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NEWS TODAY

Curated Insights from "The Hindu' newspaper

Welcome to BPSC POINT

At BPSC POINT, we understand the pivotal role that current affairs play in UPSC and State PSC exams. In today's competitive landscape, mastering major news is not just an advantage—it is a necessity for success.

Our mission is to deliver concise yet comprehensive summaries of major news from 'The Hindu' Newspaper, crafted with a keen focus on exam relevance. Here's what sets BPSC POINT apart:

Targeted Relevance: We tailor our summaries to align with your exam syllabus, ensuring that you focus on the most pertinent issues.

Analytical Insights: Our approach goes beyond reporting; we provide analytical perspectives that help you grasp the broader implications of each issue.

Holistic Approach: We connect current affairs with key exam themes, helping you build a wellrounded and contextual knowledge base.

Clarity and Precision: Our summaries are designed to be clear and to the point, saving you time while enhancing your comprehension.

In addition to news summaries, we offer practice questions designed to mirror the style and rigor of UPSC and BPSC exams. These questions are crafted to help you apply your knowledge and hone your analytical skills, preparing you for success in your exams.

Each summary and practice question aims to equip you with the insights and skills necessary to excel in your exams. We encourage you to engage with these resources holistically, understanding the connections and applying the knowledge that will be crucial for your preparation.

Team BPSC POINT Dedicated to your exam success.

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NMC's Regressive Medical Curriculum Sparks Outcry and Subsequent Withdrawal

Undoing the undoing The withdrawal of the new curriculum	l
by the NMC is welcome	
ducation lays the path for progress, but	n
not everything that passes for education	
a universal good. Immediate corrective neasures are needed when it strays from its path	e
and the government's decision to withdraw th	
Competency-Based Medical Education Curricy	Ŀ
um guidelines published by the National Medica	d
Commission (NMC) rich with blundering inte pretations, jerks a retrograde move back withi	
aw, and reason. Published on August 31, the cu	1
riculum specified that sodomy and lesbianisa	n
were "unnatural sexual offences", includin	g
them under the category 'sexual offences'. It als slotted transvestism or cross-dressing under th	0
abiled transvestism of cross-dressing under th category of sexual perversion. The mandatory s	
en hours of disability competencies that stu	e
dents earlier had to undergo were excluded from	n
the foundation course too. In doing so, the NM did not merely attempt to take medical studen	5
back centuries, but it did so in violation of at lear	a I
a couple of laws of the land, and overlooked th	el
ruidelines it had set earlier. In mentioning sode	۲
my, lesbianism and transvestism as offences/pe versions, the NMC was in violation of the Tran	
anderpersons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2015	
Notably, following admonition by the Madras an	d
Kerala High Courts, the NMC, in October 2021, in	ŀ
structed all medical universities to not approv anscientific, derogatory and discriminatory in	e L
formation on the LGBTQIA+ community. Wit	h
the removal of mandatory disability competer	ŀ
ties from the foundation course, the NMC viola	
ed the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Ac 2016. It mandates the inclusion of the rights of	
persons with disabilities in the curriculum of un	ŀ
versities, colleges and schools and further re	
quires the integration of disability as a compo- nent in all educational courses for universit	1
eachers, doctors, nurses, and paramedical pe	Z
sonnel. Again, it was the NMC that introduced th	e
competencies in 2019, as a response to years of	đ
advocacy. The competencies would provide stu dents a rights-based approach to removing ba	1
riers to health care, and ensuring equitable a	5
cess to quality care.	
Naturally, transgender and disability right	
groups protested vehemently against the revise curriculum. Incensed by this regressive move	
that erased all the progress achieved in the curr	ŀ
culum after decades of advocacy, they said the	У
would write to the World Federation for Medica	d
Education to temporarily suspend the NMC's ro cognition status if the errors were not immediate	
y rectified. While the crisis is past for the m	
ment, the incident has eroded the faith of th	e
public, and marginalised groups, that the govern	
ment always has their best interests at heart. Pro gress, particularly in changing perceptions an	ł
pre-conceived notions, is hard-won in increment	
al doses. For an arm of the government itself t	ö
undermine these small advances is a shamefu	ıl
act. The withdrawal is a matter of great relief.	

