



TELEGRAM CHANNEL: <https://t.me/patrioticIAS>
YOUTUBE CHANNEL: <https://www.youtube.com/@PatrioticIAS>
CONTACT: 9971932488



PATRIOTIC IAS

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

THE HINDU NEWSPAPER

09 MAY 2026

YouTube link: <https://www.youtube.com/@PatrioticIAS>

Telegram Channel: <https://t.me/patrioticIAS>

PCS Special:		09 May
09M	Hanuman's eloquence हनुमान की वाक्पटुता	
09M	Restored version of John Abraham's classic movie Amma Ariyan to premiere at Cannes जॉन अब्राहम की क्लासिक फिल्म Amma Ariyan का पुनर्स्थापित संस्करण Cannes में प्रदर्शित होगा	



SM

Hanuman's eloquence

Kamban conferred the title of *sollin selvan* (Master of words) upon Hanuman in his Ramayanam. Hanuman's eloquence is like a rare jewel. Valmiki's work also pays tribute to Hanuman's way with words.

There are two occasions when Hanuman lives up to his title, said Damal S. Ramakrishnan. When Sugriva despatches Hanuman as his emissary to Rama and Lakshmana who have arrived near the **Rushyamukha mountain** in their search for Sita, Hanuman takes the form of a **mendicant** and addresses them. "How is it that you, with your brilliant complexion like that of royal sages or gods, are appearing like ascetics? How did you, who deserve to rule a kingdom, come to this place?" Impressed with Hanuman's speech and astuteness in sizing them up, Rama tells Lakshmana that **only a man who has undergone the discipline needed to learn the Rig Veda, the memory power to master the Yajur Veda, and proficiency in proper recitation of the Sama Veda could speak that eloquently.**

The other occasion when Hanuman's eloquence came to the fore is when Sita was being held captive in **Ashok Vanam** by Ravana. He gently introduces himself by reciting events from **Ayodhya** in a manner that convinces her that he is there to help. Hanuman offers to rescue her by carrying her on his shoulders, saying he had already carried Rama, who is like a father figure to him, on his shoulders. He says he was offering the same service to Sita, who is like a mother to him. However, Sita turns down the offer reasoning that if she were to do so, everyone would hail Sita as a great fighter, diminishing Rama's valour. As a talented speaker himself, Hanuman is impressed by her words.

जब सुग्रीव सीता की खोज में ऋष्यमूक पर्वत के पास पहुंचे राम और लक्ष्मण के पास हनुमान को अपना दूत बनाकर भेजते हैं, तब हनुमान एक संन्यासी का रूप धारण कर उनसे बात करते हैं।

- "How is it that you, with your brilliant complexion like that of royal sages or gods, are appearing like ascetics?"
"आप, जिनका तेज राजर्षियों या देवताओं के समान है, तपस्वियों के रूप में कैसे दिखाई दे रहे हैं?"
- "How did you, who deserve to rule a kingdom, come to this place?"
"आप, जो एक राज्य पर शासन करने योग्य हैं, इस स्थान पर कैसे आए?"
- Impressed with **Hanuman's** speech and astuteness in sizing them up, **Rama** tells **Lakshmana** that only a man who has undergone the discipline needed to learn the **Rig Veda**, the memory power to master the **Yajur Veda**, and proficiency in proper recitation of the **Sama Veda** could speak that eloquently.

हनुमान की वाणी और उनकी सूझबूझ से प्रभावित होकर राम, लक्ष्मण से कहते हैं कि केवल वही व्यक्ति इतनी प्रभावशाली वाणी बोल सकता है जिसने ऋग्वेद सीखने का अनुशासन, यजुर्वेद को कंठस्थ करने की स्मरण शक्ति और सामवेद के शुद्ध उच्चारण में दक्षता प्राप्त की हो।

- The other occasion when **Hanuman's** eloquence came to the fore is when **Sita** was being held captive in **Ashok Vanam** by **Ravana**.
दूसरा अवसर जब हनुमान की वाक्पटुता सामने आई, वह था जब सीता को रावण ने अशोक वाटिका में बंदी बनाकर रखा था।
- He gently introduces himself by reciting events from **Ayodhya** in a manner that convinces her that he is there to help.
उन्होंने अयोध्या की घटनाओं का वर्णन करते हुए स्वयं का परिचय इतनी विनम्रता से दिया कि सीता को विश्वास हो गया कि वह उनकी सहायता के लिए आए हैं।
- **Hanuman** offers to rescue her by carrying her on his shoulders, saying he had already carried **Rama**, who is like a father figure to him, on his shoulders.
हनुमान उन्हें अपने कंधों पर बैठाकर बचाने का प्रस्ताव देते हैं और कहते हैं कि वे पहले भी राम, जो उनके लिए पिता समान हैं, को अपने कंधों पर उठा चुके हैं।

09M. Hanuman's eloquence

हनुमान की वाक्पटुता

• **Kamban** conferred the title of **sollin selvan** (Master of words) upon **Hanuman** in his **Ramayanam**.

कंबन ने अपने रामायणम् में हनुमान को सोल्लिन सेलवन (शब्दों का स्वामी) की उपाधि दी।

• **Hanuman's** eloquence is like a rare jewel.
हनुमान की वाक्पटुता एक दुर्लभ रत्न के समान है।

• **Valmiki's** work also pays tribute to **Hanuman's** way with words.

वाल्मीकि की रचना भी हनुमान की वाणी-कला को श्रद्धांजलि देती है।

• There are two occasions when **Hanuman** lives up to his title, said **Damal S. Ramakrishnan**.

दामल एस. रामकृष्णन ने कहा कि दो अवसर ऐसे हैं जब हनुमान अपनी उपाधि के अनुरूप दिखाई देते हैं।

• When **Sugriva** despatches **Hanuman** as his emissary to **Rama** and **Lakshmana** who have arrived near the **Rushyamukha mountain** in their search for **Sita**, **Hanuman** takes the form of a mendicant and addresses them.



- He says he was offering the same service to **Sita**, who is like a mother to him. वे कहते हैं कि वे वही सेवा **सीता** को भी देना चाहते हैं, जो उनके लिए माता के समान हैं।
- However, **Sita** turns down the offer reasoning that if she were to do so, everyone would hail **Sita** as a great fighter, diminishing **Rama's** valour. हालांकि, **सीता** यह कहते हुए प्रस्ताव अस्वीकार कर देती हैं कि यदि वह ऐसा करेगी, तो लोग **सीता** को महान योद्धा कहेंगे और इससे **राम** के पराक्रम का महत्व कम हो जाएगा।
- As a talented speaker himself, **Hanuman** is impressed by her words. स्वयं एक महान वक्ता होने के कारण **हनुमान** उनके शब्दों से अत्यंत प्रभावित होते हैं।

Restored version of John Abraham's classic movie **Amma Ariyan** to premiere at Cannes

PCS

S.R. Praveen
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Forty years after John Abraham made *Amma Ariyan*, one of the remarkable independent films to come out of Kerala, a 4K restoration of the film is set to be premiered at the Cannes Film Festival.

The film with a cult following, restored by the not-for-profit organisation Film Heritage Foundation (FHF) is the only Indian feature film selected for world premiere at the festival this year. The premiere is scheduled on May 16.

John, who began working on the film based on a sliver of an idea based on the suicides of persons associated with the Naxalite movement, followed an alternative method of production and distribution with his friends at the Odessa Film Collective. The collective staged street plays and screened films to collect voluntary contributions from the public to make the film. Although it was never released in the theatres, the film has acquired a cult following. Shivendra Singh Dungarpur, director, Film Heritage Foundation, told *The Hin-*



Restored version of John Abraham's *Amma Ariyan*.

du that his memories of *Amma Ariyan* goes back to his student days at the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), where legendary archivist P.K. Nair

used to show the film to the students.

"The restoration was challenging as we had no original camera negative to work with. The whole pro-

cess, from searching out the last surviving unsubtitled print from the National Archives to identifying the copyright holder at the Odessa collective to restoring the print took close to 5-6 years, with the restoration work alone taking 2 years," he says.

The Film Heritage Foundation's restorations of Aravindan's *Thamp*, Arinam Syam Sharma's *Ishanou*, Shyam Benegal's *Manthan*, Satyajit Ray's *Aranyer Din Ratri* and Sumitra Peries's *Gehenu Lammai* were premiered at Cannes over the past five years.

09M. Restored version of John Abraham's classic movie *Amma Ariyan* to premiere at Cannes

जॉन अब्राहम की क्लासिक फिल्म *Amma Ariyan* का पुनर्स्थापित संस्करण Cannes में प्रदर्शित होगा

- Forty years after John Abraham made *Amma Ariyan*, one of the remarkable independent films to come out of Kerala, a 4K restoration of the film is set to be premiered at the Cannes Film Festival.

John Abraham द्वारा *Amma Ariyan* बनाने के चालीस वर्ष बाद, जो केरल की उल्लेखनीय स्वतंत्र फिल्मों में से एक है, फिल्म का 4K पुनर्स्थापित संस्करण अब Cannes Film Festival में प्रदर्शित होने जा रहा है।

- The film with a cult following, restored by the not-for-profit organisation Film Heritage Foundation (FHF) is the only Indian feature film selected for world premiere at the festival this year. कल्ट फॉलोइंग वाली इस फिल्म को गैर-लाभकारी संस्था Film Heritage Foundation (FHF) द्वारा पुनर्स्थापित किया गया है और यह इस वर्ष महोत्सव में विश्व प्रीमियर के लिए चुनी गई एकमात्र भारतीय फीचर फिल्म है।

- The premiere is scheduled on May 16. इसका प्रीमियर 16 मई को निर्धारित है।



- John, who began working on the film based on a sliver of an idea based on the suicides of persons associated with the **Naxalite movement**, followed an alternative method of production and distribution with his friends at the **Odessa Film Collective**.
जॉन ने इस फिल्म पर काम **नक्सलवादी आंदोलन** से जुड़े लोगों की आत्महत्याओं पर आधारित एक छोटे से विचार के आधार पर शुरू किया था और उन्होंने अपने मित्रों के साथ **Odessa Film Collective** में वैकल्पिक निर्माण और वितरण पद्धति अपनाई।
- The collective staged street plays and screened films to collect voluntary contributions from the public to make the film.
इस समूह ने फिल्म बनाने के लिए जनता से स्वैच्छिक योगदान एकत्र करने हेतु नुक्कड़ नाटक और फिल्मों का प्रदर्शन किया।
- Although it was never released in the theatres, the film has acquired a cult following.
हालांकि यह फिल्म कभी सिनेमाघरों में रिलीज नहीं हुई, फिर भी इसने एक कल्ट फॉलोइंग हासिल कर ली।
- Shivendra Singh Dungarpur**, director, **Film Heritage Foundation**, told The Hindu that his memories of **Amma Ariyan** goes back to his student days at the **Film and Television Institute of India (FTII)**, where legendary archivist **P.K. Nair** used to show the film to the students.
Film Heritage Foundation के निदेशक **Shivendra Singh Dungarpur** ने The Hindu को बताया कि **Amma Ariyan** की उनकी यादें **Film and Television Institute of India (FTII)** में छात्र जीवन तक जाती हैं, जहां प्रसिद्ध आर्काइविस्ट **P.K. Nair** छात्रों को यह फिल्म दिखाया करते थे।
- “The restoration was challenging as we had no original camera negative to work with.
“पुनर्स्थापन चुनौतीपूर्ण था क्योंकि हमारे पास काम करने के लिए कोई मूल कैमरा निगेटिव नहीं था।
- The whole process, from searching out the last surviving subtitled print from the **National Archives** to identifying the copyright holder at the **Odessa collective** to restoring the print took close to 5-6 years, with the restoration work alone taking 2 years,” he says.
पूरा कार्य — **National Archives** से अंतिम उपलब्ध बिना सबटाइटल वाली प्रिंट ढूंढने से लेकर **Odessa collective** में कॉपीराइट धारक की पहचान करने और प्रिंट को पुनर्स्थापित करने तक — लगभग 5-6 वर्ष लगा, जबकि केवल पुनर्स्थापन कार्य में ही 2 वर्ष लगे,” उन्होंने कहा।
- The **Film Heritage Foundation’s** restorations of **Aravindan’s Thamp**, **Aribam Syam Sharma’s Ishanou**, **Shyam Benegal’s Manthan**, **Satyajit Ray’s Aranyer Din Ratri** and **Sumitra Peries’s Gehenu Lamai** were premiered at Cannes over the past five years.
पिछले पांच वर्षों में **Film Heritage Foundation** द्वारा पुनर्स्थापित **Aravindan की Thamp**, **Aribam Syam Sharma की Ishanou**, **Shyam Benegal की Manthan**, **Satyajit Ray की Aranyer Din Ratri** और **Sumitra Peries की Gehenu Lamai** का भी Cannes में प्रीमियर हो चुका है।

GS Paper 1: Society		09 May 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
09M	Census enumerator ID can be verified through QR code जनगणना गणनाकर्ता की ID को QR कोड के माध्यम से सत्यापित किया जा सकता है	
09M	Caste-iron control जातिगत लोहे जैसी पकड़	



Census enumerator ID can be verified through QR code

09M. Census enumerator ID can be verified through QR code

जनगणना गणनाकर्ता की ID को QR कोड के माध्यम से सत्यापित किया जा सकता है

GS I: Society

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Census enumerators have been given identity cards with QR codes to enable residents to verify authenticity, says Lalit Jain, Director of Census Operations (DCO), Haryana, amid resistance from several high-end gated societies to grant access to enumerators.

In an interview with *The Hindu* on Friday, Mr. Jain said, "We understand that there may be some apprehension in their [residents] minds that maybe people [enumerators] are not genuine. Now, we have introduced the scan code enabled identity cards. Any person who has any doubt about the authenticity of our enumerator can scan the code on the ID card for verification."

On December 2, 2025, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs informed Parliament that according to Section 8(2) of the Census Act, 1948, every resident is "legally bound" to answer Census-related questions to the best of

her/his knowledge or belief.

"We have requested the presidents of the RWA (residents welfare associations) to allow us to enter, because Census ultimately is a nation building exercise, and it is to the benefit of everybody that we enumerate and we get to know the basic data about our population," Mr. Jain said.

Allaying concerns

He added that "stranger anxiety" and apprehension about sharing personal data could be the reasons behind the resistance.

"Data we are asking for is not something which is very, very personal. We are just asking people whether they have drinking water supply in their homes, whether they have toilets. And secondly, they need not worry because whatever data they give is secure with us. We will not share this data with anybody. Moreover, this data will not lead to any documentation, and it cannot be used against you," he said.

to answer Census-related questions to the best of her/his knowledge or belief.

2 दिसंबर, 2025 को केंद्रीय गृह मंत्रालय ने संसद को बताया कि जनगणना अधिनियम, 1948 की धारा 8(2) के अनुसार प्रत्येक निवासी अपनी जानकारी और विश्वास के अनुसार जनगणना से जुड़े प्रश्नों का उत्तर देने के लिए "कानूनी रूप से बाध्य" है।

- "We have requested the presidents of the RWA (residents welfare associations) to allow us to enter, because Census ultimately is a nation building exercise, and it is to the benefit of everybody that we enumerate and we get to know the basic data about our population," Mr. Jain said.

"हमने RWA (Residents Welfare Associations) के अध्यक्षों से हमें प्रवेश देने का अनुरोध किया है, क्योंकि जनगणना अंततः राष्ट्र निर्माण का कार्य है और यह सभी के हित में है कि हम गणना करें और अपनी जनसंख्या के मूलभूत आंकड़ों को जानें," श्री Jain ने कहा।

Allaying concerns

चिंताओं को दूर करते हुए

- Census enumerators have been given identity cards with QR codes to enable residents to verify authenticity, says Lalit Jain, Director of Census Operations (DCO), Haryana, amid resistance from several high-end gated societies to grant access to enumerators.

जनगणना गणनाकर्ताओं को QR कोड वाले पहचान पत्र दिए गए हैं ताकि निवासी उनकी प्रामाणिकता सत्यापित कर सकें, हरियाणा के जनगणना संचालन निदेशक (DCO) Lalit Jain ने यह बात कई उच्च स्तरीय गेटेड सोसाइटियों द्वारा गणनाकर्ताओं को प्रवेश देने में विरोध के बीच कही।

- In an interview with *The Hindu* on Friday, Mr. Jain said, "We understand that there may be some apprehension in their [residents] minds that maybe people [enumerators] are not genuine.

शुक्रवार को *The Hindu* को दिए साक्षात्कार में श्री Jain ने कहा, "हम समझते हैं कि उनके [निवासियों] मन में यह आशंका हो सकती है कि शायद लोग [गणनाकर्ता] वास्तविक नहीं हैं।

- Now, we have introduced the scan code enabled identity cards.

अब हमने स्कैन कोड सक्षम पहचान पत्र शुरू किए हैं।

- Any person who has any doubt about the authenticity of our enumerator can scan the code on the ID card for verification."

