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The Indian EXPRESS

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Jansatta



2
Financial Express



*Dreams
don't work
unless your
schedule
does.*

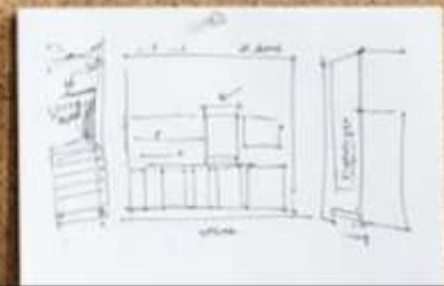
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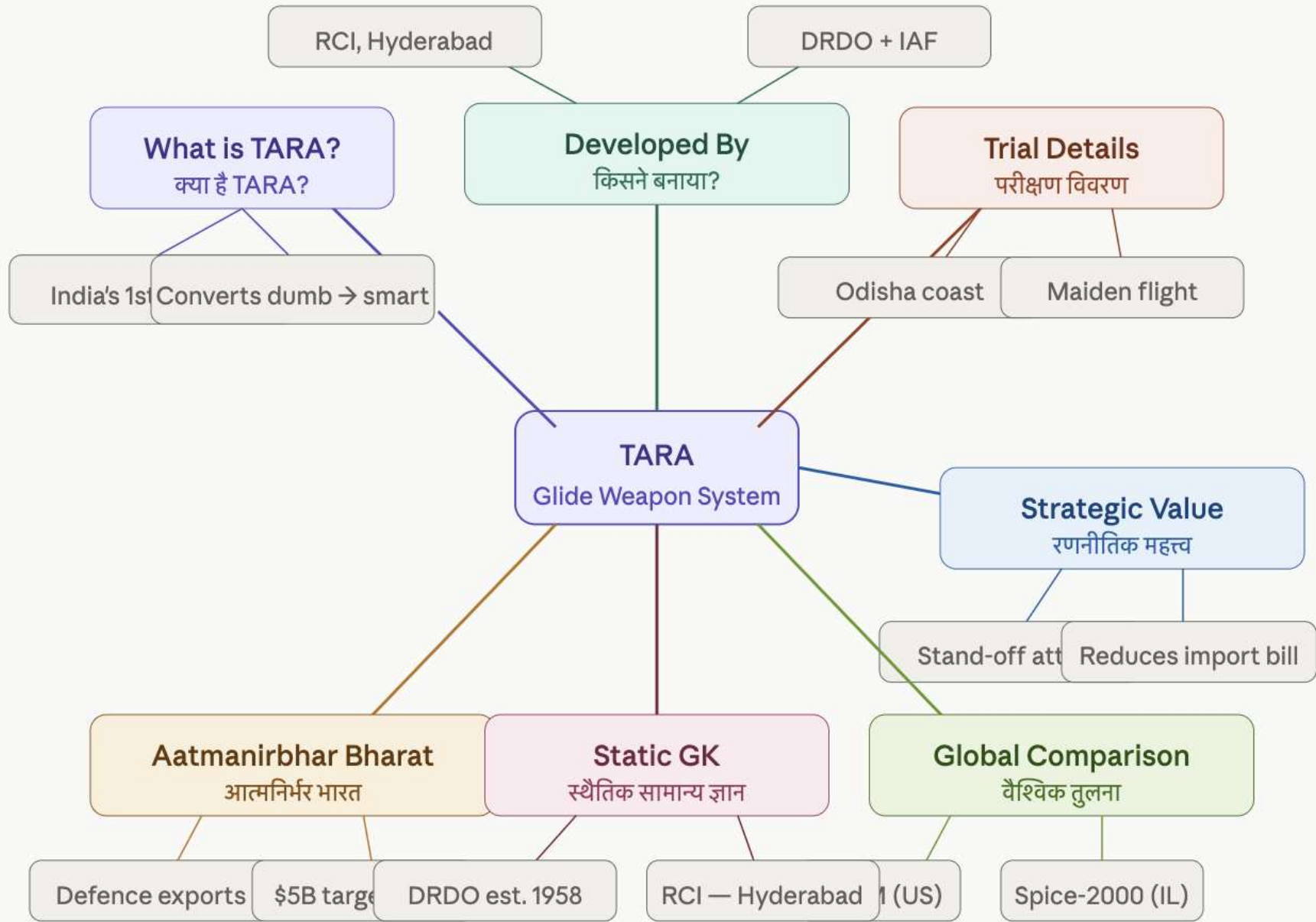
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DRDO, IAF conduct maiden trial of TARA glide weapon

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.



RCI, Hyderabad

DRDO + IAF

What is TARA?

क्या है TARA?

Developed By

किसने बनाया?

Trial Details

परीक्षण विवरण

India's 1st

Converts dumb → smart

Odisha coast

Maiden flight

TARA

Glide Weapon System

Strategic Value

रणनीतिक महत्त्व

Stand-off att

Reduces import bill

Aatmanirbhar Bharat

आत्मनिर्भर भारत

Static GK

स्थैतिक सामान्य ज्ञान

Global Comparison

वैश्विक तुलना

Defence exports

\$5B target

DRDO est. 1958

RCI — Hyderabad

1 (US)

Spice-2000 (IL)

Why in News | चर्चा में क्यों

- DRDO + IAF conducted maiden flight trial of TARA off Odisha coast
DRDO + IAF ने ओडिशा तट के पास TARA का पहला उड़ान परीक्षण किया
- TARA = Tactical Advanced Range Augmentation — India's first indigenous glide weapon system
TARA = भारत की पहली स्वदेशी ग्लाइड हथियार प्रणाली
- Converts conventional unguided warheads into precision-guided weapons
पारंपरिक बिना निर्देशित वारहेड को सटीक-निर्देशित हथियारों में बदलती है
- Designed by Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad
रिसर्च सेंटर इमारात (RCI), हैदराबाद द्वारा डिजाइन
- Aims to improve range and lethality of low-cost aerial weapons
कम लागत वाले हवाई हथियारों की सीमा और घातकता बढ़ाने का लक्ष्य

