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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.
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Adding up all these, you spend nearly **4 hours** daily or 1/6th of your day doing a whole lot of **NOTHING!** Over the course of a week that amounts to over **28 hours** of wasted time, and more than **1460 hours** or **52,560,000 seconds** annually!! Scary! Isn't it?

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National & States Affairs

151. India's 1st permanent ramp for persons with disability was inaugurated at Marina beach, Chennai, Tamil Nadu. The ramp is a length of 263-metres and a breadth of 3-metres and is a mix of several categories of wood including the "Brazilian wood,". It has been built at a cost of Rs 1.14 Cr. The facility was established by the Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India's 1st permanent ramp for persons with disability – inaugurated at Marina beach, Chennai, TN
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi

152. On December 8, Assam Cabinet approved a bill to create a "Safai Karamchari Commission" and decisions related to providing financial benefits to pregnant women, monitoring drug prices, protecting Safai Karmacharis' rights and filling up vacancies in the Forest Department were also taken in the meeting. For the first time in the history of Assam, the State Cabinet led by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma held the meeting at the historic Gandhi Mandap in Guwahati. The Assam Cabinet also renamed the 'Dergaon Police Academy' as 'Lachit Barphukan Police Academy'. Assam Power Distribution Corporation Ltd (APDCL) and ONGC will jointly establish a 250 MW Solar Power Project for which the state cabinet has approved Rs 285 crore to APDCL. Moreover, the CM Himanta Biswa Sarma inaugurated the "Nalbari Science Centre and Planetarium", Assam's first 3D and fourth planetarium. Besides, the CM also introduced a development initiative of the Assam government called "Bikashar Babe Eta Poshek". Assam government introduced a scheme under which all female students pursuing post-graduate courses in the state will be provided a yearly stipend of Rs 10,000 each. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Assam – approved a bill to create a "Safai Karamchari Commission"
- Assam – renamed the 'Dergaon Police Academy' as 'Lachit Barphukan Police Academy'
- Assam CM – inaugurated the "Nalbari Science Centre and Planetarium", Assam's first 3D and fourth planetarium
- Assam – introduced a development initiative of the state government called "Bikashar Babe Eta Poshek"
- Assam – introduced a scheme under which all female students pursuing PG courses will be provided Rs 10,000/year
- APDCL + ONGC = will jointly establish a 250 MW Solar Power Project
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

153. On December 6, Union Minister Anurag Thakur launched India's first "e-learning platform for Drone Skilling & Learning" at Agni College of Technology, Chennai, Tamil Nadu. Along with the launch of the virtual learning platform, the Union Minister also launched the first 1000 of the planned Drone Centre of Excellence at Garuda Aerospace in Chennai. The minister also flagged off "Operation 777" - Garuda Aerospace's Drone Yatra, which has the aim to educate and demonstrate the efficacy of drones for different agricultural uses across 777 districts of India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Anurag Thakur launched:
 - India's first "e-learning platform for Drone Skilling & Learning" in Chennai
 - First 1000 of the planned Drone Centre of Excellence at Garuda Aerospace in Chennai
 - "Operation 777" - Garuda Aerospace's Drone Yatra in Chennai
- Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports: Anurag Singh Thakur | Constituency – Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports: Nisith Pramanik



154. On December 7, Google's subsidiary, Jigsaw, launched a new 'Anti-misinformation Project' in India, aimed at preventing misleading information that has been blamed for inciting violence. The initiative will use 'prebunking' videos, designed to counter false claims before they become widespread. Google recently conducted an experiment in Europe where it sought to counter anti-refugee narratives online in the wake of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jigsaw (Google's subsidiary) – launched a new 'Anti-misinformation Project' in India
- HQs of Google – California, US | CEO – Sundar Pichai | Founded in – 1998

155. On December 6, Bharti Airtel, a telecom giant, has introduced a new range of international roaming plans for postpaid as well as prepaid users through 'World Pass'. According to the company, these latest plans will be functional across 184 countries. As per the telco, the Airtel World Pass is one pack for all the travel needs. Meanwhile, Bharti Airtel Ltd and Meta Platforms Inc. will jointly invest in extending the Facebook parent's subsea cable infrastructure to India and integrate WhatsApp as a communications platform as a service (CPaaS) in the Indian telecom operator's offering to enterprises. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bharti Airtel – introduced a new range of international roaming plans for postpaid/prepaid users through 'World Pass'
- HQs of Bharti Airtel – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Gopal Vittal | Chairman – Sunil Bharti Mittal

International Affairs

156. In December 2022, World Bank approved \$250 million in financing to help Bangladesh strengthen Environmental Management and promote Private Sector participation in Green Investment. The Bangladesh Environmental Sustainability and Transformation (BEST) Project will support the Department of Environment to strengthen its technical and administrative capacity. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- World Bank – approved \$250 million in financing to help Bangladesh strengthen Environmental Management and promote Private Sector participation in Green Investment
- BEST project – Bangladesh Environmental Sustainability and Transformation
- HQs of World Bank – Washington D.C., US | Members – 189 | President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid

157. The Israeli Navy conducted a successful test of a long-range interceptor missile against an 'advanced' cruise missile. The LRAD missile, part of the Barak MX defense system, is developed by the Israeli Aerospace Industries and the Defense Ministry's research and development division, known by the Hebrew acronym MAFAT. The missile is capable of foiling a myriad of aerial threats including planes, UAVs, cruise missiles, unguided rockets, and coast-to-sea missiles. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Israeli Navy – successful tested 'LRAD', a long-range interceptor missile against an advanced cruise missile
- LRAD missile – is part of 'Barak MX' defense system | LRAD – Long-Range Acoustic Device
- Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel | President – Isaac Herzog | PM – Benjamin Netanyahu



Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

158. The National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, released the estimates of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for the second quarter (July-September) of 2022-23. Real GDP or GDP at Constant (2011-12) Prices in Q2 2022-23 is estimated at ₹38.17 lakh Cr, as against ₹35.89 lakh Cr in Q2 2021-22, showing a growth of 6.3% as compared to 8.4% in Q2 2021-22. Nominal GDP or GDP at Current Prices in Q2 2022-23 is estimated at ₹65.31 lakh Cr, as against ₹56.20 lakh Cr in Q2 2021-22, showing a growth of 16.2% as compared to 19% in Q2 2021-22. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NSO – released the ‘Estimates of GDP for Q2 (July-September) of 2022-23’
- Real GDP – estimated at ₹38.17 lakh Cr against ₹35.89 lakh Cr in Q2 2021-22 (6.3% growth in Q2 FY 23)
- Nominal GDP – estimated at ₹65.31 lakh Cr against ₹56.20 lakh Cr in Q2 2021-22 (16.2% growth in Q2 FY 23)
- HQs of NSO – New Delhi | Chairperson – Bimal Kumar Roy

159. Tamilnad Mercantile Bank (TMB) has been appointed as an ‘agency bank’ by the Reserve Bank of India and authorised to undertake government business on behalf of the RBI. TMB is one of the oldest private sector banks with a history of over 100 years, having been established in 1921 as Nadar Bank. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tamilnad Mercantile Bank (TMB) – appointed as an ‘Agency Bank’ by the RBI
- HQs of TMB – Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu | CEO – Krishnan Sankarasubramaniam

160. Fino Payments Bank has tied up with Protean eGov Technologies (formerly NSDL e-Governance Infrastructure Limited) to expand PAN card issuance services in India, especially in rural areas. Fino Payments Bank has become the first payments bank to act as PAN Service Agency (PSA) of Protean and facilitate paperless PAN issuance services. At Fino Bank points people can apply for PAN card through Aadhaar based authentication, without the need to submit or upload any documents. Fino Payments Bank is a subsidiary of Fino Paytech Limited, which is backed by marquee investors like Bharat Petroleum, ICICI group, Blackstone, IFC, Intel and LIC among others. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Fino Payments Bank + Protean eGov Technologies = tied up to expand PAN card issuance services in India
- Fino Payments Bank – first payments bank to act as PAN Service Agency & facilitate paperless PAN issuance services
- HQs of Fino Payments Bank – Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Rishi Gupta
- HQs of Protean eGov Technologies – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Suresh Sethi

161. On December 7, IDFC First Bank and NASSCOM Centre of Excellence (CoE) signed an MoU to grow the innovation ecosystem through an exclusive range of banking solutions. NASSCOM CoE appointed the bank as a preferred banking partner for startups. IDFC FIRST Bank will offer its curated products and solutions for startups including Zero Balance Startup Current Account, uniquely designed Working Capital solutions for pre-profit startups, Business Credit Cards for Startups with step-up credit, a tailored ‘Founder Success Program’ and 40 Beyond Banking offers from its partners. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IDFC First Bank + NASSCOM CoE = an MoU to grow innovation ecosystem through exclusive range of banking solutions
- HQs of IDFC First Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – V. Vaidyanathan | Established in – 2018
- HQs of NASSCOM – New Delhi | President – Debjani Ghosh | Chairman – Krishnan Ramanujam

162. SEBI reduced the timeline for listing of debt securities issued on a private placement basis to three days. Currently, the timeline is four days. The time taken for listing of such securities after the closure of the issue has been reduced to three working days (T+3) as against the present requirement of 4 working days (T+4). The new guidelines would come into effect from January 1, 2023. SEBI has listed out the steps involved in pre-listing and post-listing along with relevant timelines, both through Electronic Book Provider (EBP) platform and otherwise. It has set a timeline of T-2 or T-5 day for such approval under the EBP platform while the same would be prior to T day for non-EBP platform. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SEBI – reduced the timeline for listing of debt securities issued on a private placement basis to 3 days (currently 4 Days)
- The new guidelines would come into effect from – January 1, 2023
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Madhabi Puri Buch | Established in – 1992

