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Daily News Feed

D.N.F

08.10.2025

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Clear the air on final Bihar rolls, SC tells EC

Top court says there is confusion whether names added in final list are those deleted from draft roll

It asks if EC individually informed excluded voters, to aid their right to appeal against their exclusion

There has not been a single complaint against exclusion of names in the final list, says poll body

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday reminded the Election Commission that "the degree of transparency and access to information form the hallmarks of an open democracy".

It also questioned the top poll body about the individual details of voters added to the final list of voters in Bihar after the special intensive revision (SIR) of the State's electoral roll. Over 21.5 lakh voters have been added in the final roll, and 3.66 lakh removed.

"There is a confusion about the names added on in the final list... What is the identity of the people added on? Is it an add-on of names taken from the 65 lakh voters deleted in the draft roll or are they new and independent names?"

The final list shows an appreciation of the number of voters... This exercise we want you to do is in aid of the electoral process, to maintain intact the faith in the electoral process," Justice Joymalya Bagchi, who was part of the Bench headed by Justice Surya Kant, asked the EC.

Final list

The final list shows that there are 7.42 crore eligible voters in the State. This was higher than the 7.24 crore voters listed in the draft electoral roll published after the first phase of the SIR, which had seen the removal of 65 lakh names, given that Bihar had 7.89 crore voters on June 24, the date of notification of the SIR exercise.

The court asked the EC whether the 3.66 lakh voters deleted from the final list were individually informed through a formal



order of deletion to facilitate the filing of appeals against their exclusion.

"They have a right to appeal," Justice Kant told the poll body. The Bench also asked whether a separate list of the names and details of the 3.66 lakh excluded voters had been published and made easily accessible at the grass roots level. Justice Bagchi

referred to Rule 21A of the Registration of Electors' Rules, 1960, which requires poll authorities to display the names and details of deleted voters on the notice boards of district electoral offices.

'No complaints'

Senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, for the EC, said the disaggregated data was

still being collected from ground-level officers and processed. However, there has not been a single complaint against any exclusion of names in the final list, he said, noting that the final electoral roll has been shared with political parties. "Who is deleted and who is not requires only a basic comparison between the draft roll and the final list," Mr. Dwivedi argued.

Justice Kant, at one point in the hearing, threw the EC's line of argument at the petitioners' lawyers, advocates Prashant Bhushan and Neha Rathi.

"Mr. Bhushan, but where are the aggrieved people? The draft voter list is available on the EC website, the final voter list is also available. You could compare and identify the excluded names. Show us specific cases in the 3.66 lakh deleted voters whose names were deleted with-

out any communication... This cannot be a roving enquiry... For whom are you doing this? They may be illegals who were deleted from the voter list, would they come out and complain?" Justice Kant asked them.

Mr. Bhushan said the SIR, instead of cleaning up the electoral process, has only compounded the problems due to the EC's opacity.

The court asked the EC to address the issues raised in Mr. Bhushan's written submissions on Thursday. These submissions contended that though the official estimate of the adult population in Bihar for September 2025 was 8.22 crore, the number of electors in the final rolls was only 7.42 crore. "Thus, 80 lakh, that is, approximately 10% of the total adult population of Bihar has been denied their right to

vote. Such a sharp fall in the adult population to electors' ratio is a record for India and for Bihar," the written submissions said.

In no State previously have as much as 10% of the electorate been excluded from the electoral roll, Mr. Bhushan said. He added that lakhs of women were "missing" from Bihar's electoral rolls.

"After the SIR, while Bihar's gender ratio is 934 in September 2025, the gender ratio in the final electoral rolls has fallen sharply to 892. This translates into 17 lakh missing women... the SIR has wiped out a whole decade's gains in the gender ratio of electoral rolls," said the submissions presented in court. The SIR exercise has also resulted in the disproportionate exclusion of Muslims, Mr. Bhushan claimed.

The case will be heard next on Thursday.

Clear the air on final Bihar rolls, SC tells EC

GS Paper: GS-II (Polity – Electoral Reforms)

Summary (English): The Supreme Court questioned the Election Commission on discrepancies in Bihar's voter list. Out of 7.89 crore voters, 65 lakh names were deleted, and later 21.5 lakh added back. Concerns include missing women voters and disproportionate exclusion of minorities. SC stressed transparency in electoral rolls.

सारांश (Hindi): सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने बिहार के मतदाता सूची में विसंगतियों पर निर्वाचन आयोग से जवाब मांगा। 7.89 करोड़ मतदाताओं में से 65 लाख नाम हटाए गए और बाद में 21.5 लाख जोड़े गए। महिलाओं और अल्पसंख्यकों के नाम हटने पर चिंता जताई गई। अदालत ने पारदर्शिता पर जोर दिया।

India takes a step closer to recognising Taliban ahead of Muttaqi's visit

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Two days before the visit of Amir Khan Muttaqi, Acting Foreign Minister of the Taliban regime ruling Afghanistan, the Indian government came one step closer to formally recognising the Taliban, as a regional grouping that India is a part of admitted Mr. Muttaqi as a "member" for the first time.

Mr. Muttaqi, who is on the UN Security Council's list of banned terrorists, was given special permission to travel to India, and officials said he would arrive in Delhi on Thursday for a five-day visit.

According to sources, Mr. Muttaqi will be accorded full protocol as a visiting Foreign Minister, including being hosted by the government. He will be received at the official venue, Hyderabad House, by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar for talks on October 10.

Amidst speculation over whether India will give the Taliban *de facto* recognition during the visit, former diplomats warned against any move not sanctioned by the UN, while an anti-Taliban former Afghan Minister said the visit must not be used to foster "regional and major power rivalries".

Taliban flag

On Tuesday, India's Ambassador to Russia Vinay Kumar attended the 10-nation Moscow Format Consultations hosted by Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov. Others in attendance were Pakistan's special envoy on Afghanis-



Afghanistan's Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in Moscow, Russia, on Tuesday. AP

tan Mohammad Sadiq and other representatives from China, Iran and Central Asian countries.

Apart from Russia, no country has recognised the Taliban government thus far, and since the Taliban takeover of Kabul in August 2021, representatives of the 'Acting government' in Afghanistan have attended the meeting as observers only. However, a photograph released after the meeting on Tuesday showed Mr. Muttaqi amongst other national delegates, and the Taliban's "black-and-white" flag instead of the red, black, and green tricolour of the previous Afghan republic still recognised by the United Nations.

"For the first time the Afghan delegation headed by Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi participated in the meeting as a member," said a joint statement issued by all the participants at the meeting, calling for more economic exchanges, provision of humanitarian assistance, and regional connectivity initiatives with Afghanistan, as well as steps to

strengthen counter-terrorism cooperation.

