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A Crucial Piece of Advice!

We find several students discussing the issue of lack of time and digging out content regarding how to use every second of your time efficiently. Some of you must be thinking, we have 86400 seconds each day, so why should we worry about just a single one? **Does a single second hold that much importance? YES!** When it comes to competition, each & every second is very crucial.

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.

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

251. Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in partnership with Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) and the Goa government organized the International Lusophone Festival in Goa from 3-6 December. Goa has had historical linkages with the Lusophone world, which has been nurtured through the presence of Portuguese cultural institutions like the Orient Foundation and the Camoes Institute which promote Portuguese language and culture in India. The Community of Portuguese Language Countries, also known as the Lusophone Commonwealth (Comunidade Lusofona), is a multilateral forum, founded on 17 July 1996 at the 1st CPLP Heads of State & Government Summit in Lisbon. The 9 Lusophone countries comprise approximately 300 million people in 4 different continents. India joined CPLP as an associate observer in July 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MEA + ICCR = organized the International Lusophone Festival in Goa
- The Community of Portuguese Language Countries – also known as the Lusophone Commonwealth
- India joined CPLP as an associate observer in July 2021
- Goa: Capital – Panaji | CM – Pramod Sawant | Governor – P. S. Sreedharan Pillai

252. On December 12, Kerala High Court struck down ‘Section 10A’ of the “Indian Divorce Act, 1869”, observing that it violates citizens’ fundamental rights. It stipulated a separation period of 1 year for petitions of divorce by mutual consent. The ‘Indian Divorce Act, 1869’ is applicable to Christians. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kerala High Court – struck down ‘Section 10A’ of the “Indian Divorce Act, 1869”
- The ‘Indian Divorce Act, 1869’ is applicable to Christians
- Chief Justice of Kerala HC – S. Manikumar

253. On December 9, Meghalaya was awarded for “Best Practice in Advocacy, Communication and Social Mobilization (ACSM) in Tuberculosis Control” at the National Workshop on ACSM to end TB in India. The state received the award for implementing ‘Jan Andolan’ (People’s Movement) against Tuberculosis. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has put a national target to eliminate the disease that affects over 26 lakh Indians each year by 2025, five years ahead of WHO’s Sustainable Development Goals. A National Strategic Plan for TB Elimination (2017-25) has also been launched reorienting the programme’s focus to ensure greater community engagement. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Meghalaya – awarded for “Best Practice in Advocacy, Communication & Social Mobilization in Tuberculosis Control”
- India’s target to eliminate Tuberculosis – by 2025 | WHO’s SDG to eliminate TB – by 2030
- Meghalaya: Capital – Shillong | CM – Conrad Kongkal Sangma | Governor – B. D. Mishra (addi. charge)

254. On December 11, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated India’s biggest ‘Business Jet Terminal’ at Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL). Notably, this 40,000 sq ft terminal is compatible for international and domestic business jet operations with an exceptional ‘Safe House’ facility for security-exempted personages. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pinarayi Vijayan – inaugurated India’s biggest ‘Business Jet Terminal’ at Cochin International Airport
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan



255. In December 2022, India's biggest Yoga Centre has been constructed in village Mantalai in the Chenani Tehsil of Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur. The village, which is located on the Himalayas in the sal forests' lap, will serve the International Yoga Centre at the banks of the Tawi river. This river, also known as Suryaputri, originates from the Kailash Kund glacier. Tourism Ministry has sanctioned Rs 9,782 Cr for the yoga centre. Rs 52 Cr have also been nominated for the infrastructural and other development of the Katra-Vaishno Devi under the scheme of the Pilgrimage Rejuvenation And Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD). Moreover, the Indian government under the National Ayush Mission increased the approved funds from Rs 15 Cr in 2021-22 to Rs 72 Cr in 2022-23. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India's biggest Yoga Centre – constructed in Mantalai village, Udhampur district, J & K (outlay - Rs 9,782 Cr)
- The village is located in the sal forests' lap at the banks of the Tawi river (also known as Suryaputri)
- Tawi river – originates from the Kailash Kund glacier
- Rs 52 Cr have been nominated for infrastructural & other development of Katra-Vaishno Devi under PRASHAD scheme
- PRASHAD – Pilgrimage Rejuvenation And Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

