

NEWS TODAY

Curated Insights from "The Hindu" newspaper

Staying updated with current affairs is crucial for a comprehensive understanding of the world around us, especially for competitive exams like UPSC and BPSC.

- 1. Relevance Across Exam Stages:** Current affairs are integral to all stages of the exam—Prelims, Mains, and the Interview. Familiarity with recent developments aids in answering questions effectively at each stage and demonstrates your up-to-date knowledge.
- 2. Informed Decision-Making:** Knowledge of current events enhances your ability to make informed decisions, develop well-rounded opinions, and understand the implications of various policies and issues.
- 3. Holistic Preparation:** A thorough grasp of current affairs ensures a more integrated approach to exam preparation, blending real-world context with theoretical knowledge.
- 4. Analytical Skills:** Engaging with current affairs sharpens your analytical abilities by encouraging you to evaluate and interpret complex information and its impacts from multiple perspectives.
- 5. Dynamic Knowledge Base:** The ever-changing landscape of current events helps maintain a dynamic and relevant knowledge base, crucial for adapting to evolving exam questions.
- 6. Interview Readiness:** In the interview stage, being well-versed in current affairs showcases not only your academic knowledge but also your awareness of recent developments and your ability to discuss them critically.

At **BPSC POINT**, we emphasize the importance of current affairs in all stages of the exam. We provide concise, accurate, and insightful summaries to help you stay ahead in your preparation journey and excel in every stage of the exam.

Team BPSC POINT

Dedicated to your exam success.

Disclaimer: While we strive to provide accurate and relevant summaries of the major news from 'The Hindu', we encourage readers to verify important details independently. If you notice any discrepancies, please notify us.

Should children be barred from social media?

The ongoing debate about whether kids should be kept off social media has sparked some heated discussions, especially after Australia's Prime Minister announced plans to set a minimum age for using platforms. Some folks believe banning kids from social media would protect them from harm, while others argue it could backfire. Instead of outright bans, there's a push to make platforms safer and more kid-friendly.



The discussion brings up some real challenges: How do you even enforce a ban? Kids are clever and often find ways around these things (remember South Korea's gaming ban? Didn't stop anyone!). Plus, the burden usually falls on parents, who may not always be tech-savvy enough to manage their kids' online presence. In countries like India, this issue is even more complicated because of lower digital literacy rates and shared device usage.

There's also a bigger conversation about how parents need to model good online behavior since kids often feel there's a double standard. Meanwhile, platforms need to step up and create safer environments by default, rather than just focusing on compliance.

At the end of the day, it seems like banning kids from social media isn't the solution. Instead, the focus should be on designing online spaces that protect kids while allowing them to learn and grow in the digital world responsibly.

Surge of Amoebic Meningoencephalitis Cases in Kerala: A Public Health Challenge and Response

This summer, Kerala experienced a surge in cases of amoebic meningoencephalitis, primarily affecting children aged 5–15, but also involving a cluster of eight adult cases in August. Despite 19 reported cases in five months, Kerala successfully reduced the global mortality rate from 97% to 26% by saving 14 patients through early diagnosis and a specialized treatment protocol.



Key Highlights:

- **Infection Details:** Caused by free-living amoebae, particularly *Naegleria fowleri*, known as the “brain-eating amoeba,” which can lead to **rapid brain damage and death**.
- **Treatment Success:** Implementation of a state-adapted treatment protocol that included **Miltefosine**, an anti-parasitic drug, contributed to successful outcomes for previously fatal cases.
- **Risk Behaviours:** An outbreak investigation revealed risky behaviours among local youth, such as **mixing addictive substances with pond water for inhalation**, which facilitated amoeba entry into the brain.
- **Public Health Response:** Health officials have emphasized awareness and education campaigns about risks associated with water bodies, including recommendations to avoid stagnant water, use nasal plugs, and ensure water cleanliness.
- **Clinical Guidelines:** A directive was issued to clinicians to test for amoeba in the cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) of all meningoencephalitis cases, regardless of known water exposure, as early detection is critical for survival.

This situation underscores the importance of rapid response, public education, and clinical vigilance in managing infectious disease outbreaks.