"They called unacceptable the attempts by countries to deploy their military infrastructure in Afghanistan and neighbouring states, since this does not serve the interests of regional peace and stability," the statement added, referring to U.S. President Donald Trump's demand that the Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan be handed back to the U.S. military.

Mr. Muttaqi is expected to travel next to India, arriving on October 9, when U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer is set to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Mumbai. It is unclear whether Mr. Muttaqi would also call on Mr. Modi later in the visit, the first such official visit by a senior Taliban Minister since 2021. During the five-day visit, Mr. Muttaqi, who received special permission to travel from the UN Sanctions committee on September 30, is expected to meet a number of officials and interact with business groups and Afghan nationals living in India.

. India takes a step closer to recognising Taliban ahead of Muttaqi's visit

GS Paper: GS-II (International Relations)

Summary (English): Ahead of Taliban Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi's visit to India, the Moscow Format admitted the Taliban as a "member." India faces a dilemma: whether to extend de facto recognition despite UN sanctions. The issue impacts regional security, counter-terrorism, and India's Afghanistan policy.

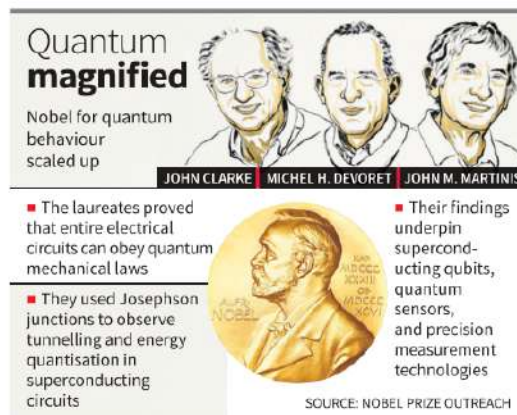
सारांश (Hindi): तालिबान विदेश मंत्री अमीर खान मुत्ताकी की भारत यात्रा से पहले, मॉस्को फॉर्मेट ने तालिबान को सदस्य के रूप में मान्यता दी। भारत दुविधा में है कि क्या उसे वास्तविक मान्यता देनी चाहिए जबकि संयुक्त राष्ट्र ने उस पर प्रतिबंध लगाए हैं। यह भारत की अफगान नीति और क्षेत्रीय सुरक्षा से जुड़ा विषय है।

Trio wins the Physics Nobel prize for building device that demonstrates 'quantum tunnelling'

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

The Nobel Prize for Physics this year will be awarded to three scientists – John Clarke, Michel Devoret and John Martinis, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said on Tuesday. The three worked together and devised experiments to tease greater insight into the workings of the quantum world: the realm of the ultra-small when objects, broken down to single, constituent particles, cease to behave in the way we ordinarily expect them to.

One of the mind-boggling behaviours that particles are capable of here is "tunnelling", literally, the



ability of particles to pass through physical walls.

It is as if a cricket ball hitting the pitch will surely bounce up, but the odd cricket-ball particle will simply burrow into the

ground.

Such strange behaviour cannot be observed at the macroscopic level but these scientists showed that it was possible to organise a multitude of single

particles and coerce them to exhibit "tunnelling" properties.

Electrical circuit

Much like early insight into quantum mechanics paved the way for transistors and silicon chips in the 1950s, the three scientists devised an electrical circuit with two superconductors, components that can conduct a current without any electrical resistance.

They separated these with a thin layer of material – called a Josephson junction – that did not conduct any current at all.

In this experiment, they showed that they could control and investigate a phenomenon in which all the charged particles in the

superconductor behave in unison, as if they are a single 'particle' that fills the entire circuit. Following this, they were able to demonstrate that such a particle could be made to behave simulating the flow of electricity even without voltage, a prerequisite for the flow of current.

"It is wonderful to be able to celebrate the way that century-old quantum mechanics continually offers new surprises. It is also enormously useful, as quantum mechanics is the foundation of all digital technology," said Olle Eriksson, Chair of the Nobel Committee for Physics.

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Trio wins the Physics Nobel prize for building device that demonstrates 'quantum tunnelling'

GS Paper: GS-III (Science & Technology)

Summary (English): Three scientists — John Clarke, Michel Devoret, and John Martinis — won the Nobel Prize in Physics for devising experiments that demonstrated quantum tunnelling through Josephson junctions. Their work is foundational for quantum computing and advanced digital technology.

सारांश (Hindi): तीन वैज्ञानिकों — जॉन क्लार्क, मिशेल डेवोरेट और जॉन मार्टिनिस — को क्वांटम टनलिंग प्रदर्शित करने वाले उपकरण पर कार्य हेतु भौतिकी का नोबेल पुरस्कार मिला। यह अनुसंधान क्वांटम कंप्यूटिंग और डिजिटल प्रौद्योगिकी की नींव रखता है।

Uttarakhand to scrap madrasa board as minority education Bill gets Governor's approval

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Uttarakhand Governor Lieutenant General (retired) Gurmit Singh has approved the Uttarakhand Minority Educational Institutions Bill, 2025. With the implementation of the Bill, the State will do away with the Madrasa Education Board Act, 2016, and the Non-Government Arabic and Persian Madrasa Recognition Rules, 2019.

According to a statement issued by the office of Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami on Monday, under the Bill, educational institutions belonging to other minority communities, such as Sikh, Jain, Buddhist, Christian and Parsi, will also receive minority educational institution status in the State, along with those belonging to the Muslim community.



Uttarakhand Governor
Lt. General (retired) Gurmit Singh

Also, all madrasas in the State will now have to obtain recognition from the Uttarakhand Minority Education Authority and affiliation with the Uttarakhand Board of School Education.

Describing the move as a historic step towards making the education system in the State equitable and modern, Mr. Dhami said, "From the July 2026 ses-

sion, all minority schools will be imparting education under the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) and the New Education Policy, 2020."

'Equal opportunities'

He added that the sole objective of the government in introducing this Bill is to ensure that every child in the State - irrespective of their class or community - has access to the same quality education and equal opportunities. This, he said, will help make the State's education system more transparent, accountable, and focused on quality.

The State Cabinet had approved the Bill in August this year. It was passed amid uproar during the Monsoon Session of the State Assembly within days after getting the Cabinet's nod.

Uttarakhand to scrap madrasa board as minority education Bill gets Governor's approval
th.th_international.08_10_2025

GS Paper: GS-II (Polity & Governance – Education, Minorities)

Summary (English): Uttarakhand Governor approved the Minority Educational Institutions Bill, 2025, abolishing the Madrasa Education Board. From 2026, all minority schools will

follow NEP 2020 and National Curriculum Framework, ensuring equal opportunities for all communities.