जिस किसी को भी हमारे गणनाकर्ता की प्रामाणिकता पर संदेह हो, वह सत्यापन के लिए पहचान पत्र पर दिए गए कोड को स्कैन कर सकता है।"

- On December 2, 2025, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs informed Parliament that according to Section 8(2) of the Census Act, 1948, every resident is "legally bound"



TELEGRAM CHANNEL: <https://t.me/patrioticIAS>
YOUTUBE CHANNEL: <https://www.youtube.com/@PatrioticIAS>
CONTACT: 9971932488



- He added that “stranger anxiety” and apprehension about sharing personal data could be the reasons behind the resistance.
उन्होंने कहा कि “अजनबियों को लेकर चिंता” और व्यक्तिगत डेटा साझा करने को लेकर आशंका इस विरोध के पीछे के कारण हो सकते हैं।
- “Data we are asking for is not something which is very, very personal.
“जो डेटा हम मांग रहे हैं वह बहुत अधिक व्यक्तिगत नहीं है।
- We are just asking people whether they have drinking water supply in their homes, whether they have toilets.
हम केवल लोगों से पूछ रहे हैं कि क्या उनके घरों में पीने के पानी की सुविधा है, क्या उनके पास शौचालय हैं।
- And secondly, they need not worry because whatever data they give is secure with us.
और दूसरी बात, उन्हें चिंता करने की आवश्यकता नहीं है क्योंकि जो भी डेटा वे देंगे वह हमारे पास सुरक्षित रहेगा।
- We will not share this data with anybody.
हम यह डेटा किसी के साथ साझा नहीं करेंगे।
- Moreover, this data will not lead to any documentation, and it cannot be used against you,” he said.
इसके अलावा, यह डेटा किसी दस्तावेजीकरण का कारण नहीं बनेगा और इसका उपयोग आपके खिलाफ नहीं किया जा सकता,” उन्होंने कहा।

PATRIOTIC IAS



- **Rinku Chauhan** was four and her sister **Jayashree** all of two months when they were married to two brothers in their village of **Sukarlai** in **Rohat tehsil** of **Rajasthan** by their grandmother and the elders of the caste.
रिंकू चौहान चार वर्ष की थीं और उनकी बहन जयश्री केवल दो महीने की थीं जब उनकी दादी और जाति के बुजुर्गों ने उनका विवाह राजस्थान के रोहत तहसील के सुकरलाई गाँव में दो भाइयों से करा दिया।
- Rinku's parents, who were not present at the ceremony, refused to accept the wedding.
रिंकू के माता-पिता, जो समारोह में उपस्थित नहीं थे, ने इस विवाह को स्वीकार करने से इनकार कर दिया।
- They decided to take on the **panch**, a body of elderly men within a caste, which takes decisions on a range of matters.
उन्होंने पंच का सामना करने का निर्णय लिया, जो जाति के बुजुर्ग पुरुषों का समूह होता है और विभिन्न मामलों में निर्णय लेता है।
- This rebellion led to the caste leaders announcing a social boycott (**hooka-pani band**, or the stopping of shared resources).
इस विद्रोह के कारण जाति नेताओं ने सामाजिक बहिष्कार (**हुक्का-पानी बंद**) की घोषणा कर दी।
- It has now been 26 years.
अब इसे 26 वर्ष हो चुके हैं।
- The social boycott means that no member of their caste, including distant and close relatives, is allowed to interact with the family.
सामाजिक बहिष्कार का अर्थ यह है कि उनकी जाति का कोई भी सदस्य, चाहे दूर का हो या करीबी रिश्तेदार, परिवार से संपर्क नहीं रख सकता।
- The family has not been invited to weddings or death ceremonies all these years.
इन सभी वर्षों में परिवार को न तो शादियों में बुलाया गया और न ही मृत्यु संबंधी समारोहों में।
- No one in the village has any economic association with them.
गाँव में किसी का भी उनके साथ कोई आर्थिक संबंध नहीं है।
- Intermittently, the family was asked to pay penalties ranging from ₹5,000 to ₹2 lakh, for which they eventually had to pawn their mother's jewellery.
समय-समय पर परिवार से ₹5,000 से ₹2 लाख तक का जुर्माना माँगा गया, जिसके लिए उन्हें अपनी माँ के गहने गिरवी रखने पड़े।
- They were also forced to organise feasts for meetings of the **panch leaders**.
उन्हें पंच नेताओं की बैठकों के लिए भोज आयोजित करने के लिए भी मजबूर किया गया।
- These meetings were held to decide how much longer the ostracisation would extend.
ये बैठकें यह तय करने के लिए होती थीं कि सामाजिक बहिष्कार कितने समय तक जारी रहेगा।
- Rinku's father was routinely called for these meetings and allegedly humiliated by being made to stand apart from the rest of the gathering.
रिंकू के पिता को नियमित रूप से इन बैठकों में बुलाया जाता था और कथित रूप से उन्हें बाकी लोगों से अलग खड़ा करके अपमानित किया जाता था।
- Rinku, now 30, grew up to become a lawyer, and about three years ago, she filed a criminal case against the **panch**.
अब 30 वर्षीय रिंकू वकील बन चुकी हैं और लगभग तीन वर्ष पहले उन्होंने पंच के खिलाफ आपराधिक मामला दर्ज कराया।
- She is now fighting it in the **Pali district court**, where she is an advocate.
वह अब इसे पाली जिला अदालत में लड़ रही हैं, जहाँ वह स्वयं अधिवक्ता हैं।
- "Through life, my family would keep me home because they didn't want any more trouble because of me. Now, though, my fellow lawyers are standing with me," she says.
वह कहती हैं, "पूरी जिंदगी मेरा परिवार मुझे घर में रखता था क्योंकि वे मेरे कारण और परेशानी नहीं चाहते थे। लेकिन अब मेरे साथी वकील मेरे साथ खड़े हैं।"
- Across **Rajasthan**, in districts like **Jodhpur Rural, Barmer, Jaisalmer, Jalore, Nagaur, Pali, and Banswara**, caste panchayats rule with an iron grip, running extrajudicial courts.



राजस्थान के जोधपुर ग्रामीण, बाड़मेर, जैसलमेर, जालौर, नागौर, पाली और बांसवाड़ा जैसे जिलों में जाति पंचायतें लोहे जैसी पकड़ के साथ गैर-न्यायिक अदालतें चलाती हैं।

- In March 2025, the judiciary stepped in after they saw a number of cases detailing instances of social ostracisation by panch groups.
मार्च 2025 में न्यायपालिका ने हस्तक्षेप किया जब उसके सामने पंचायत समूहों द्वारा सामाजिक बहिष्कार के कई मामले आए।
- The **Jodhpur Bench** of the **Rajasthan High Court** ordered the formation of a commission of advocates and civil society members to probe the matter.
राजस्थान उच्च न्यायालय की जोधपुर पीठ ने मामले की जाँच के लिए वकीलों और नागरिक समाज के सदस्यों का एक आयोग गठित करने का आदेश दिया।
- The commission submitted its report in April 2026, following which the High Court ruled that social boycotts and diktats by caste panchayats are unconstitutional, violating fundamental rights under **Articles 14, 15, 19, and 21**.
आयोग ने अप्रैल 2026 में अपनी रिपोर्ट सौंपी, जिसके बाद उच्च न्यायालय ने कहा कि जाति पंचायतों द्वारा सामाजिक बहिष्कार और आदेश असंवैधानिक हैं और **अनुच्छेद 14, 15, 19 और 21** के तहत मौलिक अधिकारों का उल्लंघन करते हैं।

Those who sit in judgment जो निर्णय सुनाते हैं

- In her chamber in the **Pali district court**, Rinku says her family had to leave their ancestral village, where they owned land, and move to **Pali**, about 20 kilometres away.
पाली जिला अदालत में अपने चैंबर में रंजू बताती हैं कि उनके परिवार को अपना पुरतैनी गाँव छोड़कर लगभग 20 किलोमीटर दूर **पाली** जाना पड़ा।
- Here, her father had to take up work as a factory labourer to sustain the family of six.
यहाँ उनके पिता को छह सदस्यीय परिवार चलाने के लिए फैक्ट्री मजदूर का काम करना पड़ा।
- “When my grandmother died, no one in the extended family turned up for the rituals,” she says.
वह कहती हैं, “जब मेरी दादी की मृत्यु हुई, तब विस्तारित परिवार से कोई भी अंतिम संस्कार में नहीं आया।”
- Rinku remembers attending a panch meeting once, where she spoke against the practice of social ostracisation.
रंजू को याद है कि वह एक बार पंचायत बैठक में गई थीं, जहाँ उन्होंने सामाजिक बहिष्कार की प्रथा के खिलाफ आवाज़ उठाई।
- “I was fined ₹5,000 for speaking, as women are not allowed to,” she says.
वह कहती हैं, “बोलने के लिए मुझ पर ₹5,000 का जुर्माना लगाया गया क्योंकि महिलाओं को बोलने की अनुमति नहीं है।”
- Over the years, following police complaints, two of the caste leaders were arrested, but, she says, “They were let off soon.”
वर्षों के दौरान पुलिस शिकायतों के बाद जाति के दो नेताओं को गिरफ्तार किया गया, लेकिन वह कहती हैं, “उन्हें जल्द ही छोड़ दिया गया।”
- “Within the court premises, they mocked me, saying I would never be accepted by society.”
“अदालत परिसर में उन्होंने मेरा मजाक उड़ाते हुए कहा कि समाज मुझे कभी स्वीकार नहीं करेगा।”
- **Caste panchayats** in India, also called **khap** or **jatiya panchayats**, **panch patels**, or **bhanga jade**, are informal bodies mostly prevalent in parts of **Rajasthan, Haryana, and western Uttar Pradesh**.
भारत में **जाति पंचायतें**, जिन्हें **खाप**, **जातीय पंचायत**, **पंच पटेल** या **भांग जाड़े** भी कहा जाता है, मुख्यतः **राजस्थान, हरियाणा और पश्चिमी उत्तर प्रदेश** के कुछ हिस्सों में प्रचलित अनौपचारिक संस्थाएँ हैं।



- They differ from the constitutional **Gram Panchayats** created under the **73rd Constitutional Amendment (1992)**.
ये 73वें संविधान संशोधन (1992) के तहत गठित संवैधानिक ग्राम पंचायतों से अलग हैं।
- Panch leaders enforce traditional norms by imposing social boycotts, heavy fines, and other coercive measures against those who deviate from the community's self-prescribed rules.
पंच नेता पारंपरिक नियमों को लागू करने के लिए सामाजिक बहिष्कार, भारी जुर्माना और अन्य दमनकारी उपाय अपनाते हैं।
- Eventually, the victim is ousted from their community and sometimes, from the family.
अंततः पीड़ित को समुदाय और कभी-कभी परिवार से भी बाहर कर दिया जाता है।
- Reasons for ostracisation can range from marital discord and marrying outside the caste or sub-caste to land disputes and even standing in support of someone who has been ostracised.
बहिष्कार के कारणों में वैवाहिक विवाद, जाति या उपजाति से बाहर विवाह, भूमि विवाद और बहिष्कृत व्यक्ति का समर्थन करना भी शामिल हो सकता है।

The need for a targeted law

विशेष कानून की आवश्यकता

- The report of the commission notes that despite its devastating impact, there exists no central legislation in India that criminalises and punishes the concept of social boycott as an offence.
आयोग की रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि इसके विनाशकारी प्रभाव के बावजूद भारत में ऐसा कोई केंद्रीय कानून नहीं है जो सामाजिक बहिष्कार को अपराध घोषित कर दंडित करे।
- "In the absence of a specific law that explicitly recognises social boycott as a punishable offence, investigative agencies face significant difficulty in determining the appropriate legal provision," says advocate **Shobha Prabhakar**.
अधिवक्ता **शोभा प्रभाकर** कहती हैं, "ऐसे विशेष कानून के अभाव में जो सामाजिक बहिष्कार को दंडनीय अपराध मानता हो, जांच एजेंसियों को उचित कानूनी प्रावधान तय करने में कठिनाई होती है।"
- The practice prevails irrespective of religion.
यह प्रथा धर्म की परवाह किए बिना जारी है।
- **Sheru Khan** lives in **Bambara village** of **Jaisalmer district**.
शेरू खान **जैसलमेर जिले** के **बंबारा गाँव** में रहते हैं।
- Khan's adult daughter married a man from the same caste as her own, but since the two had chosen to get married to each other, rather than have their parents arrange the marriage, the panch was unhappy.
खान की वयस्क बेटी ने अपनी ही जाति के व्यक्ति से विवाह किया, लेकिन क्योंकि दोनों ने स्वयं विवाह करने का निर्णय लिया, पंचायत इससे नाराज़ हो गई।
- The chief **khalifa** imposed the traditional social boycott known as **haath band** on Khan and his family.
मुख्य **खलीफा** ने खान और उनके परिवार पर पारंपरिक सामाजिक बहिष्कार **हाथ बंद** लागू कर दिया।
- In his April order, based on the commission's report, Justice **Farjand Ali** ordered the **Rajasthan government** to formulate a policy with standard operating procedures to curb these actions.
अप्रैल के अपने आदेश में न्यायमूर्ति **फरजंद अली** ने **राजस्थान सरकार** को इन कार्रवाइयों पर रोक लगाने के लिए मानक संचालन प्रक्रिया सहित नीति बनाने का आदेश दिया।
- He suggested a law similar to **Maharashtra's**.
उन्होंने **महाराष्ट्र** जैसे कानून का सुझाव दिया।
- The **Maharashtra Protection of People from Social Boycott (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2016** criminalises social boycott by caste groups.



TELEGRAM CHANNEL: <https://t.me/patrioticIAS>

YOUTUBE CHANNEL: <https://www.youtube.com/@PatrioticIAS>

CONTACT: 9971932488



महाराष्ट्र सामाजिक बहिष्कार निवारण, प्रतिषेध और प्रतितोष अधिनियम, 2016 जातिगत सामाजिक बहिष्कार को अपराध घोषित करता है।

- It punishes offenders with up to 7 years in jail, ₹5 lakh fine, or both. इसमें दोषियों को 7 वर्ष तक की जेल, ₹5 लाख जुर्माना या दोनों का प्रावधान है।
- Advocate **Prabhakar** has now begun a **Rajasthan Social Boycott Prevention Campaign** on social media. अधिवक्ता **प्रभाकर** ने अब सोशल मीडिया पर **राजस्थान सोशल बायकॉट प्रिवेंशन कैंपेन** शुरू किया है।
- “The campaign aims to compel the government into enacting a specific law that criminalises social boycott,” she says. वह कहती हैं, “इस अभियान का उद्देश्य सरकार को ऐसा विशेष कानून बनाने के लिए बाध्य करना है जो सामाजिक बहिष्कार को अपराध घोषित करे।”
- The law should also include provisions for compensation and rehabilitation of the victims. कानून में पीड़ितों के मुआवज़े और पुनर्वास के प्रावधान भी होने चाहिए।
- The campaign addresses the establishment of a robust support mechanism for victims, including a helpline, fast-track courts, psychological counselling, and financial assistance. अभियान में पीड़ितों के लिए हेल्पलाइन, फास्ट-ट्रैक अदालतें, मनोवैज्ञानिक परामर्श और वित्तीय सहायता सहित मजबूत सहायता तंत्र की मांग की गई है।
- “Investigations should be completed within 90 days and a senior officer of Additional SP rank as Nodal Officer should monitor all pending cases of social boycott,” she adds. वह आगे कहती हैं, “जाँच 90 दिनों के भीतर पूरी होनी चाहिए और अतिरिक्त पुलिस अधीक्षक स्तर का अधिकारी नोडल अधिकारी बनकर सभी लंबित मामलों की निगरानी करे।”
- Victims should be provided security to protect them from community pressure, the campaign demands. अभियान की मांग है कि पीड़ितों को सामुदायिक दबाव से बचाने के लिए सुरक्षा प्रदान की जाए।
- No panch was willing to speak for this story. इस रिपोर्ट के लिए कोई भी पंचायत सदस्य बोलने को तैयार नहीं था।

GS Paper 1: Geography		09 May 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
09M	Nightmare on the Narmada नर्मदा पर दुःस्वप्न	



Nightmare on the Narmada

Of the 41 passengers and crew members onboard a cruise vessel on the Narmada River, 13 died when it capsized during a violent storm in the Bargi Dam reservoir on April 30. The tourism department-operated cruise had been carrying families seeking respite from the summer heat. **Mehul Malpani** reports on the tragedy in Jabalpur and the questions it has raised over safety protocols and preparedness for inland vessel operations



The wreckage of the cruise boat that capsized in the Bargi dam reservoir in Jabalpur on April 30, A.M. FARUQUI

April 30 was a sweltering summer day in Madhya Pradesh, with the temperature crossing 40 degrees Celsius. So, when clouds gathered over the Jabalpur sky and a light breeze swept through the city that afternoon, people planned outings to nearby parks and lakes.

Several families decided to head to the Bargi dam reservoir on the Narmada river, about 40 kilometres from Jabalpur. For nearly three decades, this has been a popular destination for locals and tourists alike. Boat and cruise rides are operated by the Madhya Pradesh State Tourism Development Corporation (MPSTDC) at the Bargi Boat Club.

"I have been going there for more than 20 years and my family loves boating and going on cruise rides," says 72-year-old Riyaz Hussain Sayyed. "Whenever I have family or friends visiting, I take them there."

Sayed's latest cruise ride, however, has left him with trauma that he says will stay with him forever. That windy afternoon, as passengers were enjoying the change in weather, a storm suddenly intensified and huge waves lashed against the boat, which capsized within minutes.

Sayed watched helplessly as his 66-year-old wife, Reshma, disappeared into the water. His daughter's mother-in-law, Shamim Zaidi, 68, also died. "I just waited for death quietly. I heard a man's voice on the other side of the boat. He was also trying to get out, but he soon became silent," he recalls.

Clinging to a small grill, Sayyed managed to breathe through a narrow gap for more than four hours, surrounded by violent water and an eerie darkness.

He began shouting when he saw lights towards the shore and was rescued more than an hour later by construction workers and officials, who had to break part of the vessel to reach him.

Of the 39 passengers and two crew members who embarked on the last cruise ride that day around 5:20 p.m., 13 people, including eight women and four children, drowned. The rest were rescued by workers of a nearby private construction company, along with rescue teams that arrived shortly after. The incident occurred about 100 metres from the shore.

Trapped beneath the river
Over the past week, several videos of the incident have emerged online, providing glimpses of the tragedy. One clip captures the moments just before the boat overturned, with two men tearing open life jacket packets while others remain inside an already flooding cabin. Another shows survivors floating in the water, trying to reach the shore amid high waves.

Survivors and officials say that those who managed to jump out of the cruise from the deck or through windows survived the tragedy, while most of the passengers trapped beneath the vessel died, as the life jackets were unable to bring them to the surface.

Marina Messi, 39, along with her husband Pradeep, two children – Siya and Trishaan – and her parents had come to Jabalpur from the Delhi cantonment area to attend a family function on April 29. Before their return, they decided to take the cruise. Three members of the family are dead: Marina's mother Madhu Messi, 62; Marina, who was found trapped beneath the vessel in a life jacket, and her four-year-old son Trishaan, whom she was embracing.

Julius Messi, Marina's 65-year-old father, says, "Everything transpired within minutes so nobody had time to react."

Most families have expressed anger over the

We managed to get life jackets but that was not enough. There were no instructions. The authorities cannot just throw jackets at us at the last minute.

RAMJAN SONI
Sister of Neetu Soni who died in the tragedy

lack of preparedness on the cruise in the event of an emergency, while also alleging negligence on the part of the crew. Cruise operator Mahesh Patel and boatman Chhotalal Gond are facing the most as survivors allege that they were of "no help" during the tragedy.

They also allege that the passengers were not given any instructions before the ride on how to respond in case of an emergency, and that there were no jackets for children.

Julius explains what happened when the Marina and my wife got stuck in the lower portion of it. "We kept hoping and praying that he might have somehow reached the shore and been rescued by locals, but that hope was eventually shattered," says Rakhi. "My sister had separated from her husband and was working at a private bank to support her child. She wanted him to become an Air Force pilot and had enrolled him in an Army school."

Rakhi Soni, 41, lost her sister, Neetu Soni, 43, and her four-year-old nephew, Viraj. Seven members of the family, all residents of Jabalpur's Kotwali area, had gone for an outing to experience the breezy weather. Viraj's body was found on the last day of the search operation on May 3.

"We kept hoping and praying that he might have somehow reached the shore and been rescued by locals, but that hope was eventually shattered," says Rakhi. "My sister had separated from her husband and was working at a private bank to support her child. She wanted him to become an Air Force pilot and had enrolled him in an Army school."

Rakhi also says that there was no immediate help from the Boat Club or any authorities, and that she along with many others swam about 100-150 m to reach the shore. "Some locals and construction workers kept guiding us by yelling. They told us how to move our arms and legs to help us swim. We managed to get life jackets but that was not enough. There were no instructions. The authorities cannot just throw jackets at us at the last minute," she says.

Ramzan Sheikh, 22, a migrant labourer from West Bengal's Murshidabad, was among the first to spot the sinking vessel from a construction site near the shore. "A colleague was shooting a video of the dam when he spotted the ship. We immediately reached the shoreline (marked by a cliff about 25 feet high) but we had no clue what to do. The weather was really bad," he says.

Ramzan and his colleagues initially guided

the passengers by shouting instructions and helped them navigate their way towards the shore by throwing ropes. About half an hour later, as the first responders from the Boat Club arrived, he along with a few others jumped into the cold water wearing life jackets, along with the rescuers.

"When we spotted a man [Riyaz] stuck under the ship, two locals and I entered the water with the rescuers. We used some of our construction tools to break that part of the ship and got him out," he says.

A challenging operation
While rescuing the survivors was challenging enough due to persisting winds, high waves, and the overturned cruise that had trapped some, recovering the bodies proved to be a tougher task. It forced the authorities to carry out searches in large areas of the reservoir for nearly three days until the last body was found on May 3 morning.

The rescue operation involved special divers from the Indian Army, called in from Uttar Pradesh's Agra and Telangana's Hyderabad; personnel of the National Disaster Response Force and State Disaster Emergency Response Force; local police and home guard, as well as local fishermen. Heavy machinery and equipment such as cranes and excavators were used to pull the vessel out of the water and look for people trapped under it.

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav deployed ministers and senior officials to oversee search and rescue efforts. He visited the spot on May 1 and ordered a high-level investigation into the incident. He formed a four-member committee, headed by the Additional Chief Secretary (Home), and directed it to submit its report within 15 days. The State and Union governments also announced financial assistance for the victims' families, while Yadav said that workers and locals who assisted in the rescue would be rewarded.