163. In December 2022, Asian Development Bank (ADB) and IIFL Home Finance (IIFL HFL) organised ‘Kutumb’ in Delhi discussing scope around green affordable housing in India. They launched ‘Kutumb’ with an event titled ‘Green Affordable Housing Ecosystem’ in Delhi. The event focused on insights based on promotion and propagation of green affordable housing in India, the perspective opportunity of making green affordable housing accessible to all. In February 2022, IIFL HFL signed a \$68 million loan with ADB to improve financial access of affordable green housing for economically weaker section and lower-income groups in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ADB + IIFL HFL = organised ‘Kutumb’ event in Delhi with a title ‘Green Affordable Housing Ecosystem’
- ADB + IIFL HFL = a \$68 million loan agreement (in Feb) to improve financial access of affordable green housing for EWS
- HQs of ADB – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Members – 68 | Established in – 1966
- HQs of IIFL Finance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Nirmal Jain | MD – Venkataraman Rajamani

164. On December 8, the government has invested about ₹5,000 Crore in the ‘SWAMIH Investment Fund I’, which invests in stressed residential projects, marking its final close at ₹15,530 Crore. The fund is sponsored by the Finance Ministry and managed by SBICap Ventures Ltd, a State Bank Group company. SWAMIH is a category II Alternative Investment Fund (AIF). The last-mile financing platform, Special Window for Completion of Construction of Affordable and Mid-Income Housing Projects (SWAMIH I) aims to provide priority debt financing for the completion of stressed, brownfield and RERA registered residential projects. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Government invested about ₹5,000 Cr in the ‘SWAMIH Investment Fund I’, which invests in stressed residential projects
- The fund is managed by – SBICap Ventures Ltd | Sponsored by – Finance Ministry
- HQs of SBICAP Ventures – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Suresh Kozhikote
- Ministry of Finance: Nirmala Sitharaman | Constituency – Karnataka
- MoS in Ministry of Finance: Pankaj Chaudhary & Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad

Defence Affairs

165. In December 2022, Indian Navy and the United States Navy conducted the 7th edition of the “Exercise Sangam” in Goa. It was first held in 1994 and is considered a key military and diplomatic initiative between India and the US. The current edition of the exercise has seen personnel from SEAL Team Five based in San Diego and Indian Navy Marcos from Mumbai-based INS Abhimanyu. The Marine Commando Force was raised in 1987 as the Indian Marine Special Force. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Indian Navy + US Navy = conducted the 7th edition of the “Exercise Sangam” in Goa
- HQs of Indian Navy – Delhi | Chief – Admiral R. Hari Kumar | VC – S. N. Ghormade | Founded in – 26th Jan, 1950
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

Sports & Games

166. In December 2022, Indian national blind cricket team made history by winning the 3rd edition of the “T20 World Cup for the Blind” for the third consecutive time. They beat Bangladesh by an impressive margin of 120 runs at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru. Sunil Ramesh was declared ‘Man of the Match’. The Indian national blind cricket team is affiliated with the Cricket Association for the Blind (CABI), which is independent of BCCI. In blind cricket, there are 11 players in every team, which comprises four B1 players (fully blind), three B2 players (partially blind), and four B3 players (partially sighted). The tournament was held from December 5 to 17, 2022. Former Indian Cricketer Yuvraj Singh was the brand ambassador of the tournament. Australia, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka and India were the participating countries of the World Cup 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Team – won the 3rd “T20 World Cup for the Blind” for the third consecutive time (beating - Bangladesh)
- The tournament was held at M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru | ‘Man of the Match’ – Sunil Ramesh
- Yuvraj Singh was the brand ambassador of the tournament

167. On December 7, Former world champion Mirabai Chanu settled for a Silver medal in the women’s 49kg division at the World Weightlifting Championships 2022 in Bogota, Colombia. Mirabai Chanu lifted a total weight of 200kg (87kg snatch + 113kg clean and jerk) for her second world championships medal. She won the gold in 2017 and finished fourth in the 2019 edition. Jiang Huihua of China won her 3rd World Championships gold medal with a combined lift of 206 kg (93kg+113kg). Tokyo 2020 Olympic champion Hou Zhihui of China settled for bronze for 198kg (89kg+109kg). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mirabai Chanu – won Silver medal in women’s 49kg division at ‘World Weightlifting Championships 2022’ in Colombia
- Gold – Jiang Huihua (China) | Bronze – Hou Zhihui (China)

Persons in News

168. Three Indian-origin women - Dr. Ana Baburamani, Neelima Kadiyala and Dr. Indrani Mukherjee, are among 60 scientists, technologists, engineers and mathematicians who have been selected as “Superstars of STEM” for 2023-2024 by Science & Technology Australia (STA). They will undertake a two-year program in 2023 and 2024 to step into the media spotlight as STEM experts. The Superstars of STEM initiative is supported by STA, which is a peak body in science and technology, representing more than 105,000 scientists and technologists. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 3 Indian-origin women – selected as “Superstars of STEM” for 2023-2024 by Science & Technology Australia (STA)
- These 3 women are: Dr. Ana Baburamani, Neelima Kadiyala and Dr. Indrani Mukherjee
- Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Anthony Albanese