Key Facts & Data | मुख्य तथ्य

1st

Indigenous Glide
Weapon System

RCI

Developer
Hyderabad

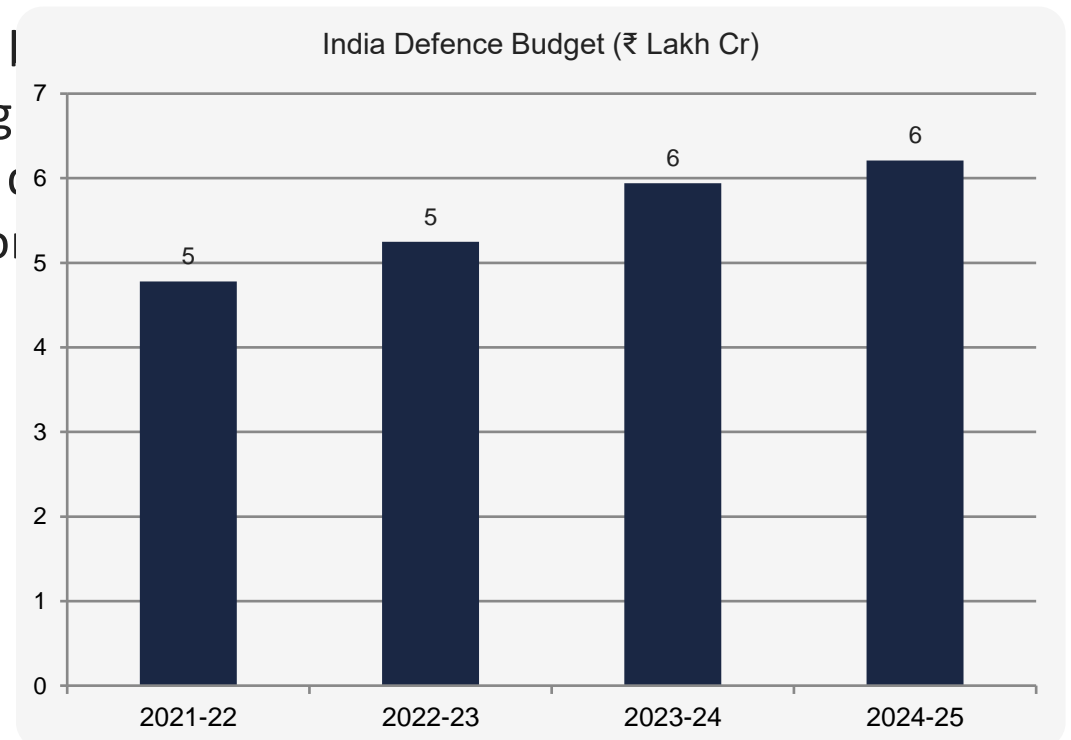
1958

DRDO Founded
स्थापना वर्ष

JDAM

US Equivalent
अमेरिकी समकक्ष

- Modular range-extension kit attaches to existing dumb fire bombs
- Launched off Odisha coast (Bay of Bengal) — near Integrated Test Range
- Improves stand-off attack capability — strike from safe distances
- Part of Aatmanirbhar Bharat in defence | Defence exports



Multi-Subject Connections | बहु-विषय संबंध

History / इतिहास

DRDO est. 1958
IGMDP launched 1983
Prithvi, Agni, Nag

Geography / भूगोल

Trial off Odisha coast
Bay of Bengal — ITR
Chandipur range

Polity / राजव्यवस्था

DAP 2020
Ministry of Defence
Aatmanirbhar policy

Economy / अर्थव्यवस्था

\$5B export target
Def. Budget ₹6.2L Cr
iDEX startup scheme

Science & Tech / विज्ञान

Glide ratio physics
GPS/INS guidance
Precision strike tech

Static GK / स्थैतिक GK

RCI HQ — Hyderabad
DRDO HQ — New Delhi
Israel: Spice-2000

Timeline | कालक्रम

1958

DRDO Founded
DRDO की स्थापना

1983

IGMDP Launched
IGMDP प्रारंभ

2000s

IAF uses Spice-2000
स्पाइस-2000 का उपयोग

2020

DAP 2020 — Indigenisation
Push
स्वदेशीकरण नीति

2025

TARA Maiden Trial
TARA पहला परीक्षण

Exam Relevance | परीक्षा प्रासंगिकता

Exam Section	Key Focus
Prelims / प्रारंभिक	TARA full form, RCI location, DRDO year, missile types
Mains — Science & Security	Indigenisation in defence; role of DRDO in Aatmanirbhar Bharat
Mains — Economy	Defence exports, DAP 2020, iDEX initiative, \$5B target
Essay Topics	'Self-reliance in defence is both economic and strategic necessity'
Interview	How does stand-off weapon change India's two-front strategy?

Statement MCQ (Practice) | कथन-आधारित MCQ

TARA converts unguided bombs → precision-guided TRUE

TARA was developed by HAL FALSE (Developed by RCI/DRDO)

Trial was held off Odisha coast TRUE

Quick Revision | त्वरित पुनरावृत्ति

- 1 TARA = Tactical Advanced Range Augmentation**
TARA = टैक्टिकल एडवांस्ड रेंज ऑगमेंटेशन
- 2 India's 1st indigenous glide weapon system**
भारत की पहली स्वदेशी ग्लाइड हथियार प्रणाली
- 3 Developer: RCI, Hyderabad**
डेवलपर: RCI, हैदराबाद
- 4 Converts dumb → precision-guided bombs**
साधारण बम → सटीक-निर्देशित बम
- 5 Trial: Odisha coast (Bay of Bengal)**
परीक्षण: ओडिशा तट (बंगाल की खाड़ी)
- 6 Partners: DRDO + IAF**
भागीदार: DRDO + IAF
- 7 US = JDAM; Israel = Spice-2000**
अमेरिका = JDAM; इज़राइल = Spice-2000
- 8 Improves range & lethality of aerial weapons**
हवाई हथियारों की सीमा और घातकता बढ़ाता है
- 9 Part of Aatmanirbhar Bharat in defence**
रक्षा में आत्मनिर्भर भारत का हिस्सा
- 10 DRDO founded: 1958**
DRDO स्थापना: 1958

NITI Aayog flags low student retention, learning outcomes

Maitri 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

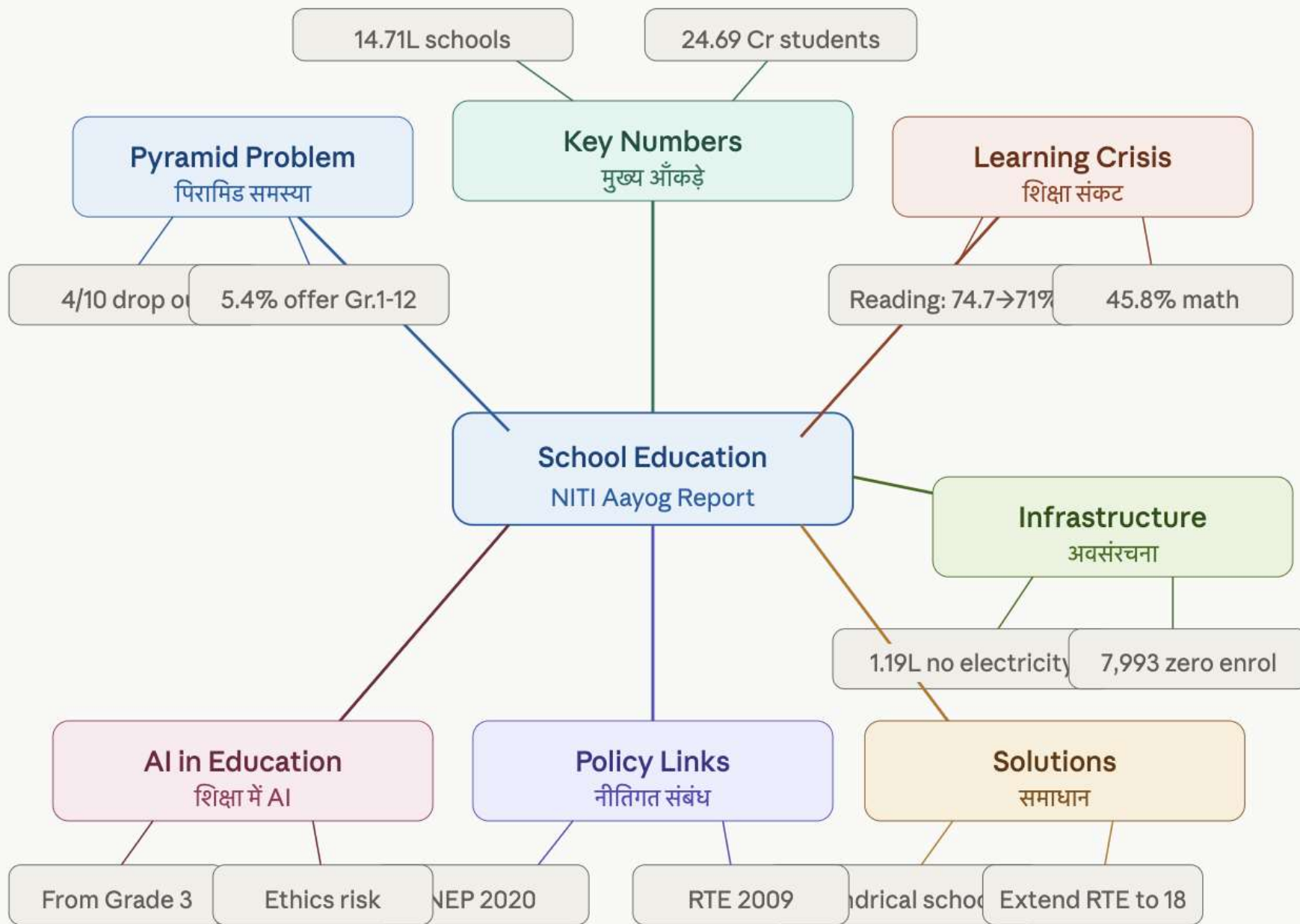
The report recommends "cylindrical" schooling to fix the "leaky pipeline" of student dropouts, which involves creating composite schools that cover Grades 1-12 under one roof. The report points to the fact that the Right to Education Act ends at age 14, leaving families to bear the costs of tuition,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



