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Politics or Development Mapping the editorial agenda of Desh Ki Paathshaala

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ABSTRACT
Prime-time television news plays an important role in shaping public discourse by determining which issues receive editorial attention and how they are presented to viewers. While political developments frequently occupy a prominent position in Indian television news, the representation of development-oriented issues remains an important area of academic inquiry. Against this background, the present study examines the editorial agenda of Desh Ki Paathshala, a prime-time news programme anchored by Sushant Sinha on News18 India. The study aims to identify the major categories of news covered by the programme and compare the editorial prominence given to political and development-oriented issues.
Employing a quantitative audiovisual content analysis, the study examines the available episodes broadcast during August 2026. Individual news stories and substantive segments constitute the units of analysis. Drawing upon Agenda-Setting Theory, the research categorises coverage into politics and governance, development and public welfare, economy, international affairs, defence and national security, science and technology and other relevant categories. Editorial prominence is assessed through story frequency and duration while explanatory techniques such as anchor-led explanations, statistical data, maps and background information are also examined. The analysis explores how political controversies, public-welfare concerns and other news subjects are incorporated into the programme's editorial structure. By distinguishing between political reporting and substantive policy-oriented coverage, the study seeks to provide a systematic understanding of issue prioritisation within an explanatory prime-time news format. The research contributes to discussions on editorial agenda-setting, the representation of development issues and the evolving presentation of news on Indian television.
Keywords: Prime-Time Television News, Agenda-Setting Theory, Editorial Agenda, Political News, Development Journalism, Content Analysis, Desh Ki Paathshala

1. INTRODUCTION

Television news continues to play an important role in informing people about political developments, government policies and issues affecting everyday life. Among different television news formats, prime-time news programmes hold a significant place because they bring together important developments of the day and present them through detailed reporting, discussions and analysis. These programmes do more than report events. Through the selection of news stories, the time devoted to them and the manner in which they are presented, they establish certain issues as more important than others. As a result, some subjects receive extensive coverage, while others are discussed briefly or receive limited attention. The importance of news selection and presentation can be understood through Agenda-Setting Theory. McCombs and Shaw (1972) explain that the prominence given to issues by the media can influence their perceived importance among audiences. In television news, this prominence may be reflected in the selection of the opening story, the duration of coverage and the repetition of particular subjects. Although the present study does not examine audience responses, the theory provides a useful basis for understanding the editorial priorities reflected in a news programme.
Political reporting is an important part of journalism because it informs citizens about government decisions, political activities, elections and the functioning of democratic institutions. It also provides opportunities to question those in power and examine public policies. However, political coverage does not always focus on the functioning of government or the impact of decisions on citizens. It may also concentrate on political rivalries, allegations, controversial statements and disagreements between political parties. Therefore, examining political news requires attention not only to the number of stories covered but also to the issues highlighted within those stories.

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Development-related journalism, on the other hand, deals with subjects that directly influence people's social and economic conditions. Education, employment, healthcare, agriculture, infrastructure and public welfare are some of its major areas. Reporting on these issues helps bring public concerns into discussion and provides information about the implementation of government schemes, the availability of basic services and the challenges faced by different sections of society. Such reporting becomes particularly important when it examines the actual conditions experienced by citizens rather than limiting coverage to government announcements and policy declarations.

Politics and development are closely connected because decisions concerning education, employment, healthcare and infrastructure are often made through political institutions. These issues may also become subjects of disagreement between political parties. For instance, a news story about student recruitment protests may focus on examination delays, employment opportunities and students' difficulties. The same issue may also be presented mainly through allegations against the government or statements made by opposition leaders. Although the subject remains the same, the focus of the news presentation changes. This difference makes it necessary to examine both the subject of a news story and the way it is presented.Framing Theory provides a useful perspective for understanding such differences. Entman (1993) explains that framing involves selecting and emphasising certain aspects of an issue to encourage particular interpretations. In television news, framing can be observed through the anchor's language, headlines, graphics, visuals, examples and statements selected for presentation. A development-related issue may be presented as a matter of public welfare, government achievement, administrative failure or political controversy. Examining these differences helps understand whether the programme gives attention to the problems faced by citizens or places greater emphasis on political reactions.