Swachh Bharat Mission to Transform Nearly Five Lakh Dirty Spots Across India

Under the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), nearly five lakh dirty spots across India, termed **Cleanliness Target Units (CTUs)**, will be adopted by various institutions, primarily Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs), and transformed into public facilities.

This initiative includes extensive cleanliness drives at locations such as tourist sites, public buildings, and water bodies. The campaign, themed '**Swabhav Swachhata Sanskaar Swachhata** (Clean Habits, Clean Culture)', has seen a significant increase in CTUs identified for cleaning, from an initial target of two lakh to nearly five lakh.

India Abstains from UN Resolution on Israel-Palestine Conflict, Emphasizes Building Bridges and Dialogue

India abstained from voting on a **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolution** that called for Israel to vacate Palestinian territories, based on an International Court of Justice (ICJ) opinion. Out of 181 countries, 124 supported the resolution, while India was among 43 nations that abstained. India's Permanent Representative to the UN, P. Harish, emphasized India's commitment to a **two-state solution** and the importance of **building bridges** between Israel and Palestine, rather than deepening divides. India condemned the **terror attacks on Israel on October 7, 2023**, the resulting civilian casualties, and urged an immediate ceasefire. The decision to abstain marked a departure from India's usual stance on such resolutions, with **concerns over unrealistic timelines** for Israel's withdrawal cited as reasons for abstention. Additionally, **India's defense ties with Israel** and the issue of sanctions may have influenced the decision.

FATF Urges India to Address Delays in Money Laundering and Terror Financing Cases, Recommends Reforms for Court and Enforcement Directorate Capacity

The **Financial Action Task Force (FATF) mutual assessment report** on India calls for major reforms to reduce **pending trials in money laundering cases** and enhance the capacity of both the **court system** and the **Enforcement Directorate (ED)**. Delays in prosecuting **terror financing cases** were also highlighted, with legal challenges to the **Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA)** being a significant factor. The **Supreme Court's 2022 ruling** in favor of the ED helped resume PMLA prosecutions, though system saturation due to limited **special prosecutors and judges** remains a challenge.

The report recommended expanding ED's human resources and improving **financial network analysis** related to **human trafficking and migrant smuggling**. India should also enhance State-level agency capacity, implement a **risk-based approach** for non-profit organizations (NPOs), and strengthen **financial sanctions** frameworks.

The FATF identified gaps, such as the absence of definitions for **politically exposed persons (PEPs)** and the need for better supervision of **high-risk sectors** like **money transfer services, gems & jewellery**, and **Designated Non-Financial Businesses and Professions (DNFBP)**. Despite these issues, India achieved **high technical compliance** with FATF recommendations.

Union Government Announces National Centre of Excellence for AVGC-XR to Create 500,000 Jobs

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw announced the National Centre of Excellence (NCoE) for Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, Comics, and Extended Reality (AVGC-XR), expected to create around 500,000 jobs. He cited successful films like RRR and Avatar as examples of the potential in animation and immersive technology. The NCoE will focus on Virtual Reality (VR), Augmented Reality (AR), Mixed Reality (MR), and 3D modelling, providing opportunities for creators to master these technologies.



Amit Shah Launches 'White Revolution 2.0' to Empower Women and Combat Malnutrition Through Dairy Cooperatives

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah launched the standard operating procedure for '**White Revolution 2.0**', aiming to empower women and combat malnutrition through dairy cooperatives. The initiative seeks to increase milk procurement from **660 lakh litres per day** to **1,000 lakh litres**, with payments made directly to women involved in milk procurement. Shah criticized the traditional view of women's work at home as "unemployment," emphasizing the importance of their inclusion in formal employment. The government has proposed to establish **two lakh primary agriculture cooperative societies (PACS)** across the country, ensuring every panchayat has access to a cooperative society. This expansion is expected to strengthen cooperative institutions at various administrative levels.

Agriculture Ministry Revamps PM-Aasha: Eliminates Private Sector Role in Crop Procurement

In a significant move, the Agriculture Ministry has eliminated the "**Private Procurement and Stockist Scheme**" (**PPPS**) from the revamped PM-Aasha (Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan), reducing private sector involvement in crop procurement at minimum support prices (MSPs). Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced that states can now implement the "**Bhavantar**" model for vegetable procurement, alongside oilseeds.