The services of cruise operator Assistant Skipper Patel and boatman Gond, who were onboard, as well as ticket counter in-charge Brijendra, were terminated for negligence during and after the tragedy. Sunil Maravi, manager of Hotel Maikali Resort and Bargi Boat Club, was also suspended for negligence, while MPSTDC regional manager Sanjay Malhotra was attached to the headquarters and a departmental inquiry was initiated against him. The operations at the boat club remain suspended.

A local court in Jabalpur took suo-moto cognizance of the tragedy. Taking note of media reports that alleged that Patel "abandoned" the passengers and escaped, the court directed the local police to lodge a case against him and other concerned persons.

Officials also say that a lack of communication from the crew and the ticket counter in-charge after the tragedy led to confusion during the rescue efforts. "After getting out of water, they did not inform the authorities about the number of passengers onboard," says a senior government official. "A total of 29 tickets were sold for the ride, and 10 others were allowed as complimentary entries. While this is the standard practice for children, the lack of communication led to confusion during the rescue operation. We only calculated the actual numbers by looking at CCTV footage."

On May 7, officials of the district administration recorded the statements of the survivors, eyewitnesses and the crew, as part of the Chief Minister-ordered investigation.

Patel denies all the charges and claims that he was the last one to jump out of the cruise.

"There were no winds when we started the jour-

We have never been responsible for giving instructions before passengers come on board, and nobody ever told us it was required. We have been operating the cruise for years.

MAHESH PATEL
Cruise operator

ney and it got stormy all of a sudden. As the winds grew stronger, I started pushing back the vessel but two back-to-back strong waves hit the vessel and it started overturning mid-turn. Before that I had asked the boatman to distribute the jackets kept in a storeroom," says Patel, a resident of Ghullapaat village near the dam.

Patel joined the Boat Club as a boatman in 2009 and has been operating the cruise since 2014 after becoming an Assistant Skipper. "We have never been responsible for giving instructions before passengers come on board, and nobody ever told us it was required. We have been operating the cruise for years, and this has been the standard practice," he says.

The boatman, Gond, says everyone was in a panic. He says he was trying to calm the passengers and distribute life jackets. "There was very little time so I did whatever was possible," he says. A group of boatmen and operators from the Bargi Boat Club also submitted a complaint to Jabalpur Collector Raghuvendra Singh saying that the confusion in the number of passengers is often caused by VIPs and their guests who come without tickets, and that there were some onboard that day as well.

Dismantling the vessel
Several questions have also been raised about the vessel's condition and whether it was fit to sail in adverse weather. Survivors have criticized the authorities' decision to dismantle it just days after the tragedy and before the investigation was completed, raising suspicions about the possible loss of crucial evidence.

A twin-hull catamaran cruise boat, the vessel was purchased in 2006 from a Hyderabad-based firm which has also been responsible for its maintenance and repair. It had a capacity of 90 passengers, according to officials. Its dismantled wreckage now lies on the shore.

Authorities, however, have denied both allegations, stating that the mechanism of the vessel remains at the site and that the investigation will carry out a thorough inspection.

Singh says, "It is a 17-18 tonne vessel. It had become heavier due to water. It was broken so that it could be moved from there."

"When we spotted a man [Riyaz] stuck under the ship, two locals and I entered the water with the rescuers. We used some of our construction tools to break that part of the ship and got him out," he says.

A challenging operation
While rescuing the survivors was challenging enough due to persisting winds, high waves, and the overturned cruise that had trapped some, recovering the bodies proved to be a tougher task. It forced the authorities to carry out searches in large areas of the reservoir for nearly three days until the last body was found on May 3 morning.

The rescue operation involved special divers from the Indian Army, called in from Uttar Pradesh's Agra and Telangana's Hyderabad; personnel of the National Disaster Response Force and State Disaster Emergency Response Force; local police and home guard, as well as local fishermen. Heavy machinery and equipment such as cranes and excavators were used to pull the vessel out of the water and look for people trapped under it.

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav deployed ministers and senior officials to oversee search and rescue efforts. He visited the spot on May 1 and ordered a high-level investigation into the incident. He formed a four-member committee, headed by the Additional Chief Secretary (Home), and directed it to submit its report within 15 days. The State and Union governments also announced financial assistance for the victims' families, while Yadav said that workers and locals who assisted in the rescue would be rewarded.

The services of cruise operator Assistant Skipper Patel and boatman Gond, who were onboard, as well as ticket counter in-charge Brijendra, were terminated for negligence during and after the tragedy. Sunil Maravi, manager of Hotel Maikali Resort and Bargi Boat Club, was also suspended for negligence, while MPSTDC regional manager Sanjay Malhotra was attached to the headquarters and a departmental inquiry was initiated against him. The operations at the boat club remain suspended.

A local court in Jabalpur took suo-moto cognizance of the tragedy. Taking note of media reports that alleged that Patel "abandoned" the passengers and escaped, the court directed the local police to lodge a case against him and other concerned persons.

Officials also say that a lack of communication from the crew and the ticket counter in-charge after the tragedy led to confusion during the rescue efforts. "After getting out of water, they did not inform the authorities about the number of passengers onboard," says a senior government official. "A total of 29 tickets were sold for the ride, and 10 others were allowed as complimentary entries. While this is the standard practice for children, the lack of communication led to confusion during the rescue operation. We only calculated the actual numbers by looking at CCTV footage."

On May 7, officials of the district administration recorded the statements of the survivors, eyewitnesses and the crew, as part of the Chief Minister-ordered investigation.

Patel denies all the charges and claims that he was the last one to jump out of the cruise.

"There were no winds when we started the jour-

ney and it got stormy all of a sudden. As the winds grew stronger, I started pushing back the vessel but two back-to-back strong waves hit the vessel and it started overturning mid-turn. Before that I had asked the boatman to distribute the jackets kept in a storeroom," says Patel, a resident of Ghullapaat village near the dam.

Patel joined the Boat Club as a boatman in 2009 and has been operating the cruise since 2014 after becoming an Assistant Skipper. "We have never been responsible for giving instructions before passengers come on board, and nobody ever told us it was required. We have been operating the cruise for years, and this has been the standard practice," he says.

The boatman, Gond, says everyone was in a panic. He says he was trying to calm the passengers and distribute life jackets. "There was very little time so I did whatever was possible," he says.

A group of boatmen and operators from the Bargi Boat Club also submitted a complaint to Jabalpur Collector Raghuvendra Singh saying that the confusion in the number of passengers is often caused by VIPs and their guests who come without tickets, and that there were some onboard that day as well.

Several questions have also been raised about the vessel's condition and whether it was fit to sail in adverse weather. Survivors have criticized the authorities' decision to dismantle it just days after the tragedy and before the investigation was completed, raising suspicions about the possible loss of crucial evidence.

A twin-hull catamaran cruise boat, the vessel was purchased in 2006 from a Hyderabad-based firm which has also been responsible for its maintenance and repair. It had a capacity of 90 passengers, according to officials. Its dismantled wreckage now lies on the shore.

Authorities, however, have denied both allegations, stating that the mechanism of the vessel remains at the site and that the investigation will carry out a thorough inspection.

Singh says, "It is a 17-18 tonne vessel. It had become heavier due to water. It was broken so that it could be moved from there."

"When we spotted a man [Riyaz] stuck under the ship, two locals and I entered the water with the rescuers. We used some of our construction tools to break that part of the ship and got him out," he says.

Rajendra Nigam, a retired Indian Navy Commander, working with MPSTDC as an advisor for water and adventure tourism, says some thought there would still be a few bodies trapped in the vessel's bays or some of its parts.

"That is why they checked it completely to be sure," he says.

Nigam also says that the vessel was undergoing maintenance regularly with the last one taking place in 2024. "Its life had increased by 10 years after the last repair. There was no technical or mechanical fault with the vessel."

The cruise model had been designed by the certified naval architects at the National Ship Design and Research Centre, Visakhapatnam," he explains.

Nigam adds that the assistant skippers and the boatmen working on the vessel received training at the National Institute of Water Sports in Goa every two years. "But this was an unprecedented situation. Nobody could do much," he says.

Lack of protocols and enforcement
Adventure tourism activities in the State are governed by the tourism department, based on the Indian Adventure Tourism Guidelines, 2008, of the Adventure Tour Operators Association of India, approved by the Union Minister of Tourism.

Under the subhead for river cruising, section 26.9 mandates that a "comprehensive safety briefing must be given on boarding the vessel where all emergency drills are explained/demonstrated. Pictorial demonstrations, usage of life vests, muster stations for boarding lifeboats etc must be explained in detail."

Madhya Pradesh is yet to form and notify its own rules for inland vessels operations despite the Inland Vessels Act, to promote economic and safe transportation and trade through inland waters, being passed in Parliament in 2021.

Kerala, Gujarat, and Goa, among others, have their own rules.

Officials say that before forming its own rules, Madhya Pradesh needs to establish a maritime board.

"There have been discussions on this matter but a consensus is yet to be reached about whether it will be governed by the tourism or transport department. The matter has been mainly stuck due to this," says an official. Nigam says the process is now expected to accelerate in the wake of the tragedy and that the rules "should be framed within six months."

Experts blame lack of enforcement of rules and guidelines for slow responses and lack of preparedness during such incidents.

N. Unni, former director of the Inland Waterways Authority of India, says that in several countries, a detailed and mandatory instruction session is conducted before they let you onboard. "This is missing in our country," he says.

He also questions the formation of probe committees or judicial commissions in the aftermath of such tragedies. "How will a judicial commission or an official committee probe a technical subject? Sometimes, such bodies fail to finish their probe for years and the issue is forgotten unless another tragedy occurs. We need experts investigating the causes of such tragedies and we need governments, both Central and State, to act seriously on their recommendations to prevent such incidents in future," he says.

mehul.malpani@thehindu.co.in

09M. Nightmare on the Narmada

नर्मदा पर दुःस्वप्न

- Of the 41 passengers and crew members onboard a cruise vessel on the **Narmada River**, 13 died when it capsized during a violent storm in the **Bargi Dam** reservoir on April 30.

Address : 3rd Floor, KV Tower, Padleyganj Road, Gorakhpur
Email Id : info@patrioticias.in
Contact Number : 9971932488
Website : patrioticias.in



नर्मदा नदी पर एक क्रूज़ पोत में सवार 41 यात्रियों और चालक दल के सदस्यों में से 13 की मौत हो गई जब 30 अप्रैल को बरगी बांध जलाशय में तेज़ तूफ़ान के दौरान वह पलट गया।

- The tourism department-operated cruise had been carrying families seeking respite from the summer heat.
पर्यटन विभाग द्वारा संचालित यह क्रूज़ गर्मी से राहत पाने आए परिवारों को लेकर जा रहा था।
- Mehul Malpani** reports on the tragedy in **Jabalpur** and the questions it has raised over safety protocols and preparedness for inland vessel operations.
मेहुल मलपानी ने **जबलपुर** की इस त्रासदी और आंतरिक जलपोत संचालन में सुरक्षा प्रोटोकॉल तथा तैयारी पर उठे सवाल पर रिपोर्ट दी है।
- April 30 was a sweltering summer day in **Madhya Pradesh**, with the temperature crossing 40 degrees Celsius.
30 अप्रैल **मध्य प्रदेश** में भीषण गर्मी का दिन था, जहाँ तापमान 40 डिग्री सेल्सियस से अधिक हो गया था।
- So, when clouds gathered over the **Jabalpur** sky and a light breeze swept through the city that afternoon, people planned outings to nearby parks and lakes.
इसलिए जब उस दोपहर **जबलपुर** के आसमान में बादल छाए और हल्की हवा चली, तो लोगों ने पास के पार्कों और झीलों में घूमने की योजना बनाई।
- Several families decided to head to the **Bargi dam reservoir** on the **Narmada river**, about 40 kilometres from **Jabalpur**.
कई परिवारों ने **जबलपुर** से लगभग 40 किलोमीटर दूर **नर्मदा नदी** पर स्थित **बरगी बांध जलाशय** जाने का फैसला किया।
- For nearly three decades, this has been a popular destination for locals and tourists alike.
करीब तीन दशकों से यह स्थानीय लोगों और पर्यटकों के लिए लोकप्रिय स्थान रहा है।
- Boat and cruise rides are operated by the **Madhya Pradesh State Tourism Development Corporation (MPSTDC)** at the **Bargi Boat Club**.
बरगी बोट क्लब में नाव और क्रूज़ सवारी का संचालन **मध्य प्रदेश राज्य पर्यटन विकास निगम (MPSTDC)** द्वारा किया जाता है।
- "I have been going there for more than 20 years and my family loves boating and going on cruise rides," says 72-year-old **Riyaz Hussain Sayyed**.
72 वर्षीय **रियाज़ हुसैन सैयद** कहते हैं, "मैं 20 साल से अधिक समय से वहाँ जा रहा हूँ और मेरे परिवार को नौकायन और क्रूज़ यात्रा पसंद है।"
- "Whenever I have family or friends visiting, I take them there."
"जब भी मेरे परिवार या दोस्त आते हैं, मैं उन्हें वहाँ ले जाता हूँ।"
- Sayyed's latest cruise ride, however, has left him with trauma that he says will stay with him forever.
हालाँकि, सैयद की हाल की क्रूज़ यात्रा ने उन्हें ऐसा आघात दिया है जो उनके अनुसार जीवनभर रहेगा।
- That windy afternoon, as passengers were enjoying the change in weather, a storm suddenly intensified and huge waves lashed against the boat, which capsized within minutes.
उस तेज़ हवा वाली दोपहर में जब यात्री मौसम के बदलाव का आनंद ले रहे थे, तभी अचानक तूफान तेज़ हो गया और विशाल लहरें नाव से टकराईं, जिससे वह कुछ ही मिनटों में पलट गई।
- Sayyed watched helplessly as his 66-year-old wife, **Reshma**, disappeared into the water.
सैयद ने असहाय होकर देखा कि उनकी 66 वर्षीय पत्नी **रेशमा** पानी में गायब हो गई।
- His daughter's mother-in-law, **Shamim Zaidi**, 68, also died.
उनकी बेटी की सास **शमीम जैदी**, 68, की भी मृत्यु हो गई।
- "I just waited for death quietly. I heard a man's voice on the other side of the boat. He was also trying to get out, but he soon became silent," he recalls.
वह याद करते हुए कहते हैं, "मैं चुपचाप मौत का इंतज़ार कर रहा था। मैंने नाव के दूसरी तरफ़ एक आदमी की आवाज़ सुनी। वह भी बाहर निकलने की कोशिश कर रहा था, लेकिन जल्द ही उसकी आवाज़ बंद हो गई।"
- Clinging to a small grill, Sayyed managed to breathe through a narrow gap for more than four hours, surrounded by violent water and an eerie darkness.



एक छोटी गिरल को पकड़कर सैयद ने चार घंटे से अधिक समय तक एक संकरे छेद से सांस ली, जबकि चारों ओर उफनता पानी और डरावना अंधेरा था।

- He began shouting when he saw lights towards the shore and was rescued more than an hour later by construction workers and officials, who had to break part of the vessel to reach him.

जब उन्होंने किनारे की ओर रोशनी देखी तो चिल्लाना शुरू किया और एक घंटे बाद निर्माण मजदूरों तथा अधिकारियों ने पोत का हिस्सा तोड़कर उन्हें बचाया।

- Of the 39 passengers and two crew members who embarked on the last cruise ride that day around 5.20 p.m., 13 people, including eight women and four children, drowned.
उस दिन शाम लगभग 5:20 बजे अंतिम क्रूज़ यात्रा पर सवार 39 यात्रियों और दो चालक दल के सदस्यों में से आठ महिलाओं और चार बच्चों सहित 13 लोग डूब गए।
- The rest were rescued by workers of a nearby private construction company, along with rescue teams that arrived shortly after.
बाकी लोगों को पास की एक निजी निर्माण कंपनी के कर्मचारियों और बाद में पहुँची बचाव टीमों ने बचाया।
- The incident occurred about 100 metres from the shore.
यह घटना किनारे से लगभग 100 मीटर दूर हुई।

Trapped beneath the river

नदी के नीचे फँसे हुए

- Over the past week, several videos of the incident have emerged online, providing glimpses of the tragedy.
पिछले सप्ताह इस घटना के कई वीडियो ऑनलाइन सामने आए हैं, जो इस त्रासदी की झलक दिखाते हैं।
- One clip captures the moments just before the boat overturned, with two men tearing open life jacket packets while others remain inside an already flooding cabin.
एक वीडियो में नाव पलटने से ठीक पहले के पल दिखाई देते हैं, जहाँ दो लोग लाइफ जैकेट के पैकेट खोल रहे हैं जबकि अन्य पहले से पानी भर चुके केबिन में मौजूद हैं।
- Another shows survivors floating in the water, trying to reach the shore amid high waves.
एक अन्य वीडियो में जीवित बचे लोग ऊँची लहरों के बीच पानी में तैरते हुए किनारे तक पहुँचने की कोशिश करते दिखाई देते हैं।
- Survivors and officials say that those who managed to jump out of the cruise from the deck or through windows survived the tragedy, while most of the passengers trapped beneath the vessel died, as the life jackets were unable to bring them to the surface.
जीवित बचे लोगों और अधिकारियों का कहना है कि जो लोग डेक या खिड़कियों से बाहर कूदने में सफल रहे, वे बच गए, जबकि पोत के नीचे फँसे अधिकांश यात्रियों की मौत हो गई क्योंकि लाइफ जैकेट उन्हें सतह तक नहीं ला सकी।
- **Marina Messi**, 39, along with her husband **Pradeep**, two children — **Siya** and **Trishaan** — and her parents had come to **Jabalpur** from the Delhi cantonment area to attend a family function on April 29.
39 वर्षीय **मरीना मेसी**, अपने पति **प्रदीप**, दो बच्चों — **सिया** और **त्रिशान** — तथा अपने माता-पिता के साथ 29 अप्रैल को एक पारिवारिक समारोह में शामिल होने के लिए दिल्ली कैंट क्षेत्र से **जबलपुर** आई थीं।
- Before their return, they decided to take the cruise.
वापसी से पहले उन्होंने क्रूज़ यात्रा करने का निर्णय लिया।
- Three members of the family are dead: Marina's mother **Madhu Messi**, 62; Marina, who was found trapped beneath the vessel in a life jacket, and her four-year-old son **Trishaan**, whom she was embracing.
परिवार के तीन सदस्यों की मौत हो गई: मरीना की माँ **मधु मेसी**, 62; मरीना, जो लाइफ जैकेट पहने पोत के नीचे फँसी मिली; और उनका चार वर्षीय बेटा **त्रिशान**, जिसे उन्होंने अपनी बाँहों में पकड़ा हुआ था।



- **Julius Messi**, Marina's 65-year-old father, says, "Everything transpired within minutes so nobody had time to react."
मरीना के 65 वर्षीय पिता **जूलियस मेसी** कहते हैं, "सब कुछ कुछ ही मिनटों में हो गया, इसलिए किसी को प्रतिक्रिया देने का समय नहीं मिला।"
- Most families have expressed anger over the lack of preparedness on the cruise in the event of an emergency, while also alleging negligence on the part of the crew.
अधिकांश परिवारों ने आपात स्थिति में क्रूज़ पर तैयारी की कमी और चालक दल की लापरवाही पर नाराज़गी जताई है।
- Cruise operator **Mahesh Patel** and boatman **Chhotalal Gond** are facing the most ire as survivors allege that they were of "no help" during the tragedy.
क्रूज़ संचालक **महेश पटेल** और नाविक **छोटालाल गोंड** सबसे अधिक आलोचना का सामना कर रहे हैं क्योंकि जीवित बचे लोग आरोप लगा रहे हैं कि त्रासदी के दौरान उन्होंने "कोई मदद" नहीं की।
- They also allege that the passengers were not given any instructions before the ride on how to respond in case of an emergency, and that there were no jackets for children.
उन्होंने यह भी आरोप लगाया कि यात्रा से पहले यात्रियों को आपात स्थिति में क्या करना है, इसकी कोई जानकारी नहीं दी गई और बच्चों के लिए लाइफ जैकेट भी नहीं थीं।
- "We managed to get life jackets but that was not enough. There were no instructions. The authorities cannot just throw jackets at us at the last minute."
"हम लाइफ जैकेट लेने में सफल हुए लेकिन वह पर्याप्त नहीं था। कोई निर्देश नहीं दिए गए। अधिकारी आखिरी समय में सिर्फ जैकेट फेंककर अपनी जिम्मेदारी पूरी नहीं कर सकते।"