The present study focuses on Desh Ki Paathshaala, a Hindi prime-time news programme anchored by Sushant Sinha and broadcast on News18 India. The programme was launched on 16 June 2026 and is scheduled at 8:50 PM across television, connected television and YouTube. It follows an explanatory format in which current affairs are discussed with the help of background information, historical references, data, graphics and visual presentations. Unlike programmes that primarily depend on short news reports or panel debates, Desh Ki Paathshaala presents selected subjects through extended anchor-led explanations. Its coverage includes politics, government policies, international affairs, science, history and social issues (Moneycontrol News, 2026).

The programme also attracted considerable attention following its launch. According to a report published by Indian Television Dot Com (2026), Desh Ki Paathshaala emerged as a leading Hindi news livestream on YouTube during its initial broadcasts. Citing Databeings data, the report stated that the second episode recorded an average of approximately 231,000 concurrent viewers across feeds, compared with 53,000 for Aaj Tak. Its peak concurrent viewership reached approximately 386,000. These figures indicate a strong initial response on digital platforms, although they do not represent television TRP ratings or establish the programme's long-term audience performance.

The selection of Desh Ki Paathshaala for the present study is based on its prime-time placement, explanatory presentation style, variety of subjects and reported initial digital viewership. The programme is particularly relevant because it provides extended discussions of selected issues rather than presenting only brief news headlines. This creates an opportunity to examine which subjects are given greater importance and how the programme approaches political and development-related matters. Since the programme presents itself as a format intended to explain the background and significance of news, it is also important to examine whether issues concerning education, employment, healthcare and public welfare receive substantial attention alongside political developments. The study examines selected episodes broadcast during August 2026 to understand the editorial agenda of Desh Ki Paathshaala. In this research, editorial agenda refers to the priorities visible in the selection, frequency, placement and presentation of news stories. It does not refer to the internal decisions of the newsroom or the personal intentions of the anchor. The analysis considers political news, development-related news and other subjects to understand the overall distribution of coverage. It also examines stories where political and development-related concerns overlap. Drawing upon Agenda-Setting Theory and Framing Theory, the study seeks to understand which issues receive greater prominence and how these issues are presented. Particular attention is given to whether development-related subjects receive independent coverage or are mainly discussed through political disagreements. By examining the content and presentation of selected episodes, the research attempts to understand the balance between political reporting and development-related journalism within a contemporary Hindi prime-time news programme.

2. OBJECTIVES

To identify the different types of news covered in Desh Ki Paathshaala during the selected study period.

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To examine which news categories, receive the greatest prominence, particularly political and development-related news.
To compare the placement and extent of coverage given to political and development-related issues.
To examine how the programme's selection and prioritisation of news reflect its editorial agenda.

3. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Research on editorial agendas examines which issues receive attention and how their importance is established through news selection and presentation. Foundational theories and recent empirical studies provide complementary perspectives for analysing political and development-related coverage in Desh Ki Paathshaala. McCombs and Shaw (1972) established agenda-setting as an approach to understanding the relationship between media emphasis and public issue priorities. Their work supports examining frequency and prominence as indicators of the media agenda. Entman (1993) further explained how framing highlights particular aspects of an issue. Together, these perspectives distinguish the amount of attention an issue receives from the interpretation promoted through its presentation.

Recent research by Kumar et al. (2026) examined 2,131 news items across five Indian television networks, including Aaj Tak and India TV. Using broadcasts from September 2017 to February 2018, the study identified 347 international stories. Coverage concentrated on geopolitical power, conflict, security, and elite actors, with Pakistan and the United States receiving substantial attention. Although focused on international news, the study demonstrates how topic selection and duration reveal uneven editorial priorities.