Why in News | चर्चा में क्यों

- NITI Aayog released decadal analysis of India's school education system
नीति आयोग ने भारत की स्कूली शिक्षा प्रणाली का दशकीय विश्लेषण जारी किया
- Report: 'School Education System in India — Temporal Analysis and Policy Roadmap'
रिपोर्ट: भारत में स्कूल शिक्षा प्रणाली — कालिक विश्लेषण
- Highlights 'Pyramid Problem' — 14.71 lakh schools, 24.69 crore students
'पिरामिड समस्या' — 14.71 लाख स्कूल, 24.69 करोड़ छात्र
- 4 out of every 10 children drop out before higher secondary education
10 में से 4 बच्चे उच्च माध्यमिक से पहले छोड़ देते हैं
- Recommends 'cylindrical schooling' — composite schools Grades 1-12 under one roof
'बेलनाकार स्कूली' — कक्षा 1-12 एक ही छत के नीचे

Key Numbers | मुख्य आँकड़े

14.71L

Total Schools
कुल स्कूल

24.69Cr

Students
छात्र

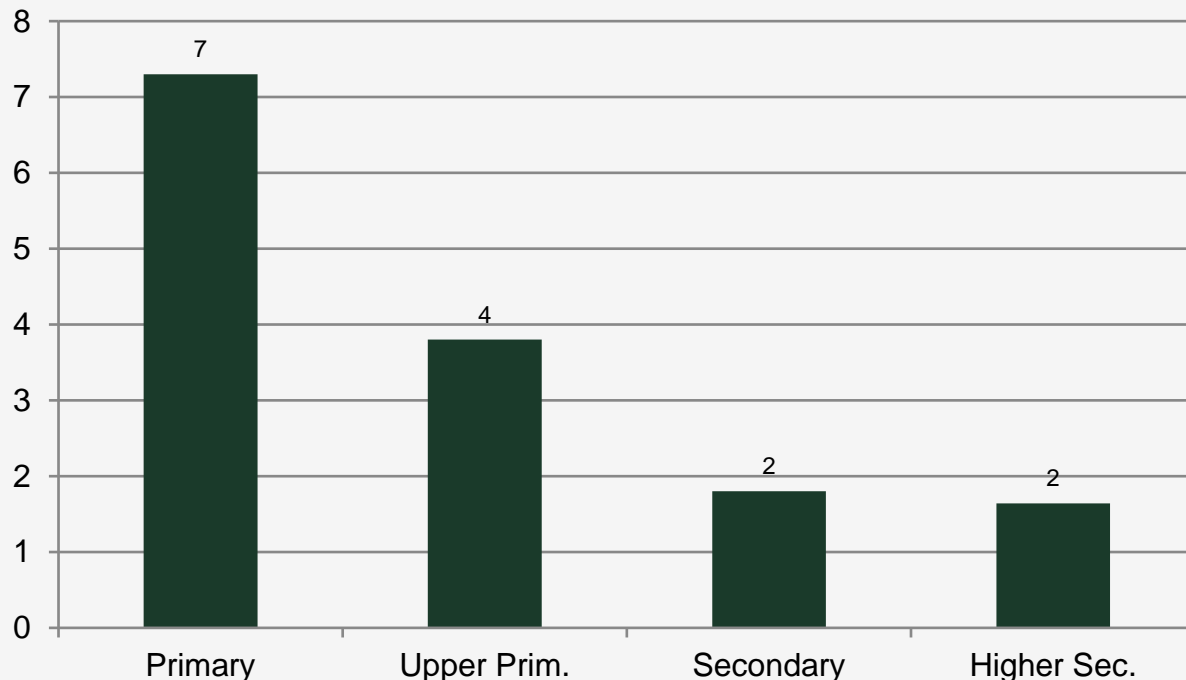
40%

Dropout Rate
ड्रॉपआउट दर

5.4%

Schools Gr.1-12
स्कूल कक्षा 1-12

Schools by Level (Lakh)



- 7,993 schools with zero student enrolment
- 1.19 lakh schools lack functional electricity (UDISE+ 2024-25)
- Grade 8 reading proficiency: 74.7% (2014) → 71.1% (2024)
- Only 45.8% of Grade 8 students can solve basic division
- 14,505 schools lack drinking water; 59,829 lack handwashing

