BPSCPOINT

...only for Civil Services.

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.



(()) +918178109202

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.

www.bpscpoint.com



contactbpscpoint@gmail.com

ICMR Report Highlights Rising Antimicrobial Resistance in Common Infections

A recent report from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance Network (AMRSN) highlights *increasing resistance in difficult-to-treat infections*, including urinary tract infections, bloodstream infections, pneumonia, and typhoid.

The report, covering data from January to December 2023, reveals that **Gram-negative bacilli**, particularly *Escherichia coli* and *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, are the most common pathogens identified in clinical samples.

The surveillance involved 21 regional centers across India, analyzing antimicrobial resistance patterns and mechanisms through genomic sequencing.

Launch of Indian Cancer Genome Atlas Portal to Enhance Breast Cancer Research

The Indian Cancer Genome Atlas (ICGA) Foundation has launched a pioneering **portal** aimed at creating a *comprehensive repository of genetic data related to cancer* in the Indian population, specifically focusing on breast cancer. This initiative, led by Suveera Dhup and supported by experts like Shekhar Mande, seeks to address the gap in cancer treatment strategies that have **historically relied on Western data**, which *may not accurately reflect the molecular variations seen in Indian patients*.

Currently, the portal features data from 50 breast cancer patients, with plans to expand to over 500 in the coming year, promoting ethical sharing and collaboration in cancer research. The project draws inspiration from the U.S.-based Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA) and aims to foster a collaborative ecosystem involving researchers, clinicians, and the pharmaceutical industry. As breast cancer has become the leading cause of global cancer incidence, this initiative is critical for advancing personalised treatment strategies in India.

Severe Drought and Wildfires Impact Northern South America

A severe drought is affecting northern South America, particularly in Paraguay, Brazil, and Ecuador, with falling river water levels exacerbated by wildfires in Brazil, Peru, and Bolivia.

Brazil's drought, the worst on record, has impacted key transport routes for trade, causing delays and risking isolation for Indigenous communities. The region has experienced extreme weather events, including floods in Porto Alegre juxtaposed with drought in the Amazon.

In countries like Venezuela and Bolivia, these disasters have led to food shortages and civil unrest, with protests demanding action against the wildfires. While some rainfall is expected in October-November, experts warn that a La Niña phenomenon could result in below-normal rainfall,



complicating the situation further and increasing the risk of diseases like dengue and chikungunya.

India's Trade Deficit Challenges

India's trade deficit has widened significantly due to a decline in goods **exports** and a surge in **imports**. After a positive start to 2024-25, exports fell 1.5% in July and 9.3% in August, while imports grew 7.5% and 3.3%, leading to a merchandise trade deficit of \$29.7 billion in August. Key sectors such as petroleum and gems and jewellery saw substantial drops in exports, with oil exports down 22.2% in July and 37.6% in August.

A notable increase in gold imports, which doubled to \$10.1 billion in August, was attributed to a reduction in import duties and rising gold prices. Despite concerns over the widening deficit, officials assert that India's robust economic growth and positive foreign capital inflows mitigate risks. The government aims to boost exports to a trillion dollars by 2030, although challenges like geopolitical risks, tariff barriers, and a slowing global economy loom ahead.

www.bpscpoint.com





contactbpscpoint@gmail.com

+918178109202

(2)

Pager Attacks in Lebanon

On September 17, 2023, simultaneous explosions from pagers used by Hezbollah in Lebanon resulted in at least **nine fatalities** and thousands of injuries, including Iran's envoy to Beirut. This attack, condemned by Lebanese officials as an act of "Israeli aggression," was followed by further explosions from walkie-talkies used by Hezbollah, killing nearly two dozen more and injuring over 450.

Rising Tensions

The attacks have intensified existing tensions between Israel and Hezbollah amid ongoing skirmishes along the Israel-Lebanon border since the start of the Gaza war in October 2023. Hezbollah pledged retaliation for the blasts, which occurred predominantly in southern Lebanon, a stronghold for the group.



The Role of Pagers

Pagers, once popular communication devices, have resurfaced as tools in covert operations due to their simplicity and reduced susceptibility to surveillance. They operate on radio signals, making them more reliable in low-signal areas and less prone to monitoring compared to smartphones. Pagers can be modified for clandestine communications, including triggering explosives remotely.

Suspected Israeli Involvement

Experts suggest that Israeli intelligence may have manipulated the pagers used in the attack, potentially intercepting and modifying them to include explosives. The devices reportedly bore branding from a Taiwanese company, which denied involvement but clarified that a European firm had manufactured them. The sophistication of the operation indicates a potential Israeli front company might have facilitated this covert manipulation.