Lack of protocols and enforcement

प्रोटोकॉल और अनुपालन की कमी

- Adventure tourism activities in the State are governed by the tourism department, based on the **Indian Adventure Tourism Guidelines, 2018**, of the **Adventure Tour Operators Association of India**, approved by the **Union Ministry of Tourism**.
राज्य में साहसिक पर्यटन गतिविधियाँ पर्यटन विभाग द्वारा संचालित की जाती हैं, जो **भारतीय एडवेंचर टूरिज्म दिशानिर्देश 2018** पर आधारित हैं, जिन्हें **भारत सरकार के पर्यटन मंत्रालय** ने मंजूरी दी है।
- Under the subhead for river cruising, section 26.9 mandates that a "comprehensive safety briefing must be given on boarding the vessel where all emergency drills are explained/demonstrated."
नदी क्रूज़िंग से संबंधित उपधारा 26.9 के अनुसार "पोत पर चढ़ते समय विस्तृत सुरक्षा जानकारी दी जानी चाहिए, जिसमें सभी आपातकालीन अभ्यास समझाए और प्रदर्शित किए जाएँ।"
- Pictorial demonstrations, usage of life vests, muster stations for boarding lifeboats etc must be explained in detail.
चित्रात्मक प्रदर्शन, लाइफ जैकेट का उपयोग, लाइफबोट में चढ़ने के स्थान आदि का विस्तृत विवरण दिया जाना चाहिए।
- **Madhya Pradesh** is yet to form and notify its own rules for inland vessels operations despite the **Inland Vessels Act** being passed in Parliament in 2021.
मध्य प्रदेश ने 2021 में संसद द्वारा **इनलैंड वेसल्स एक्ट** पारित होने के बावजूद अब तक आंतरिक जलपोत संचालन के लिए अपने नियम नहीं बनाए हैं।
- **Kerala, Gujarat, and Goa**, among others, have their own rules.
केरल, गुजरात और गोवा सहित कई राज्यों के अपने नियम हैं।
- Experts blame lack of enforcement of rules and guidelines for slow responses and lack of preparedness during such incidents.
विशेषज्ञ ऐसी घटनाओं के दौरान धीमी प्रतिक्रिया और तैयारी की कमी के लिए नियमों और दिशानिर्देशों के कमजोर अनुपालन को जिम्मेदार मानते हैं।



TELEGRAM CHANNEL: <https://t.me/patrioticIAS>
YOUTUBE CHANNEL: <https://www.youtube.com/@PatrioticIAS>
CONTACT: 9971932488



- **N. Unni**, former director of the **Inland Waterways Authority of India**, says that in several countries, a detailed and mandatory instruction session is conducted before passengers are allowed onboard.

भारतीय अंतर्देशीय जलमार्ग प्राधिकरण के पूर्व निदेशक एन. उन्नी कहते हैं कि कई देशों में यात्रियों को सवार होने से पहले विस्तृत और अनिवार्य निर्देश सत्र आयोजित किया जाता है।

- "This is missing in our country," he says.
वह कहते हैं, "हमारे देश में इसकी कमी है।"

GS Paper II: Polity		09 May 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
09M	EC publishes Index Cards for Assembly elections EC ने विधानसभा चुनावों के लिए Index Cards प्रकाशित किए	

PATRIOTIC IAS



TELEGRAM CHANNEL: <https://t.me/patrioticIAS>

YOUTUBE CHANNEL: <https://www.youtube.com/@PatrioticIAS>

CONTACT: 9971932488



EC publishes Index Cards for Assembly elections

GS II: Polity
Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission on Friday published Index Cards and Statistical Reports for the recently concluded Assembly elections in four States and one Union Territory.

According to data made available in the public domain through the EC website and the ECINET app, total votes polled in West Bengal were 6,38,42,843, of which 6,32,58,138 were valid. In Assam, the corresponding figures were 2,16,84,656 and 2,13,97,936.

The turnout of women voters in West Bengal was 93.8%, slightly higher than the 92.06% for men. In Assam, women's turnout was recorded at 86.53%, marginally exceeding the 84.95% of men.

Tamil Nadu polled 4,93,89,958 votes and 4,91,24,329 were valid, while in Kerala, 2,16,30,208 votes were polled and 2,14,71,988 were valid. Women voters recorded a turnout of 86.2% in Tamil Nadu, higher than the 83.77% among men.

In Kerala, women voter participation stood at 81.17% as against 74.9% among men.

The Union Territory of Puducherry saw 8,66,932 votes being cast, of which 8,59,506 were valid.

NOTA option

The percentage of voters opting for 'None of the Above' (NOTA) was the highest in Assam at 1.23% and lowest in Tamil Nadu at 0.4%.

This round of Assembly elections also saw extensive mobilisation of electoral infrastructure. West Bengal had the highest number of polling stations at 85,092, followed by Tamil Nadu with 75,064 and Assam with 31,490.

The Index Cards contain data across multiple dimensions, such as candidates, electors, votes polled, votes counted, party-wise and candidate-wise votes polled, etc.

- This round of Assembly elections also saw extensive mobilisation of electoral infrastructure. विधानसभा चुनावों के इस चरण में चुनावी बुनियादी ढांचे की व्यापक तैनाती भी देखी गई।

09M. EC publishes Index Cards for Assembly elections EC ने विधानसभा चुनावों के लिए Index Cards प्रकाशित किए

The Election Commission on Friday published Index Cards and Statistical Reports for the recently concluded Assembly elections in four States and one Union Territory.

Election Commission ने शुक्रवार को हाल ही में संपन्न चार राज्यों और एक केंद्र शासित प्रदेश के विधानसभा चुनावों के लिए Index Cards और Statistical Reports प्रकाशित किए।

According to data made available in the public domain through the EC website and the ECINET app, total votes polled in West Bengal were 6,38,42,843, of which 6,32,58,138 were valid.

EC website और ECINET app के माध्यम से सार्वजनिक डोमेन में उपलब्ध कराए गए आंकड़ों के अनुसार, West Bengal में कुल 6,38,42,843 वोट डाले गए, जिनमें से 6,32,58,138 वैध थे।

In Assam, the corresponding figures were 2,16,84,656 and 2,13,97,936. Assam में संबंधित आंकड़े 2,16,84,656 और 2,13,97,936 थे।

The turnout of women voters in West Bengal was 93.8%, slightly higher than the 92.06% for men.

West Bengal में महिला मतदाताओं का मतदान प्रतिशत 93.8% था, जो पुरुषों के 92.06% से थोड़ा अधिक था।

In Assam, women's turnout was recorded at 86.53%, marginally exceeding the 84.95% of men.

Assam में महिलाओं का मतदान प्रतिशत 86.53% दर्ज किया गया, जो पुरुषों के 84.95% से थोड़ा अधिक था।

Tamil Nadu polled 4,93,89,958 votes and 4,91,24,329 were valid, while in Kerala, 2,16,30,208 votes were polled and 2,14,71,988 were valid.

Tamil Nadu में 4,93,89,958 वोट डाले गए और 4,91,24,329 वैध थे, जबकि Kerala में 2,16,30,208 वोट डाले गए और 2,14,71,988 वैध थे।

Women voters recorded a turnout of 86.2% in Tamil Nadu, higher than the 83.77% among men.

Tamil Nadu में महिला मतदाताओं का मतदान प्रतिशत 86.2% रहा, जो पुरुषों के 83.77% से अधिक था।

In Kerala, women voter participation stood at 81.17% as against 74.9% among men.

Kerala में महिला मतदाता भागीदारी 81.17% रही, जबकि पुरुषों में यह 74.9% थी।

The Union Territory of Puducherry saw 8,66,932 votes being cast, of which 8,59,506 were valid.

केंद्र शासित प्रदेश Puducherry में 8,66,932 वोट डाले गए, जिनमें से 8,59,506 वैध थे।

NOTA option

NOTA विकल्प

The percentage of voters opting for 'None of the Above' (NOTA) was the highest in Assam at 1.23% and lowest in Tamil Nadu at 0.4%.

'None of the Above' (NOTA) विकल्प चुनने वाले मतदाताओं का प्रतिशत Assam में सबसे अधिक 1.23% और Tamil Nadu में सबसे कम 0.4% था।



- **West Bengal** had the highest number of polling stations at **85,092**, followed by **Tamil Nadu** with **75,064** and **Assam** with **31,490**.
West Bengal में सबसे अधिक **85,092** मतदान केंद्र थे, इसके बाद **Tamil Nadu** में **75,064** और **Assam** में **31,490** मतदान केंद्र थे।
- The **Index Cards** contain data across multiple dimensions, such as candidates, electors, votes polled, votes counted, party-wise and candidate-wise votes polled, etc.
Index Cards में उम्मीदवारों, मतदाताओं, डाले गए वोटों, गिने गए वोटों, दलवार और उम्मीदवारवार वोटों सहित अनेक आयामों से संबंधित आंकड़े शामिल हैं।

GS Paper II: Governance		01 May 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
09M	NITI Aayog flags low student retention, learning outcomes NITI Aayog ने कम छात्र प्रतिधारण और सीखने के परिणामों पर चिंता जताई	
09M	The elephant in India's data room भारत के डेटा कक्ष में सबसे बड़ा अनदेखा प्रश्न	

NITI Aayog flags low student retention, learning outcomes

GS II: Governance
Main Porecha
NEW DELHI

A decadal analysis of India's school education system by NITI Aayog reveals that while India has achieved a near-universal access to school at the primary level, it faces challenges in retaining students at the secondary level. There is also a persistent crisis in achieving learning outcomes.

The report, titled "School education system in India – temporal analysis and policy roadmap for quality Enhancement", highlights the "pyramid" problem.

The education system currently resembles a sharp pyramid, housing 14.71 lakh schools and 24.69 crore students.

High rate
While the country boasts 7.3 lakh primary schools, that number plummets to 1.64 lakh at the higher secondary level.

Four out of every 10 children who enter the system drop out before completing higher secondary education.

"This structural fragmentation means only 5.4% of schools offer a continuous journey from Grade 1 to 12. For the vast majority of students, moving up through the grades requires changing institutions multiple times – a hurdle that contributes to a steep attrition rate," the report said. "This fragmentation without any established linkage between schools for transitioning requires students to shift schools at key stages, depending on local availability, which further contributes to declining retention rates and limits the likelihood of progression to higher stages of education."

To add to this, close to 7,993 schools across the country reported zero student enrolment, with the highest numbers seen in West Bengal (3,812) and Te-

langana (2,245). "While these schools appear operational in administrative records, they no longer serve any student population. These schools, despite zero enrolment, continue to receive financial and human resources due to the lack of updating of records, showing the difference between on-ground reality and planning," the report said.

Composite schools
The report recommends "cylindrical" schooling to fix the "leaky pipeline" of student dropouts, which involves creating composite schools that cover Grades 1-12 under one roof. The report points to the fact that the Right to Education Act ends at age 14, leaving families to bear the costs of tuition, books, and transport for older children.

The report highlights that according to UDISE+ 2024-25, 1.19 lakh schools lack access to functional electricity.

Access to water and hygiene facilities is also inconsistent. The share of schools with drinking water facilities has increased from 96.5% in 2014 to 99% in 2025, but 14,505 schools still lack functional water sources, and nearly 59,829 lack hand-washing facilities, compromising student health and hygiene.

The report pointed out that in October 2025, the Education Ministry announced that AI and Computational Thinking will be introduced from Grade 3. However, the report warns that without ethical frameworks and better teacher training, an over-reliance on AI could "diminish independent thinking" in younger learners.

Despite high enrolment, reading proficiency in Grade 8 has dropped. In 2014, 74.7% of Grade 8 students could read a Grade 2 text; by 2024, that figure fell to 71.1%. In mathematics, only 45.8% of Grade 8 students can solve a basic division problem.

09M. NITI Aayog flags low student retention, learning outcomes

NITI Aayog ने कम छात्र प्रतिधारण और सीखने के परिणामों पर चिंता जताई

- A decadal analysis of India's school education system by **NITI Aayog** reveals that while India has achieved a near-universal access to school at the primary level, it faces challenges in retaining students at the secondary level.

NITI Aayog द्वारा भारत की स्कूली शिक्षा प्रणाली के दशकभर के विश्लेषण से पता चलता है कि प्राथमिक स्तर पर भारत ने लगभग सार्वभौमिक विद्यालय पहुंच हासिल कर ली है, लेकिन माध्यमिक स्तर पर छात्रों को बनाए रखने में चुनौतियों का सामना कर रहा है।

- There is also a persistent crisis in achieving learning outcomes. सीखने के परिणाम हासिल करने में भी लगातार संकट बना हुआ है।

The report, titled "**School education system in India – temporal analysis and policy roadmap for quality Enhancement**", highlights the "pyramid" problem.

"**School education system in India – temporal analysis and policy roadmap for quality Enhancement**" शीर्षक वाली रिपोर्ट ने "पिरामिड" समस्या को उजागर किया है।

- The education system currently resembles a sharp pyramid, housing **14.71 lakh schools** and **24.69 crore students**.

शिक्षा प्रणाली वर्तमान में एक तीखे पिरामिड जैसी दिखती है, जिसमें **14.71 लाख स्कूल** और **24.69 करोड़ छात्र** शामिल हैं।

High rate उच्च दर

- While the country boasts **7.3 lakh primary schools**, that



number plummets to **1.64 lakh** at the higher secondary level.

जहां देश में **7.3 लाख प्राथमिक विद्यालय** हैं, वहीं उच्च माध्यमिक स्तर पर यह संख्या घटकर **1.64 लाख** रह जाती है।

- Four out of every 10 children who enter the system drop out before completing higher secondary education.
प्रणाली में प्रवेश करने वाले हर 10 में से 4 बच्चे उच्च माध्यमिक शिक्षा पूरी करने से पहले ही पढ़ाई छोड़ देते हैं।
- “This structural fragmentation means only **5.4% of schools** offer a continuous journey from Grade 1 to 12.
“इस संरचनात्मक विखंडन का मतलब है कि केवल **5.4% स्कूल** ही कक्षा 1 से 12 तक निरंतर शिक्षा प्रदान करते हैं।
- For the vast majority of students, moving up through the grades requires changing institutions multiple times — a hurdle that contributes to a steep attrition rate,” the report said.
अधिकांश छात्रों के लिए कक्षाओं में आगे बढ़ने के दौरान कई बार स्कूल बदलना पड़ता है — यह एक ऐसी बाधा है जो उच्च ड्रॉपआउट दर में योगदान देती है,” रिपोर्ट में कहा गया।
- “This fragmentation without any established linkage between schools for transitioning requires students to shift schools at key stages, depending on local availability, which further contributes to declining retention rates and limits the likelihood of progression to higher stages of education.”
“स्कूलों के बीच किसी स्थापित संबंध के बिना यह विखंडन छात्रों को स्थानीय उपलब्धता के आधार पर महत्वपूर्ण चरणों में स्कूल बदलने के लिए मजबूर करता है, जिससे प्रतिधारण दर घटती है और उच्च शिक्षा स्तर तक पहुंचने की संभावना सीमित हो जाती है।”
- To add to this, close to **7,993 schools** across the country reported zero student enrolment, with the highest numbers seen in **West Bengal (3,812)** and **Telangana (2,245)**.
इसके अलावा, देशभर में लगभग **7,993 स्कूलों** में शून्य छात्र नामांकन दर्ज किया गया, जिनमें सबसे अधिक संख्या **West Bengal (3,812)** और **Telangana (2,245)** में थी।
- “While these schools appear operational in administrative records, they no longer serve any student population.
“हालांकि ये स्कूल प्रशासनिक रिकॉर्ड में संचालित दिखाई देते हैं, लेकिन अब इनमें कोई छात्र नहीं पढ़ता।
- These schools, despite zero enrolment, continue to receive financial and human resources due to the lack of updating of records, showing the difference between on-ground reality and planning,” the report said.
शून्य नामांकन के बावजूद ये स्कूल रिकॉर्ड अपडेट न होने के कारण वित्तीय और मानव संसाधन प्राप्त करते रहते हैं, जो जमीनी हकीकत और योजना के बीच अंतर को दर्शाता है,” रिपोर्ट में कहा गया।

Composite schools

समेकित विद्यालय

- The report recommends “cylindrical” schooling to fix the “leaky pipeline” of student dropouts, which involves creating composite schools that cover Grades 1-12 under one roof.
रिपोर्ट छात्र ड्रॉपआउट की “लीकी पाइपलाइन” को ठीक करने के लिए “सिलिंड्रिकल” स्कूली शिक्षा की सिफारिश करती है, जिसमें कक्षा 1 से 12 तक के समेकित विद्यालय एक ही छत के नीचे बनाए जाएं।
- The report points to the fact that the **Right to Education Act** ends at age 14, leaving families to bear the costs of tuition, books, and transport for older children.
रिपोर्ट इस तथ्य की ओर इशारा करती है कि **Right to Education Act** 14 वर्ष की आयु पर समाप्त हो जाता है, जिससे बड़े बच्चों की फीस, किताबों और परिवहन का खर्च परिवारों को उठाना पड़ता है।
- The report highlights that according to **UDISE+ 2024-25**, **1.19 lakh schools** lack access to functional electricity.



रिपोर्ट में बताया गया है कि **UDISE+ 2024-25** के अनुसार, **1.19 लाख स्कूलों** में कार्यशील बिजली की सुविधा नहीं है।

- Access to water and hygiene facilities is also inconsistent.
पानी और स्वच्छता सुविधाओं तक पहुंच भी असमान है।
- The share of schools with drinking water facilities has increased from **96.5% in 2014** to **99% in 2025**, but **14,505 schools** still lack functional water sources, and nearly **59,829** lack hand-washing facilities, compromising student health and hygiene.
पीने के पानी की सुविधा वाले स्कूलों का प्रतिशत **2014 में 96.5%** से बढ़कर **2025 में 99%** हो गया है, लेकिन अभी भी **14,505 स्कूलों** में कार्यशील जल स्रोत नहीं हैं और लगभग **59,829 स्कूलों** में हाथ धोने की सुविधा नहीं है, जिससे छात्रों के स्वास्थ्य और स्वच्छता पर असर पड़ता है।
- The report pointed out that in **October 2025**, the **Education Ministry** announced that **AI and Computational Thinking** will be introduced from Grade 3.
रिपोर्ट में बताया गया कि **अक्टूबर 2025 में Education Ministry** ने घोषणा की थी कि कक्षा 3 से **AI and Computational Thinking** शुरू की जाएगी।
- However, the report warns that without ethical frameworks and better teacher training, an over-reliance on AI could “diminish independent thinking” in younger learners.
हालांकि, रिपोर्ट चेतावनी देती है कि नैतिक ढांचे और बेहतर शिक्षक प्रशिक्षण के बिना AI पर अत्यधिक निर्भरता छोटे विद्यार्थियों में “स्वतंत्र सोच को कम कर सकती है।”
- Despite high enrolment, reading proficiency in **Grade 8** has dropped.
उच्च नामांकन के बावजूद **Grade 8** में पढ़ने की दक्षता घटी है।
- In 2014, **74.7%** of Grade 8 students could read a Grade 2 text; by 2024, that figure fell to **71.1%**.
2014 में, Grade 8 के **74.7%** छात्र Grade 2 का पाठ पढ़ सकते थे; 2024 तक यह आंकड़ा घटकर **71.1%** रह गया।
- In mathematics, only **45.8%** of Grade 8 students can solve a basic division problem.
गणित में केवल **45.8%** Grade 8 छात्र एक सामान्य भाग का प्रश्न हल कर सकते हैं



The elephant in India's data room

GS II: Governance

As another session of Parliament ended, a familiar pattern was visible on the floor of the House. Members of Parliament who rose to ask questions, performing one of Parliament's most important accountability functions. Yet, a large share of these questions have followed/follow a predictable format, such as asking how many schools have functional toilets, how many pensions were disbursed in a given year, or how many beneficiaries received a particular scheme.