Multi-Subject Connections | बहु-विषय संबंध

History / इतिहास

Wood's Despatch 1854
Kothari Commission 1964
10+2 structure

Geography / भूगोल

West Bengal: 3,812 zero enrol
Telangana: 2,245 zero enrol
State literacy varies

Polity / राजव्यवस्था

RTE Act 2009 (age 6-14)
Concurrent List
Const. Art.21-A

Economy / अर्थव्यवस्था

Edu. spend ~4.6% GDP
NEP target 6% GDP
HDI link

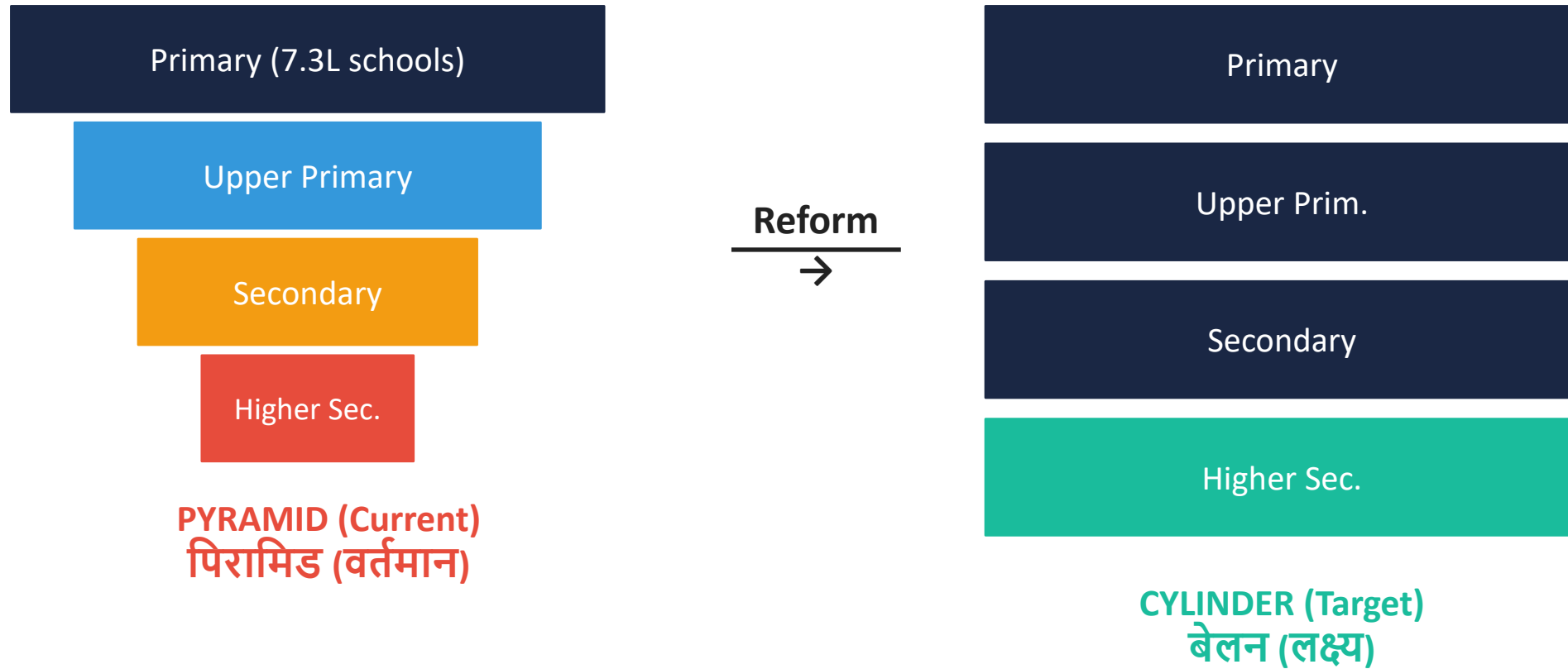
Environment / पर्यावरण

14,505 schools no water
59,829 no handwashing
Public health risk

Science & Tech / विज्ञान

AI from Grade 3
Computational thinking
Ethics framework risk

Pyramid vs Cylinder Model | पिरामिड बनाम बेलन मॉडल



- RTE Act ends at age 14 — families bear cost of books & transport for older children
- Structural fragmentation: students shift schools multiple times → high attrition
- October 2025: Ministry introduced AI & Computational Thinking from Grade 3
- Report warns: over-reliance on AI could 'diminish independent thinking'

Exam Relevance | परीक्षा प्रासंगिकता

Exam Section	Key Focus
Prelims / प्रारंभिक	NITI Aayog year, UDISE+, RTE age limit, NEP 2020 features, Kothari Commission
Mains — Governance	Structural challenges in school education; policy solutions for dropout crisis
Mains — Society	Education in social mobility; inequality; demographic dividend
Essay Topics	Universal enrolment means nothing without quality learning outcomes
Interview	What reforms would you prioritise to fix India's student dropout problem?

Key Term Check | मुख्य शब्द

UDISE+ = Unified District Information System for Education Plus | ASER = Annual Status of Education Report
FLN = Foundational Literacy & Numeracy | GER = Gross Enrolment Ratio | NEP = National Education Policy

Quick Revision | त्वरित पुनरावृत्ति

- 1 14.71 lakh schools | 24.69 Cr students**
14.71 लाख स्कूल | 24.69 करोड़ छात्र
- 2 4 of 10 children drop out before higher secondary**
10 में से 4 बच्चे ड्रॉपआउट
- 3 Only 5.4% schools offer Grade 1-12 journey**
केवल 5.4% स्कूल कक्षा 1-12 निरंतर
- 4 7,993 schools: zero enrolment**
7,993 स्कूल: शून्य नामांकन
- 5 1.19 lakh schools lack electricity**
1.19 लाख स्कूल बिजली से वंचित
- 6 Reading proficiency: 74.7% → 71.1% (2014-24)**
पठन प्रवीणता: 74.7% → 71.1% (2014-24)
- 7 Only 45.8% Grade 8 can solve division**
केवल 45.8% कक्षा 8 भाग हल करते हैं
- 8 RTE ends at age 14**
RTE 14 वर्ष पर समाप्त
- 9 Recommendation: Cylindrical schooling**
अनुशंसा: बेलनाकार स्कूली
- 10 NITI Aayog replaced Planning Commission — 2015**
नीति आयोग ने योजना आयोग की जगह 2015 में ली



Zainab Ahmad being taken away in a public vehicle outside Melbourne Magistrates' Court on Friday.

Australian women charged for 'slave trade' under ISIS

Agence France-Presse
SYDNEY

An Australian mother and daughter "kept a female slave" after travelling to Syria in 2014 to support the Islamic State group, police said Friday as the pair faced charges in Melbourne. The women returned to Australia on Thursday after years spent in a Syrian detention camp, where they were stranded after Islamic State's collapse.

Counter-terrorism forces arrested Kowayyeh Ahmad, 53, and her daughter Zainab, 31, immediately after their Qatar Airways flight landed at Melbourne International airport. Police accused the women of "crimes against humanity" while living under Islamic State's self-declared caliphate.

Ahmad was "complicit in the purchase of a female slave for US\$50,000", the Australian Federal Police said. She faces a raft of charges including "enslavement" and engaging in "slave trading". Her daughter Zainab had "knowingly kept a female slave in the home," police said.

A bail hearing for the women will be held in Melbourne on Monday. The arrests and charges were detailed by Kurdish forces in 2019 as Islamic State's caliphate crumbled. They were held in Syria's notorious Raji camp for years before their return to Australia.

As Islamic State rose to power in the early 2010s, Australia made it an offence to travel to strongholds such as Raqqa province in Syria. Hundreds of women from Western nations were lured to West Asia as the Islamic State group gained prominence in the early 2010s. In many cases following husbands who had signed up as jihadist fighters.

Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom and others are still grappling with how to treat citizens stranded after the group collapsed.

Associated Press
LOS ANGELES

A concern about over artificial intelligence and its rapid integration into society, tech companies are increasingly turning to faith leaders for guidance on how to shape the technology — a surprising about-face on Silicon Valley's longstanding reputation of organized religion.

Leaders from various religious groups met last week with representatives from companies including Anthropic and OpenAI for the inaugural "Faith-AI Covenant" round table, in New York to discuss how best to infuse morality and ethics into the fast-developing technology. It was organized by the Geneva-based Interfaith Alliance for Communitarianism, which seeks to take on issues such as extremism, radicalization and human trafficking. The round table is expected to be the first of several around the globe, including in Beijing, Nairobi and Abu Dhabi.

Tech executives need to recognize their power — and their responsibility — to make the right decisions, said Roseanne Jeanne Shields, a key partner in the initiative. She worked at Google and Facebook before pivoting to British politics. "Regulation can't keep up with this," she said. But

the leaders of the world's religions, with billions of followers globally, have the "expertise of discerning people's moral safety," she reasoned. Faith leaders ought to have a voice, Ms. Shields said.

"This dialogue, this direct connection is so important because the people who are building this understand the power and capabilities of what they're building and they want to do it right — most of them," she said of AI tech executives.

The goal of this initiative, according to Ms. Shields, is an eventual "set of norms or principles" informed by different groups and faiths, from Christians to Sikhs to Buddhists, that companies will abide by.