सारांश (Hindi): उत्तराखंड के राज्यपाल ने अल्पसंख्यक शैक्षिक संस्थान विधेयक 2025 को मंजूरी दी, जिससे मदरसा शिक्षा बोर्ड समाप्त होगा। 2026 से सभी अल्पसंख्यक स्कूल एनईपी 2020 और एनसीएफ के तहत शिक्षा देंगे।

Study finds trenches and fences are main causes of elephant injuries, deaths

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Centre for Wildlife Studies (CWS), in a new study conducted in conflict-prone landscapes across Karnataka and Kerala, has revealed that commonly used barriers such as trenches, solar, and electric fences are causing unintended harm to elephants.

The study titled, 'Community mitigation decisions in elephant conflict zones of southern India depend on environmental and socio-economic drivers', published in *Scientific Reports* said that trenches were the leading cause of elephant injuries in Karnataka (12.8% of recorded cases) Solar fences in Karnataka (25.5%) and electric fences in Kerala (38.3%) accounted for most of the 47 recorded elephant deaths.

Poor design

"Though these barriers can deter elephants from farms, poor maintenance or design can lead to fatal accidents," CWS said.

The study, authored by Simran Prasad, Doctoral Fellow at the CWS and with Manipal Academy of Higher Education, examined how environmental factors such as rainfall, elevation, land size, etc. influence rural household decisions to adopt mitigation measures for preventing human-elephant conflict.

The author and co-authors surveyed 507 rural households across Karnataka and Kerala to understand what drives community decision making on human elephant conflict mitigation.



Commonly used barriers such as trenches, solar, and electric fences are causing unintended harm to elephants. FILE PHOTO

Solar fences in Karnataka and electric fences in Kerala accounted for most of the deaths

CWS said that rainfall was the single-most important predictor (28%), followed by elevation (16.8%), acres owned (15.7%), and crop type (rubber, coconut, arecanut), among others.

It added that land cover type, number of conflict events, and respondent age played smaller roles.

"In this study, scientists used a Classification and Regression Tree (CART) model to investigate what drives households to adopt conflict mitigation measures – and how those measures impact elephants themselves. Two decision pathways emerged," CWS said.

The study found that households in drier areas with moderate landholdings had a 68% probability of deploying measures like solar fencing, trenches, or alarm systems.

"In contrast, those in wetter areas with large plots near waterbodies had only a 7% probability, sug-

gesting that environmental factors and landholdings shape mitigation behaviour," it said.

CWS said that many respondents (65.8%) expressed sadness or empathy upon seeing injured or dead elephants, citing cultural and religious reverence for the species, including associations with the Hindu god, Ganesha.

"Even in areas experiencing repeated crop damage, a significant portion of the community voiced moral or spiritual reluctance toward harming elephants," CWS said.

Ms. Prasad said that the team of researchers found that environmental drivers shape elephant movement, and in turn, can influence community decisions on conflict mitigation.

"We also uncovered a deep respect and empathy for elephants within these communities. This reminds us that solutions must go beyond reacting to conflict. Instead, it is imperative to proactively prevent conflict and balance the needs of people with the long-term survival of elephants in dynamic landscapes," Ms. Prasad said.

. Study finds trenches and fences main causes of elephant injuries, deaths
th.th_international.08_10_2025

GS Paper: GS-III (Environment & Ecology)

Summary (English): A study by the Centre for Wildlife Studies found that trenches, solar fences, and electric fences in Karnataka and Kerala caused many elephant deaths and injuries. It highlights the unintended ecological consequences of human-wildlife conflict mitigation measures.

सारांश (Hindi): वन्यजीव अध्ययन केंद्र की रिपोर्ट में पाया गया कि कर्नाटक और केरल में खाइयाँ, सौर और विद्युत बाड़ों से हाथियों की मौत और चोटें बढ़ीं। मानव-हाथी संघर्ष रोकने के उपाय पर्यावरण के लिए खतरनाक साबित हो रहे हैं।

Sri Lanka is a natural barrier protecting south-eastern coast from ocean fury: study

V. Geetanath
HYDERABAD

Sri Lanka, located to the south of India, acts as a natural land barrier and plays a crucial role in shielding the southeastern coast of the country from the potentially destructive impacts of long-period swell waves generated in the Southern Ocean, according to scientists at the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS).

These powerful waves, capable of travelling thousands of kilometers with minimal energy loss, have frequently caused coastal flooding and erosion along the southwestern coastline, particularly in Kerala.



Swell waves caused flooding and erosion on the south western coast, but coasts in east remain largely unaffected. FILE PHOTO

la. However, the eastern coast, especially regions north of Sri Lanka such as Tamil Nadu and southern Andhra Pradesh, remains largely unaffected.

This is despite the fact that these swells also propagate into the Bay of Ben-

gal, though they are not predominant along the southeastern coast of India.

Swell shield

To investigate this phenomenon, researchers used real-time data from wave

rider buoys deployed off Kollam on the west coast and Pondicherry on the east coast, along with high-resolution simulations using the 'WAVEWATCH III' model.

The results revealed that more than 96% of long-period swell events observed at Kollam failed to reach Pondicherry. But, when the Sri Lankan Land Mass (SLLM) was hypothetically removed from the model, the swells reached and impacted the eastern coast, confirming its vital role as a swell shield.

Significant implications

This study has significant implications in the context of global sea level rise and climate change. Even mi-

nor alterations in coastal geography, such as land submergence due to rising seas, could shift wave propagation paths and expose new regions to marine hazards, the scientists said.

"Our analysis shows that in the absence of the SLLM, destructive Southern Ocean swells can reach the Indian southeast coast, including areas north of Sri Lanka up to mid-Andhra Pradesh," said INCOIS director T. M. Balakrishnan Nair.

Mr. Nair emphasised that the findings show the importance of incorporating natural geographic features like islands and land-masses into coastal hazard assessments and early warning systems.

GS Paper: GS-I (Geography – Physical Features) & GS-III (Disaster Management)

Summary (English): INCOIS scientists found that Sri Lanka acts as a natural swell shield, blocking destructive Southern Ocean waves from hitting India's southeastern coast. This has implications for coastal hazard planning under climate change.

