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The first question that might come to your mind is “Is that even possible to use each second of your time effectively?” or “Do I even have that much spare time?” Let's help you by looking over the top time drainers of your daily routine:

- On an average, a person spends 67 minutes per day eating and drinking beverages while watching their favorite TV series.
- Travelling is one of the most overlooked time drainers. CNBC claims that the average commute is a little over 50 minutes per day.
- 44% of people waste tons of time just sitting in the traffic, while others keep scrolling through their feeds.
- Digital Information World suggests that people spend 2 hours and 22 minutes on social media.
- More often unproductive chats on WhatsApp are the major time drainers where you waste your time on without even knowing how much time is spent.

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# **National & States Affairs**

**651.** In December 2021, Adani Solar, the photovoltaic manufacturing and research arm of the Adani Group, has begun manufacturing of large sized monocrystalline silicon ingots in India. With this, Adani Solar has become India's first manufacturer of large sized monocrystalline silicon ingots capable of producing M10 & G12 wafers. The company intends to add 2 GW of ingot and wafer capacity by the end of 2023 and 10 GW by 2025. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Adani Solar – became India's first manufacturer to introduce large sized monocrystalline silicon ingots in India
- [HQs of Adani Solar – Ahmedabad, Gujarat](#) | [CEO – Vneet S. Jaain](#)

**652.** On December 23, Uttar Pradesh government announced to set up a wellness and care centre for senior citizens above 65 years in Lucknow in 2023. The centre will offer club-like facilities to senior citizens such as card room, yoga and meditation facilities, food, hobby area, medical care and indoor games at a reasonable monthly fee. The centre will be known with the name of 'Ullas'. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Uttar Pradesh – to set up a 'Wellness & Care Centre for Senior Citizens' above 65 years in Lucknow in 2023
- The centre will be known as – 'Ullas'
- [UP: Capital – Lucknow](#) | [CM – Yogi Adityanath](#) | [Governor – Anandiben Patel](#)

**653.** In December 22, Chief Justice of India D. Y. Chandrachud has constituted 'Supreme Court Committee on Accessibility' headed by SC judge Justice S. Ravindra Bhat to conduct an audit of 'physical and functional access' of the SC premises to make them disabled friendly. The committee has been given a broad mandate to prepare and release a questionnaire for persons with disabilities, including the apex court employees, advocates, litigants and interns, who visit the top court premises to assess the nature and extent of problems they face. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- D. Y. Chandrachud (SC) constituted 'Supreme Court Committee on Accessibility' – headed by Justice S. Ravindra Bhat

**654.** On December 27, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami inaugurated the 'Climate Resilient Livelihoods for Disaster Prone Region of Uttarakhand' project. The project will be implemented over a period of 3 years, until May 2025. SBI Foundation has designed the project in collaboration with Himalayan Environmental Studies and Conservation (HESCO) to promote equitable economic and ecological development in 10 disaster-prone villages in the Joshimath Block of Chamoli District. The project aims to achieve this crucial balance by promoting diversified livelihoods, including horticulture, ecotourism, bio farming, agriculture, and environmental protection measures, such as construction of check dams, protection walls, and water holes, to mitigate the risk of climate change. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Pushkar Singh Dhami – launched 'Climate Resilient Livelihoods for Disaster Prone Region of Uttarakhand' project
- The project is designed by = SBI Foundation + HESCO
- The project will promote ecological development in 10 disaster-prone villages in Chamoli District
- [HQs of SBI Foundation – Mumbai, Maharashtra](#) | [President – Lalit Mohan](#)
- [Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain](#) | [CM – Pushkar Singh Dhami](#) | [Governor – Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh](#)

**655.** As of December 2022, Indian Railways is planning to modernise 1,000 small yet important stations under the new “Amrit Bharat Station Scheme”. These stations will be redeveloped under the ‘Khurda Model of Redevelopment’. This is apart from the ambitious plan to revamp 200 big stations under a separate redevelopment programme. Khurda station in Odisha was modernised for Rs 4 crore with all contemporary amenities for passengers. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Indian Railways – plans to modernise 1,000 small yet important stations under the new “Amrit Bharat Station Scheme”
- These stations will be redeveloped under ‘Khurda Model of Redevelopment’ | Khurda Station – located in Odisha
- [HQs of Indian Railways – New Delhi](#) | [Chairman & CEO – Anil Kumar Lahoti](#)

**656.** On December 27, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) gave its approval to the Uttar Pradesh government to change the name of Gorakhpur district’s ‘Mundera Baazar’ municipal council to ‘Chauri Chaura’ and Deoria district’s ‘Telia Afghan’ village to ‘Telia Shukla’. A ‘no-objection’ certificate has also been provided to the Uttar Pradesh government allowing it to change the name. It gives the approval to change of name of any place after taking no objections from the Ministry of Railways, Department of Posts and Survey of India. These organisations have to confirm that there is no such city, town or village in their records with a name similar to the proposed one. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Approval given by MHA to UP government for the following name change:
  - Gorakhpur district’s ‘Mundera Baazar’ municipal council – renamed to ‘Chauri Chaura’
  - Deoria district’s ‘Telia Afghan’ village – renamed to ‘Telia Shukla’
- [UP: Capital – Lucknow](#) | [CM – Yogi Adityanath](#) | [Governor – Anandiben Patel](#)