Present at the meeting were a variety of faith groups, including representatives from the Hindu Temple Society of North America and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, widely known as the Mormon church.

Before these companies initiated outreach, some techies had issued their own ethical guidance on using AI. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has given a qualified approval of the technology in a handbook. "AI cannot replace the gift of divine inspiration of the individual



White discussion: Critics fear conversations on ethical AI distract from broader debates about the technology's role in society.

work required to resolve it. However, AI can be a useful tool to enhance learning and teaching," it reads.

The Southern Baptist Convention, the largest Protestant denomination in the U.S., passed a resolution in 2023: "We must proactively engage and shape these emerging technologies rather than simply react to the challenges of AI and other emerging technologies after they have already affected our churches and communities."

One challenge in creating a list of common principles is that global faiths, despite common ground, differ in their values and

made with the help of a host of religious and ethics leaders.

In this burgeoning alliance, Anthropic has been the most assertive, at least publicly, in their efforts to court faith leaders. The move follows a public dispute earlier this year with the Pentagon over military use of artificial intelligence after Anthropic said it would restrict its technology from being used to develop autonomous weapons or for mass surveillance of Americans.

"There's some aspect of PR to it. The dialog was 'Move, fast and break things.' And they broke too many things and too many people," said Brian, one of the U.S. faith liaison for the nonprofit Office of Life in Ethics.

"There's both a moral obligation on the part of the companies that they're belatedly recognizing, as well as I think, for some members of the companies, an earnest questioning."

But other advocates for AI regulation and safety aren't so sure these efforts are genuine. "At best it's a distraction. At worst it's diverting attention from things that really matter," said Raman Choudhury, the CEO of the nonprofit Human Dignity and Research Institute, a science envoy for AI under the Biden administration.

"Claude Constitution" written for its charter. That constitution was

Rubio meets Italian PM Meloni amid Trump tensions over Pope, Iran war

Agence France-Presse
ROME

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio meets Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni on Friday, the second day spent calibrating positions in Rome following criticism by President Donald Trump.

The day after a "friendly and constructive" audience with Pope Leo XIV, whom Mr. Trump lambasted for his anti-war rhetoric, Mr. Rubio will meet with far-right Mr. Meloni at her office in Rome.

Mr. Meloni is one of the U.S. President's closest European allies, but he has sharply criticized her for helping to help with the war with Iran. In an interview with an Italian newspaper last month, Mr. Trump said



Headling: U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio meets Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni during his visit to Rome on Friday.

we say so, we have said so, and we will say so, because this is what being allies is all about: always with our heads held high, convinced of our position, and we intend to play a role."

Mr. Trump said he intended to discuss with Mr. Rubio the issue of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz, which is effectively blocked by Iran, as well as the conflict in Lebanon.

They would also discuss Venezuela and Cuba and the war in Ukraine, in which Rome has supported Kyiv against Russia, Italian officials said.

Earlier this week, Mr. Meloni said the idea of pulling U.S. troops out of Iraq was "a decision that does not depend on me, and one that I personally do not agree with."

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

Agence France-Presse
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 vaccination to help stem the deadly virus — but coverage gaps during and after the chaos of a 2022 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 grandchild. Ms. Begum, her eyes red from exhaustion and tears, said Aha had missed her second dose of the measles vaccine at age 16 months, and had spent the last two weeks in the measles ward.

Measles is highly contagious, spreading through coughs and sneezes, and has no specific treatment or vaccine to help stem the deadly virus in the short term.

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

Ms. Begum offered a smile as Aha 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 230 child deaths since March 18, with more than 30,000 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

Calm amid chaos



In the final of five air strikes, coalition forces hit their damaged base on the southern suburbs of Beirut on Friday, as Israeli soldiers continue despite a ceasefire. More than 2,700 people have been killed in Lebanon since the ceasefire was announced on April 17, 2023.

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

Bangladesh has made significant advancements in vaccination to help stem the deadly virus in the short term.

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"Doctor's help" Bangladesh has recorded 230 child deaths since March 18, with more than 30,000 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

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

Bangladesh has made significant advancements in vaccination to help stem the deadly virus in the short term.

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.

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

Agence France-Presse
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 Afia.

Ms. Begum, her eyes red from exhaustion and tears, said Afia 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.

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

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'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 Moynul Ahsan.

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

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.

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 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.

"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.

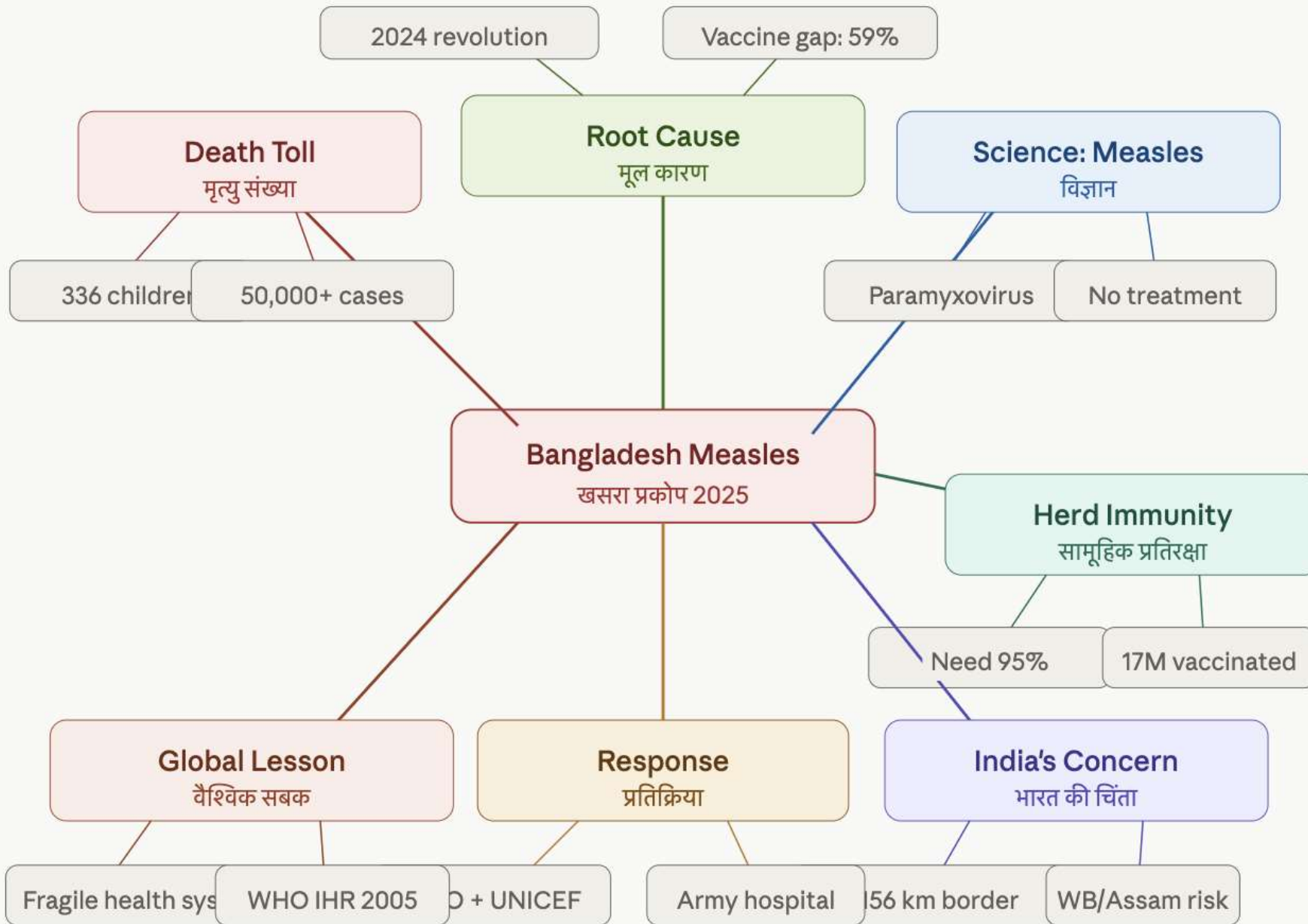
"With the current measles outbreak, the health ministry told us to set up a field hospital," said the hospital director, Brigadier General Md Asaduzzaman.