Kamboh et al. (2025) analysed 11,453 editorials from six Pakistani newspapers to investigate agenda-building around sustainable development. Their findings suggested that influential sources could encourage greater attention to human development, while journalists also independently highlighted inflation and unemployment. This study connects development visibility with both source influence and journalists' professional roles. However, its newspaper context requires caution when applying its findings to television programming.

Singh et al. (2025) examined 316 newspaper articles concerning India's Ken-Betwa river-linking project. Their topic modelling identified government policy, comparisons within the river-linking programme, and environmental conservation as dominant frames. Coverage shifted from feasibility and government negotiations towards environmental risks. The study demonstrates that development reporting can contain political, administrative, and environmental dimensions, making a rigid separation between politics and development analytically restrictive.

Collectively, these studies support examining news

4. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

4.1 Research Approach

The present study follows a descriptive research approach, combining quantitative content analysis with qualitative interpretation to examine the editorial priorities of Desh Ki Paathshala, a Hindi news programme broadcast on News18 India and anchored by Sushant Sinha. The study aims to understand whether the programme gives greater importance to political news or development-related issues. The quantitative analysis focuses on the number of news stories belonging to different categories, while the qualitative analysis examines their placement and the attention they receive within the programme. This approach helps identify not only which subjects are covered but also how they are prioritised.

4.2 Research Design

Content analysis has been used as the main research method. It allows news content to be examined systematically by identifying and classifying stories according to their subject matter. The study considers both the frequency of news stories and their position within each episode. Particular attention is given to the opening story, as it provides an indication of the programme's editorial priority. The sequence of subsequent stories is also examined to understand how political and development-related issues are presented throughout the broadcast. The purpose is not to evaluate the accuracy of every news report or measure its influence on viewers, but to understand the editorial choices reflected in the selection and arrangement of news stories.

4.3 Sample Selection

The study focuses on selected episodes of Desh Ki Paathshala from August 2026. A purposive sampling technique was adopted, and 30-episode records were included in the analysis. The programme was selected because it covers a wide range of subjects, including political developments, parliamentary proceedings, education, employment, healthcare, national security and international affairs. Its explanatory presentation style also makes it relevant for

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examining how different issues are given importance within a prime-time news programme. The selected episodes were examined individually to identify the main news stories and their editorial sequence.

4.4 Data Collection

The data were collected from recorded episodes of Desh Ki Paathshala. Each episode was examined to identify the subjects covered, the number of news stories and their order of presentation. The analysis considered the main news segments, on-screen headlines, graphics and anchor-led explanations. For recordings examined through systematic frame sampling, frames were inspected at approximately 90-second intervals to identify the main subjects and transitions between news segments. Available viewing notes were also used to document the content. An episode-wise coding record was prepared to organise the collected information. The record included the episode number, news subject, category and position of the story within the programme. Approximate segment duration was also recorded where it could be identified.

4.5 Unit of Analysis

After the classification of news stories, their frequency was calculated to identify the representation of each category.The total number of stories under Politics, Development, Mixed and Other was used to calculate the percentage distribution. The number of news stories in each category was counted and compared with the total number of stories analysed. The percentage of each category was then calculated to understand how much coverage was given to Politics, Development, Mixed and Other news. The findings were presented through tables and graphs to show the overall distribution of news categories and the differences between episodes. Along with numerical analysis, the placement of stories was examined to understand editorial priority. Particular attention was given to whether political or development-related subjects appeared at the beginning of an episode and whether they received extended discussion. This helped distinguish the frequency of a subject from the importance assigned to it within the programme.

4.8 Theoretical Framework

The study draws upon Agenda-Setting Theory and Framing Theory to understand the editorial priorities of the programme. Agenda-Setting Theory, introduced by McCombs and Shaw (1972), explains the importance of media attention in determining the prominence of issues in news coverage. In this study, the theory provides a basis for examining which subjects are selected more frequently and which receive priority in the news sequence.

