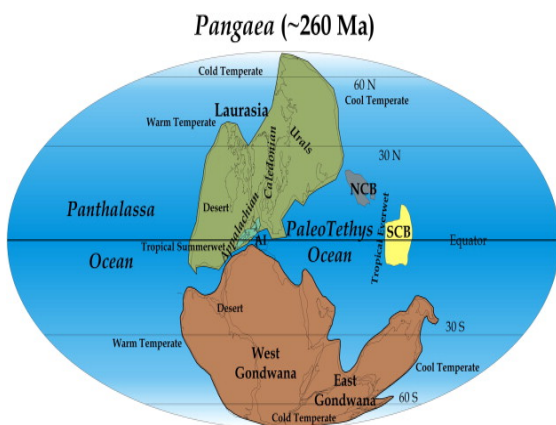


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NENA AND NUNA and Pink diamond

More than 90% of all the pink diamonds ever found were discovered at the recently closed Argyle mine in the remote northwest of Australia.

But exactly why Argyle, which unlike most other diamond mines doesn't sit in the middle of a continent but on the edge of one, produced so many pink gems has remained a mystery.



Australia based researchers said the pink diamonds were brought to the earth's surface by the breakup of the first supercontinent around 1.3 billion years ago

Two of the three ingredients for forming pink diamonds had already been known.

The first ingredient is carbon, and it must be more than 150 km deep.

The second is just the right amount of pressure, to damage the otherwise clear diamonds.

By measuring the age of elements in the crystals, the researchers determined that Argyle was 1.3 billion years old.

That lines up with the breakup of the world's first supercontinent, known as Nuna.

The immense pressure that twisted colour into the diamonds occurred during collisions between western Australia and northern Australia 1.8 billion years ago. When Nuna started to break up 500 million years

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later,

Columbia, also known as Nuna or Hudsonland, was one of Earth's ancient supercontinents.

It was first proposed by John J.W. Rogers and M. Santosh in 2002 and is thought to have existed approximately 2,500 to 1,500 million years ago, in the Paleoproterozoic Era.

NENA vs Nuna

Nena, an acronym for Northern Europe North America, was the Early Proterozoic amalgamation of Baltica and Laurentia into a single "cratonic landmass", a name first proposed in 1990.

Since then several similar Proterozoic supercontinents have been proposed, including Nuna and Arctica, that include other Archaean cratons, such as Siberia and East Antarctica

Although Nena and Nuna share many similarities, Nena accounted for a larger landmass than Nuna.

This extended landmass included the Angara, Antarctica, Baltica, Laurentia, and Siberia bodies.

The Hindu

Sauropod dinosaur

In a paper published recently in Scientific Reports, scientists from IIT Roorkee have characterised dinosaur fossils from the Middle Jurassic period, found in the Thar desert near the Jaisalmer Basin by the Geological Survey of India.

They discovered that they had uncovered remains of a sauropod dinosaur, which is the same clade as the long necked herbivores in Jurassic Park; only these happened to be the oldest known fossils of this particular kind of sauropod.

Belonging to the family Dicraosauridae and from the superfamily Diplodocoidea, these fossils are the first dicraosaurid sauropods to have been found in India.

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And at 167 million years old, they are the oldest known diplodocoid fossils in the world.

The scientists named the dinosaur *Tharosaurus indicus*, with *Tharo* deriving from the Thar desert; *saurus* from the Greek 'sauros', or lizard; and *indicus* from its Indian origin.

Women reservation family

The 128th Constitution Amendment Bill, or the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, seeks to amend this by reserving a third of the seats in the Lok Sabha and legislative Assemblies for women. It has a 15-year sunset clause for the quota, that can be extended

But its implementation will be delayed as it has been tied to two factors, delimitation and the Census, a

Women's Reservation Bill
Two decades and still pending

20 years after it was first introduced on Sept 12, 1996, the constitutional amendment bill to reserve 33% seats for women in Lok Sabha and state legislatures is still a work in progress