The decision follows the lack of interest from states in the PPPS, which aimed to allow private participation in oilseed procurement but faced challenges such as insufficient government support. The alternative schemes, **Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS)** and **Price Support Scheme (PSS)**, were preferred by states.

Under the revamped PM-Aasha, the government will reimburse farmers up to 15% of the difference between the market price and the government-set price for vegetables, similar to the provisions for oilseeds. The minister clarified that a market intervention price is set by the states for essential vegetables, allowing for government purchases when market prices drop below these levels.

Note:

- The **Bhavantar model** is a price support scheme that guarantees farmers a minimum income by compensating them for the difference between the market price and a predetermined minimum support price (MSP) for their crops.
- The **Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS)** compensates farmers for the difference between the market price and the minimum support price (MSP) for specified crops, while the **Price Support Scheme (PSS)** involves direct procurement of crops at MSP by government agencies to ensure farmers receive fair prices for their produce.

UN Experts Call for Global Cooperation in AI Development to Mitigate Risks

UN experts have warned that the development of artificial intelligence (AI) should not solely rely on market forces, emphasizing the need for global cooperation and governance to address potential biases, misuse, and the exclusion of developing countries from AI discussions. Their report, created by a panel of around 40 specialists, highlights a significant governance deficit regarding AI, calling for mechanisms to facilitate international collaboration and mitigate risks associated with the technology.

They propose establishing a **group of scientific experts *akin*** to the **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)** to monitor AI developments and guide its use for social good. While advocating for a coordination structure within the UN, they stop short of suggesting a comprehensive governing body. The experts cautioned against the risks of disinformation, deepfakes, and autonomous weapons, warning that without proactive measures, responses to emerging threats may be too late.

Urgent Warning: Consequences of Failing to Limit Global Warming to 1.5°C

Researchers from the World Resources Institute (WRI) warn that if global temperatures rise by 3°C above pre-industrial levels, urban life could become unbearable, characterised by longer heatwaves, soaring demand for air conditioning, and increased disease risks. In contrast, limiting warming to 1.5°C would significantly mitigate these impacts. The study highlights the urgent need to adhere to the Paris Agreement's goals, as current global commitments may only cap warming at 2.9°C. Fast-growing low-income cities, particularly in Africa and Asia, will face the most severe consequences, with billions of people at risk by 2050 as urban populations swell.

"News Highlights: Key Updates in Brief"

National

- Assam's **Orunodoi 3.0 poverty alleviation scheme** has increased beneficiaries to 37.2 lakh, adding approximately 12.6 lakh new participants with a budget of ₹5,604 crore. **Note:** Orunodoi 3.0 is Assam's flagship poverty alleviation scheme *providing direct financial assistance to low-income families*, recently expanded to benefit 37.2 lakh people.

International

- Amid severe **wildfires** in **Portugal**, which have claimed at least six lives and forced evacuations, over 5,000 firefighters are deployed as the country battles extreme heat, while central Europe grapples with flooding from heavy rains.
- **Taiwan** has begun allowing same-sex Taiwanese-Chinese couples to legally register their marriages, marking the first recognition of cross-strait unions. This development highlights Taiwan's leadership in LGBTQ rights in Asia, as it was the first region to legalize marriage equality in 2019.

Sports

- **Punjab** won the **14th Hockey India Junior Men's National Championship 2024** by defeating Uttar Pradesh 4-3 in a shootout after a 3-3 draw, while Haryana claimed third place by beating Karnataka 5-0.
- In the **China Open 2024 Badminton tournament**, India's **Malvika Bansod** defeated world number 25 Kirsty Gilmour 21-17, 19-21, 21-16 to advance to the quarter-finals, where she will face Akane Yamaguchi.