While these questions address important public concerns, the information they seek should ideally already exist in the public domain in a clear, standardised, and easily accessible format.

An analysis of the parliamentary questions asked during the 17th Lok Sabha (2019-24) on youth employment found that a large share sought such basic facts. This reflects a far deeper reality that India's data system is fragmented and lacks interoperability. The elephant in the room, rarely acknowledged in such debates, is data standardisation, without which even the most ambitious policy visions risk being built on shifting sands.

Anatomy of the problem

In the National Data and Analytics Platform vision document released by NITI Aayog, it was observed that India's data ecosystem remains incoherent, with Ministries and government departments failing to use shared standards for common indicators and even defining basic attributes such as time period and region inconsistently. India today generates more data than ever before, yet abundance does not equate to usability. Data collected by individual Ministries for their own programmes often cannot be integrated seamlessly, making consolidation a laborious and error-prone task.

According to a NITI Aayog report released in June 2025, welfare programme databases often list the same beneficiary multiple times, leading



Abhishek Sharma
Senior policy and political researcher

India must ensure data standardisation for better governance outcomes

to fiscal leakages that inflate spending by 4%-7% annually. Recent government data clean-ups highlight the potential savings from addressing such inefficiencies. Notably, deleting 17.1 million ineligible names from the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme was expected to save ₹90 billion in FY2024, while removing 35 million bogus LPG connections could save ₹210 billion over two years, and eliminating 16 million fake ration cards may save around ₹100 billion annually.

These inefficiencies have significant policy implications. In the health sector, for instance, studies show that childhood tuberculosis cases are recorded separately in the Health Management Information System, the disease surveillance network, and immunisation registries, often resulting in the same patient being counted multiple times. Such duplication creates conflicting estimates, often leaving decision-makers uncertain and leading some to disregard data altogether in favour of anecdote or political expediency.

Beyond policy implications, these weaknesses also carry perception and economic costs. In the Global Innovation Index 2024, India had missing data for two indicators and outdated data for eight, with several relying on figures more than a year old.

Without coordinated methodologies, such indices both mask real performance and expose gaps in inter-agency coordination. In economic terms, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development estimates that improving public-sector data availability and sharing could add up to 1.5% of GDP, rising to 2.5% if private-sector data is included. In other words, the cost of poor data governance lies not only in misinformed decisions but also in squandered economic potential.

Common standard for data

The solution to the inefficiencies can be seen under the National Data Governance Framework

Policy (NDGFP), where the proposed India Data Management Office (IDMO) has the potential to be the keystone of reform by developing and enforcing common rules, standards, guidelines and protocols for data across all Ministries and States. However, the IDMO needs to be empowered with real authority to set binding standards, audit compliance, and resolve disputes over definitions and methodologies across Ministries. Otherwise, the inefficiencies will persist.

In addition, alignment with global statistical frameworks such as the UN's System of National Accounts for economic indicators, and harmonising them within a National Statistical Standards Manual could unify definitions and practices nationwide.

Most of all, India's open data platform, "data.gov.in", should be scaled up into a centralised, schema-consistent repository that serves both public availability of information and internal needs. Ministries must upload datasets in standardised formats regularly, enabling parliamentarians to access real-time, district-level figures.

As a benchmark

Finally, institutionalising accountability will be key to sustaining progress. NITI Aayog's Data Governance Quality Index should be an annual benchmark, tied to performance reviews and incentives for Ministries and States, as healthy competition on data quality can drive change as powerfully as economic competition.

Data standardisation is often minimised as a technical exercise, but it is in fact the grammar of governance that a nation aspiring to become a \$5 trillion economy needs to get right. Addressing the elephant in the data room means committing to the standards, systems and stewardship that will make India's data fit for purpose, and fit for the future.

The views expressed are personal

09M. The elephant in India's data room

भारत के डेटा कक्ष में सबसे बड़ा अनदेखा प्रश्न

- As another session of **Parliament ended**, a familiar pattern was visible on the floor of the House.
जैसे ही **संसद** का एक और सत्र समाप्त हुआ, सदन के पटल पर एक परिचित प्रवृत्ति दिखाई दी।
- Members of Parliament who rose to ask questions, performing one of Parliament's most important **accountability functions**.
सांसद प्रश्न पूछने के लिए खड़े हुए, जो संसद के सबसे महत्वपूर्ण **जवाबदेही संबंधी कार्यों** में से एक का निर्वहन हैं।
- Yet, a large share of these questions have followed a predictable format, such as asking how many schools have **functional toilets**, how many pensions were disbursed in a given year, or how many beneficiaries received a particular scheme.
फिर भी, इन प्रश्नों का एक बड़ा भाग पूर्वानुमेय प्रारूप का अनुसरण करता रहा है, जैसे यह पूछना कि कितने विद्यालयों में **कार्यशील शौचालय** हैं, किसी वर्ष में कितनी पेंशन वितरित की गई, अथवा किसी विशेष योजना का लाभ कितने लाभार्थियों को प्राप्त हुआ।
- While these questions address important **public concerns**, the information they seek should ideally already exist in the public domain in a clear, standardised, and easily accessible format.
यद्यपि ये प्रश्न महत्वपूर्ण **जनसरोकारों** से संबंधित हैं, किन्तु इनके द्वारा माँगी गई जानकारी आदर्श रूप से पहले से ही सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र में स्पष्ट, मानकीकृत तथा सहज रूप से उपलब्ध प्रारूप में मौजूद होनी चाहिए।
- An analysis of the parliamentary questions asked during the **17th Lok Sabha (2019-24)** on **youth employment** found that a large share sought such basic facts.



17वीं लोकसभा (2019-24) के दौरान युवा रोजगार से संबंधित पूछे गए संसदीय प्रश्नों के विश्लेषण से ज्ञात हुआ कि उनका एक बड़ा भाग ऐसे मूलभूत तथ्यों से संबंधित था।

- This reflects a far deeper reality that India's **data system** is fragmented and lacks **interoperability**.
यह एक कहीं अधिक गहरी वास्तविकता को दर्शाता है कि भारत की डेटा प्रणाली विखंडित है तथा उसमें अंतर-संचालनीयता का अभाव है।
- The elephant in the room, rarely acknowledged in such debates, is **data standardisation**, without which even the most ambitious **policy visions** risk being built on shifting sands.
ऐसी बहसों में प्रायः उपेक्षित सबसे बड़ा प्रश्न डेटा मानकीकरण है, जिसके बिना अत्यंत महत्वाकांक्षी नीतिगत दृष्टिकोण भी अस्थिर आधार पर निर्मित होने का जोखिम उठाते हैं

Anatomy of the problem

समस्या की संरचना

- In the **National Data and Analytics Platform** vision document released by **NITI Aayog**, it was observed that India's **data ecosystem** remains incoherent, with Ministries and government departments failing to use shared standards for common indicators and even defining basic attributes such as **time period** and **region** inconsistently.
नीति आयोग द्वारा जारी नेशनल डेटा एंड एनालिटिक्स प्लेटफॉर्म दृष्टि दस्तावेज़ में यह अवलोकन किया गया कि भारत की डेटा प्रणाली अब भी असंगठित बनी हुई है, जहाँ मंत्रालय एवं सरकारी विभाग सामान्य संकेतकों हेतु साझा मानकों का उपयोग करने में विफल रहे हैं तथा समय अवधि और क्षेत्र जैसे मूलभूत मानकों को भी असंगत रूप से परिभाषित करते हैं।
- India today generates more **data** than ever before, yet abundance does not equate to usability.
आज भारत पहले की तुलना में कहीं अधिक डेटा उत्पन्न करता है, किन्तु अधिकता का अर्थ उपयोगिता नहीं होता।
- Data collected by individual Ministries for their own programmes often cannot be integrated seamlessly, making consolidation a laborious and error-prone task.
विभिन्न मंत्रालयों द्वारा अपनी-अपनी योजनाओं हेतु संकलित डेटा को प्रायः सहज रूप से एकीकृत नहीं किया जा सकता, जिससे समेकन की प्रक्रिया श्रमसाध्य एवं त्रुटिपूर्ण बन जाती है।
- According to a **NITI Aayog report** released in **June 2025**, welfare programme databases often list the same beneficiary multiple times, leading to **fiscal leakages** that inflate spending by **4%-7% annually**.
जून 2025 में जारी नीति आयोग की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, कल्याणकारी योजनाओं के डेटाबेस में प्रायः एक ही लाभार्थी का नाम कई बार दर्ज होता है, जिससे राजकोषीय रिसाव उत्पन्न होता है और व्यय में प्रतिवर्ष 4%-7% तक की वृद्धि हो जाती है।
- Recent government **data clean-ups** highlight the potential savings from addressing such inefficiencies.
हाल ही में सरकार द्वारा किए गए डेटा शुद्धिकरण अभियानों ने ऐसी अक्षमताओं को दूर करने से होने वाली संभावित बचत को रेखांकित किया है।
- Notably, deleting **17.1 million** ineligible names from the **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)** scheme was expected to save **₹90 billion** in **FY2024**, while removing **35 million** bogus LPG connections could save **₹210 billion** over two years, and eliminating **16 million** fake ration cards may save around **₹100 billion annually**.
विशेष रूप से, प्रधानमंत्री किसान सम्मान निधि (PM-KISAN) योजना से 17.1 मिलियन अयोग्य नाम हटाने से वित्त वर्ष 2024 में लगभग ₹90 बिलियन की बचत अपेक्षित थी, जबकि 35 मिलियन फर्जी एलपीजी कनेक्शन हटाने से दो वर्षों में ₹210 बिलियन तथा 16 मिलियन फर्जी राशन कार्ड समाप्त करने से प्रतिवर्ष लगभग ₹100 बिलियन की बचत संभव है।



- These inefficiencies have significant **policy implications**.
इन अक्षमताओं के महत्वपूर्ण नीतिगत प्रभाव हैं।
- In the **health sector**, for instance, studies show that **childhood tuberculosis** cases are recorded separately in the **Health Management Information System**, the disease surveillance network, and immunisation registries, often resulting in the same patient being counted multiple times.
उदाहरणार्थ, स्वास्थ्य क्षेत्र में अध्ययनों से ज्ञात होता है कि बाल्यकालीन तपेदिक के मामलों को हेल्थ मैनेजमेंट इन्फॉर्मेशन सिस्टम, रोग निगरानी नेटवर्क तथा टीकाकरण रजिस्ट्रियों में अलग-अलग दर्ज किया जाता है, जिससे प्रायः एक ही रोगी की कई बार गणना हो जाती है।
- Such duplication creates conflicting estimates, often leaving decision-makers uncertain and leading some to disregard data altogether in favour of anecdote or political expediency.
ऐसी पुनरावृत्ति विरोधाभासी आकलन उत्पन्न करती है, जिससे निर्णय-निर्माताओं में अनिश्चितता उत्पन्न होती है तथा कई बार वे डेटा की उपेक्षा कर अनुभवजन्य कथनों अथवा राजनीतिक सुविधा को प्राथमिकता देने लगते हैं।
- Beyond policy implications, these weaknesses also carry **perception** and **economic costs**.
नीतिगत प्रभावों से परे, ये कमजोरियाँ धारणा तथा आर्थिक लागतों को भी प्रभावित करती हैं।
- In the **Global Innovation Index 2024**, India had missing data for two indicators and outdated data for eight, with several relying on figures more than a year old.
ग्लोबल इनोवेशन इंडेक्स 2024 में भारत के दो संकेतकों हेतु डेटा अनुपलब्ध था तथा आठ संकेतकों हेतु पुराना डेटा प्रयुक्त हुआ, जिनमें से कई आँकड़े एक वर्ष से अधिक पुराने थे।
- Without coordinated **methodologies**, such indices both mask real performance and expose gaps in **inter-agency coordination**.
समन्वित कार्यप्रणालियों के अभाव में ऐसे सूचकांक वास्तविक प्रदर्शन को छिपाते हैं तथा अंतर-एजेंसी समन्वय की कमियों को उजागर करते हैं।
- In economic terms, the **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development** estimates that improving **public-sector data availability** and sharing could add up to **1.5% of GDP**, rising to **2.5%** if **private-sector data** is included.
आर्थिक दृष्टि से, ऑर्गेनाइजेशन फॉर इकोनॉमिक को-ऑपरेशन एंड डेवलपमेंट का अनुमान है कि सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के डेटा की उपलब्धता एवं साझाकरण में सुधार से GDP का 1.5% तक अतिरिक्त वृद्धि संभव है, जो निजी क्षेत्र के डेटा को सम्मिलित करने पर 2.5% तक पहुँच सकती है।
- In other words, the cost of poor **data governance** lies not only in misinformed decisions but also in squandered **economic potential**.
अन्य शब्दों में, कमजोर डेटा शासन की लागत केवल गलत निर्णयों तक सीमित नहीं है, बल्कि यह नष्ट होती हुई आर्थिक क्षमता में भी निहित है।

Common standard for data

डेटा हेतु समान मानक

- The solution to the inefficiencies can be seen under the **National Data Governance Framework Policy (NDGFP)**, where the proposed **India Data Management Office (IDMO)** has the potential to be the keystone of reform by developing and enforcing common rules, standards, guidelines and protocols for data across all Ministries and States.
इन अक्षमताओं का समाधान नेशनल डेटा गवर्नेंस फ्रेमवर्क पॉलिसी (NDGFP) के अंतर्गत देखा जा सकता है, जहाँ प्रस्तावित इंडिया डेटा मैनेजमेंट ऑफिस (IDMO) सभी मंत्रालयों एवं राज्यों में डेटा हेतु समान नियम, मानक, दिशा-निर्देश एवं प्रोटोकॉल विकसित एवं लागू करके सुधार की आधारशिला बन सकता है।
- However, the **IDMO** needs to be empowered with real authority to set binding standards, audit compliance, and resolve disputes over definitions and methodologies across Ministries.
हालाँकि, IDMO को बाध्यकारी मानक निर्धारित करने, अनुपालन का लेखा-परीक्षण करने तथा मंत्रालयों के



मध्य परिभाषाओं एवं कार्यप्रणालियों से संबंधित विवादों का समाधान करने हेतु वास्तविक अधिकार प्रदान किए जाने की आवश्यकता है।

- Otherwise, the inefficiencies will persist.
अन्यथा, ये अक्षमताएँ बनी रहेंगी।
- In addition, alignment with global statistical frameworks such as the **UN's System of National Accounts** for economic indicators, and harmonising them within a **National Statistical Standards Manual** could unify definitions and practices nationwide.
इसके अतिरिक्त, आर्थिक संकेतकों हेतु **संयुक्त राष्ट्र के राष्ट्रीय लेखा प्रणाली (System of National Accounts)** जैसे वैश्विक सांख्यिकीय ढाँचों के साथ समन्वय तथा उन्हें **राष्ट्रीय सांख्यिकीय मानक पुस्तिका** के अंतर्गत सामंजस्यपूर्ण बनाना, देशभर में परिभाषाओं एवं प्रक्रियाओं को एकरूप कर सकता है।
- Most of all, India's **open data platform**, "**data.gov.in**", should be scaled up into a centralised, schema-consistent repository that serves both public availability of information and internal needs.
सबसे महत्वपूर्ण रूप से, भारत के **ओपन डेटा प्लेटफॉर्म**, "**data.gov.in**", को एक केंद्रीकृत एवं संरचनात्मक रूप से सुसंगत भंडार के रूप में विकसित किया जाना चाहिए, जो सार्वजनिक सूचना उपलब्धता तथा आंतरिक आवश्यकताओं दोनों की पूर्ति करे।
- Ministries must upload datasets in **standardised formats** regularly, enabling parliamentarians to access **real-time**, district-level figures.
मंत्रालयों को नियमित रूप से **मानकीकृत प्रारूपों** में डेटा अपलोड करना चाहिए, जिससे सांसदों को **वास्तविक समय** में जिला-स्तरीय आँकड़ों तक पहुँच प्राप्त हो सके।

As a benchmark

एक मानक के रूप में

- Finally, institutionalising **accountability** will be key to sustaining progress.
अंततः, प्रगति को सतत बनाए रखने हेतु **उत्तरदायित्व** का संस्थागतकरण अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण होगा।
- **NITI Aayog's Data Governance Quality Index** should be an annual benchmark, tied to **performance reviews** and incentives for Ministries and States, as healthy competition on **data quality** can drive change as powerfully as economic competition.
नीति आयोग का डेटा गवर्नेंस क्वालिटी इंडेक्स एक वार्षिक मानक होना चाहिए, जिसे **प्रदर्शन मूल्यांकन** एवं मंत्रालयों तथा राज्यों के प्रोत्साहनों से जोड़ा जाए, क्योंकि **डेटा गुणवत्ता** पर स्वस्थ प्रतिस्पर्धा परिवर्तन को उतनी ही प्रभावी रूप से प्रेरित कर सकती है जितनी आर्थिक प्रतिस्पर्धा।
- **Data standardisation** is often minimised as a technical exercise, but it is in fact the **grammar of governance** that a nation aspiring to become a **\$5 trillion economy** needs to get right.
डेटा मानकीकरण को प्रायः केवल एक तकनीकी प्रक्रिया के रूप में सीमित कर दिया जाता है, किन्तु वास्तव में यह **सुशासन का व्याकरण** है, जिसे **5 ट्रिलियन डॉलर की अर्थव्यवस्था** बनने की आकांक्षा रखने वाले राष्ट्र को सही रूप में स्थापित करना आवश्यक है।
- Addressing the **elephant in the data room** means committing to the standards, systems and stewardship that will make India's data **fit for purpose**, and **fit for the future**.
डेटा कक्ष में उपस्थित सबसे बड़ी चुनौती का समाधान करने का अर्थ उन मानकों, प्रणालियों एवं प्रबंधन के प्रति प्रतिबद्ध होना है, जो भारत के डेटा को **उद्देश्य के अनुरूप सक्षम** तथा **भविष्य के लिए उपयुक्त** बनाएँगे।



GS Paper II: International Relations		09 May 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
09M	The 'bridge of dance' that was struck 'प्रतिरोध के पुल' पर हुआ हमला	

09M. The 'bridge of dance' that was struck 'प्रतिरोध के पुल' पर हुआ हमला

- The **B1 Bridge** in **Karaj**, the tallest bridge in the **Persian Gulf** region, was hit during the American and Israeli military strikes on the night of April 2.
B1 Bridge जो **Karaj** में स्थित है और **Persian Gulf** क्षेत्र का सबसे ऊँचा पुल है, 2 अप्रैल की रात अमेरिकी और इजरायली सैन्य हमलों में निशाना बनाया गया।
- In Iran, however, the bridge has quickly become something larger than a construction project. हालांकि, ईरान में यह पुल केवल एक निर्माण परियोजना से कहीं अधिक बन गया है।
- It is now being presented as a symbol of resistance. अब इसे प्रतिरोध के प्रतीक के रूप में प्रस्तुत किया जा रहा है।
- Standing over the dry bed of the **Karaj River**, all that remains are twisted steel beams, shattered concrete slabs, dust, and silence.