**657.** In December 2022, Uttar Pradesh government approved the “UP Warehousing and Logistics Policy 2022”. The move will help it become a “USD 1-trillion Economy”. The policy’s approval came ahead of the “Global Investors’ Summit” scheduled to be held in Lucknow in February 2023. The objective of this policy is to create a strong transport infrastructure network, upgrade and improve the existing warehousing and logistics infrastructure. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Uttar Pradesh – approved the “UP Warehousing and Logistics Policy 2022”
- “Global Investors’ Summit” – held in Lucknow
- [UP: Capital – Lucknow](#) | [CM – Yogi Adityanath](#) | [Governor – Anandiben Patel](#)

**658.** On December 30, West Bengal got its first Vande Bharat Express which was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Kolkata’s busiest station Howrah. The final destination is New Jalpaiguri station. The new train will reduce travel time between Siliguri and Kolkata significantly. The new 16-coach train, which features modern passenger facilities, will take around 7.5 hours to reach its destination. It is the 7<sup>th</sup> Vande Bharat Express that will be running in India. The last Vande Bharat Express was inaugurated by PM Modi on the Nagpur-Bilaspur route in early December. In the Union Budget for 2022, Finance Minister Sitharaman said that the government would build 400 more Vande Bharat trains in the next three years. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- PM Narendra Modi – inaugurated East India’s 1<sup>st</sup> Vande Bharat Express train at Howrah station, Kolkata, West Bengal
- This 7<sup>th</sup> Vande Bharat Express will run between Siliguri & Kolkata
- [West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata](#) | [CM – Mamta Banerjee](#) | [Governor – CV Ananda Bose](#)

**659.** On December 2022, Tamil Nadu Forest Department (TNFD) collaborated with HCL Foundation (HCLF), the CSR arm of HCLTech, for marine and coastal conservation to resolve the ghost net and marine debris problem in the Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park, Tamil Nadu. Gulf of Mannar (GoM), India's first Marine National Park and one of the largest biosphere reserves, is highly affected due to unsustainable fishing practices, dumping of plastics and ghost nets. A three-year action plan and 'Debris-Free Gulf of Mannar' mass awareness campaigns for a larger citizen's action will also be conducted. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Tamil Nadu Forest Dept + HCL Foundation = collaborated for marine and coastal conservation
- They aim to resolve the ghost net & marine debris problem – in the Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park, Tamil Nadu
- 'Debris-Free Gulf of Mannar' mass awareness campaigns – will be conducted in Tamil Nadu
- [Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi](#)

**660.** On December 23, Manipur launched a portal for deputy commissioners and labour commissioners to issue inner line permits (ILP) online. The portal was launched in consultation with the Department of Information Technology, the ILP cell and the home department. The ILPs were earlier issued manually. Temporary permits are given for 30 days, regular permits for 3 months and labour permits for a year. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Manipur – launched a portal to issue Inner Line Permits (ILP) online
- Time allowed for permits: Temporary permits – 30 days | Regular permits – 3 months | Labour permits – 1 year
- [Manipur: Capital – Imphal | CM – N. Biren Singh | Governor – La. Ganesan](#)

**661.** On December 28, Hyderabad-based drone-tech startup Marut Drones' "AG 365" agricopter has received 'Type Certificate' approval from Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). It has also received remote pilot training organisation (RPTO) approvals from DGCA. 'AG 365' is India's first Multi-utility Agriculture Medium Category Drone to receive these certificate. Recently on December 24, Garuda Aerospace's indigenously-designed 'Kisan Drones' became India's first drone start-up to get these approvals. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- "AG 365" agricopter of Marut Drones (Hyderabad) – received 'Type Certificate' approval from DGCA
- 'AG 365' is India's first Multi-utility Agriculture Medium Category Drone to receive these certificate

**662.** On December 25, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar addressed the public at the state-level 'Good Governance Day' function in Panchkula. During the function, he mentioned that families with annual incomes up to 1,80,000 are being brought under the BPL family and around 29 lakh cards will be made in this regard. Notably, under the 'Chirayu Yojana', 29 lakh families shall be given health insurance. Health checkups of about 1.25 crore people will be done under the 'Nirogi Haryana Yojana'. Moreover, Haryana government announced to celebrate 2023 as "Antyodaya Arogya Varsh". [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Haryana Govt – to celebrate 2023 as "Antyodaya Arogya Varsh"
- 29 lakh families will be given health insurance under 'Chirayu Yojana' in Haryana
- Health checkups of about 1.25 crore people will be done under the 'Nirogi Haryana Yojana' in Haryana
- [Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Bandaru Dattatraya](#)