Arts & Cultural Affairs

169. Jammu and Kashmir's first Tribal Winter Festival was held in the Bandipora district. It was organised by the district administration in collaboration with various departments at Ketson. The festival highlighted the customs and traditions of tribals and also assured the development of sports infrastructure in the area to engage the local youth. People from the Kashmiri community, Gujjars and Bakerwals danced together. The 'gatka' was another attraction performed by two tribal communities portraying the fighting spirit of the Gujjars amid all geographic, social and political odds. A skit highlighting the ills of drug abuse was also presented by school children. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- J&K's first 'Tribal Winter Festival' – held in Bandipora district
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

170. The 23rd edition of the Hornbill Festival 2022 was celebrated at Naga Heritage Village Kisama from 1st December to 10th December. The Festival was held at the heritage village of Kisama, about 12 km from Kohima. In 10 days festival, a visitor gets the opportunity to catch a ring side view of all the Naga tribes, their culture and distinctiveness at one place. total of 132 stalls will be set up in Kisama wherein, 100 stalls will be taken up by the Micro Small & Medium Enterprises and 32 temporary stalls. Besides, the daily cultural events, a host of activities such as Hornbill Music Festival, photo fest, fashion shows, adventure sports, Night carnival, Hortiscape etc were lined up in this 10 day festival. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 23rd Hornbill Festival – was celebrated in Naga Heritage Village Kisama, Nagaland
- Nagaland: Capital – Kohima | CM – Neiphiu Rio | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi (addi. charge)

Science & Technology

171. China launched Shenzhou-15, a spacecraft with a three-person crew to its under-construction Tiangong space station. The spaceship carrying the aircraft was launched from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in northwest China. The launch was carried out with a Long March-2F carrier rocket. The crew will stay in orbit for about six months, a period in which the construction of the low-orbit space station is expected to be completed. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- China – launched 'Shenzhou-15' to its under-construction Tiangong space station from – Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre
- The launch was carried out with a Long March-2F carrier rocket
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

172. On December 8, the government of the Union Territory of Ladakh partnered with the Indian Institute of Remote Sensing (IIRS), a unit of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), for developing Spatial Data Infrastructure geoportal "Geo-Ladakh" for UT-Ladakh. The project encompasses spatial database generation (water resources, vegetation and energy potential) using remote sensing, geospatial techniques and the development of a Geo-portal for hosting this database. The project also aims towards training of UT-Ladakh officials on Geospatial techniques and applications. Portal provides geospatial data visualization and analytics for UT-Ladakh, consisting of Spatial viewer, Carbon Neutrality, Geospatial utility mapping and Geo-Tourism. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Ladakh + IIRS (ISRO) = partnered for developing Spatial Data Infrastructure geoportal “Geo-Ladakh” for Ladakh
- The Portal provides Spatial viewer, Carbon Neutrality, Geospatial utility mapping & Geo-Tourism
- Ladakh: Capital – Leh | Lt. Governor – R. K. Mathur
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – S. Somanath | Formed on – August 15, 1969

173. On December 7, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) signed an MoU with Social Alpha to launch “SpaceTech Innovation Network (SpIN)”. SpIN is India’s first dedicated platform for innovation, curation, and venture development for the burgeoning space entrepreneurial ecosystem. The tie-up is a one-of-a-kind public-private collaboration for start-ups and SMEs in the space industry. Social Alpha is a multistage innovation curation and venture development platform for science and technology start-ups. Social Alpha (Foundation in Bengaluru, Karnataka) is a joint initiative of Tata Trust & Indian Government. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ISRO + Social Alpha = an MoU to launch “SpaceTech Innovation Network (SpIN)” India’s first dedicated platform for innovation, curation & venture development
- Social Alpha (Foundation in Bengaluru, Karnataka) – a joint initiative of Tata Trust & Indian Govt
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – S. Somanath | Formed on – August 15, 1969

Appointments & Resignations

174. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) appointed former Indian cricketers Ashok Malhotra and Jatin Paranjape as new members of the Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC). The three-member committee comprises Malhotra, Paranjape and Sulakshana Naik. The Committee also has Sulakshana Naik as its third member, who has played for the Indian women cricket team. Malhotra replaced former India seamer Madan Lal and Paranjape came in place of Rudra Pratap Singh. In November, the BCCI had sacked the entire selection panel headed by Chetan Sharma. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BCCI – appointed Ashok Malhotra & Jatin Paranjape (former Indian cricketers) as new members of CAC
- CAC comprises 3 members | 3rd member – Sulakshana Naik
- HQs of BCCI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | President – Roger Binny | Secretary – Jay Shah | Founded in – 1928

175. On December 8, Justice Tashi Rabstan has been appointed as the Acting Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh as incumbent Chief Justice Ali Mohd Magrey retired on December 7. He was appointed by the President of India, Droupadi Murmu. High court judges retire at the age of 62, while Supreme Court judges retire on 65. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Justice Tashi Rabstan – appointed as the Acting Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh
- Retirement age: Chief Justices & Judges of HC – 62 years | Chief Justice of India & judges of the SC – 65 years