Implications

This incident raises concerns about the future use of low-tech devices in armed conflict, as their inconspicuousness allows for encrypted communication that is difficult for intelligence agencies to intercept. The broader geopolitical context suggests escalating conflict in the region, with significant implications for security and stability.

This situation underscores the evolving nature of modern warfare, where traditional technology can be repurposed for advanced tactical strategies.

Nipah Virus Outbreak in Kerala

On September 14, 2024, a new **Nipah virus scare** emerged in **Malappuram**, **Kerala**, following the death of a 24-year-old man who tested positive for the virus. The health authorities quickly activated the **Nipah protocol**, forming committees and imposing restrictions on movement, including mandatory face masks in public. This incident marks the **sixth outbreak** of Nipah in Kerala since 2018, with a total of 22 deaths attributed to the virus.

The recent case has raised alarms as it follows another Nipah death in July. The state health department has identified and quarantined 267 individuals who came into contact with the victim. Efforts included a comprehensive field survey and mental health support for the community.



www.bpscpoint.com





contactbpscpoint@gmail.com



3

The virus is primarily believed to be *transmitted* from **bats**, but the exact source of infection for the latest victim remains unclear. Health experts emphasize the **need for ongoing vigilance and research**, as previous attempts to eradicate bat colonies have been unsuccessful.

Ancient Rainforest Discovered in the Falkland Islands: A Glimpse into the Past

Researchers discovered that the Falkland Islands, now a treeless grassland, was once a lush rainforest up to 30 million years ago. This finding emerged from chance conversations in Port Stanley, leading scientists to unearth well-preserved prehistoric tree remains and pollen at a construction site. Samples were sent to Australia for analysis, where pollen spores, rather than wood, were used for dating due to the age of the specimens.

The study indicates that the South Atlantic's climate was significantly warmer and wetter in the past, capable of sustaining a diverse ecosystem similar to modern rainforests in Tierra del Fuego. Many tree species from that era are now extinct but were likely transported to the Falklands by winds from southern hemisphere rainforests. The detailed findings are published in *Antarctic Science*.



Concerns Over Privatization in India's Healthcare System: Insights from Sujatha Rao

Sujatha Rao, former Union Secretary of the Health Ministry, recently resigned from the Lancet Citizens' Commission due to concerns over increasing privatization in India's healthcare system. The government's push for public-private partnerships (PPP) in healthcare, such as **attaching district hospitals to private medical colleges**, raises questions about the accessibility of care for the poor. Rao highlights the challenges of privatization, noting that previous attempts have led to **dual control** and confusion within hospitals, ultimately risking access to quality care for vulnerable populations.

She critiques the **U.S. model of Managed Care** as unsuitable for India, emphasizing that it exacerbates inequality and fails to address the country's chaotic primary care system. Rao argues that without a robust social security framework, privatization will likely worsen disparities in healthcare access, as the current system is already highly privatised but unregulated. The government's failure to invest adequately in health and



regulate the market has left many citizens unable to afford care, pushing millions into poverty due to medical expenses. Rao concludes that unchecked commercialisation of healthcare poses significant risks for India's population.

Impact of Antibiotics on Intestinal Health

A recent study published in *Science Advances* reveals that even short courses of antibiotics can *damage* the **intestinal mucus barrier** in mice, increasing the risk of inflammatory bowel diseases (IBDs). The research showed that treatments with various antibiotics (ampicillin, metronidazole, neomycin, and vancomycin) compromised the mucus barrier, allowing microbes to interact with host tissues, triggering immune responses and potential intestinal inflammation.



+918178109202

Vancomycin, in particular, was found to reduce mucus secretion from goblet cells in the colon by inducing endoplasmic reticulum (ER) stress, independent of the microbiota. Mice treated with vancomycin exhibited a significant loss of mucus in their colonic epithelium shortly after treatment.

www.bpscpoint.com





contactbpscpoint@gmail.com

The study suggests that repeated antibiotic use could erode the mucus barrier over time, potentially leading to gut inflammation and increasing the risk of IBD. Researchers highlighted the possibility of reversing the mucus secretion defect through treatments like TUDCA, which alleviates ER stress.

Overall, the findings indicate that antibiotics not only contribute to antimicrobial resistance but also have direct deleterious effects on host cells, compromising gut health.