Framing Theory, discussed by Entman (1993), helps explain how particular aspects of an issue are emphasised during news presentation. This is relevant to the present study because some development-related issues, such as student protests or public-policy decisions, are also discussed through political disagreements. The two theories help explain the relationship between the selection of news subjects and the manner in which they are presented.

4.9 Ethical Considerations

The study is based on recorded television news content used for academic purposes. No direct interaction with human participants was involved. The analysis focuses on the editorial content of the programme. Political allegations, statements and claims appearing in the broadcasts were treated as part of the news presentation and not as independently verified facts. The findings have been interpreted according to the identified news subjects and their placement, without assuming the personal intentions of the anchor or the editorial team.

4.10 Limitations of the Study

The study is limited to selected episodes of one Hindi television news programme. Therefore, the findings cannot be generalised to all television news channels or prime-time programmes in India. The research focuses on the selection and presentation of news stories rather than audience responses. It does not examine how viewers interpret the programme or whether its coverage influences their opinions.

The use of sampled video frames in some episode analyses also means that the study is better suited to identifying major news subjects and their sequence than to making precise claims about every spoken statement or the exact duration of every story. Despite these limitations, the study provides an understanding of how political and development-related issues are represented within the selected episodes of Desh Ki Paathshala.

5. FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

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The editorial agenda of a television news programme reflects the priorities established through the selection, presentation and placement of news stories. In prime-time television journalism, these editorial decisions influence the relative visibility of political developments, public-policy concerns, social issues and events of national or international importance. Examining the distribution of news subjects is therefore essential to understanding whether a programme primarily concentrates on political affairs or provides comparable attention to development-related concerns. The present study, titled Politics or Development? Mapping the Editorial Agenda of Desh Ki Paathshala, examines the editorial priorities of Desh Ki Paathshala, broadcast on News18 India. The research analyses 30 selected episode records to identify the nature of news coverage and assess the relative prominence of political and development-related subjects.

The analysis classifies news content into four categories: Politics, Development, Mixed and Other. Political news includes parliamentary proceedings, electoral controversies, party competition and political confrontation. Development news includes education, employment, healthcare, public welfare, infrastructure and technological development. Mixed news refers to stories in which political and substantive governance or development dimensions are both prominent. Other includes national security, international affairs, disasters, crime, religion, culture, history and general-interest subjects. The study considers the number of identified news units, their placement within episodes and, where available, their approximate duration. This approach allows editorial priority to be examined beyond the mere presence or absence of a particular subject. The findings suggest that political news receives more frequent coverage than independently classified development news. However, the programme's editorial agenda is not exclusively political. National security, international affairs and other subjects constitute a substantial proportion of the identified coverage, while development-related stories receive varying degrees of independent attention.

5.1 Analysis of News Coverage

The reconstructed dataset identifies 144 substantive news units across the 30 selected episode records. These figures are provisional because some records count major thematic chapters while others distinguish individual stories, and the identity of two recordings remains to be confirmed. Accordingly, the numerical findings are presented as descriptive results from the current working dataset rather than final verified totals.

5.1.1 Overall distribution of news categories



Figure 1: Provisional category-wise distribution of 144 identified news units.

News category	Number of news units	Percentage
Politics	45	31.3%
Development	24	16.7%
Mixed	8	5.6%
Other	67	46.5%
Total	144	100%

Source: Primary data collected through content analysis of selected episodes.

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The distribution indicates that other constitutes the largest category, accounting for approximately 46.5% of the identified news units. Politics accounts for 31.3%, followed by Development at 16.7% and Mixed at 5.6%. The comparatively large share of Other reflects the programme's attention to national security, international relations, disasters, crime, cultural developments and general-interest subjects. This finding demonstrates that the programme cannot be accurately characterised as exclusively political.