176. On December 8, Dina Boluarte (Dina Ercilia Boluarte Zegarra) became Peru’s first female President, succeeding incumbent President Pedro Castillo. She sworn in amid a political maelstrom when her predecessor and former boss Castillo was ousted in an impeachment trial. She is associated with Peru Libre party. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Dina Boluarte – became the first female President of Peru (replacing - Pedro Castillo)
- Peru – Lima – Sol | President – Dina Boluarte | PM – Betsy Chavez

177. K. S. Jawahar Reddy took over as Chief Secretary of Andhra Pradesh. He took over the reins from Sameer Sharma. He will further continue to be in post till 2024. Moreover, Madhya Pradesh Chief Secretary Iqbal Singh Bains has been given an extension of six-months and will continue in the post until 31st May 2023. [{Read more}](#)

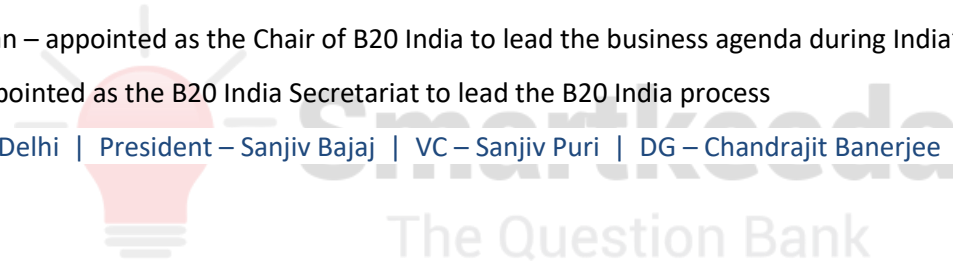
Key Points:

- K. S. Jawahar Reddy – took over as Chief Secretary of Andhra Pradesh (replacing - Sameer Sharma)
- Iqbal Singh Bains – has been given extension of 6-months as Chief Secretary of MP (till 31st May 2023)
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati | CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel

178. On December 7, the government has appointed Tata Sons Chairman N. Chandrasekaran as the Chair of Business 20 (B20) India to lead the business agenda during India's G-20 presidency. The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has been appointed as the B20 India Secretariat by the Indian government to lead the B20 India process. B20 is the official G-20 dialogue forum with the global business community. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- N. Chandrasekaran – appointed as the Chair of B20 India to lead the business agenda during India's G-20 presidency
- CII – has been appointed as the B20 India Secretariat to lead the B20 India process
- HQs of CII – New Delhi | President – Sanjiv Bajaj | VC – Sanjiv Puri | DG – Chandrajit Banerjee | Founded in – 1895



Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

179. Tree Tag, a green start-up by climate-conscious individuals from Kerala emerged first in the recently held 'Climathon-2022'. They won the award under the category of "Life On Land", addressing the problem statement such as 'monitoring and protecting existing forest eco-systems'. The start-up received Rs five lakh as prize money in the hackathon which was held in Kerala Technology Innovation Zone (KTIZ), Kochi. Climathon-2022, a hackathon, was organised by Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM) in collaboration with EY Global Delivery Services, UNDP, Startup India, Global Shapers Kochi, NASSCOM, TiE Kerala. The Climathon-2022 focused on climate change with the theme of "Securing a Sustainable and Climate-Resilient Future". The hackathon which was held in four phases received 174 ideations across India for 16 problem statements under 7 Sustainable Development Goals. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tree Tag (a start-up from Kerala) – won the "Climathon-2022" under the category of 'Life On Land'
- Theme of Climathon-2022 – "Securing a Sustainable and Climate-Resilient Future"
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan



180. On December 6, in a major achievement, Maharashtra's Nagpur Metro has been included in the Guinness Book of World Records for creating the longest double-decker viaduct metro. Built on Wardha Road, this viaduct is around 3.14 km long. Maha Metro's Managing Director Brijesh Dixit was honoured by the Guinness World Records at an event held in Nagpur. It has already been recognised as the longest of such structures in Asia by the India Book of Records as well as the Asia Book of Records, respectively. This double-decker viaduct was built jointly by Maharashtra Metro and NHAI. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nagpur Metro – included in the Guinness Book of World Records for creating the longest double-decker viaduct metro
- This viaduct is around 3.14 km long & built on Wardha Road
- Maharashtra: CM – Eknath Shinde | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

Important Days & Dates

181. The Indian Army observed the 262nd Army Service Corps Day (ASC Day) on December 8, 2022. The ASC was formed in 1760 by the East India Company. The ASC is currently headquartered in Bengaluru. The ASC is in charge of army logistics, procuring and distributing food supplies, fuel, hospital items, etc. This day also marked 11th Reunion of ASC. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 8 – 262nd Army Service Corps Day (ASC Day) – observed by Indian Army
- HQs of ASC – Bengaluru, Karnataka | DG – Gen. Manoj Kumar Singh Yadav | Motto – “Seva Asmākam Dharma”

182. SAARC Charter Day is observed every year on December 8. 2022 marks the 38th edition of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation Charter Day. It was on this day, 37 years ago, that the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), an intergovernmental organisation, was established by Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka to promote economic growth in South Asia. On 8 December 1985, the SAARC Charter was adopted, in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Afghanistan acceded to SAARC later. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 8 – 38th edition of SAARC Charter Day
- HQs of SAARC – Kathmandu, Nepal | Secretary General – Esala Ruwan Weerakoon (Sri Lanka)