Uniformity of Earth's Mantle Revealed by Hotspot Lavas

Recent evaluations of volcanic hotspots, such as those in **Hawaii**, **Samoa**, and **Iceland**, suggest that lavas from these locations originate from a **uniform reservoir** in Earth's mantle. This indicates that the mantle is more chemically *homogenous than previously believed*, with lavas acquiring distinct chemical characteristics only *as they ascend to the surface*.

Note: Understanding the composition of the mantle is crucial for insights into Earth's formation and its developmental history over time.

Uncovering Genetic Mechanisms of Transgenerational Phenotypic Plasticity in Plants

A study on **Arabidopsis thaliana** has uncovered the genetic mechanisms driving **transgenerational phenotypic plasticity**, which is vital for plant adaptation to environmental changes.

By examining how maternal light conditions affect offspring traits across generations, researchers highlighted the *influence of maternal environments on genetic expression*. Maternal light conditions refer to the light environment experienced by a plant during its growth before producing offspring. This includes factors such as:

Light intensity
Light quality (spectrum)
Light duration (photoperiod)

These conditions significantly influence the traits of the seeds or offspring produced. For example, a plant in high light may yield seeds resilient to light stress, while one in low light may produce shade-adapted seeds.

Understanding maternal light conditions is crucial for improving agricultural practices and developing crop varieties better suited to specific environments.

These insights could lead to innovative strategies for **crop improvement**, as critical genetic regions linked to this plasticity were identified.

Research on Emu Wing Bones

Researchers have discovered a mechanism that explains the **reduction and asymmetry** of emu wing bones. The findings reveal that the wings not only undergo significant **shortening** but also exhibit **asymmetrical fusion** of skeletal elements. This study emphasizes the impact of **embryonic and fetal movement** on morphological evolution, providing insights into the complex developmental processes that influence skeletal structures.



Rising Ransomware Threats in India

Ransomware attacks are increasing rapidly, with a significant rise in both frequency and financial impact, according to Anand Eswaran, CEO of Veeam Software. Research indicates that 75% of companies experienced a breach last year, with 80% paying ransoms, yet 25% did not recover their data. Eswaran emphasizes the need for organizations to view ransomware as a cultural issue requiring serious attention to data protection.

India's growing digital economy makes it a prime target for such attacks, with a reported 53% increase in ransomware incidents in 2022, particularly affecting IT, finance, and critical infrastructure. Veeam's white paper urges enhanced data protection and disaster recovery capabilities to combat these threats. The recent Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, aims to strengthen cyber resilience in both public and private sectors, reinforcing the importance of robust backup strategies as a last line of defense against ransomware.

www.bpscpoint.com





contactbpscpoint@gmail.com



ndia

(**C**)

+918178109202

High Export Potential of Plantation Commodities and Increased Allocations for Development

The export potential of plantation commodities, including tea, coffee, and spices, is significant, according to Neeraj Gaba from the Department of Commerce. In the last fiscal year, tea exports reached 260 million kg, while coffee exports totalled \$1.29 billion. The export of spices is growing at a CAGR of 8.9%, with nearly 50% exported in value-added forms. Gaba emphasized the need for further value addition in tea exports as well.

In the current and next financial years, there has been an **increase in allocations** for plantation sectors. The annual budget for the **coffee sector** has risen from ₹220 crore to ₹300 crore, focusing on **mechanisation** and **quality improvement**. Similarly, financial assistance for the **tea sector** under the **Tea Development & Promotion Scheme** has increased from ₹290.81 crore to ₹528.97 crore for 2024-25 and 2025-26, with operational guidelines recently issued.

Introduction of Vivad Se Vishwas 2.0 Scheme for Income Tax Dispute Resolution

The Income Tax Department has introduced the **Vivad Se Vishwas 2.0** scheme, aimed at *resolving pending income tax disputes*. Announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the 2024 Budget, the scheme will take effect from **October 1**. It offers reduced settlement amounts for taxpayers who file their declarations by **December 31, 2024**, compared to those who file later. The scheme distinguishes between 'new' and 'old' appellants, providing more favorable terms for new entrants. Four specific forms have been established to facilitate the process, including declarations, certificates, payment intimations, and final settlement orders.

BPSCPOI

(**(**) +918178109202

6

"News Highlights: Key Updates in Brief"

National

- Air Marshal Amar Preet Singh has been appointed as the next Chief of the Air Staff, taking over from Air Chief Marshal V.R. Chaudhari on September 30, 2024.
- Atishi was sworn in as Delhi's Chief Minister, succeeding Arvind Kejriwal, who resigned, and aims to fulfill promises to residents amid ongoing political challenges before the upcoming elections.