**663.** On December 28, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) has been appointed the Nodal Ministry for online gaming, according to the 377<sup>th</sup> amendment to the 'Allocation of Business (AOB) Rules'. Moreover, the Government of India has officially recognized 'e-Sports' as a part of multi-sports events. Department of Sports under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, has been notified as the nodal department for e-sports. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 377<sup>th</sup> amendment to the 'Allocation of Business (AOB) Rules': MeitY is appointed as Nodal Ministry for Online Gaming
- Government officially recognized 'e-Sports' as a part of multi-sports events
- Department of Sports – appointed as Nodal department for 'e-Sports'

**664.** On December 24, Indian Railways issued the Letter of Award (LoA) for Manufacturing and Maintenance of 9000 HP Electric Freight Locomotives to Siemens, India. The estimated value of the contract is about Rs 26,000 crore (about 3.2 Billion USD). These High HorsePower (9000 HP) locomotives will be the future workhorse for freight operation on Indian Railways. Siemens, selected as technological partner, will manufacture these locomotives at Dahod and maintain these locomotives at four maintenance depots - Visakhapatnam, Raipur, Kharagpur, Pune for a period of 35 years utilising Railway's Manpower. Siemens India is a subsidiary of Germany-based Siemens AG. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Indian Railways – issued the LoA for Manufacturing & Maintenance of 9000 HP Electric Freight Locomotives to Siemens
- [HQs of Indian Railways – New Delhi](#) | [Chairman & CEO – Anil Kumar Lahoti](#)
- [HQs of Siemens AG – Munich, Germany](#) | [CEO – Roland Busch](#)



## **International Affairs**

**665.** On December 25, India and Russia agreed to stop using the dollar and Euro for bilateral trade settlements, and planned to do all such transactions in rupee and Rouble/Ruble. The decision is taken to address the trade imbalance for a full-fledged transition to national currencies. Currently, India imports five times more from Russia than it sells back. Pavan Kapoor is the India's ambassador to Russia who addressed the Russia-India business dialogue recently. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India + Russia = agreed to stop using the dollar & Euro for bilateral trade settlements
- India's ambassador to Russia – Pavan Kapoor
- [Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble](#) | [PM – Mikhail Mishustin](#) | [President – Vladimir Putin](#)

**666.** On December 24, Taliban government ordered all foreign and domestic non-governmental groups in Afghanistan to suspend employing women, allegedly because some female employees didn't wear the Islamic headscarf or hijab correctly. Moreover, The Taliban rulers banned female students from attending universities effective immediately. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Taliban government (Afghanistan) – banned women to work in foreign & domestic NGOs
- Taliban – banned female students from attending universities
- [Afghanistan – Kabul – Afghani](#) | [Care taker President – Amrullah Saleh](#) | [Interim PM – Mullah Hasan Akhund](#)

# **Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs**

**667.** On December 26, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has expanded two of its committees - High Powered Steering Committee on Cyber Security (HPSC-CS) and Information Systems Security Committee (ISSC), in a bid to strengthen cyber security frameworks and cyber resilience requirements. The HPSC-CS has been expanded to 8 members from 6 earlier. It will continue to be chaired by Navin Kumar Singh, DG at National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC). The ISSC has been expanded to 7 members, chaired by H. Krishnamurthy, Professor at IISc, Bengaluru. The move came at a time when Central Depository Services Ltd (CDSL) faced cyber security issues in November. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- SEBI expanded two of its committees:
  - High Powered Steering Committee on Cyber Security (chaired by Navin Kumar Singh) – to 8 members
  - Information Systems Security Committee (chaired by H. Krishnamurthy) – to 7 members
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Madhabi Puri Buch | Established in – 1992

**668.** On December 26, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) conducted the “Financial Literacy and Inclusion Survey” to evaluate digital banking awareness and knowledge among the rural and urban population across. The survey was based on 3 parameters namely, Financial Knowledge, Attitude, and Behaviour. Of the total score of 21, the average urban and rural scores were 11.7. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- RBI – conducted the “Financial Literacy and Inclusion Survey”
- Average urban & rural scores were 11.7 (of the total score of 21)
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established on – 1st April, 1935
- Total Deputy Governors (4) – Mahesh Kumar Jain | T. Rabi Sankar | Michael D. Patra | M. Rajeshwar Rao