The 'bridge of defiance' that was struck

The **BI Bridge in Karaj**, the tallest bridge in the Persian Gulf region, was hit during the American and Israeli military strikes on the night of April 2; in Iran, however, the bridge has quickly become something larger than a construction project; it is now being presented as a symbol of resistance

GS II: IR

DISPATCH FROM IRAN

Saurabh Shukla
Saurabh Shahi
KARAJ

Standing over the dry bed of the Karaj River, all that remains are twisted steel beams, shattered concrete slabs, dust, and silence. What lies here is not the aftermath of an accident. Iranian officials and witnesses describe it as a deliberate and calculated strike – one they say was designed not just to destroy infrastructure, but to break Iran's industrial and social backbone.

On the night of April 2, 2026, the B1 Bridge in Karaj – the tallest bridge in the Persian Gulf region – was hit during American and Israeli military strikes, according to Iranian authorities. The attack destroyed a key section of the bridge and turned what was once considered a symbol of Iranian engineering into a field of rubble.

In Iran, however, the bridge has quickly become something larger than a construction project. It is now being presented as a symbol of national resistance and self-reliance.

The B1 Bridge, also known as Bilqan 1, connected the Bilqan region of Karaj with Tehran and formed part of one of Iran's most important transport corridors. Karaj, located west of Tehran, functions as Iran's largest industrial suburb. Nearly

200,000 vehicles travel daily between Karaj and Tehran, and the bridge had been designed to divert almost one-third of the traffic from heavily congested older routes.

Its strategic importance extended far beyond urban traffic management.

The corridor links Tehran to Qazvin, Tabriz, the Caspian region, and onward trade routes connecting Iran with Russia and Central Asia.

Project Engineer of this bridge has also emphasised another aspect of the bridge – that it was built almost entirely with domestic technology and materials. The bridge had not yet been formally inaugurated, though traffic had already started moving across it.

Broader strategy

According to local accounts, civilians had gathered near the Karaj riverbed on the evening of April 2 when the strikes began. The first missile hit the central span of the bridge, causing a section to collapse and vehicles to fall into the dry riverbed below.

Emergency responders rushed to the scene soon afterward.

Witnesses and Iranian officials state that additional strikes followed after rescue teams arrived. The sequence of attacks has been described by Iranian commentators as a "triple-tap strike", a military tactic in which an initial strike is followed by subsequent at-



Symbol of resistance: The B1 bridge, after it was destroyed by a strike in Karaj, nearly 35 km southwest of Tehran, on April 3. Donald Trump had previously threatened to bomb Iran 'back to the Stone Ages'. AFP

tacks targeting rescuers and emergency personnel arriving at the scene.

Iranian authorities have described the attack as a violation of international humanitarian law, arguing that the bridge was civilian infrastructure rather than a military target.

Beyond the destruction itself, Iranian analysts believe the strikes reflected a broader geopolitical strategy aimed at destabilising Iran internally. The BI corridor connects Tehran with northern and north-western regions that have large Azeri populations. Karaj itself has a substantial Azeri community, while cities further north-west such as Tabriz are overwhelmingly Azeri.

Iranian political commentators argue that the destruction of the bridge was intended to isolate Tehran from those regions

and create internal pressure or instability along ethnic lines – a strategy they claim resembles approaches previously seen in Syria and Lebanon.

However, Iranian officials insist that such assumptions misread the structure of Iranian society. Azeris are deeply integrated into Iran's political, military, and economic institutions and constitute one of the country's most influential communities.

The attacks also intensified debate within Iran over engineering independence and industrial self-sufficiency.

In recent years, Tehran has invested heavily in domestic engineering and manufacturing capabilities as sanctions limited access to foreign suppliers and international cooperation. Iranian officials point to projects such as the B1

Bridge as examples of the country's ability to sustain major infrastructure development independently.

Alongside the bridge strike, Iranian media reports indicate that steel plants, cement facilities, and scientific institutions were also targeted during the broader military campaign.

Particular attention has focused on Sharif University of Technology in Tehran, widely regarded as one of West Asia's leading engineering universities.

Despite sanctions, Iran continues to produce a large number of engineering graduates annually, and officials frequently portray technical education as central to the country's economic resilience.

Following the bridge strike, Iran carried out what officials described as a symbolic retaliatory op-

eration near the King Fahd Causeway connecting Saudi Arabia and Bahrain. Iranian state-linked media framed the move as a warning that critical infrastructure throughout the Gulf region remains vulnerable.

Political moment

Inside Iran, the public response to the attack became a major political and symbolic moment.

After statements attributed to U.S. President Donald Trump warning of further destruction of Iranian infrastructure, crowds gathered near bridges and public structures across several cities. In Karaj, thousands reportedly assembled near the damaged B1 Bridge.

The gatherings were widely portrayed in Iranian media as demonstrations of civilian resolve and national unity.

Reconstruction efforts began almost immediately after the strikes. Engineering crews and heavy machinery reportedly arrived at the site within hours, and officials now say the bridge could be rebuilt within six weeks.

At the site today, cranes move continuously above shattered concrete while workers weld new steel structures into place. Iranian authorities say the rebuilt bridge will rely once again on domestic materials, local industry, and Iranian engineers.

(Saurabh Shukla and Saurabh Shahi are senior editors with The Red Mike)



Karaj River के सूखे तल पर अब केवल मुड़ी हुई स्टील की बीमें, टूटी हुई कंक्रीट की स्लैब, धूल और सन्नाटा बचा है।

- What lies here is not the aftermath of an accident.
यह दृश्य किसी दुर्घटना के बाद का परिणाम नहीं है।
- Iranian officials and witnesses describe it as a deliberate and calculated strike — one they say was designed not just to destroy infrastructure, but to break Iran's industrial and social backbone.
ईरानी अधिकारियों और प्रत्यक्षदर्शियों ने इसे एक सुनियोजित और सोचा-समझा हमला बताया है — जिसका उद्देश्य केवल बुनियादी ढाँचे को नष्ट करना नहीं बल्कि ईरान की औद्योगिक और सामाजिक रीढ़ को तोड़ना था।
- On the night of April 2, 2026, the **B1 Bridge** in Karaj — the tallest bridge in the Persian Gulf region — was hit during American and Israeli military strikes, according to Iranian authorities.
ईरानी अधिकारियों के अनुसार, 2 अप्रैल 2026 की रात कराज स्थित **B1 Bridge** — जो पर्सियन गल्फ क्षेत्र का सबसे ऊँचा पुल है — अमेरिकी और इजरायली सैन्य हमलों में निशाना बना।
- The attack destroyed a key section of the bridge and turned what was once considered a symbol of Iranian engineering into a field of rubble.
इस हमले ने पुल के एक महत्वपूर्ण हिस्से को नष्ट कर दिया और जो कभी ईरानी इंजीनियरिंग का प्रतीक माना जाता था, उसे मलबे के ढेर में बदल दिया।
- In Iran, however, the bridge has quickly become something larger than a construction project.
हालांकि, ईरान में यह पुल केवल एक निर्माण परियोजना से अधिक महत्व प्राप्त कर चुका है।
- It is now being presented as a symbol of national resistance and self-reliance.
अब इसे राष्ट्रीय प्रतिरोध और आत्मनिर्भरता के प्रतीक के रूप में प्रस्तुत किया जा रहा है।
- The **B1 Bridge**, also known as **Bilqan 1**, connected the Bilqan region of Karaj with Tehran and formed part of one of Iran's most important transport corridors.
B1 Bridge, जिसे **Bilqan 1** भी कहा जाता है, कराज के बिलकान क्षेत्र को तेहरान से जोड़ता था और ईरान के सबसे महत्वपूर्ण परिवहन गलियारों में से एक का हिस्सा था।
- Karaj, located west of Tehran, functions as Iran's largest industrial suburb.
तेहरान के पश्चिम में स्थित कराज, ईरान के सबसे बड़े औद्योगिक उपनगर के रूप में कार्य करता है।
- Nearly 200,000 vehicles travel daily between Karaj and Tehran, and the bridge had been designed to divert almost one-third of the traffic from heavily congested older routes.
लगभग 2 लाख वाहन प्रतिदिन कराज और तेहरान के बीच यात्रा करते हैं, और इस पुल को पुराने भीड़भाड़ वाले मार्गों से लगभग एक-तिहाई यातायात हटाने के लिए डिजाइन किया गया था।
- Its strategic importance extended far beyond urban traffic management.
इसका रणनीतिक महत्व केवल शहरी यातायात प्रबंधन तक सीमित नहीं था।
- The corridor links Tehran to Qazvin, Tabriz, the Caspian region, and onward trade routes connecting Iran with Russia and Central Asia.
यह गलियारा तेहरान को कज़विन, तबरीज़, कैस्पियन क्षेत्र और आगे रूस तथा मध्य एशिया से जुड़े व्यापार मार्गों से जोड़ता है।
- Project Engineer of this bridge has also emphasised another aspect of the bridge — that it was built almost entirely with domestic technology and materials.
इस पुल के परियोजना इंजीनियर ने इसके एक और पहलू पर जोर दिया — कि इसे लगभग पूरी तरह घरेलू तकनीक और सामग्रियों से बनाया गया था।
- The bridge had not yet been formally inaugurated, though traffic had already started moving across it.
हालांकि पुल का औपचारिक उद्घाटन नहीं हुआ था, लेकिन उस पर यातायात शुरू हो चुका था।

Broader strategy

व्यापक रणनीति



- According to local accounts, civilians had gathered near the Karaj riverbed on the evening of April 2 when the strikes began.
स्थानीय विवरणों के अनुसार, 2 अप्रैल की शाम जब हमले शुरू हुए, तब नागरिक कराज नदी के किनारे एकत्रित थे।
- The first missile hit the central span of the bridge, causing a section to collapse and vehicles to fall into the dry riverbed below.
पहली मिसाइल ने पुल के मध्य हिस्से को निशाना बनाया, जिससे उसका एक भाग ढह गया और वाहन नीचे सूखी नदी में गिर गए।
- Emergency responders rushed to the scene soon afterward.
इसके तुरंत बाद आपातकालीन बचाव दल घटनास्थल पर पहुंचे।
- Witnesses and Iranian officials state that additional strikes followed after rescue teams arrived.
प्रत्यक्षदर्शियों और ईरानी अधिकारियों का कहना है कि बचाव दल के पहुंचने के बाद और हमले किए गए।
- The sequence of attacks has been described by Iranian commentators as a “triple-tap strike”, a military tactic in which an initial strike is followed by subsequent attacks targeting rescuers and emergency personnel arriving at the scene.
ईरानी टिप्पणीकारों ने इस हमले को “triple-tap strike” बताया है, जिसमें पहले हमला किया जाता है और फिर बचावकर्मियों तथा आपातकालीन दलों को निशाना बनाकर दोबारा हमला होता है।
- Iranian authorities have described the attack as a violation of international humanitarian law, arguing that the bridge was civilian infrastructure rather than a military target.
ईरानी अधिकारियों ने इस हमले को अंतरराष्ट्रीय मानवीय कानून का उल्लंघन बताया है और कहा है कि यह पुल नागरिक बुनियादी ढाँचा था, कोई सैन्य लक्ष्य नहीं।
- Beyond the destruction itself, Iranian analysts believe the strikes reflected a broader geopolitical strategy aimed at destabilising Iran internally.
विनाश से परे, ईरानी विश्लेषकों का मानना है कि ये हमले ईरान को अंदर से अस्थिर करने की व्यापक भू-राजनीतिक रणनीति का हिस्सा थे।
- The B1 corridor connects Tehran with northern and northwestern regions that have large Azeri populations.
B1 गलियारा तेहरान को उत्तरी और उत्तर-पश्चिमी क्षेत्रों से जोड़ता है जहाँ बड़ी संख्या में अज़ेरी आबादी रहती है।
- Karaj itself has a substantial Azeri community, while cities further northwest such as Tabriz are overwhelmingly Azeri.
कराज में भी बड़ी अज़ेरी आबादी है, जबकि उत्तर-पश्चिम के तबरीज़ जैसे शहरों में अज़ेरी समुदाय का प्रभुत्व है।
- Iranian political commentators argue that the destruction of the bridge was intended to isolate Tehran from those regions and create internal pressure or instability along ethnic lines.
ईरानी राजनीतिक टिप्पणीकारों का तर्क है कि पुल को नष्ट करने का उद्देश्य तेहरान को उन क्षेत्रों से अलग करना और जातीय आधार पर आंतरिक दबाव या अस्थिरता पैदा करना था।
- A strategy they claim resembles approaches previously seen in Syria and Lebanon.
उनका दावा है कि यह रणनीति पहले सीरिया और लेबनान में अपनाई गई रणनीतियों जैसी है।
- However, Iranian officials insist that such assumptions misread the structure of Iranian society.
हालांकि, ईरानी अधिकारियों का कहना है कि ऐसी धारणाएँ ईरानी समाज की संरचना को गलत तरीके से समझती हैं।
- Azeris are deeply integrated into Iran’s political, military, and economic institutions and constitute one of the country’s most influential communities.
अज़ेरी समुदाय ईरान की राजनीतिक, सैन्य और आर्थिक संस्थाओं में गहराई से जुड़ा हुआ है और देश के सबसे प्रभावशाली समुदायों में से एक है।



- The attacks also intensified debate within Iran over technological independence and industrial self-sufficiency.
इन हमलों ने ईरान में तकनीकी स्वतंत्रता और औद्योगिक आत्मनिर्भरता पर बहस को और तेज कर दिया।
- In recent years, Tehran has invested heavily in domestic engineering and manufacturing capabilities as sanctions limited access to foreign suppliers and international cooperation.
हाल के वर्षों में, प्रतिबंधों के कारण विदेशी आपूर्तिकर्ताओं और अंतरराष्ट्रीय सहयोग तक सीमित पहुँच के चलते तेहरान ने घरेलू इंजीनियरिंग और विनिर्माण क्षमताओं में भारी निवेश किया है।
- Iranian officials point to projects such as the **B1 Bridge** as examples of the country's ability to sustain major infrastructure development independently.
ईरानी अधिकारी **B1 Bridge** जैसी परियोजनाओं को देश की स्वतंत्र रूप से बड़े बुनियादी ढाँचा विकास को बनाए रखने की क्षमता के उदाहरण के रूप में प्रस्तुत करते हैं।

GS Paper III: Economy		09 May 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
09M	Call for long-term cotton policies दीर्घकालिक कपास नीतियों की मांग	

Call for long-term cotton policies

GS III: Economy

The Hindu Bureau
COIMBATORE

The long-term policies of the government should address the fundamental constraints faced by the cotton sector to improve productivity. It should ensure economic viability of the crop for the growers and also take into account

the interests of the entire value chain, said a study taken up by the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry with Gherzi Textile Organization and the International Cotton Advisory Committee, as knowledge partners.

The 11% import duty imposed in 2021-22 was to address the temporary surplus

plus of cotton due to the fall in mill use forced by the COVID pandemic. The Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) stepped in to procure large volume of cotton. However, the years after saw a rise in mill use, necessitating imports. The demand/supply imbalance is likely to widen in the near future.

09M. Call for long-term cotton policies

दीर्घकालिक कपास नीतियों की मांग

- The long-term policies of the government should address the fundamental constraints faced by the **cotton sector** to improve productivity.
उत्पादकता में सुधार के लिए सरकार की दीर्घकालिक नीतियों को **कपास क्षेत्र** के सामने मौजूद मूलभूत बाधाओं का समाधान करना चाहिए।

- It should ensure economic viability of the crop for the growers and also take into account the interests of the entire **value chain**, said a study taken up by the **Confederation of Indian Textile Industry** with **Gherzi Textile Organization** and the **International Cotton Advisory Committee**, as knowledge partners.
इससे किसानों के लिए फसल की आर्थिक व्यवहार्यता सुनिश्चित होनी चाहिए और पूरे **वैल्यू चेन** के हितों को भी ध्यान में रखा जाना चाहिए, यह बात **कॉन्फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडियन टेक्सटाइल इंडस्ट्री** द्वारा **घेरजी टेक्सटाइल ऑर्गेनाइजेशन** और **इंटरनेशनल कॉटन एडवाइजरी कमेटी** के साथ ज्ञान साझेदार के रूप में किए गए एक अध्ययन में कही गई।
- The **11% import duty** imposed in 2021-22 was to address the temporary surplus of cotton due to the fall in mill use forced by the **COVID pandemic**.
2021-22 में लगाया गया **11% आयात शुल्क** मिलों में उपयोग घटने के कारण उत्पन्न कपास के अस्थायी अधिशेष से निपटने के लिए था, जो **कोविड महामारी** के कारण हुआ था।
- The **Cotton Corporation of India (CCI)** stepped in to procure a large volume of cotton.
कॉटन कॉर्पोरेशन ऑफ इंडिया (CCI) ने बड़ी मात्रा में कपास की खरीद के लिए हस्तक्षेप किया।
- However, the years after saw a rise in mill use, necessitating imports.
हालांकि, इसके बाद के वर्षों में मिलों में उपयोग बढ़ा, जिससे आयात की आवश्यकता पड़ी।
- The demand/supply imbalance is likely to widen in the near future.
निकट भविष्य में मांग और आपूर्ति के बीच असंतुलन और बढ़ने की संभावना है।



GS Paper III: Science and Technology		09 May 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
09M	Bangladesh battles its worst measles outbreak in decades as child deaths rise बांग्लादेश दशकों के सबसे गंभीर खसरा प्रकोप से जूझ रहा है क्योंकि बच्चों की मौतें बढ़ रही हैं	
09M	DRDO, IAF conduct maiden trial of TARA glide weapon DRDO और IAF ने TARA ग्लाइड हथियार का पहला परीक्षण किया	



GS III: S&T
DRDO, IAF conduct maiden trial of TARA glide weapon

The Defence Research and Development Organisation and the Indian Air Force have conducted the maiden flight-trial of the Tactical Advanced Range Augmentation (TARA) weapon system off the coast of Odisha on Thursday. TARA is India's first indigenous glide weapon system capable of converting conventional unguided warheads into precision-guided weapons for accurately engaging ground-based targets. According to the Ministry of Defence, the modular range extension kit has been designed and developed by Research Centre Imarat along with other DRDO laboratories. It is aimed at improving the range and lethality of low-cost aerial weapons.

09M. DRDO, IAF conduct maiden trial of TARA glide weapon

DRDO और IAF ने TARA ग्लाइड हथियार का पहला परीक्षण किया

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation and the Indian Air Force have conducted the maiden flight-trial of the Tactical Advanced Range Augmentation (TARA) weapon system off the coast of Odisha on Thursday.

Defence Research and Development Organisation और Indian Air Force ने गुरुवार को Odisha तट के पास Tactical Advanced Range Augmentation (TARA) हथियार प्रणाली का पहला उड़ान परीक्षण किया।

- TARA is India's first indigenous glide weapon system capable of converting conventional unguided warheads into precision-guided weapons for accurately engaging ground-based targets.

TARA भारत की पहली स्वदेशी ग्लाइड हथियार प्रणाली है, जो पारंपरिक बिना निर्देशित वारहेड्स को सटीक निर्देशित हथियारों में बदलने में सक्षम है, ताकि

भूमि आधारित लक्ष्यों पर सटीक हमला किया जा सके।

- According to the Ministry of Defence, the modular range extension kit has been designed and developed by Research Centre Imarat along with other DRDO laboratories.