International

- Sri Lankans voted in a peaceful Presidential election, closely watched for its impact on the country's economic recovery, with a likely voter turnout of 75%-80%, and a three-way contest involving President **Ranil Wickremesinghe**, **Sajith Premadasa**, and **Anura Kumara Dissanayake**.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. President Joe Biden held **bilateral talks** in Wilmington, Delaware, ahead of a Quad Summit involving leaders from India, the U.S., Australia, and Japan. The meeting focused on strengthening India-U.S. relations, addressing key issues like China and Russia, and expanding cooperation in security, technology, and economic matters.
- At the UN "Summit of the Future" in New York, India stressed that sustainable lifestyles are key to addressing climate change. Leela Nandan, Secretary in the Union Environment Ministry, called for affordable solutions over merely imposing emission reduction measures, advocating for a more inclusive approach to global challenges.

Economy

• Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal met with Korean counterpart Inkyo Cheong to discuss upgrading the free trade agreement between India and South Korea. The talks focused on achieving a more balanced trade relationship, enhancing the India-Korea Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, promoting investment linked to job creation, and addressing non-tariff barriers to strengthen economic ties.

Sports

- Nazira Banoo from Kargil won a gold medal in the under-30 individual Poomsae category at the 1st Khelo India Women's Taekwondo League in Vadodara, earning a spot in the upcoming Nationals Phase-III in Bhubaneswar.
- In the **45th Chess Olympiad** in Budapest, the Indian team drew 2-2 with Uzbekistan, maintaining the top position in the open section with 17 points, while the women's team slipped to second with 15 points after a draw against the USA.

www.bpscpoint.com

Telegram

+918178109202

7

Bihar Special (if any)

Challenges Faced by Migrant Entrepreneurs in Chanpatia, Bihar: A Struggle for Survival

In Chanpatia, Bihar, many migrant workers who returned during the Covid pandemic and established businesses are now struggling to survive as entrepreneurs. Initially supported by the district administration, the cluster of 57 manufacturing units, primarily in textiles, has seen 37 shut down due to financial difficulties, including burdensome loans and a challenging credit culture. Some entrepreneurs have left for states like Punjab and Haryana, while others are selling assets to repay debts. Despite early successes, including sales to distant markets, many units now lie dormant. Local authorities are attempting to address these challenges and provide relief to struggling entrepreneurs.

30





हिन्दुस्तान तीनमाहमेंतैयार हो जाएंगे 110 नए अस्पताल

	नए अस्पताल खुलेंगे। लोगों को बेहतर	सेवन
	स्वास्थ्य सुविधा उपलब्ध कराने के	अस्पत
	संबंध में शनिवार को स्वास्थ्य मंत्री	पीएवर
	मंगल पांडेय की अध्यक्षता में स्वास्थ्य	
	भयन में राज्य स्तरीय समीक्षा में यह	📕 स्वास्थ
	बात सामने आयी। उन्होंने बताया कि	की अध
	400 करोड की लागत से निर्मित राज्य	राज्यर
	में 110 नए अस्पताल का उदघाटन	
	90 दिनों के अंदर होगा। इसमें 5 जिला	कार्यरत हैं। स्व
	मॉडल अस्पताल सहित मात शिश	की टेनिंग के स
	अस्पताल, सामुदायिक स्वास्थ्य केंद्र,	लक्ष्य है कि दि
	अतिरिक्त प्राथमिक स्वास्थ्य केंद्र और	में 50 प्रतिशत
	हेल्थ एंड बेलनेस सेंटर शामिल हैं।	स्वास्थ्य मंत्री ने
	मंत्री ने कहा कि 69 एफआरय	दिया कि स्टाप
ł	कार्यरत हैं और जल्द ही 40 नए यनिट	ज्यादा कराई ज
	कार्यरत हो जायंगे। स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं में	जांच पर भी भ
	ये यनिट एक अभिन्न अंग के तौर पर	पैथेलॉजी ज
3	a filo da sua rati a sur te	14(14)

त. सोपलवी और ।तरेवी मेनल कीय प्रारंत महेला के प्रारंत कि प्रारंत के प्रारंत के प्रारंत प्रारंत महेला के प्रारंत के प्रारंत के प्रारंत का प्रारंत के प्रारंत के प्रारंत के प्रारंत के प्रारंत