The National Medical Commission (NMC)'s decision to publish a Competency-Based Medical Education Curriculum with *regressive content* sparked outrage, particularly from transgender and disability rights groups. The curriculum, released on August 31, labeled *sodomy* and *lesbianism* as *"unnatural sexual offences"* and categorized **cross-dressing** as *"sexual perversion."* It also removed the *mandatory seven hours of disability competencies* from the foundation course.

These changes violated both the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019 and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, which *mandate* inclusion of LGBTQIA+ rights and disability education in medical training.

Despite the NMC's earlier efforts to promote inclusivity, this move reversed years of advocacy. Following public outcry and pressure from rights groups, the curriculum was *withdrawn*, restoring some faith. However, the incident has *damaged public trust* in the government's commitment to progress and marginalized communities.

The withdrawal, though a relief, **highlights** the *need for vigilance in ensuring educational content reflects modern, rights-based perspectives*.

The Need for Fiscal Prudence: Managing India's Debt and Fiscal Deficit for Long-term Stability



The article highlights the consequences of excessive government spending and fiscal deficits, particularly how they affect debt and economic stability.

India's rising fiscal deficit and debt levels have led to higher interest payments, reducing funds for developmental expenditures. Despite the government's plan to reduce the fiscal deficit to 4.5% of GDP by 2025-26, this path deviates from the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act's goal of reducing the debt-GDP ratio to 40%. High fiscal deficits, combined with declining household savings and foreign capital inflow, risk crowding out private investment, limiting available investible

surplus.

The article emphasizes the need for a sustainable fiscal policy, urging the government to aim for a 3% fiscal deficit target to avoid fiscal imprudence. Comparisons with other countries show that India's interest payments *relative to revenue receipts* are much higher, exacerbating the problem. While the debt-GDP ratio shot up during the COVID-19 pandemic, the path to recovery has been slow, and *a clear roadmap to reduce the fiscal deficit and debt levels is necessary for long-term economic stability*.

"Fiscal responsibility today is the foundation of economic sovereignty tomorrow; without prudent debt management, the future's growth potential risks being mortgaged."

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Balancing Tourism and Environmental Sustainability: The Urgent Need for a Resilient Model in Kashmir



Kashmir, once an idyllic sanctuary, is facing severe environmental challenges due to *unchecked* **urbanization and tourism**. The influx of tourists, driven by recent policies aimed at showcasing stability, has led to significant **ecological disturbances**.

Over four crore tourists have visited since the new **tourism policy** began in 2020, putting immense pressure on the region's fragile ecosystem. This surge has resulted in *deforestation, waste accumulation, inadequate waste management, and increased demand for resources, exacerbating pollution and depleting*

groundwater.

The region is also grappling with the effects of **climate change**, including accelerated glacier melting, water scarcity, and potential agricultural drought. Historical natural disasters, such as the 2014 floods and recent flash floods, underscore the vulnerability of Kashmir's environment.

To address these issues, the article advocates for a **resilient and sustainable tourism model** that emphasizes eco-friendly practices, local community involvement, and infrastructure capable of withstanding extreme weather. Such an approach is crucial to preserving Kashmir's natural beauty, supporting local communities, and ensuring that tourism remains sustainable in the long term.

Vigilantism and Socio-Economic Struggles: The Faridabad Murder Case



In Faridabad, Haryana, a recent murder by cow vigilantes has highlighted the intense conflict between vigilante actions and legal norms. A young man was tragically killed by members of a cow protection group after being mistaken for a cattle smuggler. The group, which had been involved in other incidents of violence, is under investigation by the police.

The incident **underscores** the **growing influence and controversy surrounding cow vigilante groups** in India, which are often supported by state governments. The murder also brings to light broader socio-economic issues, including high unemployment and poverty in the region, affecting both the perpetrators and the victim's family.

This case *illustrates* the dangerous *intersection of vigilantism, communal tensions, and socio-economic struggles*, raising questions about the role and impact of such groups in society.

In a world where justice and desperation collide, the line between right and wrong can become dangerously blurred.

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Rising Political Tensions and Demographic Debates in Jharkhand's Santhal Pargana Region

In Jharkhand's Santhal Pargana region, concerns have arisen about demographic changes linked to alleged migration and infiltration from Bangladesh. These concerns are influencing local political dynamics, particularly with upcoming Assembly elections. The ruling party is facing criticism for alleged corruption and mismanagement, while opposition parties are using claims of demographic shifts and "infiltration" to galvanise support.