Nevertheless, when Politics and Development are compared directly, political news appears considerably more frequently. The dataset identifies 45 political news units compared with 24 development-related units. Thus, political news appears approximately 1.9 times as frequently as independently classified development news in the reconstructed sample. The eight Mixed units further demonstrate that political and development-related issues are not always presented independently. Some public-policy and governance stories are discussed through political statements, allegations or government–opposition disagreement.

5.1.2 Comparative frequency of Politics and Development

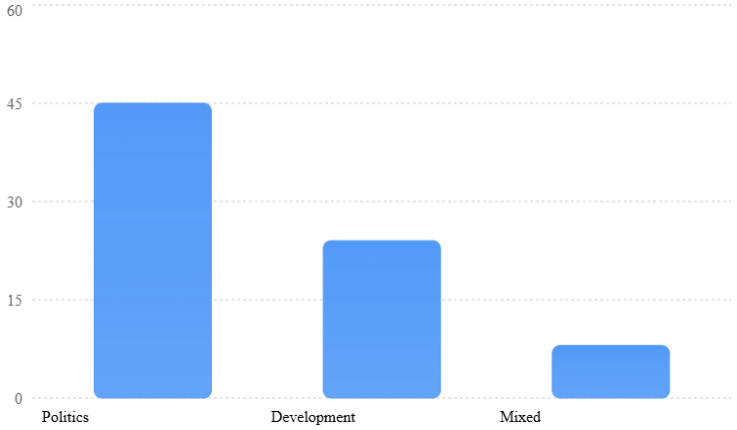


Figure 2: Comparison of political, development and mixed news units.

The comparison indicates a difference of 21 identified news units between Politics and Development. This finding suggests that the programme devotes more frequent independent coverage to political developments than to development-related subjects. However, the numerical difference should not be interpreted as an equivalent difference in airtime. A single extended discussion of medical research or student recruitment may occupy more time than several shorter political reports. The findings therefore support the conclusion that political news is more frequent within the reconstructed coding records, while editorial prominence must also be understood through story placement and duration.

5.2 Episode-Wise Distribution of Political and Development News

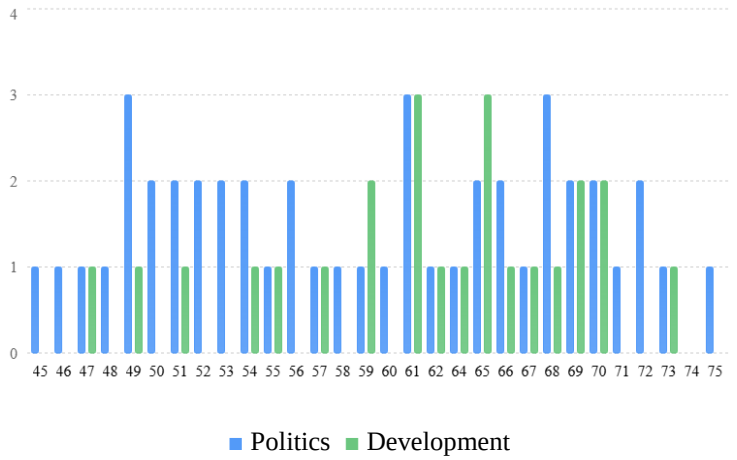


Figure 3: Episode-wise comparison of political and development news units in the provisional dataset.

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The episode-wise distribution reveals variation in the editorial agenda. Political news appears in nearly every selected episode, whereas independent development-related coverage is absent from several episode records. Episodes 49, 61 and 68 contain comparatively high numbers of political news units. Episodes 59, 61, 65, 69 and 70 demonstrate stronger representation of development-related subjects. Episode 61 is particularly relevant because it contains three political and three development-related thematic sections. Political controversies receive the opening portion, while student recruitment and educational initiatives receive substantial later attention. This demonstrates that an episode can contain comparable numbers of political and development stories while still giving Politics the earlier editorial position.