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."



Why in News | चर्चा में क्यों

- Bangladesh's worst measles outbreak in decades — 336+ child deaths since March 15
बांग्लादेश में दशकों का सबसे घातक खसरा प्रकोप — 15 मार्च से 336+ बच्चों की मौत
- 50,000+ confirmed and suspected cases; most affected: 6 months–5 years
50,000+ पुष्ट और संदिग्ध मामले; सबसे प्रभावित: 6 महीने–5 साल
- 2024 revolution ousting Sheikh Hasina disrupted measles vaccination drive
2024 क्रांति ने शेख हसीना को हटाया — खसरा टीकाकरण अभियान बाधित
- Vaccine coverage dropped to 59% — well below 95% herd immunity threshold
टीकाकरण कवरेज 59% — हर्ड इम्युनिटी के 95% से बहुत कम
- Emergency measles-rubella campaign launched April 5 — 17 million children vaccinated
आपातकालीन अभियान 5 अप्रैल — 1.7 करोड़ बच्चों को टीका

Key Data | मुख्य आँकड़े

336+

Child Deaths
बच्चों की मौत

50K+

Total Cases
कुल मामले

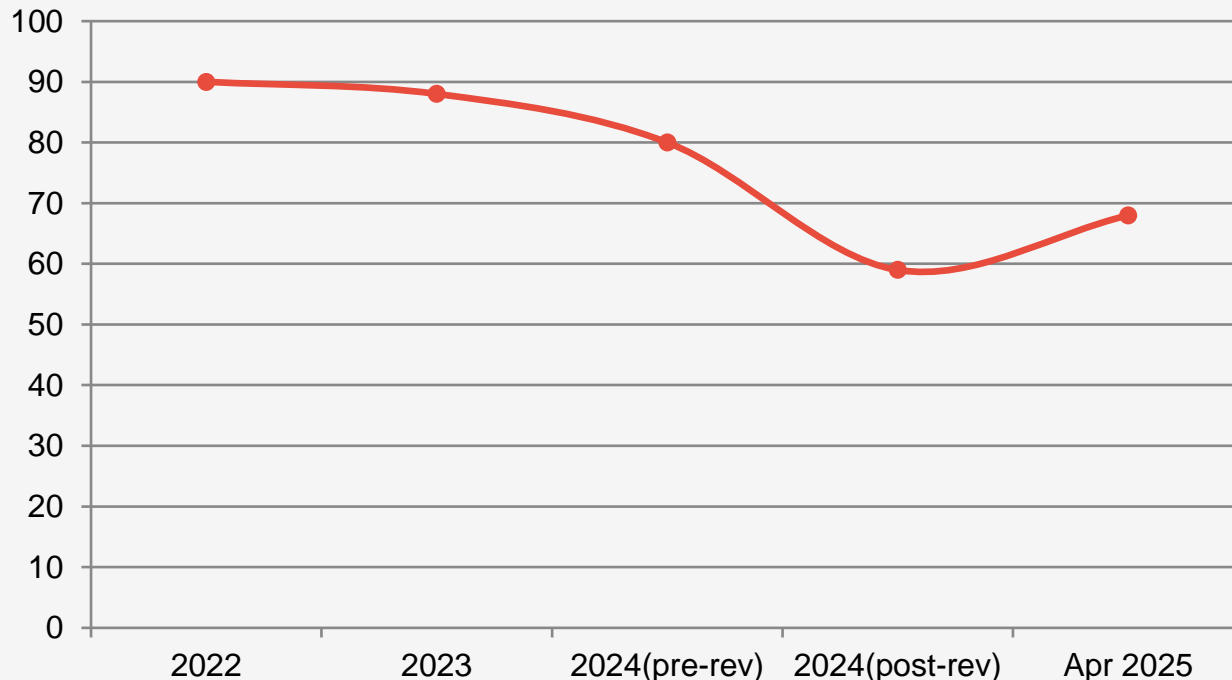
59%

Vaccine Coverage
(need 95%)

17M

Vaccinated (Apr)
टीकाकृत

Vaccine Coverage % — Bangladesh



- 17 in 24 hours (May 4) — highest daily death milestone
- Most cases: children 6 months–5 years
- Measles: Paramyxovirus | NO specific treatment
- Army: 20-bed field hospital at Dhaka Medical College
- WHO, UNICEF, security forces assisting vaccination

Multi-Subject Connections | बहु-विषय संबंध

History / इतिहास

1971 Liberation War
India's role
Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

Geography / भूगोल

Bengal Delta
India borders 3 sides
Bay of Bengal

Polity / राजव्यवस्था

India-Bangladesh relations
Teesta water dispute
SAARC

Economy / अर्थव्यवस्था

Garment industry hit
Remittances affected
LMIC health burden

Environment / पर्यावरण

Heavy rain → dengue
Mosquito season
Double health burden

Science & Tech / विज्ञान

Paramyxovirus
MMR vaccine
Herd immunity 95%

India's Concern & Global Response | भारत और वैश्विक प्रतिक्रिया

India's Concern | भारत की चिंता

- 4,156 km shared border with Bangladesh
- Risk of spillover into West Bengal, Assam, Tripura, Meghalaya
- India's measles elimination target (2026) complicated
- Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP) — includes measles vaccine

Global Response | वैश्विक प्रतिक्रिया

- WHO + UNICEF + Security forces assisting
- Emergency measles-rubella campaign: April 5
- 17 million children vaccinated since drive started
- Bangladesh army: 20-bed field hospital
- Dengue season approaching — double crisis

Key Insight: Political instability → Vaccination gap → Herd immunity collapse → Outbreak

राजनीतिक अस्थिरता → टीकाकरण अंतराल → हर्ड इम्युनिटी ध्वस्त → प्रकोप

Exam Relevance | परीक्षा प्रासंगिकता

Exam Section	Key Focus
Prelims / प्रारंभिक	Herd immunity threshold (95%), Paramyxovirus, WHO/UNICEF HQ, India-Bangladesh border
Mains — Health/IR	Political instability and health security; cross-border disease threat to India
Mains — Society	Role of international orgs in disease outbreak in developing nations
Essay Topics	Health security is inseparable from political stability
Interview	Should India extend UIP as part of neighbourhood health diplomacy?

Statement MCQ Answer | कथन MCQ उत्तर

Measles has no specific treatment TRUE | 95% coverage needed for herd immunity TRUE
2024 revolution delayed vaccine drive TRUE | Bangladesh borders only India FALSE (also Myanmar)

After MP, Guj to be 2nd home to cheetahs, 4 arrivals soon

Ahmedabad: Gujarat's world's fastest land animal long wait to welcome the —cheetah—will end soon.