Ministry of Defence के अनुसार, मॉड्यूलर रेंज एक्सटेंशन किट को Research Centre Imarat तथा अन्य DRDO laboratories द्वारा डिजाइन और विकसित किया गया है।

- It is aimed at improving the range and lethality of low-cost aerial weapons. इसका उद्देश्य कम लागत वाले हवाई हथियारों की मारक क्षमता और रेंज को बढ़ाना है।

Bangladesh battles its worst measles outbreak in decades as child deaths rise

GS III: S&T
Agence France-press
DHAKA

Bangladesh's deadliest measles outbreak in decades is stretching its health system, with children filling hospital wards and doctors struggling to contain a surge in infections that have killed more than 300 youngsters.

The South Asian nation had made advancements in vaccinations to help stem the deadly virus – but coverage gaps during and after the chaos of a 2024 uprising that overthrew the autocratic government left the youngest generation badly exposed.

"I was almost sure I was going to lose her today – her condition was terrible in the morning," said Rina Begum, 45, cradling her

three-year-old granddaughter Afa.

Ms. Begum, her eyes red from exhaustion and tears, said Afa had missed her second dose of the measles vaccine at age 18 months, and had spent the last two weeks in the measles ward in Dhaka.

Measles is highly contagious, spreading through coughs and sneezes, and has no specific treatment once caught.

It hits children the hardest.

Their breathing can become strained, their strength fades, and in the most severe cases, the infection reaches the brain, causing swelling that can lead to lasting damage – or death.

Hospitals are treating thousands of young pa-

tients while authorities race to expand vaccination coverage and prevent more deaths.

Ms. Begum offered a smile as Afa reached up – having just turned a corner and regained some strength. "After putting her on oxygen, now she is doing much better," she said.

'Doctor's help' Bangladesh has recorded 336 child deaths since March 15, with more than 50,000 confirmed and suspected cases, according to the latest government data.

Most cases recorded have been among children aged between six months and five years.

On May 4 the country recorded the grim milestone of the highest number



Preventive measure: Mothers with their children wait in queues to receive measles vaccinations amid a rising outbreak in Dhaka. AP

of children dying in a single day – 17 in 24 hours.

Bangladesh has made significant advancements in vaccinations to tackle infectious diseases, but a measles drive due in 2024

was delayed by the revolution that toppled the government of Sheikh Hasina.

Health officials, aided by the UN children's agency, WHO, and the security

forces, are working to vaccinate children, launching an emergency measles-rubella campaign on April 5.

Nearly 17 million children have received the vaccine since the drive started, according to government data.

Last year the vaccine coverage was only 59%, but 95% coverage of children is needed to ensure herd immunity.

Without herd immunity, children can still get infected after vaccination, said senior health ministry official Abu Hussain Md Moinul Hossain.

It would take around a month before results can be seen, Mr. Ahsan added.

Slam, a 14-month-old boy, spent 10 days in intensive care at Dhaka's Shishu Hospital, a children's

centre, before improving enough to return to the dedicated measles ward.

He was vaccinated at 10 months, but with wider herd immunity compromised, that was not enough.

"I did not expect to get my son back," said his mother, Brishiti Akhtar, aged 20, watching her son sleep with an oxygen tube attached to his nose, one of 97 children with measles in the hospital.

"With the doctor's help, now he is out of danger."

Army field hospital Health Ministry official Ahsan insisted that medics could cope. "The hospitals are not yet overburdened," he said.

But, just in case, the army has erected a 20-bed

tent field hospital in the grounds of the government's Dhaka Medical College Hospital, ready for further cases.

"With the current measles outbreak, the health ministry told us to set up a field hospital," said the hospital director, Brigadier General Md Asaduzzaman.

But there are other challenges ahead. Bangladesh has experienced heavy rainfall in the last few weeks – bringing with it a rise in mosquitoes that carry the deadly dengue virus.

"We hope the measles infection rate will decrease soon," said Mr. Asaduzzaman.

"With the dengue season in mind, the field hospital is expected to be effective in that crisis too."



09M. Bangladesh battles its worst measles outbreak in decades as child deaths rise

बांग्लादेश दशकों के सबसे गंभीर खसरा प्रकोप से जूझ रहा है क्योंकि बच्चों की मौतें बढ़ रही हैं

- **Bangladesh's deadliest measles outbreak** in decades is stretching its health system, with children filling hospital wards and doctors struggling to contain a surge in infections that have killed more than 300 youngsters.
दशकों में बांग्लादेश का सबसे घातक खसरा प्रकोप उसकी स्वास्थ्य व्यवस्था पर भारी दबाव डाल रहा है, अस्पतालों के वार्ड बच्चों से भर गए हैं और डॉक्टर संक्रमण के उस बढ़ते प्रकोप को नियंत्रित करने के लिए संघर्ष कर रहे हैं जिसने 300 से अधिक बच्चों की जान ले ली है।
- The South Asian nation had made advancements in vaccinations to help stem the deadly virus — but coverage gaps during and after the chaos of a 2024 uprising that overthrew the autocratic government left the youngest generation badly exposed.
दक्षिण एशियाई देश ने इस घातक वायरस को रोकने के लिए टीकाकरण में प्रगति की थी — लेकिन 2024 के उस विद्रोह के दौरान और बाद में टीकाकरण कवरेज में आई कमी, जिसने निरंकुश सरकार को उखाड़ फेंका, ने सबसे युवा पीढ़ी को गंभीर रूप से असुरक्षित छोड़ दिया।
- “I was almost sure I was going to lose her today — her condition was terrible in the morning,” said **Rina Begum**, 45, cradling her three-year-old granddaughter A• a.
“मुझे लगभग यकीन हो गया था कि आज मैं उसे खो दूंगी — सुबह उसकी हालत बहुत खराब थी,” 45 वर्षीय **रीना बेगम** ने अपनी तीन साल की पोती आफिया को गोद में लेते हुए कहा।
- Ms. Begum, her eyes red from exhaustion and tears, said A• a had missed her second dose of the **measles vaccine** at age 18 months, and had spent the last two weeks in the measles ward in Dhaka.
आंसुओं और थकान से लाल आंखों वाली सुश्री बेगम ने कहा कि आफिया 18 महीने की उम्र में खसरा वैकसीन की दूसरी खुराक लेने से चूक गई थी और उसने पिछले दो सप्ताह ढाका के खसरा वार्ड में बिताए।
- **Measles** is highly contagious, spreading through coughs and sneezes, and has no specific treatment once caught.
खसरा अत्यधिक संक्रामक है, जो खांसी और छींक के माध्यम से फैलता है, और एक बार होने पर इसका कोई विशेष उपचार नहीं है।
- It hits children the hardest.
यह बच्चों को सबसे अधिक प्रभावित करता है।
- Their breathing can become strained, their strength fades, and in the most severe cases, the infection reaches the brain, causing swelling that can lead to lasting damage — or death.
उनकी सांस लेने में कठिनाई हो सकती है, उनकी ताकत कम हो जाती है, और सबसे गंभीर मामलों में संक्रमण मस्तिष्क तक पहुंच जाता है, जिससे सूजन होती है जो स्थायी क्षति — या मृत्यु — का कारण बन सकती है।
- Hospitals are treating thousands of young patients while authorities race to expand vaccination coverage and prevent more deaths.
अस्पताल हजारों युवा मरीजों का इलाज कर रहे हैं जबकि अधिकारी टीकाकरण कवरेज बढ़ाने और अधिक मौतों को रोकने के लिए तेजी से काम कर रहे हैं।
- Ms. Begum offered a smile as A• a reached up — having just turned a corner and regained some strength.
सुश्री बेगम मुस्कुराई जब आफिया ने हाथ बढ़ाया — क्योंकि उसकी हालत में सुधार हुआ था और उसने कुछ ताकत वापस पा ली थी।



- “After putting her on oxygen, now she is doing much better,” she said.
“उसे ऑक्सीजन पर रखने के बाद अब वह काफी बेहतर है,” उन्होंने कहा।

‘Doctor’s help’

‘डॉक्टर की मदद’

- **Bangladesh** has recorded 336 child deaths since March 15, with more than 50,000 confirmed and suspected cases, according to the latest government data.
ताजा सरकारी आंकड़ों के अनुसार, **बांग्लादेश** में 15 मार्च से अब तक 336 बच्चों की मौत दर्ज की गई है, जबकि 50,000 से अधिक पुष्ट और संदिग्ध मामले सामने आए हैं।
- Most cases recorded have been among children aged between six months and five years.
दर्ज किए गए अधिकांश मामले छह महीने से पांच वर्ष की आयु के बच्चों में पाए गए हैं।
- On May 4 the country recorded the grim milestone of the highest number of children dying in a single day — 17 in 24 hours.
4 मई को देश ने एक ही दिन में बच्चों की सबसे अधिक मौतों का भयावह रिकॉर्ड दर्ज किया — 24 घंटे में 17 मौतें।
- Bangladesh has made significant advancements in vaccinations to tackle infectious diseases, but a measles drive due in 2024 was delayed by the revolution that toppled the government of **Sheikh Hasina**.
संक्रामक बीमारियों से निपटने के लिए बांग्लादेश ने टीकाकरण में महत्वपूर्ण प्रगति की है, लेकिन 2024 में चलाया जाने वाला खसरा अभियान **शेख हसीना** सरकार को गिराने वाली क्रांति के कारण विलंबित हो गया।
- Health officials, aided by the **UN children’s agency, WHO**, and the security forces, are working to vaccinate children, launching an emergency measles-rubella campaign on April 5.
स्वास्थ्य अधिकारी, **संयुक्त राष्ट्र बाल एजेंसी, WHO**, और सुरक्षा बलों की मदद से, बच्चों का टीकाकरण करने के लिए काम कर रहे हैं और 5 अप्रैल को आपातकालीन खसरा-रूबेला अभियान शुरू किया गया।
- Nearly 17 million children have received the vaccine since the drive started, according to government data.
सरकारी आंकड़ों के अनुसार, अभियान शुरू होने के बाद से लगभग 1.7 करोड़ बच्चों को वैक्सीन दी जा चुकी है।
- Last year the vaccine coverage was only 59%, but 95% coverage of children is needed to ensure herd immunity.
पिछले वर्ष वैक्सीन कवरेज केवल 59% था, लेकिन सामूहिक प्रतिरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने के लिए 95% बच्चों का टीकाकरण आवश्यक है।
- Without herd immunity, children can still get infected after vaccination, said senior health ministry official **Abu Hussain Md Moinul Ahsan**.
वरिष्ठ स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय अधिकारी **अबू हुसैन एमडी मोइनुल अहसान** ने कहा कि सामूहिक प्रतिरक्षा के बिना बच्चे टीकाकरण के बाद भी संक्रमित हो सकते हैं।
- It would take around a month before results can be seen, Mr. Ahsan added.
श्री अहसान ने कहा कि परिणाम दिखाई देने में लगभग एक महीना लगेगा।
- **Siam**, a 14-month-old boy, spent 10 days in intensive care at Dhaka’s **Shishu Hospital**, a children’s centre, before improving enough to return to the dedicated measles ward.
14 महीने के लड़के **सियाम** ने ढाका के **शिशु अस्पताल** के गहन चिकित्सा कक्ष में 10 दिन बिताए, उसके बाद उसकी हालत इतनी सुधरी कि उसे खसरा वार्ड में वापस भेजा जा सका।
- He was vaccinated at 10 months, but with wider herd immunity compromised, that was not enough.
उसे 10 महीने की उम्र में टीका लगाया गया था, लेकिन व्यापक सामूहिक प्रतिरक्षा कमजोर होने के कारण वह पर्याप्त नहीं था।
- “I did not expect to get my son back,” said his mother **Brishti Akhtar**, aged 20, watching her son sleep with an oxygen tube attached to his nose, one of 97 children with measles in the hospital.



20 वर्षीय उसकी मां ब्रिष्टि अख्तर ने कहा, “मुझे उम्मीद नहीं थी कि मेरा बेटा वापस मिल जाएगा,” वह अपने बेटे को नाक में ऑक्सीजन ट्यूब लगाए सोते हुए देख रही थीं, जो अस्पताल में खसरे से पीड़ित 97 बच्चों में से एक हैं।

- “With the doctor’s help, now he is out of danger.”
“डॉक्टरों की मदद से अब वह खतरे से बाहर है।”

Army field hospital

सेना का फील्ड अस्पताल

- Health Ministry official Ahsan insisted that medics could cope.
स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय के अधिकारी अहसान ने जोर देकर कहा कि चिकित्साकर्मी स्थिति संभाल सकते हैं।
- “The hospitals are not yet overburdened,” he said.
उन्होंने कहा, “अस्पताल अभी अत्यधिक बोझ से नहीं दबे हैं।”
- But, just in case, the army has erected a 20-bed tent field hospital in the grounds of the government’s **Dhaka Medical College Hospital**, ready for further cases.
लेकिन एहतियात के तौर पर सेना ने सरकार के **ढाका मेडिकल कॉलेज अस्पताल** परिसर में 20 बिस्तरों वाला तंबू फील्ड अस्पताल स्थापित किया है, ताकि आगे आने वाले मामलों से निपटा जा सके।
- “With the current measles outbreak, the health ministry told us to set up a field hospital,” said the hospital director, Brigadier General **Md Asaduzzaman**.
अस्पताल के निदेशक ब्रिगेडियर जनरल **एमडी असदुज्जमान** ने कहा, “मौजूदा खसरा प्रकोप को देखते हुए स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय ने हमें फील्ड अस्पताल स्थापित करने के लिए कहा।”
- But there are other challenges ahead.
लेकिन आगे और भी चुनौतियां हैं।
- Bangladesh has experienced heavy rainfall in the last few weeks — bringing with it a rise in mosquitoes that carry the deadly **dengue virus**.
पिछले कुछ हफ्तों में बांग्लादेश में भारी वर्षा हुई है — जिससे घातक **डेंगू वायरस** फैलाने वाले मच्छरों की संख्या बढ़ गई है।
- “We hope the measles infection rate will decrease soon,” said Mr. Asaduzzaman.
श्री असदुज्जमान ने कहा, “हमें उम्मीद है कि खसरा संक्रमण दर जल्द कम होगी।”
- “With the dengue season in mind, the field hospital is expected to be effective in that crisis too.”
“डेंगू सीजन को ध्यान में रखते हुए उम्मीद है कि यह फील्ड अस्पताल उस संकट में भी प्रभावी साबित होगा।”

GS Paper III: Internal Security		09 May 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
09M	A watershed moment in India’s defence posture भारत की रक्षा मुद्रा में एक ऐतिहासिक परिवर्तनकारी क्षण	



A watershed moment in India's defence posture

ISS III: Internal Security

Operation Sindoor commenced at 1:05 a.m. on May 7, 2025, with a surgical, high-intensity destruction of selected terrorist infrastructure. This strike was a direct and decisive response to the cowardly Pahalgam carnage orchestrated by cross-border terrorists on April 22, 2025. This operation represents a paradigm shift in India's politico-military mindset and doctrine, marking a watershed moment in its approach to national security.

New era Indian doctrine

India's historical posture of "reactive restraint" provided a strong rationale for a "dossier approach", in which military inaction was often portrayed as extraordinary restraint and was frequently encouraged and lauded by the West. "What if" loops about attacking terror targets in a nuclear-armed adversary provided the final blow to India's decision-makers. Post-Operation Sindoor, the "zero tolerance" policy declared by Prime Minister Narendra Modi was pivoted further and reinforced, whereby any act of cross-border terrorism would be considered an "act of war".

This reflects a leadership that possesses both the strategic resolve to act and the absolute confidence in the armed forces to deliver retribution. Despite the political risks, this extraordinary resolve to tackle terror head on – and the refusal to submit to nuclear blackmail and external pressure drew new red lines.

Operation Sindoor defined a new chapter in India's defence evolution too. While on transition to integration and restructuring, this Operation tested the ground realities of the three services – the Indian Air Force (IAF), the Indian Navy and the Indian Army. Post Pahalgam, the forces were tuned to expect a clear-cut political directive for action, which came in an unambiguous form and was perhaps stronger than what the services had anticipated. The services were given a free hand.

The resultant Indian strikes on nine terrorist targets were exceptionally well-integrated across the three services, achieving total success despite a fully alert Pakistan. The choice of Bahawalpur, and Muridke in Pakistan as targets was unthinkable. Pakistan and the world woke up to realities of the "new normal". Pictures and videos of the massive destruction at these terror hubs, and the sheer scale and success of the strikes, were stunning.

The highly calibrated and intelligent Indian response over the next two days was executed well, calmly but firmly. Pakistan clearly misread



R.K.S. Bhaduria

Former Air Chief Marshal and served as Chief of the Air Staff of the Indian Air Force

India's resolve. On May 9 and 10, when the Pakistan Air Force attempted to strike some of India's critical high-value assets, the Indian Air Force countered it in near real time with waves of airstrikes hitting 11 bases across Pakistan, including Nur Khan, Sargodha, Murid and Bholari. The level of precise targeting and extent of damage achieved could not have been imagined by Pakistan. The global defence analytical community acknowledges this as one of the most defining and concise actions against a nuclear-armed nation.

Military audaciousness at its best

This total, integrated and calibrated response, characterised by masterful control of the escalation ladder, reflects the seamless synergy between India's civil and military institutions. In my opinion, India's achievements could not have been better. After 88 hours of Operation Sindoor, by noon on May 10, Pakistan was reeling from massive destruction at 11 bases by the IAF. Karachi was nervously monitoring Indian naval deployments poised for action, while aggressive Indian Army operations along the Line of Control and the International Border had rendered drone attacks unviable. A robust, networked air-defence system, including the S-400 missile system had completely denied airspace not only over Indian territory but also deep inside Pakistan. Pakistan had no choice but to rush and request a ceasefire.

Given the dynamics and complications of escalation control under a nuclear overhang, India's Chief of Defence Staff and the Service Chiefs deserve high praise for the ferocious targeting on May 10 and the brilliant seizing of the escalation opportunity to coerce a termination. This was military audaciousness at its very best.

The Indian armed forces responded in full measure to the political mandate, leaving no doubt regarding the nation's capacity for rapid, high-impact operation. The sheer scale and speed of India's action on May 10 was watched with awe across the country.

The announcement of the ceasefire was too sudden for the public at large. You cannot blame the people asking for more. One cannot view these developments with emotion. Having achieved all objectives and the scope of action on May 10, the termination decision was perfectly timed.

Operation Sindoor's ongoing status carries a powerful strategic signal. Undoubtedly, the

primary signal is for terrorists to remain in hiding and for their backers to desist. The message also extends to the Pakistani citizenry – a stark and constant reminder of the reckless involvement of part of their military leadership. In the age of global digital transparency and expert strategic analysis, the truth of these events cannot be shielded from their people for long. They must now confront the realities of a military regime camouflaged by a political facade and "regime" change should be on their minds.

Accelerate indigenous defence growth

Ongoing operations have implications for India as well. The defence forces would need to maintain a high state of readiness to act. After the opening round of Operation Sindoor, the expectations are high. I am sure the services are working proactively to deliver. An equally important implication is for the defence industry to ramp up in real terms to achieve Atmanirbharta. The focus must be to "Innovate, Design, and Manufacture" at scale.

The government has focused hugely on reforms to energise the public and private industry in defence, aerospace, space, cyber and Artificial Intelligence domains. The stellar performance of indigenous systems during Operation Sindoor has invigorated India's innovation and startup ecosystem. I

have always maintained that the real responsibility for being the "agent of change" rests with the Defence Research and Development Organisation laboratories, Defence Public Sector Undertakings, and, to some extent, even on large industry players already in the system. They no longer have the option to delay and must immediately focus on truly integrating the entire private sector, including micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and startups, into an indigenous ecosystem through a "whole-of-nation" approach. There is an urgent need to capitalise on this golden period of governance and reforms, and the unpredictable geopolitical environment only reinforces the need to double down on true Atmanirbharta.

Ultimately, the "Modi redlines" regarding cross-border terrorism are permanent. This new normal is irreversible and will define India's strategic mindset for the foreseeable future. The nation demands nothing less, and the populace would stand firmly behind the architects and executors of India's national security. My salute to everyone involved in the success of Operation Sindoor.