Bihar Special (if any)

हिन्दुस्तान

रिपोर्ट : बिहार में प्रति व्यक्ति आय बढ़कर ₹66828 हुई

केंद्रीय सांख्यिकी एवं कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय की रिपोर्ट से हुआ खुलासा

पटना, हिन्दुस्तान ब्यूरो। बिहार में आर्थिक विकास को गति देने के लक्ष्य के तहत प्रति व्यक्ति आय में वृद्धि के लक्ष्य को ध्यान में रखते हुए केंद्रीय सांख्यिकी एवं कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय की रिपोर्ट से हुआ खुलासा कि बिहार में प्रति व्यक्ति आय 2022-23 में 66,828 रुपये हो गई है। इस प्रकार, बिहार में प्रति व्यक्ति आय 2022-23 में 66,828 रुपये हो गई है। इस प्रकार, बिहार में प्रति व्यक्ति आय 2022-23 में 66,828 रुपये हो गई है।

14.5 प्रतिशत वृद्धि
राज्य पर्यटन, उद्योग और व्यापार विभाग के अनुसार, बिहार में प्रति व्यक्ति आय 2022-23 में 66,828 रुपये हो गई है। इस प्रकार, बिहार में प्रति व्यक्ति आय 2022-23 में 66,828 रुपये हो गई है।

2022-23 में प्रति व्यक्ति आय 66,828 रुपये थी, जो कि वर्ष 2023-24 में बढ़कर 36,333 रुपये हो गई है। बिहार राज्य पर प्रति व्यक्ति आय 7,46,417 करोड़ रुपये को तुलना में 14.5 प्रतिशत अधिक है। इस प्रकार वर्ष 2023-24 में बिहार का आर्थिक विकास प्रतिशत 14.5 प्रतिशत दर्ज किया गया है। इस प्रकार, बिहार में प्रति व्यक्ति आय 2023-24 में बढ़कर 36,333 रुपये हो गई है।

हिन्दुस्तान

सूबे की सड़क परियोजनाओं में जमीन की कमी बन रही बाधा

पटना, हिन्दुस्तान ब्यूरो। जमीन की कमी के कारण राज्य की दो दर्जन सड़क परियोजनाएँ पूरी नहीं हो पा रही हैं। इनमें कई ऐसी परियोजनाएँ हैं, जिसका काम शुरू नहीं हो सका है तो कुछ का निर्माण पूर्ण नहीं हो पा रहा है। हजारों करोड़ की खर्च परियोजनाओं में बिहार का पहला एक्सप्रेस वे वागमसी-रांची-कोलकाता है। पथ निर्माण विभाग ने ऐसी 23 परियोजनाओं को चिह्नित किया है, जो जमीन के कारण फंसी हैं। खोले दिनों इन परियोजनाओं में तेजी से जमीन की आवश्यकता है। परखा बांधास के लिए 65.30 एकड़ तो अमनौर बांधास के लिए 46.23 एकड़ और दिविसरमंज-विष्णुपुरा बांधास के लिए 145.08 एकड़ जमीन की जरूरत है। स्टेट हाइवे कटिहार-बलरामपुर के लिए 154.28 एकड़ जमीन चाहिए। मेहरौना-सोवान रामजानकी मार्ग के लिए 177.88 एकड़ जमीन चाहिए।

128.48 एकड़ जमीन की जरूरत
वहीं वागमसी-रांची-कोलकाता के पैकेज दो के लिए 128.48 एकड़ तो पैकेज तीन के लिए 85.94 एकड़, दायब बांधास के लिए 3.89 एकड़, नारसीमन बांधास के लिए 2.21, वागमसी-रांची-कोलकाता के पैकेज तीन के लिए 57.39 एकड़ जमीन की जरूरत है। बगल में बने वाले आरओपी के लिए 4.4 एकड़, एनएच 727ए के चौड़ाकरण के लिए 199.74 एकड़ जमीन की आवश्यकता है।

100.16 एकड़ जमीन की जरूरत है। इसी तरह रासड़ा-बहेरी सड़क के लिए 61.56 एकड़ तो दरभंगा-जगन्नाथ के लिए 52.67 एकड़ जमीन का अधिग्रहण होगा है। चौसठ-बक्सर बांधास और मोहनिया-चौसा सड़क परियोजनाओं के लिए 122.35 एकड़ तो दुमरांव बांधास के लिए 15.81 एकड़ जमीन की आवश्यकता है। कटौतिया, बांका, लखपुरा, पंचवारा बांधास के लिए 68.39 एकड़ तो सिंदौरा, खैरा, जमुई, मानगोबंद, केदु, टोला सोनी, शाहा, नरनंजो और पैरांगन बांधास के लिए 243.95 एकड़ जमीन की आवश्यकता है।

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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