National Tiger Conservation Authority has given its green signal to translocate four cheetahs from Kenya to Banni in Kutch. Two male-female pairs are likely to arrive in July or Aug. A final nod from Union govt, however, is still awaited.

tor of forests (wildlife) Jaipal Singh, adding, "Union govt will decide the date of their arrival in Gujarat."

In all, 12 cheetahs are planned to reach Banni within a year of the first arrivals, sources said. This will make Gujarat only the second home for cheetahs after MP's Kuno National Park.

"We are ready," said principal chief conserva-

TNN

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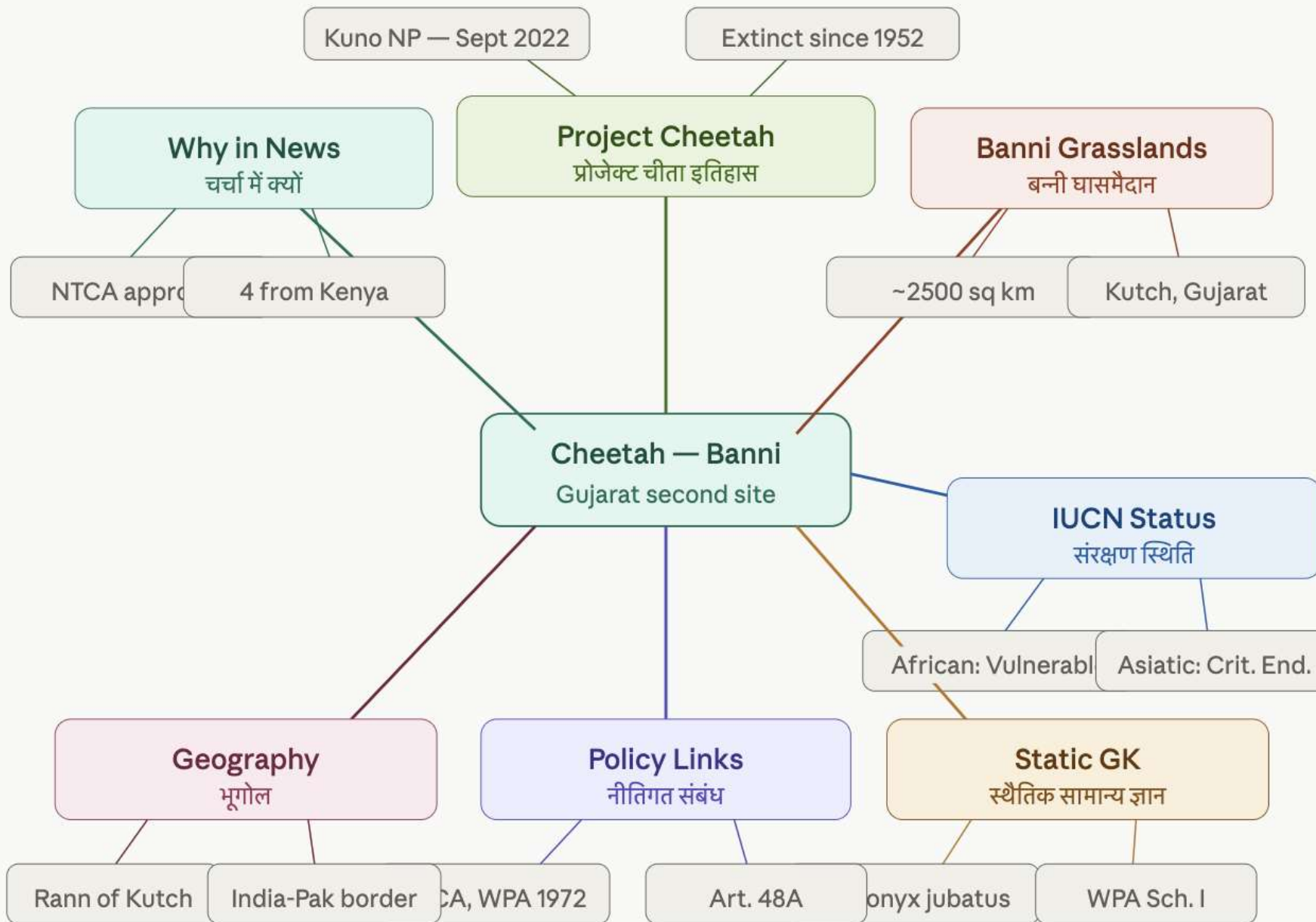
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For general information to the by informed that West Part of Scheme Patel Nagar, at Sinwar, Jhotwara, Jaipur, ing a total area of 83.33 sq. by Mrs. Komal. Initially Plot

MY name is Parmeshwarlal in my passport. I want to change my name to Parmeshwarlal Sharma in my Aadhaar and PAN cards. Parmeshwarlal Sharma, son of

I, Rishi Raj Kalra, have changed my name from Rishi Raj to Rishi Raj Kalra residing 268 Shanti Kunj, Alwar. In the future, I am to be known and identified by this name.



Why in News | चर्चा में क्यों

- NTCA approved translocation of 4 cheetahs (2 male-female pairs) from Kenya to Banni, Kutch

NTCA ने केन्या से 4 चीते (2 नर-मादा जोड़े) को बन्नी, कच्छ में स्थानांतरित करने की मंजूरी दी

- Arrival expected July–August 2025; Union Govt final nod still awaited

जुलाई-अगस्त 2025 में आगमन; केंद्र की अंतिम स्वीकृति बाकी

- 12 cheetahs total planned for Banni within a year of first arrivals

पहले आगमन के एक वर्ष के भीतर 12 चीते बन्नी में

- Gujarat will be India's second cheetah site after Kuno National Park, MP

गुजरात MP के कूनो NP के बाद भारत का दूसरा चीता स्थल

- Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*) declared extinct in India in 1952

*चीता (*Acinonyx jubatus*) 1952 में भारत में विलुप्त घोषित*

Key Facts & Data | मुख्य तथ्य

1952

Extinction Year
विलुप्त वर्ष

4

From Kenya
केन्या से

12

Total Target
कुल लक्ष्य

2500

Banni sq km
बन्नी क्षेत्र

Sept 2022

Kuno NP
Namibia (8)

Feb 2023

Kuno NP
S.Africa (12)

2025

Banni, Gujarat
Kenya (4+)

- Banni Grasslands — Kutch, Gujarat; near Rann of Kutch; one of Asia's largest tropical grasslands
- African Cheetah IUCN: Vulnerable (~7,000 globally) | Asiatic Cheetah: Critically Endangered (~12 in Iran only)
- National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) — statutory body under Wildlife Protection Act 1972

Multi-Subject Connections | बहु-विषय संबंध

History / इतिहास

Last recorded: 1947
Extinct: 1952
Maharaja's hunt

Geography / भूगोल

Banni: Kutch, Gujarat
Rann of Kutch nearby
Asia's largest grassland

Polity / राजव्यवस्था

WPA 1972 Sch. I
NTCA — statutory body
Art. 48A: protect wildlife

Economy / अर्थव्यवस्था

Eco-tourism boost
CAMPA fund
Conservation economy

Environment / पर्यावरण

Apex predator restored
Grassland ecosystem
IUCN Vulnerable

Science & Tech / विज्ञान

Radio-collar tracking
DNA profiling
Vet quarantine protocol

Reintroduction Journey | पुनर्परिचय यात्रा

Namibia

India
(8 cheetahs
Sept 2022)

→ 8 cheetahs
Sept 2022

South Africa

India
(12 cheetahs
Feb 2023)

→ 12 cheetahs
Feb 2023

Kenya

India
(4 cheetahs
July-Aug 2025)

→ 4 cheetahs
July-Aug 2025

Why Banni over Kuno? | बन्नी क्यों?