सारांश (Hindi): आईएनसीओआईएस के वैज्ञानिकों ने पाया कि श्रीलंका एक प्राकृतिक अवरोध की तरह काम करता है, जिससे दक्षिणी महासागर की लहरें भारत के दक्षिण-पूर्वी तट तक नहीं पहुँच पातीं। यह जलवायु परिवर्तन से जुड़े तटीय आपदा प्रबंधन में महत्वपूर्ण है।

Starmer leads 100-member U.K. delegation on India visit

Ministers, CEOs and representatives from British universities and industry groups seek to bolster ties; bilateral trade in goods and services for the year ending March 31 was valued at £44.1 billion

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer will arrive in India for a two-day visit starting Wednesday, with a delegation of over 100 people, including CEOs and representatives from British institutes, universities and industry groups. The visit comes months after India and the U.K. signed a trade deal during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's July visit to the European country. It also comes as both countries are navigating major geopolitical shifts, including their respective trading relationships with the U.S., under the administration of Donald Trump.

While the visit is focused on trade and business, it will also involve bilateral discussions on regional and global issues, the Indian government had said on Saturday. The U.K. delegation will include the Minister for Trade and Business, Peter Kyle, as well as Investment Minister Jason Stockwood.

Mr. Modi and Mr. Starmer will deliver keynote addresses at the Global Fin-



Timely visit: Keir Starmer's visit comes as both countries navigate major geopolitical shifts, such as trade ties with the U.S. FILE PHOTO

tech Fest in Mumbai and engage with business leaders, according to a government press release. They will also take stock of the India-U.K. relationship, re-framed during Mr. Modi's visit to the U.K. on July 23-24, as being guided by 'Vision 2035', a ten-year roadmap spanning a range of dimensions – from trade and climate to education, technology and people-to-people ties.

The two sides had signed a Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) when Mr. Modi was in the U.K. However, the deal has not

yet been operationalised and is making its way through the British legislative system – a process that may take months. The deal is unlikely to be implemented anytime before early 2026, according to sources familiar with the process.

"Britain means business. We want to increase bilateral trade, business and investment between our two countries," Karan Billimoria, a member of the House of Lords and founder of Cobra Beer, told *The Hindu* on Tuesday.

Mr. Billimoria, who used to head the Confederation

of British Industry (CBI), believes the visit is more than just symbolic and thinks India and the U.K. will double their bilateral trade in the next five years. The total bilateral trade in goods and services for the year ending March 31 was valued at £44.1 billion (\$59.14 billion), according to the U.K.'s data.

While India is the U.K.'s 11th largest trade partner and the trade deal is expected to contribute an increase of just 0.13% to the U.K.'s GDP over the long-term (the equivalent of £4.8 billion annually), the agreement with India has been repeatedly cited by Mr. Starmer and his colleagues as an example of job-creation.

The delegation will comprise Indian and British entities, including the U.K. India Business Council and the CBI; banks such as Standard Chartered, Barclays, NatWest and HSBC; alcoholic beverage company Diageo; engineering firm Arup; telecom company BT; Sunil Mittal, who co-chairs the India-U.K. CEO Forum and Anil Agarwal, Chairman of Vedanta Resources Ltd.

Summary (English):

- U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer is visiting India with a 100-member delegation of CEOs, university representatives, and industry leaders.
- The visit aims to strengthen bilateral trade, investment, education, climate cooperation, and people-to-people ties.
- The trip comes months after India and the U.K. signed a Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) during PM Modi's July visit to London.

- The total bilateral trade in goods and services between India and the U.K. was valued at £44.1 billion (\$59.14 billion) in March 2025.
- India is the U.K.'s 11th largest trade partner, and both sides expect to double bilateral trade within five years.
- The visit also includes bilateral talks on regional security, global geopolitical shifts, and relations with the U.S. under Donald Trump's administration.
- The U.K. delegation includes top British companies like Standard Chartered, Barclays, HSBC, Diageo, Arup and Indian business leaders like Sunil Mittal.
- This visit is seen as a strategic opportunity for economic co-creation, job growth, and strengthening Indo-U.K. strategic ties.

सारांश (Hindi):

- ब्रिटेन के प्रधानमंत्री किअर स्टार्मर 100 सदस्यीय प्रतिनिधिमंडल (सीईओ, विश्वविद्यालयों और उद्योग प्रतिनिधियों सहित) के साथ भारत यात्रा पर आए हैं।
- इस यात्रा का उद्देश्य भारत-ब्रिटेन व्यापार, निवेश, शिक्षा, जलवायु सहयोग और लोगों के बीच संबंधों को मजबूत करना है।
- यह दौरा पीएम मोदी की जुलाई की लंदन यात्रा के बाद हो रहा है, जब भारत और ब्रिटेन ने समग्र आर्थिक और व्यापार समझौता (CETA) पर हस्ताक्षर किए थे।
- मार्च 2025 तक भारत-ब्रिटेन का द्विपक्षीय व्यापार £44.1 अरब (\$59.14 अरब) तक पहुँच गया था।
- भारत ब्रिटेन का 11वां सबसे बड़ा व्यापारिक साझेदार है और दोनों देशों ने अगले पाँच वर्षों में व्यापार दोगुना करने का लक्ष्य रखा है।
- यात्रा के दौरान क्षेत्रीय सुरक्षा, वैश्विक भू-राजनीतिक बदलाव और अमेरिका-यू.के. संबंध भी चर्चा का हिस्सा होंगे।
- ब्रिटिश प्रतिनिधिमंडल में स्टैंडर्ड चार्टर्ड, बार्कलेज, HSBC, डियाजियो, अरुप जैसी कंपनियाँ और भारतीय उद्योगपति सुनील मिश्र शामिल हैं।
- यह दौरा रोज़गार सृजन, आर्थिक सहयोग और भारत-ब्रिटेन की रणनीतिक साझेदारी को मजबूत करने का अवसर माना जा रहा है।

Exam Relevance:

- UPSC GS-II: India-U.K. relations, bilateral trade agreements, Comprehensive Economic & Trade Agreement (CETA), global geopolitics.
- UPSC GS-III: Economic growth, international trade, foreign investment.
- BPSC/Jpsc: India's foreign relations, economic cooperation, state-level trade benefits (education, jobs, industry).

Why Indian capital needs to invest domestically

As the global economy now moves to an extended period of uncertainty, due to tariffs and fluctuations in world trade, India's private business houses have to work closely with the government and align with public interest to maintain the economy's growth momentum

ECONOMIC NOTES

M. Suresh Babu

A central challenge for policy makers in India, at the present juncture, is to work out a balance between the long-term benefits of global trade and the short-term harms that current uncertainties pose to large sections of the population who are at risk of low wages and unemployment. Tackling this requires a change of the existing system to account for the needs of the larger masses rather than only enriching private capital's interests.

