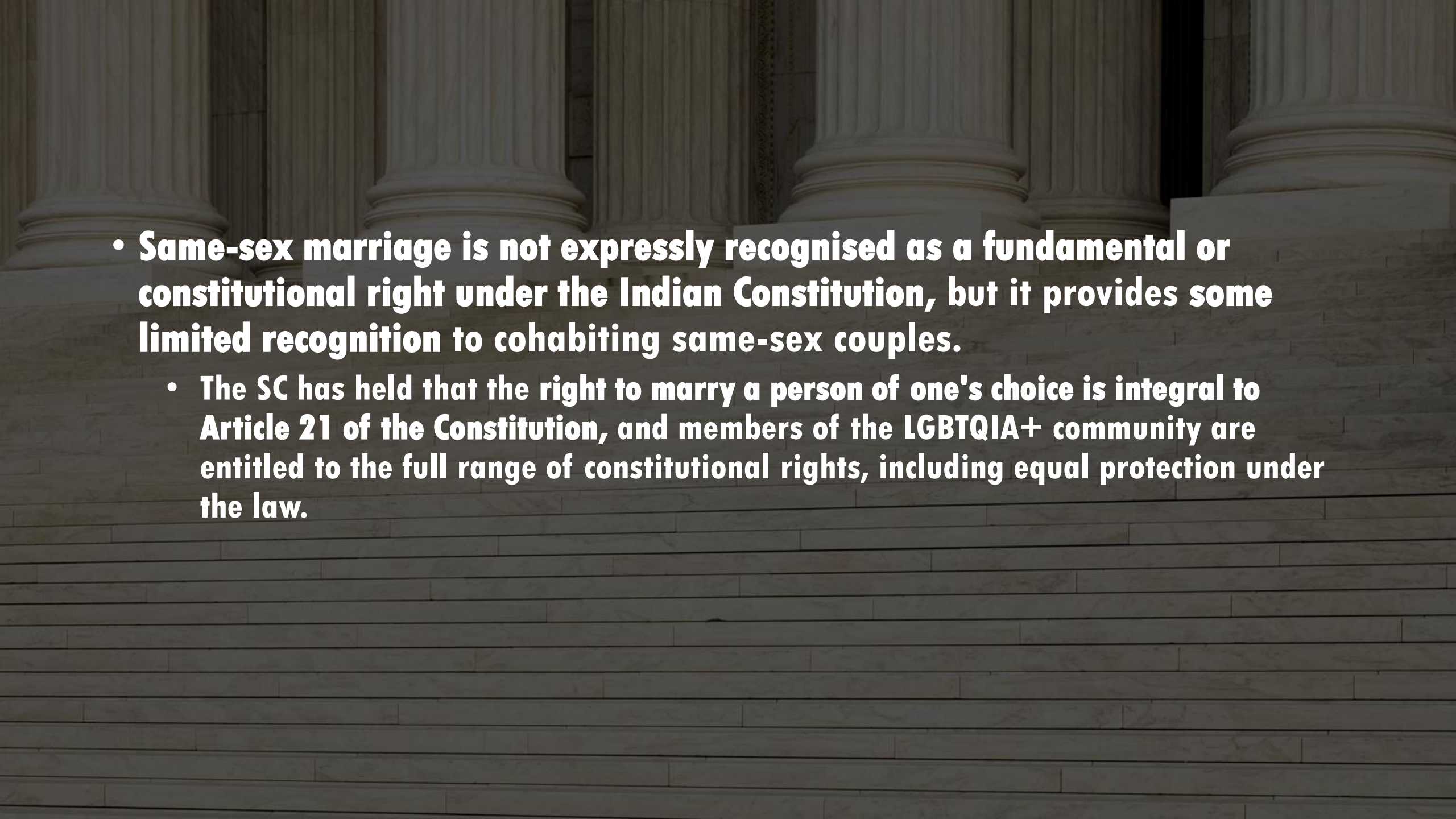
**2017**

In 2017, the LGBTQIA+ community in India was given the freedom to express their sexual orientation, protected by the Right to Privacy.