Episode 65 also shows a comparatively strong development-related presence in the reconstructed coding. By contrast, Episodes 45, 46, 50, 53 and 71 do not contain independently classified development units in their current major-section records, although some include public-welfare concerns as secondary themes. The episode-wise findings suggest that development coverage is selective rather than uniformly distributed. Political subjects recur more consistently, while the presence and prominence of development stories depend on the specific news agenda of each edition.

5.3 Findings of the Study

5.3.1 Political news occupies a prominent position in the editorial agenda

The analysis identifies political developments as a recurring component of Desh Ki Paathshala. Parliamentary proceedings, electoral disputes, party strategies, political allegations and statements by prominent leaders appear repeatedly across the selected episodes. The provisional frequency distribution identifies 45 political news units, compared with 24 independently classified development units. This difference indicates that political news is more frequently represented than development news within the reconstructed dataset.

The prominence of political subjects is also visible through their placement. Several episodes begin with extended political discussions before moving towards national security, healthcare, science or other public-interest subjects. For instance, Episode 64 opens with the Vande Mataram controversy, involving political exchanges between BJP and Congress representatives. The discussion occupies approximately 24 minutes, making it the longest identified section of that episode. Similarly, Episode 71 devotes approximately 29 minutes to the West Bengal electoral-roll controversy before turning towards the Nepal floods and other subjects. These examples suggest that political news frequently serves as the principal organising element of the programme's opening editorial agenda.

5.3.2 Political confrontation is a recurring feature of news coverage

The findings reveal that political confrontation is an important recurring subject within the programme. Many episodes focus on disagreements between government and opposition parties, allegations concerning political leaders, parliamentary protests and controversies surrounding political statements. Coverage involving Narendra Modi, Rahul Gandhi, Amit Shah, Akhilesh Yadav and other leaders frequently centres on competing political positions and responses. The programme also discusses controversies concerning electoral calculations, political slogans, parliamentary proceedings and the conduct of political organisations. The recurrence of such subjects suggests that disagreement and political accountability are important elements in the selection of news stories.

However, the findings do not establish that every political discussion is presented in the same manner or that the programme systematically favours a particular political party. Such a conclusion would require a separate, consistently applied analysis of anchor stance, representation and speaking time.

5.3.3 Development-related news is present but unevenly distributed

A significant finding is that development-related news receives identifiable coverage, although its distribution is uneven. The reconstructed dataset contains 24 independent development units. These concern education, employment, healthcare, infrastructure, technological advancement and public welfare.

Several episodes include sustained development-related discussions. Episode 61, for example, covers student recruitment protests and educational initiatives, including SATHE and SWAYAM Plus. Episodes 64 and 66 discuss developments in medical research, including cholesterol treatment and cancer vaccines. Episode 57 examines the environmental concerns associated with AI infrastructure and data centres. These examples demonstrate that the programme does not restrict its coverage to political disputes. Nevertheless, development-related stories are not consistently placed at the beginning of episodes. In several cases, they appear after political or national-security discussions. The findings therefore indicate that development receives meaningful but variable attention.

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5.3.4 Education and employment constitute recurring development themes

Education and employment emerge as important subjects within the development-related coverage. The programme discusses recruitment examinations, alleged paper leaks, student demonstrations and demands for transparent examination procedures. The Jharkhand student protests appear in multiple analysed episodes, indicating recurring attention to recruitment and examination-related concerns. These subjects are particularly relevant to development because they concern educational opportunity, employment prospects and institutional accountability. However, the analysis also reveals that such stories are sometimes framed through political confrontation. For example, student protests may be discussed alongside allegations about political involvement, comparisons between protest groups or questions concerning the response of opposition parties.This suggests that development-related issues may receive attention without necessarily remaining the exclusive focus of the discussion.