The evolution of capital

Indian capital has an important role to play in this change by becoming more inclusive of a broader set of interests beyond individual profits and rapid accumulation. The history of capitalism shows that this is not impossible as capitalism has evolved before, and if it is to continue into the future, it can evolve again. As the economy is at risk of negative shock to external demand for its products, due to unprecedented tariffs imposed and distortions caused in the global trading system, Indian capital needs to reinvent itself and work closely with the government to mitigate the risks posed.

Historically private businesses, managed by Indian capital, have clamoured for a more active role in the economy as well as larger concessions and subsidies along with a liberal business environment. Governments have often been called on to command and control such businesses. These private enterprises used India's protected economic environment (pre-liberalisation) to grow and accumulate by riding on inward-looking policies and reaping supernormal profits (excess of normal profit) from protected domestic markets. The accumulated surpluses gave them the confidence to cross borders, buy out businesses elsewhere and forge global links when the economy opened up in the early nineties. This phenomenon, though not widespread among Indian businesses, has created depth in Indian capital, spawning some giants who control various important sectors of Indian industry.

However, as the global economy now moves to an extended period of uncertainty, these business houses now have to work closely with the government and align with public interest to maintain the economy's growth momentum.

Three key processes were instrumental in the emergence and subsequent development of mass markets in the contemporary global economy. First, the creation of a wage-labour class; second, the productivity-enhancing effects of industrial mass production; and third, changes in the composition of demand as personal incomes grew.

The growth of demand is an important but unrecognised ingredient in these processes. Firms require an expansion of demand if they are to realise profits from the production of additional goods and services. Most of the current macroeconomic policy frameworks simply assume that demand responds passively to supply, therefore the expansion of the latter is all that is of interest to growth.

In a globalised world, demand has two components, domestic and external. Early approaches to industrialisation focussed on the domestic component and later ones emphasised on the external side. The current turbulence in the global



ISTOCKPHOTO

economy has led to shocks in external demand and hence exports are impacting aggregate demand and inducing vulnerabilities and fluctuations in external demand. In this scenario turning to domestic markets, raising the levels of domestic demand and catering to it, remains a viable option.

The importance of domestic capital

In India, domestic capital has an important role to play in stimulating domestic demand via three routes.

The first area for more active involvement of Indian capital is to enhance internal private investments. Despite India Inc. sitting on record-high profits, the willingness to invest hasn't kept pace with such profits. During the post-COVID period, public investments did all the heavy lifting. Fiscal policy has been fine tuned to offer incentives, while monetary policy has been responding with easier access to credit. A bulk of the regulatory requirements have been simplified along with the tax regime. Infrastructure development has been accorded high priority along with a slew of benefits, such as production-linked incentives. The net effect of all these is reflected in the indicators of the business environment.

However, despite these efforts by the government, private investments have remained flat over the past few years. The Finance Ministry in its June monthly review noted that "Slow credit growth and private investment appetite may restrict acceleration in economic momentum," underscoring the urgent need for the private sector to step up.

While private capex remains subdued, public capital expenditure surged from ₹3.4 lakh crore in FY20 to ₹10.2 lakh crore in FY25, which is a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 25%, driven largely by railways, roads, highways, and communications. Interestingly, during a period of sluggish domestic private investments, India's outward foreign direct investment (FDI) flows have grown at a sharp pace over the past five years, with a CAGR of 12.6%, much higher than the global average of 3.9%. This indicates that Indian capital is keener to explore foreign locations than its domestic economy. An opportune time has come for a reversal of this.

The second thrust area is to ensure that there is moderate wage growth in the economy. The Economic Survey 2024-25 flagged the trend of increasing corporate profits and lagging wage growth. In 2023-24, profits touched a 15-year high, while growth in wages stagnated. This affects distribution in the economy and dampens domestic demand. Rating agencies project that real wage growth might decline to 6.5% in FY26, down from 7% in FY25. Real wages are expected to grow faster when inflation is low. However, we find evidence contrary to it indicating worsening of distribution. The growing trend towards contractualisation within formal sectors has been eroding the collective bargaining power of workers, leading to slower wage growth within the manufacturing sector.

The third area for priority action is to invest more in Research and Development (R&D). The tendency has been to invest less and only in areas of

quick returns. This paradigm has to change as fundamental research and development is crucial for long term productivity gains. The gross expenditure on R&D in India is 0.64% of the GDP, which is insufficient and remains low compared to many advanced economies. Further, R&D funding in India is primarily through the government. In the U.S., China, Japan, and South Korea, private enterprises routinely contribute more than 70% to the total national R&D expenditure. In China, R&D spending has reached 2.1% of the GDP, with the private sector complementing the funding of the government, while in India only around 36% of R&D is funded by the private sector. In India not only is the private sector investment in innovation low, but it is also concentrated in sectors such as drugs and pharmaceuticals, information technology, transport, defence, and biotechnology.

The road ahead

An uncertain global economic environment calls for unified responses from the government and the private sector.

While the government has been facilitating the creation of a favourable environment for businesses, that effort alone is not sufficient for tackling present challenges. Long term national interest needs to be protected by Indian capital by keeping it as an objective above profit maximisation. It is time for Indian capital to step in more actively.

M Suresh Babu is Director, Madras Institute of Development Studies. The views expressed are personal.

THE GIST

As the economy is at risk of negative shock to external demand for its products, due to unprecedented tariffs imposed and distortions caused in the global trading system, Indian capital needs to reinvent itself and work closely with the government to mitigate the risks posed.

The first area for more active involvement of Indian capital is to enhance internal private investments. Despite India Inc. sitting on record-high profits, the willingness to invest hasn't kept pace with such profits.

While the government has been facilitating the creation of a favourable environment for businesses, that effort alone is not sufficient for tackling present challenges.

GS Paper: GS-III (Economy – Investment, Growth & Development, Employment), GS-II (Government Policies)

Summary (English):

- Context: The global economy is facing an extended period of uncertainty due to

tariffs, trade wars, and fluctuations in global demand.

- **Challenge for India:** Indian economy, at risk of negative demand shocks and unemployment, needs private domestic capital to play a more active role in national development instead of only seeking short-term profit.
- **Evolution of Indian Capital:** Historically, Indian businesses thrived under protected environments (pre-liberalisation), enjoying subsidies and concessions. But with globalisation, they gained confidence to expand overseas.
- **Current Problem:** Instead of reinvesting profits in India, many Indian private firms prefer to park capital abroad, limiting domestic growth and leaving vulnerabilities.
- **Need for Domestic Investment:**
 1. **Infrastructure & Employment:** Domestic capital must support infrastructure, energy, R&D, and innovation to generate jobs and reduce import dependence.
 2. **Balanced Growth:** Excessive dependence on government-led spending is unsustainable. Private capital has to complement public investment.
 3. **R&D Investment:** India spends less on R&D compared to other economies. Private sector contribution must rise beyond pharmaceuticals & IT to manufacturing, green energy, and high-tech.
- **Way Forward:** A new partnership between government and private business houses is needed, focusing on inclusive growth, reducing inequality, and aligning corporate profits with national development goals.