**2014**

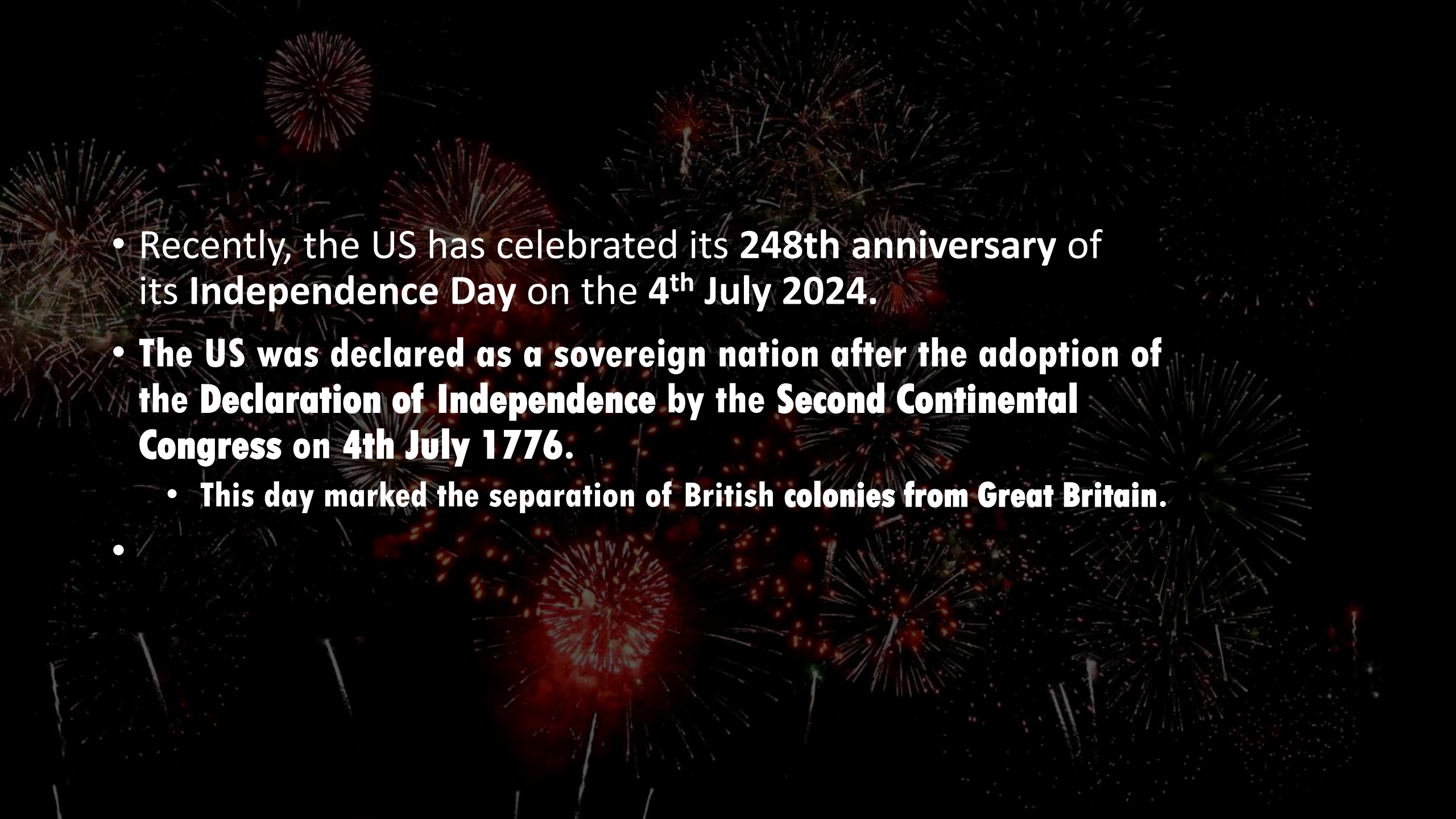
In 2014, the Supreme Court of India ruled that transgender people should be treated as a third gender category.