The debate has intensified with claims that increasing Muslim populations are due to illegal immigration, leading to fears of altered local demographics and cultural impacts. Political leaders from opposition parties are amplifying these claims, which are contested by local officials and residents who argue that population changes are more likely due to natural factors and internal migration.

The local administration is scrutinising these claims but faces challenges due to legal constraints and the complexity of verifying immigration status

without specific evidence. Overall, the situation highlights *tensions* between *political narratives, local* demographics, and broader socio-political strategies.

Severe Flooding Devastates Khammam District: Lives Lost and **Widespread Damage**

On September 1, severe flooding caused by torrential rains led to devastating impacts in Khammam district, Telangana. The Palair river overflowed, resulting in significant damage as floodwaters surged through villages and towns. Many families were trapped on rooftops, with some losing their lives as structures collapsed under the relentless waters. Local residents experienced dire conditions, with communities stranded and emergency services struggling to reach those in need due to adverse weather.

The floods resulted from extreme rainfall, with water levels in key rivers exceeding historical highs. This caused widespread destruction, including the submergence of homes and agricultural fields. Critical infrastructure such as roads and water supply systems were severely affected, with significant repair costs anticipated.



In the wake of the disaster, there was widespread frustration with the *lack of*

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timely warnings and effective rescue operations. The floods also prompted political debates, with accusations directed at both the previous and current administrations regarding their handling of the crisis and preparedness for such events.

Overall, the floods have left a profound impact on the region, causing loss of life, damage to property, and economic hardships for many residents.

Note: Palair river is a *tributary* of the Krishna River in the Khammam district of Telangana.





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Supreme Court Rules Judicial Appointments Must Be a Collaborative Process, Not an Individual Prerogative

The Supreme Court ruled that judicial appointments to constitutional courts must be a collaborative process, not an individual prerogative of the Chief Justice. The Court emphasized that the Collegium system, established in 1993, requires **collective decision-making** by senior judges. The ruling came from a case where the **Chief Justice of Himachal Pradesh** had **acted alone** in recommending the elevation of two judges, which was deemed procedurally flawed. The Court ordered the High Court Collegium to reconsider the appointments and stressed *balancing transparency with confidentiality* in the process.

India Approves BPaLM Regimen for Quicker, More Effective MDR-TB Treatment

This regimen, **part** of the **National TB Elimination Programme**, includes the drug **Pretomanid**, combined with **Bedaquiline** and **Linezolid** (and optionally **Moxifloxacin**). Unlike traditional treatments that can take up to 20 months, BPaLM offers a *cure in just six months* with fewer side effects. This advancement is part of **India's goal to eliminate TB by 2025**, ahead of the global target. The regimen aims to benefit India's 75,000 drug-resistant TB patients.

ASI Highlights Conflicts in Protected Monuments Declared as Waqf Property During Parliamentary Panel Review

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) reported to a Parliamentary panel that conflicts arise when protected monuments, such as **Fatehpur Sikri** and **Atala Masjid**, are also designated as Waqf property. The ASI claimed that this *dual authority* leads to **administrative issues** and **interference** with conservation efforts.

NTCA's Relocation Directive for Tiger Reserves Faces Criticism for Legal Violations and Potential Conflicts

The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has instructed 19 States to *expedite* the relocation of villagers from core tiger zones, citing concerns over slow progress and its impact on tiger conservation. The directive, which has faced backlash from activists and organizations, is said to violate several laws, including the Wildlife Protection Act and the Forest Rights Act. Critics argue that the NTCA's actions *could lead to conflicts* between state authorities and forest-dwelling communities. The Environment Ministry official stated that such directives are routine and that relocations must be conducted voluntarily and in compliance with legal rights.

Prime Minister Modi Highlights Mother Tongue Education and NEP Impact During National Teachers Awards Interaction

Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacted with the National Teachers Awardees, **emphasizing** the importance of **teaching in one's mother tongue** and the impact of the **National Education Policy (NEP)**. He encouraged *incorporating local folklore into lessons*, *organising educational tours* to explore India's diversity, and *using social media to share best practices*.

This year's awards recognized 82 teachers from various educational departments for their exceptional contributions.