सारांश (Hindi):

- **संदर्भ:** वैश्विक अर्थव्यवस्था में अनिश्चितता बढ़ रही है, टैरिफ और व्यापारिक उतार-चढ़ाव से भारत की अर्थव्यवस्था पर नकारात्मक असर पड़ रहा है।
- **भारत के लिए चुनौती:** भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था में मांग में गिरावट और बेरोज़गारी का खतरा है। ऐसे में निजी पूंजी को केवल लाभ कमाने के बजाय राष्ट्र के विकास में सक्रिय भूमिका निभानी होगी।
- **भारतीय पूंजी का विकास:** उदारीकरण से पहले भारतीय उद्योग संरक्षित वातावरण और सब्सिडी पर निर्भर थे। बाद में वैश्वीकरण से उन्हें विदेशों में विस्तार का आत्मविश्वास मिला।
- **वर्तमान समस्या:** भारतीय कंपनियाँ अपने मुनाफे का बड़ा हिस्सा विदेशों में निवेश कर रही हैं, जिससे घरेलू विकास धीमा और असुरक्षित हो रहा है।
- **घरेलू निवेश की आवश्यकता:**
 1. **इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर और रोजगार:** घरेलू पूंजी को ऊर्जा, आधारभूत ढाँचा, अनुसंधान एवं विकास (R&D) में निवेश करना होगा।
 2. **संतुलित विकास:** सरकार पर ज़रूरत से ज़्यादा निर्भरता टिकाऊ नहीं है, निजी पूंजी को सार्वजनिक निवेश का पूरक बनना चाहिए।
 3. **R&D निवेश:** भारत का R&D खर्च अन्य देशों की तुलना में कम है। निजी क्षेत्र को फार्मा और आईटी के अलावा मैन्युफैक्चरिंग और हरित ऊर्जा में निवेश करना चाहिए।
- **आगे की राह:** सरकार और निजी पूंजी का सहयोग ज़रूरी है ताकि विकास समावेशी हो, असमानता कम हो और कॉर्पोरेट लाभ राष्ट्रीय विकास लक्ष्यों से जुड़ सके।

✓ Exam Relevance:

- **UPSC GS-III:** Investment, economic growth, infrastructure, employment, R&D, public-private partnership.
- **UPSC GS-II:** Government-business cooperation, role of private sector in development.
- **BPSC/JPSC:** बिहार/झारखंड में औद्योगिक निवेश, रोजगार सृजन और आर्थिक विकास से जुड़ा विश्लेषण।

World Bank raises India's FY26 growth outlook to 6.5%

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The World Bank has upgraded its growth outlook for India to 6.5% in 2025-26, from the earlier 6.3%, citing stronger domestic conditions and also the impact of the GST rate cuts. However, it has revised downward its forecast for 2026-27 to 6.3%, saying the impact of the U.S. tariffs will dampen growth.

In its South Asia Development Update released on Tuesday, the World Bank said India's real GDP growth "exceeded expectations" in the April-June 2025 quarter, accelerating to 7.8%. It noted that growth was bolstered by strong private consumption and investment and boosted by lower-than-expected prices.

For the current financial year, the World Bank said India's growth has been revised upwards to 6.5% from the earlier prediction of 6.3%.

"India is expected to remain the world's fastest growing major economy, underpinned by continued



The government's reforms to the Goods and Services Tax are expected to support activity.

strength in consumption growth," the report said. "Domestic conditions, particularly agricultural output and rural wage growth, have been better than expected."

"The government's reforms to the Goods and Services Tax (GST) – reducing the number of tax brackets and simplifying compliance – are expected to support activity," it added.

However, it said that the forecast for 2026-27 has been downgraded from 6.5% to 6.3% as a result of the imposition of the 50% tariff on about three-quarters of India's goods exports to the U.S.

GS Paper: GS-III (Indian Economy – Growth, Investment, Reforms), GS-II (International Organizations – World Bank Reports)

Summary (English):

- **Context:** The World Bank has upgraded India's growth forecast for FY26 to 6.5% (earlier 6.3%), citing strong domestic conditions and the impact of GST rate cuts.
 - **FY26 Outlook:** Growth boosted by private consumption, investment, lower prices, agricultural output, and rural wage growth.
 - **Current Year (2025):** Real GDP growth exceeded expectations at 7.8% in Q1 (April–June 2025).
 - **Policy Impact:** GST reforms (simplified compliance, fewer tax brackets) expected to support activity.
 - **FY27 Outlook:** Growth revised downward to 6.3% due to external factors – mainly the U.S. imposing 50% tariffs on ~¾ of India's exports.
 - **Global Standing:** India remains the world's fastest-growing major economy despite global trade tensions.
-

सारांश (Hindi):

- **संदर्भ:** विश्व बैंक ने भारत की वित्त वर्ष 2025-26 की विकास दर का अनुमान बढ़ाकर 6.5% कर दिया (पहले 6.3%), जिसका कारण मजबूत घरेलू परिस्थितियाँ और GST दर कटौती बताई गई।
 - **FY26 दृष्टिकोण:** विकास में वृद्धि निजी खपत, निवेश, कम कीमतें, कृषि उत्पादन और ग्रामीण मजदूरी से हुई।
 - **वर्तमान वर्ष (2025):** अप्रैल-जून 2025 तिमाही में वास्तविक GDP वृद्धि 7.8% रही, जो अपेक्षा से अधिक थी।
 - **नीतिगत प्रभाव:** सरकार के GST सुधार (कम टैक्स स्लैब और आसान अनुपालन) आर्थिक गतिविधियों को बढ़ावा देंगे।
 - **FY27 दृष्टिकोण:** अनुमान घटाकर 6.3% कर दिया गया, कारण – अमेरिका द्वारा भारत के तीन-चौथाई निर्यात पर 50% टैरिफ।
 - **वैश्विक स्थिति:** चुनौतियों के बावजूद भारत दुनिया की सबसे तेज़ी से बढ़ती बड़ी अर्थव्यवस्था बना रहेगा।
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✓ Exam Relevance:

- **UPSC GS-III:** Growth, inflation, GST reforms, external trade impact.
- **UPSC GS-II:** Role of World Bank & global economic policies.
- **BPSC/JPSC:** बिहार/झारखंड पर प्रभाव – कृषि उत्पादन, ग्रामीण मजदूरी, वैश्विक व्यापार नीतियों का असर।

Textile industry calls for aligning cotton production with export targets

M. Soundariya Preetha
COIMBATORE

The government should look at strengthening farm to factory practices in the cotton sector and adopt a multi-pronged strategy to build export-ready ecosystems and align cotton production with India's \$100 billion textile export target by 2030, according to a knowledge paper 'Cotton 2040: Technology, Climate and Competitiveness' released by the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry.