A look at the major milestones of Women's Reservation Bill

- Introduced in the Lok Sabha by the Deve Gowda government on Sept 12, 1996
- Referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee chaired by Geeta Mukherjee, which presented its report to the Lok Sabha on Dec 9, 1996. The bill got lapsed with the term of the 11th Lok Sabha
- Atal Bihari Vajpayee-led NDA government re-introduced the bill in the 13th Lok Sabha in 1999. It moved the Bill second time amid pandemonium in 2002, but failed and Bill lapsed with the tenure of the House
- In 2004, the new UPA government included the passing of the Bill as part of its Common Minimum Programme, the touchstone of the UPA coalition working with the outside support of the Left parties
- On May 6, 2008, a resolute Manmohan Singh-led UPA government introduced the legislation in the Rajya Sabha
- Rajya Sabha passed the Bill on Mar 9, 2010 and sent to Lok Sabha for ratification
- 15th Lok Sabha could not take up the Bill and it got lapsed again
- For the Bill to become a law, it will now have to be again introduced and passed by both Houses and then have to be passed by half of India's state legislatures and signed by the President

KBK Infographics

(Article 82 of the Constitution, as amended in 2002, says the delimitation process can be carried out based on the first Census taken after 2026.

Originally, the first Census after 2026 was to be carried out in 2031, which would be followed by delimitation

The quota will not apply to Rajya Sabha or state Legislative Councils

Women only make up 14 percent of parliament and legislatures in India, which is far lower than the world average.

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Abraham accord

Abraham Accords, series of agreements to normalize relations between Israel and several Arab states.

The accords, all of which were signed in the latter half of 2020, consist of a general declaration alongside bilateral agreements between Israel and the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Morocco.

The name of the accords was given in reference to the supposed common ancestor of the Jews and the Arabs, the biblical Abraham, and as an expression of brotherhood



On the pretext of stopping Israel's plan to annex parts of the West Bank in July 2020, the United Arab

Emirates engaged in negotiations to normalize relations.

Sweetened with an offer from the United States to sell 50 F-35 combat jets to the United Arab Emirates, a deal was announced in August.

The agreements have ushered in a new era of normalisation and peace that not only connects governments but also brings people together, despite the differences in their language, religious beliefs, cultures and more.

The Abraham Accords have also opened up exciting opportunities for India and its thriving business community, which maintains strong relations and active engagement with our nations.

The scope of trade between Israel and other West Asian countries increased 74% between 2021 and 2022.

Another example is tourism, mostly non-existent in the past, which has skyrocketed.

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In 2021, visits from Israel to the UAE increased by 172%.

Meanwhile, the number of Israelis flying to Bahrain since the establishment of direct flights has increased exponentially

The vibrant Indian diaspora in the Gulf now has the convenience of direct flights between the UAE and Israel, as well as between Israel and Bahrain. Indian students are enjoying increased ease of travel, gaining improved access to our universities and the opportunity to explore international study programmes.

The Accords have also had a significant influence on reinforcing Israel's relations with neighbouring countries.

For example, the Prosperity Green & Blue agreement between Israel, the UAE, and Jordan determined that a solar field to supply 600 megawatts of electricity to Israel would be established in Jordan, while in return, a desalination plant in Israel

would deliver 200 million cubic metres of water to Jordan.

We have witnessed substantial commercial collaborations between companies from the UAE, Israel, Bahrain, and the U.S., partnering with the Indian private sector.

A concrete illustration of this high level economic cooperation between our governments is the establishment of the I2U2 Group, formed by Israel, India, the UAE, and the U.S.

The Abraham Accords made the I2U2 Group possible, and its primary focus will be on joint investments in critical areas such as water, energy, transportation, space, health, and food security

The Abraham Accords encourage collaboration and education.

India holds a significant position among our partners, and the scope of our collaboration underscores our shared interests, including championing a sustainable recovery

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from the COVID19 pandemic, expanding trade, addressing climate change, and countering threats to international security.

The Hindu

International Organisation of Legal Metrology (OIML)

Headquartered in Paris.

The OIML stands for International Organisation of Legal Metrology.

Established in 1955 and headquartered in Paris, the OIML is an international standard-setting body. It develops model regulations, standards and related documents for use by legal metrology authorities and industry.

India became a member of the OIML in 1956. In the same year, India signed the metric convention.

The OIML-CS is a system for

issuing, registering and using OIML certificates, and their associated OIML type evaluation/test reports, for instruments like digital balance, clinical thermometers, etc. With the addition of India, the number of countries authorised to issue OIML certificates has increased to 13.

The Hindu