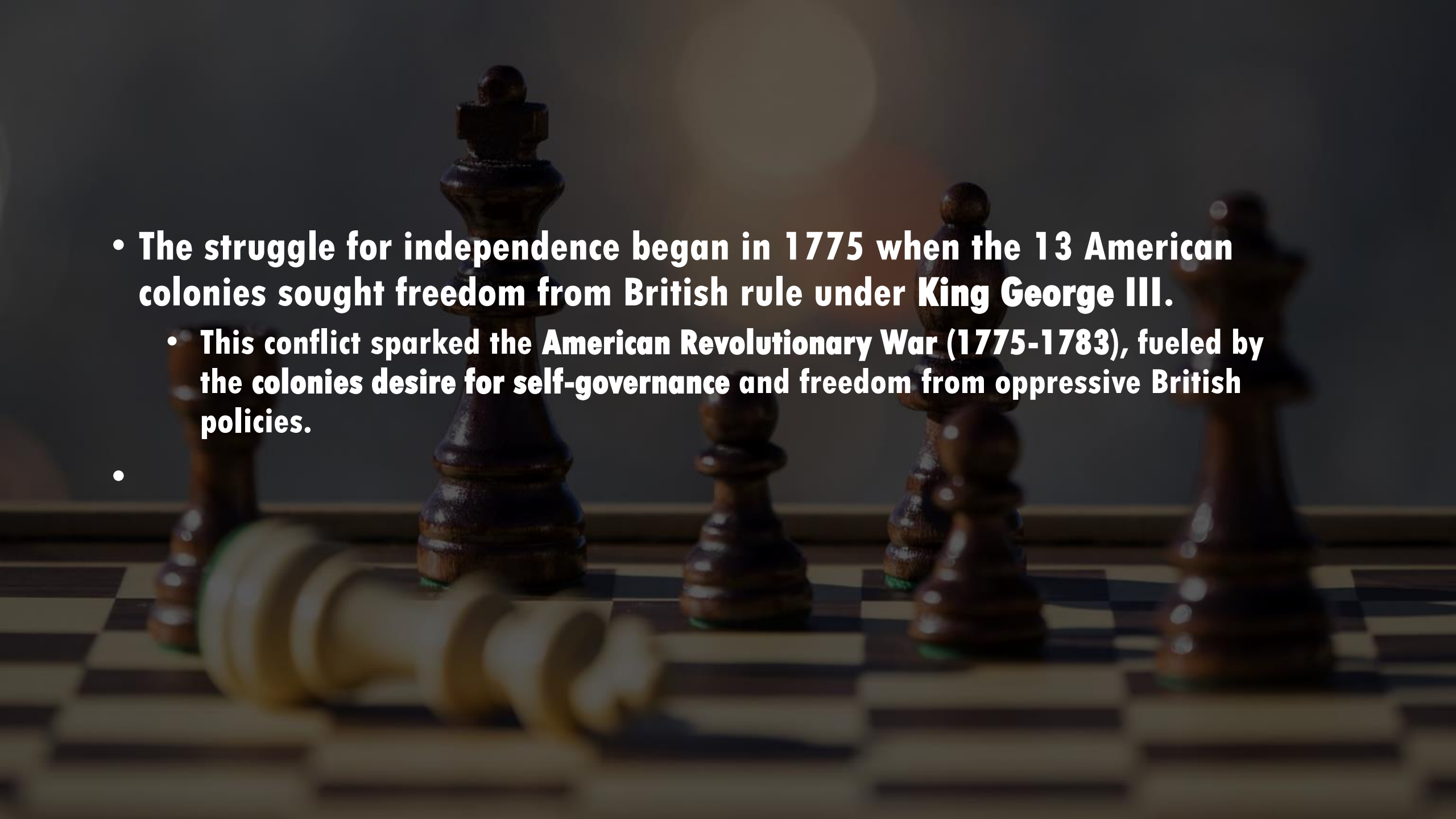


- 
- **Same-sex marriage is not expressly recognised as a fundamental or constitutional right under the Indian Constitution, but it provides some limited recognition to cohabiting same-sex couples.**
    - **The SC has held that the right to marry a person of one's choice is integral to Article 21 of the Constitution, and members of the LGBTQIA+ community are entitled to the full range of constitutional rights, including equal protection under the law.**

248th Independence Day of US



- 
- Recently, the US has celebrated its **248th anniversary** of its **Independence Day** on the **4<sup>th</sup> July 2024**.
  - **The US was declared as a sovereign nation after the adoption of the Declaration of Independence by the Second Continental Congress on 4th July 1776.**
    - **This day marked the separation of British colonies from Great Britain.**

- 
- **The struggle for independence began in 1775 when the 13 American colonies sought freedom from British rule under King George III.**
    - **This conflict sparked the American Revolutionary War (1775-1783), fueled by the colonies desire for self-governance and freedom from oppressive British policies.**

-

- 
- The background of the slide is a dense, repeating pattern of small, five-pointed stars in red, white, and blue, reminiscent of the American flag. The stars are scattered across the entire frame, creating a textured, patriotic backdrop.
- **The American colonies voted to declare independence on 2nd July 1776, two days before the Declaration was approved and 12 of the 13 colonies officially decided to sever political ties with Great Britain.**