5.3.5 Healthcare and scientific innovation receive independent coverage

The programme includes independent reporting on medical research and healthcare developments. Episodes 64 and 66 discuss cholesterol-treatment research, VERVE-102 and cancer-vaccine developments. Episode 62 includes coverage of medical tourism and treatment costs. These subjects are directly connected with health and human wellbeing. Their inclusion demonstrates that the programme provides space for scientific developments alongside political and international news.

However, the available observations indicate that medical research receives more identifiable attention in these episodes than questions concerning healthcare accessibility, rural medical infrastructure or the affordability of treatment for disadvantaged populations.This distinction is important because reporting on medical innovation and reporting on the functioning of healthcare systems represent different dimensions of development journalism.

5.3.6 National security and international affairs form a substantial part of the programme

The largest provisional category is Other, accounting for 67 identified units. This category includes national security, international affairs, disasters, crime, religion, culture, history and general-interest subjects. Within this broad category, national-security and international-affairs stories recur across several episodes. Pakistan-related developments, military preparedness, terrorism allegations and international diplomatic relations receive substantial coverage. Episode 64, for example, devotes approximately 14 minutes to defence and international-security developments. These findings demonstrate that the programme's editorial agenda extends beyond the domestic political sphere. It is therefore analytically inappropriate to treat all non-development coverage as Politics.

5.3.7 Disaster coverage provides a public-welfare dimension

Several episodes include coverage of floods, landslides, extreme weather and their consequences for affected communities. Episode 71 devotes approximately 17 minutes to flooding in Nepal, including damage to settlements and infrastructure, rescue operations and international responses.

Such coverage is relevant to development because disasters affect housing, transport, public safety and essential services.However, disaster reporting is not automatically equivalent to development-policy reporting. The sampled coverage frequently emphasises immediate destruction and rescue activities rather than sustained discussion of long-term reconstruction or disaster-resilient infrastructure. Consequently, the study records disaster coverage separately while recognising its public-welfare implications.

5.3.8 The distinction between news subject and editorial framing is essential

One of the most important methodological findings is that the subject of a news story and its editorial framing may differ. A story about a government school may primarily concern political controversy rather than education. Conversely, a student protest involving political leaders may remain fundamentally concerned with recruitment and employment.

Episode 66 provides an example through the controversy surrounding a CJP leader's visit to a government school in Rajasthan. Although the incident occurred in an educational setting, the identified coverage centred on allegations of political selectivity and opposition from villagers. Similarly, discussions of fuel policy, digital-platform regulation and examination irregularities may combine substantive governance concerns with political arguments. The Mixed category is therefore important because it prevents such stories from being automatically assigned to either Politics or Development.

5.4 Interpretation Through Agenda-Setting Theory

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The findings can be interpreted through Agenda-Setting Theory, developed by McCombs and Shaw (1972). The theory explains the significance of the prominence given to particular subjects within news coverage. In the present study, the recurring placement of political developments at the beginning of episodes indicates that political issues frequently receive high editorial priority. The frequency distribution also demonstrates that political news appears more often than independently classified development news within the reconstructed sample. Together, these findings suggest that Desh Ki Paathshala establishes a recurring media agenda in which political developments receive substantial visibility. However, the programme also highlights national security, international affairs, healthcare, education and other subjects. Its agenda is therefore diverse, although the relative prominence of these subjects is unequal. The study examines the media agenda rather than audience effects. It does not establish whether viewers consider political news more important as a consequence of watching the programme.

5.5 Interpretation Through Framing Theory

Framing Theory, as discussed by Entman (1993), provides an additional perspective on the findings. The theory is relevant because the programme does not merely select subjects; it also presents them through particular interpretive emphases. Political stories frequently involve allegations, counterclaims, electoral calculations and questions concerning political credibility.

Development-related subjects sometimes receive political framing, particularly when they involve protests, government institutions or public-policy disagreements. For example, student recruitment concerns may be presented alongside questions about the involvement of political organisations. Similarly, a government-school inspection may be discussed primarily through allegations of political selectivity.