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Low Representation of Reserved Categories Among IIT Bhubaneswar Faculty

At the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bhubaneswar, over 80% of faculty members are from unreserved categories. The institute has 300 sanctioned faculty posts, with 213 currently filled, but 95 positions are vacant. Of the 213 filled positions, 171 are occupied by general category members. Only 28 faculty members are from the OBC category, 1 from a tribal community, 12 from SCs, and 1 from the Economically Weaker Section.

Efforts to address this disparity include RTI applications and meetings with Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, who directed Central institutions to adhere to reservation policies. Despite these measures, the representation of marginalized communities at IIT Bhubaneswar remains low. Senior Congress leader Srikant Jena has called for a thorough investigation into the recruitment process, citing the need for compliance with reservation policies.

GTRI Suggests Allowing Natural Growth for India's EV Sector

The think tank GTRI has advised that the Indian government should let the domestic electric vehicle (EV) sector *develop organically without heavy reliance on incentives*. This approach would prevent India from becoming an "EV colony" for China. GTRI highlighted unique challenges India faces in adopting EVs, such as the fact that 80% of the country's power is generated from fossil fuels like coal. The think tank believes that avoiding excessive incentives and dependence on Chinese imports will allow the EV sector to evolve more sustainably.

Challenges to PM Awas Yojana's Urban Housing Plan

The government's goal of constructing *one crore urban houses* under the **PM Aawas Yojana** may face obstacles due to *rising land acquisition costs*, *increased construction expenses*, *and restrictive pricing and area limits*.

Builders report that land prices have surged significantly, and raw material costs have risen by 15-20%. In cities like Gurgaon and Mumbai, the current pricing and size restrictions on affordable homes make them impractical, leading builders to seek government intervention for land allocation, incentives, and price adjustments.

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"News Highlights: Key Updates in Brief"

International

- Ukrainian President **Zelenskyy** urged for increased Western military support to strike deeper into Russia, as the U.S. announced an additional \$250 million in aid amid ongoing conflict and pressure on Russian forces.
- India will not host this year's **Quad Summit**; it will take place in the U.S. with leaders from the U.S., Japan, and Australia meeting with Prime Minister Modi. The venue is still undecided, and the summit will address key issues like maritime security and climate change. This is India's first chance to host the summit since it was upgraded to a leadership level in 2021.
- India and the EU are boosting defence cooperation with a focus on maritime security and joint operations. An Indian delegation visited Europe to study the EU's security mechanisms and explore collaboration in Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) missions. The visit highlighted the shared commitment to regional stability and effective maritime order.
- Typhoon **Yagi**, the strongest autumn typhoon to hit **China**, made landfall on Hainan Island, disrupting life and forcing around a million evacuations.

State Specific

• An Inter-Ministerial Central Team (ICMT) will soon visit Andhra Pradesh and Telangana to assess flood damage. The Centre has provided significant relief resources, including NDRF teams and military helicopters. Telangana's Chief Minister has requested *relaxation* of National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) guidelines to expedite aid and has appealed for equal assistance for both states. Preliminary losses in Telangana are estimated at ₹5,438 crore.

Note: Previously, states could use NDRF funding after spending 50% of their State Disaster **Response Fund (SDRF)**, but the rules *now require states to spend 100% of the SDRF* before accessing NDRF aid.

Sports

• Jyoti Berwal won gold in the women's 76 kg freestyle at the U20 World Wrestling Championships, with Indian grapplers securing more medals in other categories.

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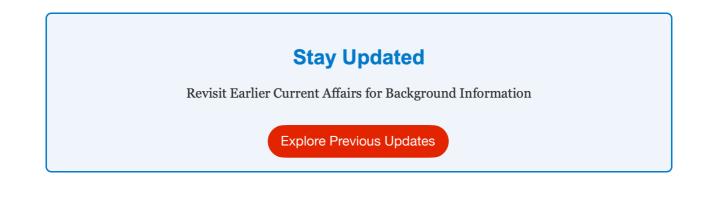
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End of Summary

This marks the end of today's summary from *The Hindu*. We trust this has added value to your exam preparation. Keep engaging with current affairs to sharpen your insights and strengthen your knowledge. We'll be back tomorrow with more updates to guide you on your path to success.

Thank you for reading. Stay focused and dedicated!

Understanding current affairs is crucial for **UPSC/State PSC preparation**, as it bridges the gap between theoretical knowledge and real-world application, ensuring that candidates are well-informed, relevant, and capable of making insightful analyses on contemporary issues.



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