# **Defence Affairs**

**669.** On December 25, Defence Ministry gave nod to procure 120 ‘Pralay’ ballistic missiles for the armed forces that are likely to be deployed along India’s border areas along Pakistan and China. In December 2021, The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted the maiden flight test of the indigenously developed surface-to-surface Pralay missile. Pralay is capable of striking and destroying targets in the range of 150-500 km, and can also be used in the night to attack enemy’s targets. The Pralay missile has an accuracy of 10 metres and has a speed of around 2,000 km per hour, and is equipped with an infrared or thermal scanner. The missile would be provided to the Air Force and the Navy. In the missiles of similar category, while China has Dongfeng-12 missiles, Pakistan possesses Ghaznavi, M-11 and Shaheen missiles. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Defence Ministry – approved to procure indigenously developed 120 ‘Pralay’ ballistic missiles for armed forces
- DRDO – successfully conducted the maiden flight test of surface-to-surface Pralay missile in December 2021
- Pralay missile: Range –150-500 km | Accuracy – 10 metres | Speed – 2,000 kmph & Equipped with infrared scanner
- Ministry of Defence: Rajnath Singh | Constituency – Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Defence: Ajay Bhatt





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# Sports & Games

**670.** On December 29, Rajasthan's first female bodybuilder Priya Singh Meghwal has won a Gold medal in the 39<sup>th</sup> International Women's Bodybuilding Competition held in Thailand. Her next targets are Universiade (International multi-sports events) and the 2024 Olympics to be held in Paris, France. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Priya Singh Meghwal (Rajasthan) – won Gold in the 39<sup>th</sup> 'International Women's Bodybuilding Competition' in Thailand
- [Thailand – Bangkok – Thai Baht](#) | [PM – Prayut Chan-o-cha](#)

**671.** On December 29, GM Magnus Carlsen claimed his 4<sup>th</sup> world rapid chess crown, by defeating Germany's GM Vincent Keymer in the "2022 FIDE World Rapid Chess Championship" held in Almaty, Kazakhstan. China's GM Tan Zhongyi won the Gold in "2022 World Women's Rapid Championship", by defeating Dinara Sadakassova of Kazakhstan. India's Women GM Savitha Shri won the Bronze. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Magnus Carlsen (Norway) – won Gold in the "2022 FIDE World Rapid Chess Championship" (defeating - Vincent Keymer)
- Tan Zhongyi (China) – won Gold in the "2022 World Women's Rapid Championship" (defeating - Dinara Sadakassova)
- India's Women GM Savitha Shri – won Bronze in "2022 World Women's Rapid Championship" held in Kazakhstan

**672.** Italy will host the "Tour de France", a bicycle race, for the first time in 2024. Italy will host the first three stages of the 2024 race, which will end on July 21 in Nice, France. It will be the first time since 1905 that the finish is not the French capital. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Italy – will host the "Tour de France", a bicycle race, for the first time in 2024
- [Italy – Rome – Euro](#) | [President – Sergio Mattarella](#) | [PM – Giorgia Meloni](#)

**673.** In December 2022, the Railways team topped the medals tally with 10 medals (5 golds, 3 silvers and 2 bronze) at the "6<sup>th</sup> Elite Women's National Boxing Championships 2022" held in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. Madhya Pradesh & Haryana claimed second and third position, respectively. The gold medalists at the championship include - Manju Rani (48kg), Nikhat Zareen (50kg), Sakshi (52kg), Shiksha (54kg), Manisha (57kg), Poonam (60kg), Shashi Chopra (63kg), Manju Bamoria (66kg), Sanamacha Chanu (70kg), Lovlina Borgohain (75kg), Saweety Boora (81kg), and Nupur (81kg+). [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- "6<sup>th</sup> Elite Women's National Boxing Championships 2022" – held in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
- Railways team – topped the medals tally with 10 medals (5 Golds, 3 Silvers & 2 Bronze) | 2<sup>nd</sup> – MP, 3<sup>rd</sup> – Haryana

**674.** On December 26, Indian archers dominated the "Asia Cup 2022" stage 3 held in Sharjah, UAE from December 20 to 25 and topped the medals tally at the continental meet with 10 medals - 5 golds, 3 silvers & 2 bronze. Seven of India's 10 medals were won by compound archers. The gold winners include - Women's team compound (Pragati, Aditi Gopichand Swami, Aishwarya Sharma), Men's team compound (Priyansh, Ojas Pravin Deotale, Manav Ganeshrao Jadhao), and 3 Men's team recurve - Mrinal Chauhan, Akash, & Parth Sushant Salunke. [{Read more}](#)





**Key Points:**

- Indian archers – topped the medals tally at “Asia Cup 2022” stage 3 held in Sharjah, UAE (5 golds, 3 silvers & 2 bronze)
- Gold Winners (5):
  - Women’s team compound (Pragati, Aditi Gopichand Swami, Aishwarya Sharma)
  - Men’s team compound (Priyansh, Ojas Pravin Deotale, Manav Ganeshrao Jadhao)
  - Mrinal Chauhan
  - Akash
  - Parth Sushant Salunke