य संबंध प्राथय अभूर संबंध नेश्वय कुमार संस. संसर्वे के व्यवसार कि सिंह कुमार द उक्त सारव्य संत्रे के व्यवसार निरंधक युव्ध जना मेजूर थे। एनडोटो लस्स है। उन्होंने अधिकारियों को निर्देश के अर्थेय संसर्थकारिय राट्यात्मक के पुरा मदी, अर्थेय स्वारच्य संस्थानों में संचालित निर्दिल्व अनुदाराजं कु सावीने से कितनी

त्मत अल्ट्रासाउंड मशीनों से कितने की सोनोग्राफी की जा रही है इसकी पूरे कहा रिपोर्ट लेकर अनिवार्थ रूप से इसके में मासिक वैठक करें, ताकि जरूरतमंद का को इस सुविधा का लाभ मिले।

हिन्दुरतान दरमंगा हवाई अड्डा अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तरका होगा, केंद्र सरकार तैयार

घटना, हिन्दुस्तान ब्यूरो। दरभंगा एयरपोर्ट अंतराष्ट्रीय सरत का होगा। केंग्रीय नारारिक ड्यूयन मंत्री राम मेहन नायडू ने विभागीय अधिकारियों को इस संबंध में विस्तृत प्रस्ताव तैयार करने का निर्देश दिया है। दरभंगा से दिल्ली, मुंबई, बेंगलुरु और हैरताबार के बीच कई उड़ान सेवा भी शुरू होगी। शनिवार को जदयू के कार्यकर्मी

राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष व सांसद संजय कुमार झा ने दिल्ली में केंद्रीय नागरिक उडूबन मंग्री से मुलाकत कर उन्हें दरभंगा एयरपोर्ट से आवागमन करने वाले यात्रियों को हो रही परेशामियों को दूर करने और इसे अंतराष्ट्रीय प्रयर्गाट बनाने तथा रनवे के विस्तार की आवयरकता के संबंध में विस्तु त्यापन सौंगा केन्द्रीय मंत्री न तलाक इंडिंगा और अकासा एयरलाइंस के **66** उड़ान योजना के तहत बिहार को मिले एयरपोर्ट को मुख्यमंत्री नीतीश कुमार ने भिषिल के केंद्र दरभंगा को दिया। अब उनकी इकछा है कि दरभंग। अतरराष्ट्रीय एयरपोर्ट बेन, सिपान के कहा है कि यदि अतिरिवत्त जमीन की जरूरत होगी, तो राज्य सरकार देगी – संजय कुमार झा, कार्वकारी कहीय अधका, कह्य

अधिकारियों को फोन कर दरभंगा से दिल्ली, मुंबई, बेंगलुरु और हैदराबाद के बीच उड़ान सेवा शुरू करने का प्रस्ताव देने का निर्देश दिया। साथ ही

उन्होंने दरभंगा एयरपोर्ट को अंतरराष्ट्रीय एयरपोर्ट बनाने से संबंधित विस्तृत

मा सिंद कुम तथा सुदेश भूमा सिंद्राबा (दरमंगा)। शोभन-एकमी सुर्वायत किन्तरे एसत निर्माण के लिग सुर्ये या इवेट लिग्टिंड के कोलकाता सर्वे प्राइवेट लिग्टिंड के कोलकाता सर्वे प्राइवेट लिग्टिंड के कोलकाता पर ही कईदी स्वास्थ्य मंत्री वेधी न पर ही कईदी स्वास्थ्य मंत्री वेधी न पह साई की का प्रधानमंत्री दरमंगा मधे ही का प्रधानमंत्री दरमंगा के मिलानास अगले माह करेगे।

> प्रस्ताव तैयार करने को भी कहा। श्री झा ने कहा कि दरभंगा एयरपोर्ट को अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर का बनाने तथा रनवे की लंबाई को 9 हजार फीट से बढ़ा कर 12 हजार फीट करने की आवरथकता है।

दरभंगा में एम्स निर्माण

के लिए भूमि सर्वे शुरू

www.bpscpoint.com



contactbpscpoint@gmail.com

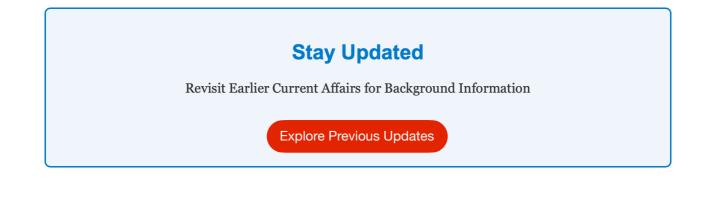


End of Summary

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.



www.bpscpoint.com



contactbpscpoint@gmail.com () +918178109202