Books & Authors

183. On December 6, HarperCollins announced the release of “Sultan: A Memoir”, the official autobiography of one of the greatest fast bowlers in the history of cricket, Wasim Akram. The book was written by Wasim Akram and Gideon Haigh, a veteran cricket writer from Australia. Pakistan's Wasim Akram is often revered as ‘The Sultan of Swing’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Sultan: A Memoir”, an autobiography of Wasim Akram – written by Wasim Akram & Gideon Haigh



Meetings, Conferences and Summits

184. The 17th Asia and the Pacific Regional Meeting (APRM) of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) was held in Singapore between December 5 and 9, 2022. Union Labour Minister Bhupender Yadav represented Indian at the Meeting. APRM brought together the ILO's tripartite constituents representing Governments, workers and employers from Asia and the Pacific and the Arab States, as well as representatives of international organizations and civil society to discuss concrete steps to drive job-rich growth that is inclusive and transformative. "Social Justice for a Human-centred Recovery" is the theme of the main agenda in the meeting. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bhupender Yadav – participated in the 17th "Asia and the Pacific Regional Meeting (APRM) of the ILO" held in Singapore
- Theme – "Social Justice for a Human-centred Recovery"
- HQs of ILO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Gilbert F. Hougbo | Founded in – 1919

185. On December 7, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated the "India Climate and Development Partners' Meet", hosted by the State government and the World Bank and released the "Kerala State Action Plan on Climate Change 2023-2030 (Kerala SAPCC 2.0)". Kerala aspires to become a 100% renewable energy-based State by 2040 and net carbon neutral by 2050. Kerala is the first State in India to include hydrogen-powered mobility in its zero emissions mobility policy. The government has constituted the Kerala Hydrogen Economy Mission to contribute strategic inputs and facilitate partnerships and collaborations towards transforming the State into a green hydrogen hub. Moreover, the State government signed an agreement with the French Development Agency (AFD) for a performance-based loan of 100 million euros (₹865.8 Crore) on the occasion. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "India Climate and Development Partners' Meet 2022" was hosted by = Kerala Govt + World Bank
- Pinarayi Vijayan – released the "Kerala State Action Plan on Climate Change 2023-2030 (Kerala SAPCC 2.0)"
- Kerala – aspires to become a 100% renewable energy-based State by 2040 and net carbon neutral by 2050
- Kerala – the first State in India to include hydrogen-powered mobility in its zero emissions mobility policy
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

186. On December 6, India's National Security Adviser (NSA), Ajit Doval, for the first time, hosted a special meeting in New Delhi with his counterparts from Central Asian countries - Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The high-level security meeting focused mainly on the security situation in Afghanistan and the threat of terrorism originating from the country under the Taliban. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ajit Doval (NSA) – hosted a special meeting with NSAs from Central Asian countries – in New Delhi (for the first time)



Ranks, Reports & Surveys

187. On December 7, the World Bank released the report, titled “Navigating the Storm”, India Development Report. World Bank raised its GDP growth forecast for India to 6.9% in FY23, citing the economy’s increased resilience to global shocks. The report stated that while India’s growth prospects will be affected by the deteriorating external environment. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India Development Report titled “Navigating the Storm” – released by World Bank
- World Bank raised its GDP growth forecast for India to 6.9% in FY23
- [HQs of World Bank – Washington D.C., US](#) | [Members – 189](#) | [President – David Malpass](#) | [MD & CFO – Anshula Kant](#)

188. The report titled “Climate Investment Opportunities in India’s Cooling Sector” was recently released by World Bank. The report says, as temperatures steadily rise in India due to climate change, keeping spaces cool using alternative and innovative energy efficient technologies can open an investment opportunity of \$1.6 trillion by 2040. This also has the potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions significantly and create nearly 3.7 million jobs. The report finds that shifting to a more energy efficient pathway could lead to a substantial reduction in expected CO2 levels over the next two decades. The report suggests that a sustainable roadmap for cooling has the potential to reduce 300 million tons of carbon dioxide annually by 2040. By 2030, over 160-200 million people across the country could be exposed to lethal heat waves annually. Around 34 million people in India will face job losses due to heat stress related productivity decline. The current food loss due to heat during transportation is close to \$13 billion annually. India aims to phase out the production and use of ozone-depleting hydrochlorofluorocarbons, used as coolants in air conditioners and refrigerators by 2047. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Climate Investment Opportunities in India’s Cooling Sector” report – released by World Bank
- In India, Keeping spaces cool using alternative & innovative energy efficient technologies can open an investment opportunity of \$1.6 trillion by 2040
- A sustainable roadmap for cooling has the potential to reduce 300 million tons of carbon dioxide annually by 2040
- The current food loss due to heat during transportation is close to \$13 billion annually
- India aims to phase out the production and use of ozone-depleting hydrochlorofluorocarbons by 2047
- [HQs of World Bank – Washington D.C., US](#) | [Members – 189](#) | [President – David Malpass](#) | [MD & CFO – Anshula Kant](#)