India's strategic doctrine has evolved sharply after Operation Sindoor

09M. A watershed moment in India's defence posture

भारत की रक्षा मुद्रा में एक ऐतिहासिक परिवर्तनकारी क्षण

- **Operation Sindoor commenced at 1:05 a.m. on May 7, 2025**, with a surgical, high-intensity destruction of selected terrorist infrastructure.

ऑपरेशन सिंदूर का आरंभ 7 मई 2025 को प्रातः 1:05 बजे चयनित आतंकवादी अवसंरचना के सर्जिकल एवं उच्च-तीव्रता विनाश के साथ हुआ।

- This strike was a direct and decisive response to the cowardly **Pahalgam carnage** orchestrated by cross-border terrorists on **April 22, 2025**.

यह हमला 22 अप्रैल 2025 को सीमा-पार आतंकवादियों द्वारा आयोजित कायरतापूर्ण पहलगाम नरसंहार के प्रति प्रत्यक्ष एवं निर्णायक प्रतिक्रिया थी।

- This operation represents a paradigm shift in India's politico-military mindset and doctrine, marking a watershed moment in its approach to national security.

यह अभियान भारत की राजनीतिक-सैन्य सोच एवं सिद्धांत में एक प्रतिमान परिवर्तन का प्रतिनिधित्व करता है, जो राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा के प्रति उसके दृष्टिकोण में एक ऐतिहासिक मोड़ को चिह्नित करता है।

New era Indian doctrine

नवीन युग का भारतीय सिद्धांत



- India's historical posture of “**reactive restraint**” provided a strong rationale for a “**dossier approach**”, in which military inaction was often portrayed as extraordinary restraint and was frequently encouraged and lauded by the West.
भारत की ऐतिहासिक “**प्रतिक्रियात्मक संयम**” की नीति ने “**डोज़ियर दृष्टिकोण**” के लिए एक सशक्त आधार प्रदान किया, जिसमें सैन्य निष्क्रियता को प्रायः असाधारण संयम के रूप में प्रस्तुत किया गया तथा पश्चिमी देशों द्वारा बार-बार प्रोत्साहित एवं प्रशंसित किया गया।
- “**What if**” loops about attacking terror targets in a nuclear-armed adversary provided the final blow to India's decision-makers.
परमाणु-सशस्त्र प्रतिद्वंद्वी में आतंकवादी ठिकानों पर आक्रमण को लेकर उत्पन्न “**व्हाट इफ**” चक्रों ने भारत के नीति-निर्माताओं की निर्णय प्रक्रिया को अंतिम रूप से प्रभावित किया।
- Post-**Operation Sindoor**, the “**zero tolerance**” policy declared by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** was pivoted further and reinforced, whereby any act of cross-border terrorism would be considered an “**act of war**”.
ऑपरेशन सिंदूर के पश्चात प्रधानमंत्री **नरेंद्र मोदी** द्वारा घोषित “**शून्य सहनशीलता**” की नीति को और अधिक सुदृढ़ एवं विस्तारित किया गया, जिसके अंतर्गत सीमा-पार आतंकवाद की किसी भी घटना को “**युद्ध की कार्रवाई**” माना जाएगा।
- This reflects a leadership that possesses both the strategic resolve to act and the absolute confidence in the armed forces to deliver retribution.
यह ऐसी नेतृत्व क्षमता को प्रदर्शित करता है, जिसमें कार्रवाई करने का रणनीतिक संकल्प तथा प्रतिशोध देने हेतु सशस्त्र बलों पर पूर्ण विश्वास विद्यमान है।
- Despite the political risks, this extraordinary resolve to tackle terror head on — and the refusal to submit to nuclear blackmail and external pressure drew new red lines.
राजनीतिक जोखिमों के बावजूद, आतंकवाद का प्रत्यक्ष रूप से सामना करने का यह असाधारण संकल्प तथा परमाणु ब्लैकमेल एवं बाहरी दबाव के समक्ष न झुकने की नीति ने नई लाल रेखाएँ निर्धारित कीं।
- **Operation Sindoor** defined a new chapter in India's defence evolution too.
ऑपरेशन सिंदूर ने भारत के रक्षा विकास में भी एक नए अध्याय को परिभाषित किया।
- While on transition to integration and restructuring, this Operation tested the ground realities of the three services — the **Indian Air Force (IAF)**, the **Indian Navy** and the **Indian Army**.
एकीकरण एवं पुनर्गठन की प्रक्रिया के दौरान इस अभियान ने तीनों सेनाओं — **भारतीय वायु सेना (IAF)**, **भारतीय नौसेना** तथा **भारतीय सेना** — की वास्तविक जमीनी क्षमताओं की परीक्षा ली।
- Post **Pahalgam**, the forces were tuned to expect a clear-cut political directive for action, which came in an unambiguous form and was perhaps stronger than what the services had anticipated.
पहलगाम घटना के पश्चात सेनाएँ कार्रवाई हेतु स्पष्ट राजनीतिक निर्देश की अपेक्षा कर रही थीं, जो अत्यंत स्पष्ट रूप में प्राप्त हुआ तथा संभवतः सेनाओं की अपेक्षाओं से भी अधिक दृढ़ था।
- The services were given a free hand.
सेनाओं को पूर्ण स्वतंत्रता प्रदान की गई।
- The resultant Indian strikes on nine terrorist targets were exceptionally well-integrated across the three services, achieving total success despite a fully alert Pakistan.
इसके परिणामस्वरूप नौ आतंकवादी ठिकानों पर किए गए भारतीय हमले तीनों सेनाओं के मध्य असाधारण समन्वय के साथ संपन्न हुए तथा पूर्णतः सतर्क पाकिस्तान के बावजूद पूर्ण सफलता प्राप्त हुई।
- The choice of **Bahawalpur**, and **Muridke** in Pakistan as targets was unthinkable.
पाकिस्तान के **बहावलपुर** एवं **मुरीदके** को लक्ष्य के रूप में चुनना अकल्पनीय माना जाता था।
- Pakistan and the world woke up to realities of the “**new normal**”.
पाकिस्तान तथा विश्व ने “**नए सामान्य**” की वास्तविकताओं को अनुभव किया।
- Pictures and videos of the massive destruction at these terror hubs, and the sheer sc
इन आतंकवादी केंद्रों पर हुए व्यापक विनाश के चित्र एवं वीडियो तथा उनकी विशालता ने स्पष्ट रूप से स्थिति की गंभीरता को प्रदर्शित किया।



The highly **calibrated** and intelligent Indian response over the next two days was executed well, calmly but firmly.

अगले दो दिनों में भारत की अत्यधिक **संतुलित** तथा बुद्धिमत्तापूर्ण प्रतिक्रिया को प्रभावी, शांतिपूर्ण किन्तु दृढ़तापूर्वक क्रियान्वित किया गया।

- Pakistan clearly misread India's **resolve**.
पाकिस्तान ने भारत के **दृढ़ संकल्प** का स्पष्ट रूप से गलत आकलन किया।
- On May 9 and 10, when the **Pakistan Air Force** attempted to strike some of India's critical high-value assets, the **Indian Air Force** countered it in near real time with waves of airstrikes hitting 11 bases across Pakistan, including **Nur Khan, Sargodha, Murid and Bholari**.
9 और 10 मई को, जब **पाकिस्तान वायु सेना** ने भारत की कुछ अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण एवं उच्च-मूल्य वाली सामरिक परिसंपत्तियों पर प्रहार करने का प्रयास किया, तब **भारतीय वायु सेना** ने लगभग वास्तविक समय में जवाबी कार्रवाई करते हुए पाकिस्तान के 11 ठिकानों पर हवाई हमलों की श्रृंखला चलाई, जिनमें **नूर खान, सरगोधा, मुरीद और भोलारी** सम्मिलित थे।
- The level of **precise targeting** and extent of damage achieved could not have been imagined by Pakistan.
सटीक लक्ष्यभेदन तथा पहुँचाई गई क्षति का स्तर ऐसा था जिसकी पाकिस्तान ने कल्पना भी नहीं की थी।
- The global **defence analytical community** acknowledges this as one of the most defining and concise actions against a **nuclear-armed nation**.
वैश्विक **रक्षा विश्लेषण समुदाय** इसे एक **परमाणु-सशस्त्र राष्ट्र** के विरुद्ध की गई सबसे निर्णायक एवं सटीक कार्रवाइयों में से एक के रूप में स्वीकार करता है।

Military audaciousness at its best

सैन्य साहसिकता का सर्वोत्तम उदाहरण

- This total, integrated and calibrated response, characterised by masterful control of the **escalation ladder**, reflects the seamless synergy between India's **civil and military institutions**.
यह पूर्णतः समन्वित, एकीकृत एवं संतुलित प्रतिक्रिया, जो **तनाव-वृद्धि की प्रक्रिया** पर उत्कृष्ट नियंत्रण द्वारा चिह्नित थी, भारत की **नागरिक एवं सैन्य संस्थाओं** के मध्य निर्बाध समन्वय को प्रतिबिंबित करती है।
- In my opinion, India's **achievements** could not have been better.
मेरे मतानुसार, भारत की **उपलब्धियाँ** इससे बेहतर नहीं हो सकती थीं।
- After 88 hours of **Operation Sindoor**, by noon on May 10, Pakistan was reeling from massive destruction at 11 bases by the **IAF**.
ऑपरेशन सिंदूर के 88 घंटों के उपरांत, 10 मई की दोपहर तक पाकिस्तान **भारतीय वायु सेना** द्वारा उसके 11 ठिकानों पर पहुँचाई गई व्यापक विनाशालीला से हिल चुका था।
- Karachi was nervously monitoring Indian **naval deployments** poised for action, while aggressive **Indian Army operations** along the **Line of Control** and the **International Border** had rendered drone attacks unviable.
कराची भारतीय **नौसैनिक तैनाती** पर चिंतित दृष्टि बनाए हुए था, जो कार्रवाई के लिए तैयार थीं, जबकि **भारतीय सेना के आक्रामक अभियानों** ने **नियंत्रण रेखा** तथा **अंतरराष्ट्रीय सीमा** पर ड्रोन हमलों को अव्यावहारिक बना दिया था।
- A robust, networked **air-defence system**, including the **S-400 missile system** had completely denied airspace not only over Indian territory but also deep inside Pakistan.
एस-400 मिसाइल प्रणाली सहित एक सुदृढ़ एवं नेटवर्क आधारित **वायु-रक्षा तंत्र** ने न केवल भारतीय क्षेत्र के ऊपर, बल्कि पाकिस्तान के भीतर गहराई तक हवाई क्षेत्र को पूर्णतः निषिद्ध कर दिया था।
- Pakistan had no choice but to rush and request a **ceasefire**.
पाकिस्तान के पास शीघ्रता से **युद्धविराम** की मांग करने के अतिरिक्त कोई अन्य विकल्प नहीं बचा था।

Given the dynamics and complications of **escalation control** under a **nuclear overhang**,



India's **Chief of Defence Staff** and the **Service Chiefs** deserve high praise for the ferocious targeting on **May 10** and the brilliant seizing of the escalation opportunity to coerce a termination.

परमाणु तनाव की पृष्ठभूमि में **तनाव नियंत्रण** की जटिलताओं एवं परिस्थितियों को देखते हुए, भारत के **चीफ ऑफ डिफेंस स्टाफ** तथा **सेवा प्रमुख 10 मई** को किए गए प्रचंड लक्ष्यभेदी आक्रमण तथा संघर्ष समाप्ति हेतु अवसर के उत्कृष्ट उपयोग के लिए अत्यधिक प्रशंसा के पात्र हैं।

- This was **military audaciousness** at its very best.
यह **सैन्य साहसिकता** का सर्वोत्तम उदाहरण था।
- The **Indian armed forces** responded in full measure to the **political mandate**, leaving no doubt regarding the nation's capacity for rapid, high-impact operation.
भारतीय सशस्त्र बलों ने **राजनीतिक निर्देशों** के अनुरूप पूर्ण क्षमता के साथ प्रतिक्रिया दी, जिससे राष्ट्र की तीव्र एवं उच्च-प्रभावी सैन्य कार्रवाई करने की क्षमता पर कोई संदेह नहीं रहा।
- The sheer scale and speed of India's action on **May 10** was watched with awe across the country.
10 मई को भारत की कार्रवाई के विशाल स्तर एवं तीव्र गति को पूरे देश ने आश्चर्य एवं गौरव के साथ देखा।
- The announcement of the **ceasefire** was too sudden for the public at large, You cannot blame the people asking for more.
युद्धविराम की घोषणा आम जनता के लिए अत्यंत अचानक थी, इसलिए अधिक कार्रवाई की अपेक्षा करने वाले लोगों को दोष नहीं दिया जा सकता।
- One cannot view these developments with **emotion**.
इन घटनाक्रमों को **भावनात्मक दृष्टिकोण** से नहीं देखा जा सकता।
- Having achieved all objectives and the scope of action on **May 10**, the **termination decision** was perfectly timed.
10 मई तक सभी उद्देश्यों एवं कार्रवाई की सीमा को प्राप्त कर लेने के पश्चात **अभियान समाप्त करने का निर्णय** पूर्णतः उपयुक्त समय पर लिया गया।
- **Operation Sindoor's** ongoing status carries a powerful **strategic signal**.
ऑपरेशन सिंदूर की निरंतर स्थिति एक सशक्त **रणनीतिक संदेश** प्रदान करती है।
- Undoubtedly, the primary signal is for **terrorists** to remain in hiding and for their **backers** to desist.
निस्संदेह, इसका प्रमुख संदेश **आतंकवादियों** के लिए छिपे रहने तथा उनके **समर्थकों** के लिए अपने प्रयासों से विरत होने का है।
- The message also extends to the **Pakistani citizenry** — a stark and constant reminder of the reckless involvement of part of their **military leadership**.
यह संदेश **पाकिस्तान की जनता** तक भी पहुँचता है — जो उनके **सैन्य नेतृत्व** के एक वर्ग की लापरवाह संलिप्तता की कठोर एवं निरंतर याद दिलाता है।
- In the age of **global digital transparency** and expert **strategic analysis**, the truth of these events cannot be shielded from their people for long.
वैश्विक डिजिटल पारदर्शिता एवं विशेषज्ञ **रणनीतिक विश्लेषण** के इस युग में इन घटनाओं की सच्चाई को लंबे समय तक जनता से छिपाया नहीं जा सकता।
- They must now confront the realities of a **military regime** camouflaged by a **political facade** and "**regime**" change should be on their minds.
अब उन्हें एक ऐसे **सैन्य शासन** की वास्तविकताओं का सामना करना होगा, जो **राजनीतिक आवरण** के पीछे छिपा हुआ है, तथा "**शासन परिवर्तन**" का विचार उनके मन में होना चाहिए।

Accelerate indigenous defence growth

स्वदेशी रक्षा विकास में तीव्रता लाना

Ongoing operations have implications for India as well.

चल रहे अभियानों के भारत के लिए भी व्यापक प्रभाव हैं।



- The **defence forces** would need to maintain a high state of readiness to act.
रक्षा बलों को कार्रवाई हेतु उच्च स्तर की तत्परता बनाए रखने की आवश्यकता होगी।
- After the opening round of **Operation Sindoor**, the expectations are high.
ऑपरेशन सिंदूर के प्रारंभिक चरण के उपरांत अपेक्षाएँ अत्यधिक बढ़ गई हैं।
- I am sure the services are working proactively to deliver.
मुझे विश्वास है कि तीनों सेनाएँ सक्रिय रूप से अपेक्षित परिणाम देने हेतु कार्य कर रही हैं।
- An equally important implication is for the **defence industry** to ramp up in real terms to achieve **Atmanirbharta**.
एक समान रूप से महत्वपूर्ण प्रभाव यह है कि रक्षा उद्योग को वास्तविक स्तर पर तीव्र विस्तार करना होगा ताकि आत्मनिर्भरता प्राप्त की जा सके।
- The focus must be to “**Innovate, Design, and Manufacture**” at scale.
मुख्य ध्यान बड़े पैमाने पर “नवाचार, अभिकल्पना एवं विनिर्माण” पर होना चाहिए।
- The government has focused hugely on **reforms** to energise the public and private industry in **defence, aerospace, space, cyber and Artificial Intelligence** domains.
सरकार ने सुधारों पर व्यापक ध्यान केंद्रित किया है ताकि रक्षा, एयरोस्पेस, अंतरिक्ष, साइबर तथा कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता क्षेत्रों में सार्वजनिक एवं निजी उद्योगों को सशक्त बनाया जा सके।
- The stellar performance of **indigenous systems** during **Operation Sindoor** has invigorated India's **innovation and startup ecosystem**.
ऑपरेशन सिंदूर के दौरान स्वदेशी प्रणालियों के उत्कृष्ट प्रदर्शन ने भारत के नवाचार एवं स्टार्टअप पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र को नई ऊर्जा प्रदान की है।
- I have always maintained that the real responsibility for being the “**agent of change**” rests with the **Defence Research and Development Organisation laboratories, Defence Public Sector Undertakings**, and, to some extent, even on large industry players already in the system.
मैं सदैव यह मानता रहा हूँ कि “परिवर्तन के वाहक” बनने की वास्तविक जिम्मेदारी रक्षा अनुसंधान एवं विकास संगठन की प्रयोगशालाओं, रक्षा सार्वजनिक उपक्रमों तथा कुछ सीमा तक पहले से स्थापित बड़े औद्योगिक समूहों पर भी निर्भर करती है।
- They no longer have the option to delay and must immediately focus on truly integrating the entire private sector, including **MSMEs** and **startups**, into an indigenous ecosystem through a “**whole-of-nation**” approach.
अब उनके पास विलंब करने का कोई विकल्प नहीं है और उन्हें तुरंत **MSMEs** तथा **स्टार्टअप्स** सहित सम्पूर्ण निजी क्षेत्र को “सम्पूर्ण राष्ट्र दृष्टिकोण” के माध्यम से स्वदेशी पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र में वास्तविक रूप से एकीकृत करने पर ध्यान केंद्रित करना होगा।
- There is an urgent need to capitalize on this golden period of **governance and reforms**, and the unpredictable **geopolitical environment** only reinforces the need to double down on true **Atmanirbharta**.
सुशासन एवं सुधारों के इस स्वर्णिम काल का लाभ उठाने की अत्यंत आवश्यकता है, तथा अनिश्चित भू-राजनीतिक वातावरण वास्तविक आत्मनिर्भरता को और अधिक सुदृढ़ करने की आवश्यकता को बल प्रदान करता है।
- Ultimately, the “**Modi redlines**” regarding **cross-border terrorism** are permanent.
अंततः, सीमा-पार आतंकवाद के संबंध में “मोदी रेडलाइन्स” स्थायी हैं।
- This **new normal** is irreversible and will define India's **strategic mindset** for the foreseeable future.
यह नई सामान्य स्थिति अपरिवर्तनीय है और निकट भविष्य में भारत की सामरिक सोच को परिभाषित करेगी।
- The nation demands nothing less, and the populace would stand firmly behind the architects and executors of India's **national security**.



TELEGRAM CHANNEL: <https://t.me/patrioticIAS>
YOUTUBE CHANNEL: <https://www.youtube.com/@PatrioticIAS>
CONTACT: 9971932488



राष्ट्र इससे कम की अपेक्षा नहीं करता, और जनता भारत की **राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा** के निर्माताओं एवं क्रियान्वयनकर्ताओं के पीछे दृढ़तापूर्वक खड़ी रहेगी।

- My salute to everyone involved in the success of **Operation Sindoor**.
ऑपरेशन सिंदूर की सफलता में योगदान देने वाले प्रत्येक व्यक्ति को मेरा सलाम।

PATRIOTIC IAS