Banni = open grassland (ideal cheetah habitat) | Kuno = forested terrain (less suitable)
Local Maldhari pastoral community coexists | 2,500 sq km — room for 12+ cheetahs

Exam Relevance | परीक्षा प्रासंगिकता

Exam Section	Key Focus
Prelims / प्रारंभिक	IUCN status of cheetah, Banni location, Kuno NP district, NTCA role, WPA Schedule
Mains — Environment	Evaluate India's cheetah reintroduction — achievements, setbacks, lessons
Mains — Geography	Significance of grassland ecosystems; Banni as biodiversity hotspot
Essay Topics	Bringing back what we lost — India's wildlife reintroduction journey
Interview	Why African cheetah instead of Asiatic? Role of Maldhari communities?

Statement MCQ Answer | MCQ उत्तर

Kuno NP = first site (Sept 2022) | Banni ~2,500 sq km, Asia's largest tropical grassland
Iran REFUSED to give Asiatic cheetah | African cheetah = Vulnerable (NOT Critically Endangered)

Quick Revision | त्वरित पुनरावृत्ति

- 1 Cheetah extinct in India since 1952**
चीता 1952 से भारत में विलुप्त
- 2 Kuno NP (MP) = first site, Sept 2022**
कूनो NP (MP) = पहला स्थल, सितंबर 2022
- 3 Banni, Kutch, Gujarat = second site**
बन्नी, कच्छ, गुजरात = दूसरा स्थल
- 4 cheetahs from Kenya — 2 male-female pairs**
केन्या से 4 चीते — 2 नर-मादा जोड़े
- 5 12 total planned for Banni within 1 year**
1 वर्ष में बन्नी में कुल 12 चीते
- 6 NTCA approved translocation**
NTCA ने स्थानांतरण मंजूर किया
- 7 African Cheetah = IUCN Vulnerable**
अफ्रीकी चीता = IUCN संवेदनशील
- 8 Asiatic = Critically Endangered; Iran only**
एशियाई = गंभीर संकटग्रस्त; केवल ईरान
- 9 Banni = ~2,500 sq km tropical grassland**
बन्नी = ~2,500 वर्ग किमी उष्णकटिबंधीय घासमैदान
- 10 Scientific name: Acinonyx jubatus**
वैज्ञानिक नाम: Acinonyx jubatus

India conducts its maiden test of an 'nuclear-capable ICBM'

Surendra.Singh
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Defence Research and Development Organisation launched the maiden test of a nuclear-capable intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) off the Odisha coast on Friday evening. "Though the test-launch doesn't look like that of an Agni-6 missile, the missile tested today is of ICBM category," a defence source told **TOI**. However, DRDO is yet to officially make an announcement about the missile test. Days ago, **TOI** had reported DRDO

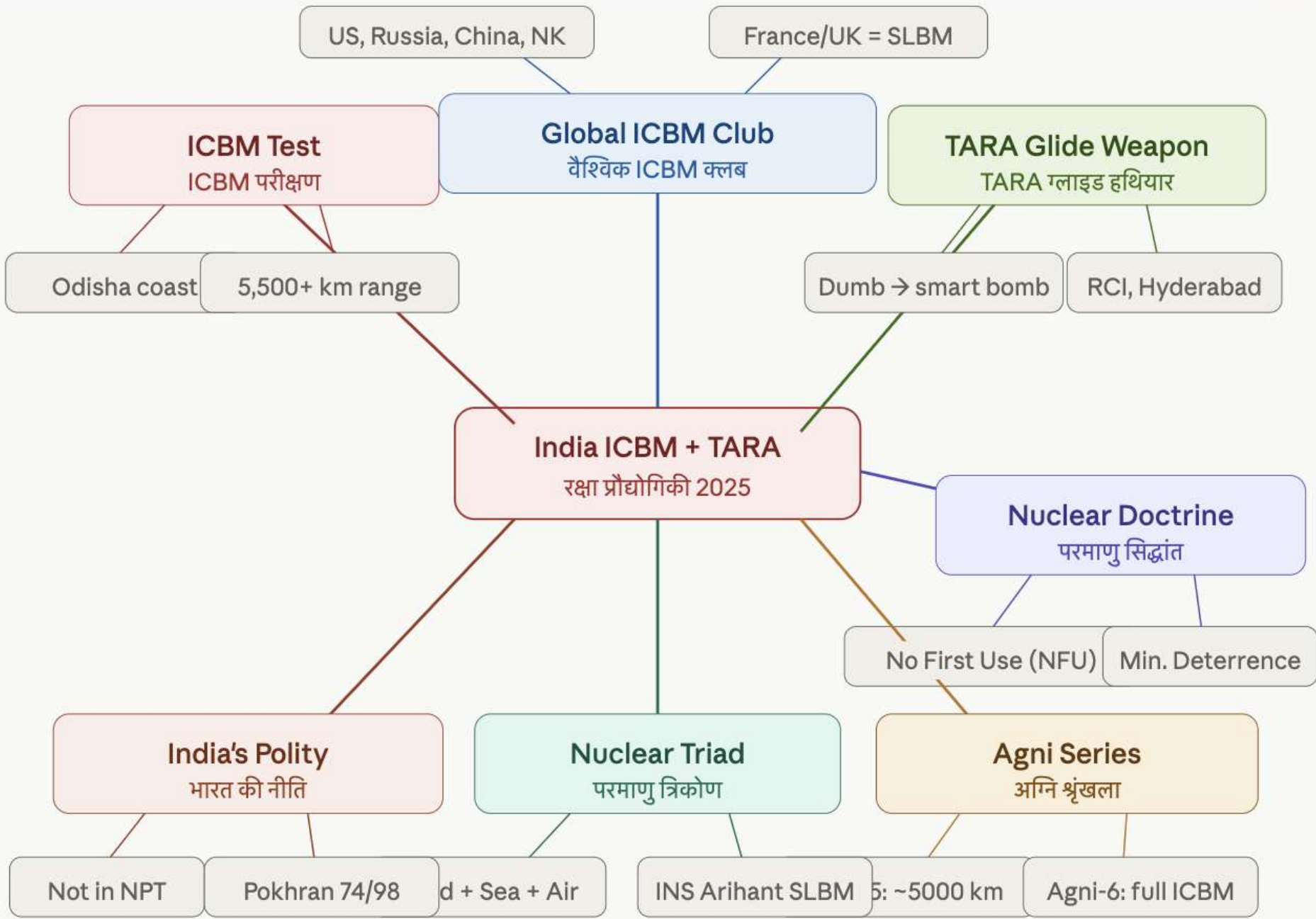
India gets tech to turn 'dumb' warhead 'smart'

India has been able to develop the glide weapon system technology that can convert an unguided ("dumb") warhead into a guided ("smart") weapon, marking its entry into an elite group of countries that possess advanced stand-off weapons capabilities. On Thursday, DRDO, in collaboration with IAF, conducted the maiden flight-trial of Tactical Advanced Range Augmentation (TARA) weapon off the coast of Odisha, the defence ministry said on Friday. TNN

was set to launch a missile test of ICBM category.

Only four countries — US, Russia, China and North Korea — possess ICBM technology and have deployed ICBMs with over 12,000-km range. France and Britain

possess operational nuclear-armed submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) technology. If India perfects ICBM capability, any country in the world, including the US, will come in its missile strike range.



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