## **Persons in News**

**675.** On December 28, Indian scientist Dr Mahima Swamy, who hails from Bengaluru, has been chosen to join the prestigious “European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO) Young Investigator Network”, recognising her as one of the top talents in biology in Europe. A key part of her work is the study of inflammatory bowel diseases and how these can be prompted by the body’s immune system attacking the gut lining in the absence of infection. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Dr Mahima Swamy (Indian Scientist from Bengaluru) – chosen to join the “EMBO Young Investigator Network”



## **Science & Technology**

**676.** On December 27, a rare and potentially deadly brain-eating amoeba has been identified in South Korea for the first time. The brain-eating amoeba, known as ‘Naegleria Fowleri’, is typically found in warm freshwater and soil, and can cause a rare and severe infection known as primary amebic meningoencephalitis (PAM). Though it is a rare disease and it is difficult to estimate the exact number of cases, there have been 143 reported cases in the United States from 1962 to 2018. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ‘Naegleria Fowleri’, a rare brain-eating amoeba – identified in South Korea for the first time
- South Korea – Seoul – Korean Republic won | President – Yoon Suk-yeol

**677.** On December 27, IIT Roorkee in collaboration with All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi have developed ‘SwasthGarbh’ smartphone app to provide antenatal care and real-time medical support to pregnant women. The app further aims to benefit women in rural areas and those who do not have easy access to doctors. It can be downloaded from Google Play Store. A research paper highlighting the benefits of SwasthGarbh app has also been published in peer-reviewed IEEE Journal of Biomedical and Health Informatics. The app will come handy during pandemic situations when patients are afraid to visit hospitals due to the risk of catching coronavirus infection, or are unable to do so due to country-wide lockdowns or movement restrictions. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IIT Roorkee + AIIMS Delhi – developed ‘SwasthGarbh’ app to provide real-time medical support to pregnant women
- Director of IIT Roorkee – Ajit K. Chaturvedi

**678.** On December 26, IIT Guwahati and IIT Bombay collaborated with European universities for 'LOTUS' project to build a low-cost technology to check the quality of potable and other water in India. The LOTUS Indo-European project, an initiative of the Department of Science and Technology and the European Commission. The core of the LOTUS sensor is a chip with carbon nanotube-based sensing elements that are capable of measuring multiple quality parameters such as Total Dissolved Solids (TDS), Potential of Hydrogen (pH), chlorine, and arsenic. For the commercial production of the sensor for the Indian market, IIT Guwahati is collaborating with Linxens India Private Limited and Hydroscope Technology Private Limited, a start-up firm. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IIT Guwahati + IIT Bombay + European universities = building sensor to check Indian water quality under project 'LOTUS'
- IIT Guwahati + Linxens India Pvt Ltd + Hydroscope Technology Pvt Ltd = partnered for commercial production of sensor
- [Director of IIT Guwahati – Dr. T. G. Sitharam](#)
- [Director of IIT Bombay – Prof. Subhasis Chaudhuri](#)

## **Appointments & Resignations**

**679.** On December 29, G. Kamala Vardhana Rao was appointed as the chief executive officer (CEO) of the Food Safety & Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). Rao, a 1990 batch IAS officer from Kerala cadre, was previously the Managing Director of the Indian Tourism Development Corporation. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- G. Kamala Vardhana Rao – appointed as the CEO of FSSAI
- [HQs of FSSAI – New Delhi](#) | [Chairperson – Rita Teaotia](#) | [CEO – Arun Singhal](#)

**680.** On December 27, The Reserve Bank of India has approved the re-appointment of Baskar Babu Ramachandran as the MD & CEO of Suryoday Small Finance Bank for three years effective January 23, 2023. He is also the founder of Suryoday SFB. The Bank was originally incorporated as Suryoday Micro Finance Pvt Ltd at Chennai in 2008 and subsequently got converted into a public limited company as Suryoday Micro Finance Ltd in 2015. The SFB commenced its business with effect from January 23, 2017. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Baskar Babu Ramachandran – reappointed as the MD & CEO of Suryoday SFB
- Suryoday SFB was originally incorporated as 'Suryoday Micro Finance Pvt Ltd' at Chennai in 2008
- [HQs of Suryoday SFB – Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra](#) | [CEO – Baskar Babu Ramachandra](#)

**681.** On December 26, the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru (IISc) will be the secretariat for the 'Science 20 (S20)', which is one of the several groups of the G20. The G20 is being presided over by India in 2023 and the theme of the S20 for 2023 is "Disruptive Science for Innovative and Sustainable Development". Within this broad theme, deliberations will be held in different parts of India over the course of the year. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IISc, Bengaluru – will be the secretariat for the 'Science 20 (S20)', a part of G20
- Theme of the S20 for 2023 – "Disruptive Science for Innovative and Sustainable Development"