The findings suggest that political framing can influence the way development-related subjects are presented. Nevertheless, the programme also includes examples of independent development-oriented reporting, particularly in discussions of medical research and environmental concerns associated with data-centre infrastructure. The findings therefore reveal variation in framing rather than a single uniform approach across every episode.

5.6 Implications of the Findings

The findings contribute to understanding the editorial priorities of Hindi prime-time television news.

First, they demonstrate that political developments remain a recurring and prominent subject within the analysed programme and they establish that development-related news is present, although it receives less frequent independent coverage in the provisional dataset. They also highlight the substantial contribution of national security, international affairs and other subjects to the overall editorial agenda. They demonstrate the importance of examining both the number of stories and their editorial placement. A category may contain fewer stories but receive considerable airtime through extended discussion.

Finally, the study highlights the need to distinguish between the underlying subject of a story and the framing through which it is presented. This distinction is particularly important when analysing education, employment, healthcare and public-policy issues that may become associated with political confrontation.

6. LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The present study is based on a purposively selected sample of episodes of Desh Ki Paathshala. Consequently, its findings concern the selected programme material and should not be generalised automatically to all Hindi television news programmes. The study examines editorial content rather than audience reception. It therefore does not measure how viewers interpret individual stories or whether the programme influences their political attitudes. Some episode analyses were developed from systematically sampled video frames, while others were based on detailed viewing observations. Consequently, the available records provide stronger support for identifying news subjects and their sequence than for measuring exact airtime across the entire sample.

The consolidated numerical dataset also requires final reconciliation to ensure that the unit of analysis is applied consistently across episodes. The current figures should therefore be treated as provisional until the remaining episode records and possible recording duplication are verified. These considerations do not invalidate the qualitative findings, but they define the scope within which the quantitative results can be interpreted.

7. SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

Future research could extend the present study through a larger sample covering different broadcast periods.Comparative research involving other Hindi prime-time news programmes could examine whether the observed prominence of political confrontation represents a broader pattern in television journalism. Further studies could investigate the framing of development-related issues, particularly education, employment,

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healthcare and infrastructure, when political actors are involved. Audience research could also explore whether the prominence of political news affects viewers' perceptions of the relative importance of political and development-related concerns. A longitudinal study could examine whether the programme's editorial priorities change during election periods, parliamentary sessions or major national events.

8. CONCLUSION

The present study examined 30 selected episode records of Desh Ki Paathshala to understand the relative prominence of political and development-related news. The reconstructed dataset identifies 144 substantive news units, including 45 political, 24 development, eight mixed and 67 other units. Although these counts require final verification, they provide preliminary quantitative support for the qualitative findings. The analysis indicates that political news is more frequently represented than independently classified development news. Parliamentary controversies, electoral disputes, party confrontations and statements by political leaders recur throughout the selected episodes. Political developments also frequently receive the opening editorial position, giving them prominence beyond their numerical frequency.

However, the programme does not exclusively concentrate on political subjects. National security, international affairs, disasters, healthcare, education, technological development and general-interest stories also form substantial parts of its editorial agenda. Development-related reporting is particularly visible in discussions of student recruitment, examination-related grievances, medical research, healthcare services and environmental concerns associated with digital infrastructure. Nevertheless, its prominence is uneven. Some episodes devote sustained attention to development issues, while others incorporate them into political discussions or place them after political and security-related coverage. The study therefore concludes that the editorial agenda of Desh Ki Paathshala demonstrates a recurring preference for political news over independently classified development news, particularly in terms of frequency and opening prominence, while maintaining substantial coverage of other news categories.

The findings also demonstrate that the relationship between Politics and Development is not always oppositional. Development issues may appear within political reporting, and political actors may be involved in substantive public-policy discussions. Accordingly, the programme's editorial priorities are best understood through a combination of news frequency, placement, duration and framing. The central contribution of the study lies in demonstrating that political prominence and development coverage coexist, but they do not receive equal or consistent editorial priority within the analysed episodes.

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