- **Causes of the American Revolutionary War included British trade restrictions hindering economic development, the ban on westward expansion, influence of Enlightenment thinkers, British attempts to tax the colonies, lack of representation in British Parliament, and harsh measures like the Coercive Acts intensifying colonial discontent.**



# NOMADIC ELEPHANT

- The 16th edition of the India-Mongolia Joint Military Exercise NOMADIC ELEPHANT began in Meghalaya.
- The exercise aims to enhance joint military capabilities for counterinsurgency operations under the United Nations Mandate Chapter VII, focusing on semi-urban and mountainous terrain









# INDIA-THAILAND JOINT MILITARY EXERCISE MAITREE

Exercise MAITREE, conducted annually since 2006, alternates between India and Thailand.



This exercise is crucial for both nations facing terrorism threats, especially in southern Thailand regions like Satun, Patthalung, and Bangkok, which are prone to attacks.



The exercise includes company-level joint training on insurgency and counter-terrorism in jungle and urban scenarios, enhancing defence cooperation and bilateral relations between the Indian Army and the Royal Thailand Army.

# Fun fact



- **Myth: We Only Use 10% of Our Brain**
- **Debunked:** This myth suggests that 90% of our brain's potential is untapped, but neuroscience research has shown that virtually every part of the brain has a known function. Brain imaging techniques reveal that even simple tasks like speaking or walking involve multiple areas of the brain working together. No part of the brain is completely inactive.



## Facilitate



**Definition:** To make an action or process easier or more likely to happen.



**Example Sentence:** The new software is designed to facilitate the workflow in the office.



**Synonyms:** Aid, assist, promote, simplify.



**Antonyms:** Hinder, impede, obstruct, complicate.

# CURRENT AFFAIRS COURSE

- ✓ UPDATED CURRENT AFFAIRS (2023+2024)|
- ✓ COMPLETE NOTES(PDF)