**682.** On December 27, Amway India, one of the country's leading FMCG Direct-Selling companies, launched its campaign, 'Passion ko Do Poshan' with Olympian Saikhom Mirabai Chanu. The campaign reiterates the brand's continuous efforts towards focusing on fueling one's passion with adequate nutrition support to achieve excellence, in line with its commitment to helping people live better, healthier lives through a powerful and inspiring digital film featuring its brand ambassador Mirabai Chanu. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Amway India – launched its campaign 'Passion ko Do Poshan'
- Saikhom Mirabai Chanu – named as the brand ambassador of the campaign

**683.** On December 26, Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' was sworn-in as the Prime Minister of Nepal for a third time by President Bidya Devi Bhandari. Rabi Lamichhane, Chief of the Rastriya Swatantra, Bishnu Poidel (UML) and Narayankaji Shrestha (Maoist Centre) have been inducted as the Deputy Prime Minister, and Minister with Home, Finance and Physical infrastructure respectively. Nepal shares a border of over 1,850-km with five Indian states - Sikkim, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' – sworn-in as the Prime Minister of Nepal for 3<sup>rd</sup> time
- Rabi Lamichhane – appointed as the Deputy Prime Minister
- Nepal – shares a border of over 1,850-km with 5 Indian states: Sikkim, West Bengal, Bihar, UP & Uttarakhand
- [Nepal – Kathmandu – Nepalese Rupee](#) | [President – Bidhya Devi Bhandari](#) | [PM – Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda'](#)

**684.** On December 27, Anil Kumar Lahoti has been appointed as the new chairman and CEO of the Railway Board. He replaced VK Tripathi. He has also served as the divisional railway manager (DRM) at the Lucknow division of Northern Railway. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Anil Kumar Lahoti – appointed as new chairman & CEO of Railway Board (replacing - VK Tripathi)
- [HQs of Indian Railways – New Delhi](#) | [Chairman & CEO – Anil Kumar Lahoti](#)

**685.** On December 26, Senior bureaucrat Santosh Kumar Yadav appointed as the Chairman of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). He is currently additional secretary in the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education. Moreover, Subhasish Panda has been appointed as Delhi Development Authority's (DDA) Vice Chairman. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Santosh Kumar Yadav – appointed as the chairman of NHAI
- [HQs of NHAI – New Delhi](#) | [Chairman – Santosh Kumar Yadav](#) | [Founded in – 1988](#)

## **Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes**

**686.** On December 2022, Vishal Mittal, a student at the University of Canberra (UC), Australia, was recognised as an Ambassador of Change, for his outstanding work as a Student Mentor and contribution to the UC community. Total 9 Ambassadors of Change were recognised for their work in a variety of areas. In 2022, the University of Canberra was ranked number one in the world for reducing inequalities in the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Vishal Mittal (Student at University of Canberra, Australia) – recognised as an ‘Ambassador of Change’
- Total 9 Ambassadors of Change were recognised for their work in a variety of areas
- University of Canberra – ranked No. 1 in the world for reducing inequalities as per the ‘THE Impact Rankings 2022’

**687.** On December 28, Rajasthan government’s Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) has been honoured with the “Effective Government Communication Award” for taking public welfare schemes through digital media to the general public and the beneficiaries. The award was given by the Public Relations Society of India (PSRI) at the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of PSRI in Bhopal. The department has done innovations like the Information e-Bulletin, Sujus Video Bulletin, and Sujus Awaaz (Podcast). Moreover, a ‘Sujus’ Mobile App has also been launched by the department. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Rajasthan – received the “Effective Government Communication Award” from Public Relations Society of India
- ‘Sujus’ Mobile App – is launched by Rajasthan Govt
- [Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur](#) | [CM – Ashok Gehlot](#) | [Governor – Kalraj Mishra](#)

**688.** On December 26, Noted Cuban social worker and human rights advocate Aleida Guevara has been selected for the first “Gouri Amma Award” instituted by the Kerala-based K. R. Gouri Amma Foundation. Dr. Aleida is also an active member of the Cuban Medical Mission that works to improve the health profile of children in Latin America. The award comprising \$3,000, a statuette and citation will be given away by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan in January 2023. K. R. Gouri (commonly known as Gouri Amma) was an Indian politician from Alappuzha in central Kerala. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Aleida Guevara (Cuba) – selected for the first “Gouri Amma Award” instituted by K. R. Gouri Amma Foundation (Kerala)
- [Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram](#) | [CM – Pinarayi Vijayan](#) | [Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan](#)

**689.** On December 24, 9<sup>th</sup> Atal Samman Samaroh was organized at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister of the country Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Many personalities who played an important role in various fields were honored. Prabhu Chandra Mishra received “Atal Anveshi Shikhar Samman” for his excellence in field of science & research. His area of work is StemCell & Regenerative Medicine in infertility especially when IVF also fails. Prabhu Mishra is the President of International Association of StemCell & Regenerative Medicine and ace Regenerative Medicine scientist. He also wrote an interesting book on stemcells, called StemCell & Regenerative Medicine in infertility. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 9<sup>th</sup> Atal Samman Samaroh – organized at Vigyan Bhawan on birth anniversary of Atal Bihari Vajpayee
- Prabhu Chandra Mishra – received “Atal Anveshi Shikhar Samman” for his excellence in field of science & research
- “StemCell & Regenerative Medicine in infertility” book – written by Prabhu Chandra Mishra