The paper called for promoting high-quality cotton cultivation through certified seeds and sustainable practices, and ensuring consistent quality



Hanging by a thread: With cotton production facing challenges, the Indian cotton sector stands at a critical juncture. FILE PHOTO

through traceability systems and global certifications. Collaborative efforts between farmers, industry, and policymakers are key to ensuring that Indian textiles meet international standards in quality, sustainability, and ethical

sourcing, it said.

With cotton production facing challenges, the Indian cotton sector stands at a critical juncture where sustainability, innovation, and trade competitiveness must converge to secure long-term growth. There is

a need for coordinated action across stakeholders, backed by robust policy, investment, and technology transfer, the paper said.

The government should promote organic, fair-trade, and circular farming models to capture premium global markets, where sustainable cotton commands 20-30% higher prices. It should streamline procurement and stabilisation mechanisms so that farmers get better prices and reduce their dependency on middlemen.

The government should support industry-led innovation in smart textiles and organic blends as India's technical textiles market projected to reach \$40-\$50 billion by 2025.

Headline: *Textile industry calls for aligning cotton production with export targets*

GS Paper:

- UPSC GS-III: Agriculture, Economy, Exports, Sustainable Farming
- UPSC GS-II: Government policies & interventions in agriculture and industry
- BPSC/JPSC: Bihar/Jharkhand economy linkage with agriculture & textile sector

Summary (English):

- **Context:** The Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI) has urged the government to align cotton production with India's \$100 billion textile export target by 2030, as detailed in its knowledge paper "*Cotton 2040: Technology, Climate and Competitiveness*".
- **Key Recommendations:**
 - Strengthen farm-to-factory practices.
 - Promote high-quality cotton cultivation using certified seeds, sustainable farming, and traceability systems.
 - Encourage organic, fair-trade, and circular farming models to capture premium markets (20-30% higher prices).
 - Improve procurement and stabilization mechanisms to reduce middlemen dependency.
- **Current Challenges:**
 - Cotton production facing sustainability, climate, and competitiveness issues.
 - Need for coordinated action among farmers, industry, and policymakers.
- **Future Goals:**

- Promote innovation in smart textiles and organic blends.
- Support India's technical textiles market projected to reach \$40–50 billion by 2025.

सारांश (Hindi):

- संदर्भ: भारतीय कपड़ा उद्योग परिसंघ (CITI) ने सरकार से आग्रह किया है कि कपास उत्पादन को भारत के 100 अरब डॉलर के वस्त्र निर्यात लक्ष्य (2030 तक) के साथ जोड़ा जाए। यह सिफारिश इसके ज्ञान-पत्र “कॉटन 2040: टेक्नोलॉजी, क्लाइमेट एंड कॉम्पिटिटिवनेस” में दी गई है।
- मुख्य सुझाव:
 - फार्म-टू-फैक्ट्री प्रैक्टिसेज़ को मजबूत करना।
 - उच्च गुणवत्ता वाले बीज और सतत खेती को बढ़ावा देना।
 - ऑर्गेनिक, फेयर-ट्रेड और सर्कुलर फार्मिंग मॉडल्स को बढ़ावा देना ताकि अंतरराष्ट्रीय प्रीमियम बाजारों में 20–30% अधिक कीमत मिले।
 - खरीद और स्थिरीकरण तंत्र को सुधारना ताकि किसानों को बेहतर दाम मिले और बिचौलियों पर निर्भरता घटे।
- वर्तमान चुनौतियाँ:
 - कपास उत्पादन में सततता, नवाचार और प्रतिस्पर्धा की समस्याएँ।
 - किसानों, उद्योग और नीतिनिर्माताओं के बीच समन्वय की कमी।
- भविष्य के लक्ष्य:
 - स्मार्ट टेक्स्टाइल और ऑर्गेनिक ब्लेंड्स में नवाचार।
 - भारत के टेक्निकल टेक्स्टाइल्स मार्केट को 2025 तक \$40–50 अरब डॉलर तक पहुँचाना।

✓ Exam Relevance:

- UPSC GS-III: Agriculture reforms, textile industry, Make in India, exports.
- UPSC GS-II: Government schemes & policy interventions in cotton and textile sector.
- BPSC/JPSC: क्षेत्रीय कपड़ा उद्योग, कृषि उत्पादकता और निर्यात से जुड़ी नीतियाँ।

Donetsk in Ukraine seen as Russia's gateway, not the war's ultimate prize

For over a decade, Donetsk has been synonymous with war; Ukraine has lost 70% of the region, while the Russians control most of the Donbas and two illegally annexed southern regions; meanwhile, Putin wants Kyiv to cede the rest as a strategic launchpad, but Ukraine has defended every inch

NEWS ANALYSIS

Associated Press
DONETSK REGION

From a bunker in eastern Ukraine, the 33-year-old soldier asks her comrade to fly a reconnaissance drone over her childhood home, hoping for a final glimpse before it becomes just another city pulverized by years of fighting.

The soldier took up arms a decade ago to defend her home region, Donetsk, where Ukraine has been battling Russian-backed forces since 2014. Since Russia's invasion in 2022, the region has become synonymous with Ukraine's fight for survival. Battlefield developments in Donetsk are considered a gauge of each side's fortunes in the war.

In over 10 years of fighting, Ukraine has lost control of around 70% of the region.

"I watched my school destroyed, the community center where I once took dance lessons reduced to rubble," Fox said in the dugout close to her beloved Kostiantynivka, where Russian forces are steadily closing in. "It hurts because your whole life flashes before your eyes," said Fox who, along with other soldiers who spoke to *The Associated Press*, provided



Conflict cost: Smoke and dirt rise from shelling in the city of Severodonetsk during fight between Ukrainian and Russian troops in the eastern Ukrainian region of Donbas on June 7, 2022. AFP

only her call sign per Ukrainian military protocol.