189. World Bank released its 37th “Migration and Development Brief 2022”. According to the report, remittance flows to India will rise 12%, putting its inflows ahead of China, Mexico and the Philippines. India is the world’s top recipient of remittances. Migrant workers from India are set to send home a record \$100 billion in 2022. Growth in remittance flows is estimated at 0.7% in East Asia and the Pacific. In 2022, for the first time a single country, India, is on track to receive more than \$100 billion in yearly remittances. Moreover, remittances to South Asia grew an estimated 3.5% to \$163 billion in 2022. Planning for safe and regular migration as a part of adaptation strategies is required for managing displacement in the affected regions as well as the influx of people in the receiving communities. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 37th “Migration and Development Brief 2022” – released by World Bank
- India – world’s top recipient of remittances
- India – to receive a record \$100 billion remittance in 2022 with 12% rise (ahead of China, Mexico & Philippines)
- [HQs of World Bank – Washington D.C., US](#) | [Members – 189](#) | [President – David Malpass](#) | [MD & CFO – Anshula Kant](#)



190. On December 6, Black soils, which feed the global population, are under threat, with most losing at least half of their soil organic carbon (SOC) stocks, according to the report titled “Global Status of Black Soils” released by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). This is the first such report, released on the occasion of World Soil Day, December 5, 2022. Black soils constitute 5.6% of global soils and contain 8.2% of the world’s SOC stocks: Approximately 56 billion tonnes of carbon. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Global Status of Black Soils” report – released by FAO
- Black soils constitute 5.6% of global soils and contain 8.2% of the world’s SOC stocks
- HQs of FAO – Rome, Italy | DG – QU Dongyu | Formation – 16th October, 1945

191. Six Indians have made it to the Forbes’ annual list of “The World’s 100 Most Powerful Women” released on December 7, 2022. They are Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman (36), HCLTech Chairperson Roshni Nadar Malhotra (53), SEBI Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch (54), SAIL Chairperson Soma Mondal (67), Biocon Executive Chairperson Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw (72), and Nykaa founder Falguni Nayar (89). The list includes 39 CEOs, 10 heads of state, and 11 billionaires. European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen sits atop the 19th annual Forbes list, followed by European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde, and US Vice President Kamala Harris at 2nd & 3rd positions, respectively. At rank 100, Iran’s Jina ‘Mahsa’ Amini has posthumously made it to the influential list. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 6 Indian Women made it to the 19th “World’s 100 Most Powerful Women List 2022” by Forbes:
 - Nirmala Sitharaman (36) – Finance Minister
 - Roshni Nadar Malhotra (53) – HCLTech Chairperson
 - Madhabi Puri Buch (54) – SEBI Chairperson
 - Soma Mondal (67) – SAIL Chairperson
 - Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw (72) – Biocon Executive Chairperson
 - Falguni Nayar (89) – Nykaa Founder

192. On December 7, Time magazine named Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky & ‘The Spirit of Ukraine’ as “Person of the Year 2022”. He inspired Ukrainians and won global accolades for his courage in resisting Russia’s devastating invasion. Tesla’s CEO Elon Musk was named Time’s “Person of the Year” in 2021. Time magazine began this tradition in 1927. Moreover, the Time magazine also announced the “Heroes of the Year 2022” are the ‘Women of Iran’ for their movement and commitment to the cause. Gregory Robinson (Former NASA Administrator) and The James Webb Telescope were recognised as “Innovators of the Year 2022”. Besides, Blackpink, K-Pop band, made history by becoming the first girl group to win TIME Magazine’s “Entertainer of the Year 2022” title. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Time Magazine’s “Person of the Year 2022” – Volodymyr Zelensky (Ukrainian President) & ‘The Spirit of Ukraine’
- Time Magazine’s “Heroes of the Year 2022” – Women of Iran
- Time Magazine’s “Innovators of the Year 2022” – Gregory Robinson (NASA) & The James Webb Telescope (NASA)
- Time Magazine’s “Entertainer of the Year 2022” – Blackpink (South Korean girls’ K-Pop band group)



Amount & Agreements

193. The governments of India and South Korea signed a loan agreement from EDCF to establish an Intelligent Transport System on the Nagpur-Mumbai Super Communication Expressway project. It is an Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF) loan worth Korean Won 245.081 billion (approx. Rs. 1,495.68 Cr). The bilateral relationship between the two countries was upgraded to 'Special Strategic Partnership' in the year 2015. Republic of Korea was designated as India's Official Development Assistance (ODA) partner for development cooperation in October, 2016. This is the first project funded by EDCF loan by the Government of Republic of Korea. The Economic Development Co-operation Fund (EDCF) was established in 1987. The EDCF supports partner countries in providing of loans for their economic development. The EDCF's loans are administered by the Export-Import Bank of Korea under the supervision of the Ministry of Strategy and Finance. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + South Korea = a loan agreement to establish an Intelligent Transport System on Nagpur-Mumbai Super Communication Expressway project
- It is the first project funded by EDCF loan by the Government of Republic of Korea
- The loan is worth – Korean Won 245.081 billion (approx. Rs. 1,495.68 Cr)
- Republic of Korea – designated as India's ODA partner for development cooperation in October 2016
- South Korea – Seoul – Korean Republic won | President – Yoon Suk-yeol