**690.** IIT Madras’ BS in Data Science and Applications won a silver prize in the ‘Best Online Program’ category in the Wharton-QS Reimagine Education Awards, often referred to as ‘the Oscars of Education’. It was awarded for providing a hybrid mode of teaching/ learning facilities, utilising multimedia and a combination of electronic and traditional educational models. Additionally, NPTEL (National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning), a joint initiative of IITs and IISc, won the Gold in the ‘Lifelong Learning category’. NPTEL is India’s largest technical dissemination program. It is a consortium of seven IITs and IISc, and IIT Madras leads this effort. The project is funded by the Ministry of Education, Government of India, and aims to enhance the quality of engineering education in India by providing free online courses and video lectures. [{Read more}](#)





### Key Points:

- IIT Madras' courses – won silver prize in 'Best Online Program' category at "Wharton-QS Reimagine Education Awards"
- These awards are often referred to as – 'The Oscars of Education'
- 'NPTEL', a joint initiative of IITs & IISc – won Gold prize in the 'Lifelong Learning' category
- [Director of IIT Madras – V. Kamakoti](#)

**691.** On December 22, Antim Panghal, an Indian female wrestler, nominated for the honour of United World Wrestling 2022 Rising Star of the Year. She won India's first-ever gold medal in the World U20 Wrestling Championships 2022 in August 2022. In addition to Antim Panghal, the five women nominated for the United World Wrestling 2022 Rising Star of the Year award include Nonoka Ozaki of Japan, Amit Elor of the United States, Emma Malmgren of Sweden, and Andreea Ana of Romania. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Antim Panghal (Haryana - Wrestler) – nominated for the "United World Wrestling 2022 Rising Star of the Year"
- 5 other nominated women: Nonoka Ozaki (Japan), Amit Elor (US), Emma Malmgren (Sweden) & Andreea Ana (Romania)
- [Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Bandaru Dattatraya](#)

## Important Days & Dates

**692.** The 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of International Day of Epidemic Preparedness was marked on December 27, 2022. The day was first observed in 2020. This day is marked as preparedness for pandemic has always been an important aspect for health authorities across the globe. The day was founded by a resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly on December 7, 2020. The day was established by the UN General Assembly to highlight the need for preparedness, cooperation, and epidemic prevention. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- December 27 – 3<sup>rd</sup> International Day of Epidemic Preparedness (since 2020)

## Ranks, Reports & Surveys

**693.** According to Taste Atlas Awards, India ranks 5<sup>th</sup> on the list of "Best Cuisines in the World for 2022". The ranking is based on audience votes for ingredients, dishes and beverages. Italy topped the list, followed by Greece & Spain. According to Taste Atlas, India has received 4.54 points. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- "Best Cuisines in the World for 2022" – by Taste Atlas Awards
- India – ranked 5<sup>th</sup> | 1<sup>st</sup> – Italy, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Greece, 3<sup>rd</sup> – Spain

**694.** In December 2022, the "World Economic League Table (WELT) 2023" was released by the UK-based Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR). In the WELT 2022, India was ranked at 5<sup>th</sup> place. By 2035, India is forecast to become the world's 3<sup>rd</sup> \$10 trillion dollar economy. The USA has topped the WELT 2022 followed by China & Japan. India had an estimated PPP-adjusted GDP per capita of \$8,293 in 2022, classifying it as a lower middle-income country. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- “World Economic League Table (WELT) 2023” – released by CEBR (UK)
- WELT 2022: 1<sup>st</sup> – USA, 2<sup>nd</sup> – China, 3<sup>rd</sup> – Japan, 4<sup>th</sup> – Germany, 5<sup>th</sup> – India
- As per WELT 2023: India is forecast to become the world’s 3<sup>rd</sup> \$10 trillion dollar economy by 2035

**695.** The “State of the World’s Midwifery 2022: East and Southern Africa” was released by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and World Health Organization (WHO) in December 2022. The report included data from all 23 countries in the UNFPA East and Southern Africa (ESA) region. In East and Southern Africa (ESA), universal coverage of midwife-delivered interventions could save 1.2 million lives per year by 2035, according to the new report. A strong midwifery workforce is essential to the success of UNFPA strategies for improving sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn and adolescent health (SRMNAH). SRMNAH is an essential component of UN-mandated Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Of the 23 ESA countries, 20 countries reported, there are 1,46,000 midwives, giving a density of 2.5 midwives per 10,000 population. The global average of midwives is 4.4 per 10,000. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- “State of the World’s Midwifery 2022: East and Southern Africa” – released by WHO + UNFPA
- Universal coverage of midwife-delivered interventions could save 1.2 million lives per year by 2035 in ESA region
- Average of midwives in 20 reporting countries – 2.5 midwives per 10,000 population (global average - 4.4 per 10,000)
- HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194 | Founded in – 1948
- HQs of UNFPA – New York, US | Executive Director – Natalia Kanem