Before 2014, the Donetsk region – home to more than four million people – was one of Ukraine's most densely populated areas and a key industrial, political and economic hub. But it has borne the brunt of the nation's financial losses since Russia's invasion in February 2022, accounting for nearly half the \$14.4 billion in damage to Ukrainian businesses, according to a report last year.

Industrial heartland

Donetsk residents make up nearly a quarter of Ukraine's internally displaced population, according to the International Organiza-

tion for Migration, and with much of the once mighty industrial heartland now in ruin, an active battlefield or under occupation, they have little hope of ever returning.

Like so many in Ukraine, it's not the first time Ms. Fox has lost a home to the war. In 2022, Russian forces captured Mariupol, the southern Donetsk city where she has also lived. This year, she has watched the front line creep toward the city where she was born.

The most active stretch of the 1,250-km front line is Donetsk region, where both sides are trying to make gains before winter sets in and slows the pace of battle.

Russia already controls most of Donbas that along with two southern regions, it illegally annexed three years ago.

Russian President Vladimir Putin wants Kyiv to cede control of the rest, which analysts believe would give Moscow a permanent launchpad from which to threaten other parts of Ukraine. With the stakes so high, Ukraine is determined to resist at all costs and defend every inch it still holds.

To advance in Kherson, Russia would have to cross the Dnipro River, while the neighbouring Zaporizhzhia region presents its own logistical challenges because of the flat and exposed terrain, according to

Taras Chmut, a military analyst and director of the Come Back Alive Foundation, a nonprofit think tank and charity that raises money to equip Ukraine's forces.

Mr. Chmut says Russia's actions in Sumy and Kharkiv – regions in the north-east where Moscow has maintained a foothold – are not a serious land grab but an effort to create a bargaining chip for future negotiations, even though efforts led by U.S. President Donald Trump to get Russia and Ukraine to sit at the negotiating table have stalled.

"When you cannot agree at the table, you agree on the battlefield," Mr. Chmut said. "Russia will stop where it is stopped by force, not where it chooses."

Politics over logic

Pavlo Yurchuk, commander of the 63rd Brigade that has been trying to hold off Russian progress in Donetsk for over a decade, believes intense fighting in the region is driven more by politics than by military logic, as the terrain makes large-scale advances extremely difficult.

"There is no strategic advantage in this area for conducting fast offensive operations," Mr. Yurchuk told reporters, citing a network of rivers – including the Siverskiy Donets – ca-

nals and thousands of fortified villages, basements and bunkers that favor the defender. But with its proximity to Russia, historic economic ties and the Soviet-era legacy of imposed Russian language, Mr. Putin has portrayed the area as historically Russian.

"The Kremlin has persuaded parts of its population that the region is ethnically Russian and therefore should be 'liberated,'" Mr. Yurchuk said.

For Ukraine, the Donetsk region is the place where the new generation of professional soldiers grew during a decade of hostilities.

"A lot of blood has been spilled here, and more will be," said an Azov company commander who goes by the call-sign Grosser.

Ukraine could make gains if it concentrated all its might in Donetsk, said Grosser, a native of Western Ukraine who has fought intermittently since 2015. But that's not possible because "he [Putin] will keep pressing on all fronts."

After years of fighting for control of the region, Ukrainians fear its fall would not only render meaningless the thousands of lives lost but also condemn the country to instability. And few on the front line believe Russia's ambitions would end in Donetsk.

GS Paper:

- UPSC GS-II: International Relations, Global conflicts, Impact on India
- UPSC GS-I: World History (major world events post-Cold War)
- BPSC/JPMC: International relations, global conflicts and their implications

Summary (English):

- **Context:** Donetsk in eastern Ukraine has become the symbolic center of Ukraine's defense against Russia since 2014, intensifying after the 2022 Russian invasion.
- **Current Situation:**
 - Russia controls most of the Donbas region and two annexed southern regions.
 - Ukraine has lost ~70% of Donetsk, but continues to resist.
 - The region has been devastated with cities like Mariupol destroyed and billions lost in damages.
- **Strategic Importance:**
 - Donetsk is less about final victory and more about being a strategic gateway for Russia to launch operations.

- Its capture strengthens Russia's bargaining position in global negotiations.
- Pro-Russian propaganda portrays Donetsk as historically Russian.
- **Wider Geopolitics:**
 - Russia is using the war to consolidate territorial and political leverage.
 - Ukraine is fighting for survival and territorial integrity, backed by Western support.
 - The battle is part of a larger geopolitical struggle involving NATO, EU, and global energy politics.

सारांश (Hindi):

- **संदर्भ:** यूक्रेन के पूर्वी क्षेत्र डोनेत्स्क (Donetsk) को 2014 से रूस-यूक्रेन संघर्ष का प्रतीक माना जाता है। 2022 के रूसी आक्रमण के बाद यह क्षेत्र युद्ध का प्रमुख केंद्र बन गया।
- **वर्तमान स्थिति:**
 - रूस ने डोनेबास क्षेत्र का अधिकांश भाग और दो दक्षिणी क्षेत्रों को नियंत्रित कर लिया है।
 - यूक्रेन ने लगभग 70% डोनेत्स्क खो दिया, लेकिन अब भी प्रतिरोध जारी है।
 - शहरों का विनाश, जैसे मारीउपोल, और अरबों डॉलर का नुकसान।
- **रणनीतिक महत्व:**
 - डोनेत्स्क का कब्ज़ा रूस के लिए अंतिम लक्ष्य नहीं बल्कि एक रणनीतिक गेटवे है।
 - इससे रूस को भविष्य की वार्ताओं में दबाव बनाने का साधन मिलेगा।
 - रूसी प्रचार इसे ऐतिहासिक रूप से रूसी क्षेत्र बताता है।
- **भू-राजनीतिक संदर्भ:**
 - रूस इस युद्ध को भौगोलिक और राजनीतिक लाभ के लिए उपयोग कर रहा है।
 - यूक्रेन अपनी संप्रभुता और क्षेत्रीय अखंडता के लिए संघर्षरत है।
 - यह संघर्ष व्यापक भू-राजनीतिक संघर्ष का हिस्सा है जिसमें नाटो, यूरोपीय संघ और ऊर्जा राजनीति शामिल हैं।

✓ Exam Relevance:

- UPSC GS-II (IR): Russia-Ukraine war's impact on geopolitics, energy markets, India's foreign policy.
- UPSC GS-I: Modern world history, Cold War legacy and post-Cold War conflicts.
- BPSC/JPSC: अंतरराष्ट्रीय संबंधों में युद्ध और उसका भारत की विदेश नीति व वैश्विक राजनीति पर प्रभाव।