# COMPLETE GK/GS COURSE

- ✓ STATIC GK
- ✓ HISTORY
- ✓ POLITY
- ✓ GEOGRAPHY
- ✓ ECONOMICS

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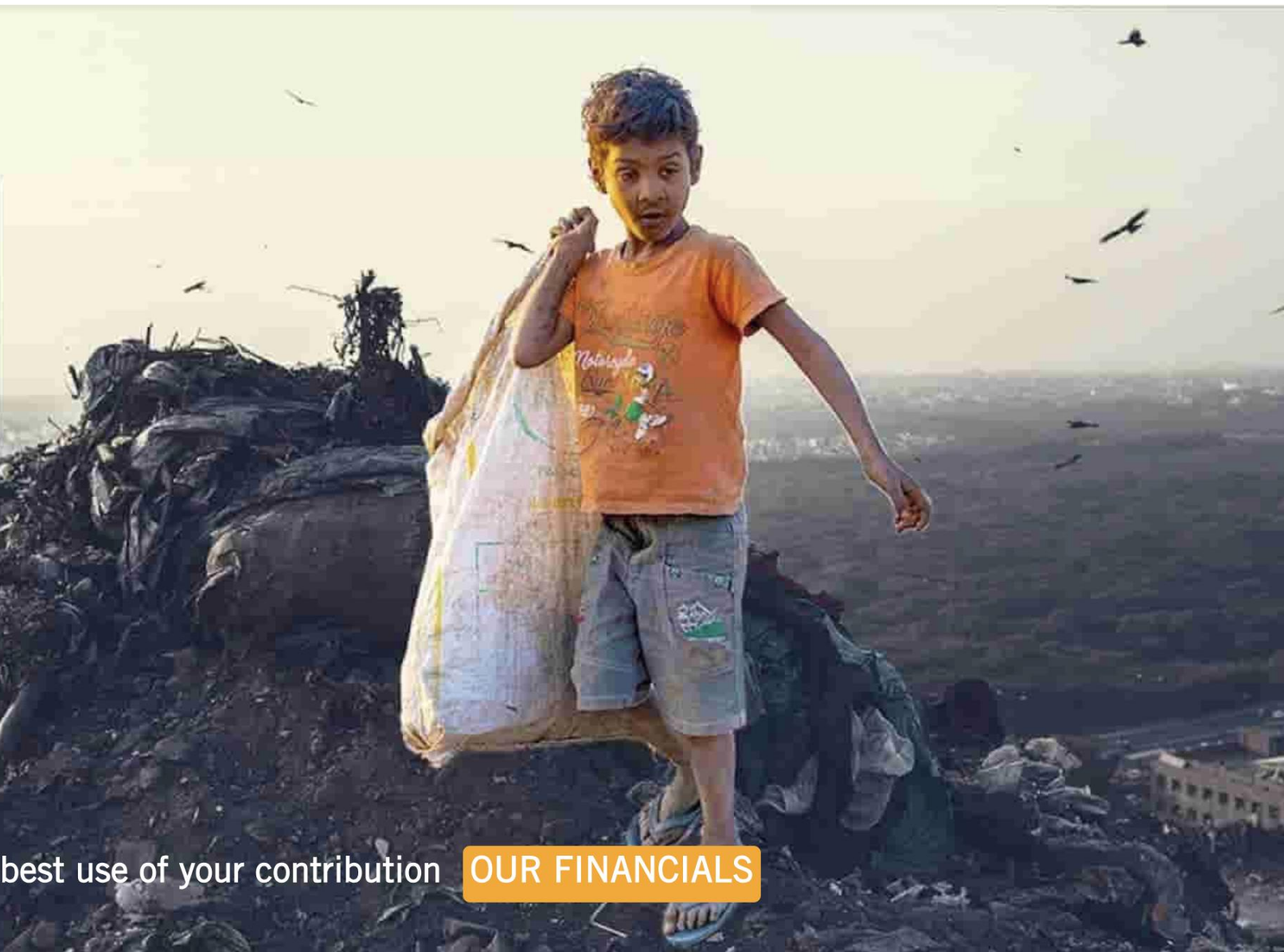
**• LIVE DOUBT SESSION**






GIVE A CHILD THE GIFT OF EDUCATION TODAY

Join Hands



We make the best use of your contribution OUR FINANCIALS

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.

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