## Amount & Agreements

**696.** On December 28, the Government of India and Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$125 million loan to develop climate-resilient sewage collection and treatment, and drainage and water supply systems in 3 cities of Tamil Nadu - Coimbatore, Madurai & Thoothukudi. This is the third & last tranche of \$500 million Multi-tranche Financing Facility (MFF) for the “Tamil Nadu Urban Flagship Investment Program” which was approved by ADB in 2018. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- GoI + ADB = \$125 million loan deal (3<sup>rd</sup> tranche) to improve urban services in Coimbatore, Madurai & Thoothukudi (TN)
- “Tamil Nadu Urban Flagship Investment Program” (\$500 million) – approved by ADB in 2018
- HQs of ADB – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Members – 68 | Established in – 1966
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi

## Ordinance, Bills & Acts

**697.** On December 23, Uttarakhand governor Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Gurmit Singh approved Uttarakhand Freedom of Religion (Amendment) Act. According to the amended bill, conversion by force, greed or fraud will be a crime in the State. Those found guilty will get imprisoned for up to 10 years. In the new law, a fine of ₹50,000 has been made compulsory. Anyone found guilty of conversion will have to pay up to ₹5 lakh to the victim. This law was made in Uttarakhand in 2018. There was a provision of punishment of one to five years for conversion by force or inducement. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Gurmit Singh (Uttarakhand Governor) – approved ‘Uttarakhand Freedom of Religion (Amendment) Act’
- The amended bill will treat conversion by force, greed or fraud as a crime in the State
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Pushkar Singh Dhami | Governor – Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh

## **MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships**

**698.** In December 27, Ministry of Power signed an MoU with Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO), Ministry of Defence, for implementation of ‘Early Warning System’ for Vulnerable Hydro Projects/Power Stations. Ministry of Power and DRDO will jointly work towards developing suitable mitigation measures against avalanches, landslides, glaciers, glacial lakes and other geo-hazards. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ministry of Power + DRDO = an MoU to implement ‘Early Warning System’ for Vulnerable Hydro Projects/Power Stations
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – Samir V. Kamat | Established in – 1958
- Ministry of Power and Ministry New & Renewable Energy: Raj Kumar Singh | Constituency – Arrah, Bihar
- MoS in Ministry of Power: Krishan Pal Gurjar

**699.** On December 27, Piyush Goyal launched a host of new initiatives, including the ‘right to repair portal’ and an NTH mobile app and opened new premises of National Consumer Helpline centre in Delhi. The Consumer Affairs Department and IIT (BHU), Varanasi has signed an MoU and launched a capacity building programme of consumer commissions. On the ‘right to repair’ portal, manufacturers will share the manual of product details with customers so that they can either repair by self, by third parties, rather than depend on original manufacturers. Initially, mobile phones, electronic, consumer durables, automobile and farming equipment will be covered. There will be a ramp up in the disposal of pending cases and elimination of the backlog. Notably, under the Consumer Protection law, a complaint is required to be disposed of within 90 days of its filing and within 150 days wherever expert evidence is required to be taken. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Piyush Goyal launched some new initiatives:
  - “Right to repair” portal & an NTH mobile app
  - New premises of National Consumer Helpline centre in Delhi
- Consumer Affairs Department + IIT BHU = an MoU to launch a capacity building programme of consumer commissions

**700.** On December 28, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) signed an MoU with the Central TB Division (CTD) under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoH&FW), and the states of Uttar Pradesh and Chhattisgarh to undertake intensified TB elimination project. The MoU is in line with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi’s vision to end Tuberculosis in India by 2025, five years ahead of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG). With this pathbreaking foray, IndianOil has emerged as the first corporate to implement a large-scale Active Case Finding campaign (ACF) in all 75 districts of Uttar Pradesh. IndianOil is also introducing a cost-effective, diagnostic machine, “Truenat”, which will improve access and availability of TB diagnostic services in remote tribal areas. TB is considered the world’s top infectious killer and infects about 10 million people yearly, killing almost 1.5 million and India has about one-fourth of the global TB cases annually. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IOCL + Central TB Division + UP + Chhattisgarh = an MoU to undertake intensified TB elimination project
- Narendra Modi’s vision to end Tuberculosis in India by 2025 | SDG’s target for the same – by 2030
- IOCL – introduced a cost-effective, diagnostic machine, “Truenat” for TB diagnostic services in remote tribal areas
- HQs of IOCL – New Delhi | Chairperson – Shrikant Madhav Vaidya | Founded in – 1959





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