194. Germany unveiled a proposal to provide €1 billion (₹8440 Cr) for energy transition projects across the country under a bilateral partnership for green and sustainable development. The two sides agreed on the funding for more than 20 development projects over the next year. The funding, including 10% grants and 90% in the form of lines of credit, will support India's efforts in the fields of renewable energy, sustainable urban development in smart cities and sustainable use of natural resources. The lines of credit will be provided by KfW Development Bank. Germany will also support the expansion of ecological agriculture and sustainable management of forests. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Germany – proposed to provide €1 billion for energy transition projects in India for green & sustainable development
- The lines of credit will be provided by – KfW Development Bank
- Germany – Berlin – Euro | President – Frank-Walter Steinmeier

195. On December 8, Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a \$780 million multi-tranche financing facility (MFF) to build new lines and improve the connectivity of Chennai Metro Rail with the city's existing bus and feeder services. The project will construct 10.1 km of the elevated section between Sholinganallur and the State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu-2. Multimodal interchanges and facilities will be established along metro rail corridors to improve commuter experience. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ADB – approved a \$780 million multi-tranche financing facility (MFF) to expand rail network of Chennai metro
- 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



196. On December 6, Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed a \$3 million project readiness financing (PRF) facility to support preparatory activities for designing a project to improve municipal infrastructure in priority areas of Agartala city. Climate change mitigation and adaptation components will be incorporated into the project design during PRF implementation to ensure alignment with India's climate commitments. The proposed project aligns with the findings of the ADB's North East Economic Corridor (NEEC) study that recognizes Agartala's vital role as a key growth and border center in generating prosperity and economic growth in the northeastern region. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ADB + India = signed a \$3 million PRF facility to improve municipal infrastructure in Agartala city
- HQs of ADB – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Members – 68 | Established in – 1966
- Tripura: Capital – Agartala | CM – Manik Saha | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya

MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

197. Rural Electrification Corporation Limited (REC Ltd), A Maharatna CPSE, signed an MoU with Power Finance Corporation Ltd (PFC) as per the DPE Performance Evaluation System for FY 2022-23 for CPSEs. Shri Vivek Kumar Dewangan, CMD, REC signed the MoU with Shri Ravinder Singh Dhillon, CMD, PFC. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- REC Ltd + PFC Ltd = an MoU as per the DPE Performance Evaluation System for FY 2022-23 for CPSEs
- REC Ltd – recently became the 12th company to receive the status of a 'Maharatna' central public sector enterprise
- HQs of REC Ltd – New Delhi | Chairman & MD – Vivek Kumar Dewangan | Founded in – 1969
- HQs of PFC Ltd – New Delhi | CMD – Ravinder Singh Dhillon

198. Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) bagged a deal from Rail Delivery Group to design, develop, implement, and operate the UK's Rail Data Marketplace. The contract between TCS and RDG (Rail Data Marketplace) is for a term of six years including an extension term opportunity. The platform will have the ability to track environmental parameters, which will allow it to support the UK's rail decarbonisation agenda. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- TCS – bagged a deal from Rail Delivery Group to design, develop, implement, & operate the UK's Rail Data Marketplace
- HQs of TCS – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Rajesh Gopinathan | Founded in – 1968

199. On December 8, Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) signed an MoU with Small & Medium Enterprises General Authority of Saudi Arabia (aka Monsha'at) for exploring and collaborating on matters of common interest in development and boosting of MSMEs and related ecosystems in their respective countries. SIDBI shall also offer its expertise and experience for the newly launched SME Bank in Saudi Arabia. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SIDBI + Monsha'at (Saudi Arabia) = an MoU for MSME co-operation
- HQs of SIDBI – Lucknow, UP | MD & Chairman – Sivasubramanian Ramann | Established in – 1990
- Saudi Arabia – Riyadh – Saudi Riyal | PM – Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud | King – Salman bin Abdulaziz



200. On December 6, Walmart and Flipkart signed an MoU with the National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) to jointly accelerate capacity building for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) across India. The MoU was signed to mark the milestone of 20,000 MSMEs having completed their training under the 'Walmart Vriddhi Supplier Development Program' (Walmart Vriddhi), of which, Swasti is a program partner. Tens of thousands of MSMEs have registered for the program from metros and Tier II and III cities across India, and over 20,000 MSMEs have completed the program. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Walmart + Flipkart + NSIC = an MoU to jointly accelerate capacity building for MSMEs across India
- The capacity building is done under 'Walmart Vriddhi Supplier Development Program' (Program Partner - Swasti)
- HQs of Walmart – Arkansas, US | CEO – Doug McMillon
- HQs of Flipkart – Bangalore, Karnataka | Chairperson – Binny Bansal | CEO – Kalyan Krishnamurthy





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