256. On December 16, India's first Infantry Museum was inaugurated in Mhow cantonment in Indore, Madhya Pradesh. The museum showcases Infantry Corps' history from 1747 to 2020, in which the sacrifice of valour and valiant soldiers have been preserved in statues, murals and photo galleries. The construction for the research centre and museum was started in 2009 and completed in 2019. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India's first Infantry Museum – inaugurated in Mhow cantonment in Indore, Madhya Pradesh
- The museum showcases Infantry Corps' history from 1747 to 2020
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel

257. On December 7, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting asked Google to comply with its advisory to refrain from publishing or broadcasting advertisements of online betting platforms or any surrogate product depicting them. The latest guideline was issued by the Ministry in October after it noted violations of a previous advisory in June 13, 2022. online betting platforms have been advertising themselves as professional sports blogs, sports news websites, etc. The All India Gaming Federation (AIGF) has welcomed the Ministry's decision for stringent advisories against offshore gambling advertisements. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of I&B – asked Google to refrain from publishing advertisements of online betting platforms
- Ministry of Information & Broadcasting: Anurag Singh Thakur | Constituency – Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh
- Ministry of Education – Dharmendra Pradhan (Constituency – Deogarh, Madhya Pradesh)

258. On December 11, PM Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for “National Institute for One Health” and inaugurated the ICMR-Centre for Research, Management and Control of Haemoglobinopathies, Chandrapur in Nagpur, Maharashtra. These new institutes of medical excellence will further expedite the country's efforts in enhancing health research to serve vulnerable populations of India. Moreover, PM Modi inaugurated the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Nagpur. The foundation stone of the facility was laid by PM Modi in 2017. It has been built at a cost of ₹1,575 Crore. Overall, PM Modi laid the foundation stone and dedicated projects worth Rs 75,000 Crore in Maharashtra, including inauguration of India's 6th Vande Bharat Express, which will connect Nagpur in Maharashtra and Bilaspur in Chhattisgarh. Later, the PM went to Goa where he inaugurated 3 National Ayush Institutes - All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), Goa, and virtually inaugurated National Institute of Unani Medicine (NIUM), Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh) and National Institute of Homoeopathy (NIH), Delhi. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- In Nagpur, Narendra Modi:
 - laid the foundation stone for National Institute for One Health
 - inaugurated the ICMR-Centre for Research, Management and Control of Haemoglobinopathies, Chandrapur
 - inaugurated the AIIMS, Nagpur
 - inaugurated India's 6th Vande Bharat Express (connecting Maharashtra's Nagpur & Chhattisgarh's Bilaspur)
- In Goa, Narendra Modi inaugurated:
 - All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), Goa
 - National Institute of Unani Medicine (NIUM), Ghaziabad (virtually)
 - National Institute of Homoeopathy (NIH), Delhi (virtually)

259. On December 7, Ministry of Power launched a plan "Transmission System for Integration of over 500 GW RE Capacity by 2030" in order to support the 500 GW renewable energy (RE) capacity by 2030. The plan, which entails connecting mega solar parks and wind power zones with the national grid, will see an investment of Rs 2.44 trillion in transmission projects. It also envisages installation of battery energy storage capacity of 51.5 GW by 2030. This is to provide round-the-clock power to consumers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Power – launched "Transmission System for Integration of over 500 GW RE Capacity by 2030"
- The plan entails connecting mega solar parks & wind power zones with national grid with investment of Rs 2.44 trillion
- Ministry of Power and Ministry New & Renewable Energy: [Raj Kumar Singh](#) | Constituency – Arrah, Bihar
- MoS in Ministry of Power: [Krishan Pal Gurjar](#)

260. On December 12, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. K. Stalin launched the "Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission" to protect the natural resources in the state besides restore them on a long-term basis. The state is first to launch its own Climate Change Mission to make Tamil Nadu a climate smart state. The state claims to achieve carbon neutrality much ahead of 2070 target set by PM Narendra Modi. The outlay of the climate mission, announced during the budget 2021-22, is Rs 500 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tamil Nadu – first state to launch its own "Climate Change Mission" to protect the natural resources in the state
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi

261. On December 8, Union minister Jitendra Singh announced that the four units of 1000 MW each of Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant, in Tamil Nadu, will be completed by 2027. At present, Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant Units 1&2 of 1000 MW capacity each are already in operation and the remaining four units of 1000 MW each are under construction. the projected installed capacity of Kudankulam site is 6000 MW, comprising six nuclear power reactors of 1000 MW capacity each. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 4 units of 1000 MW each of 'Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant' (Tamil Nadu) – will be completed by 2027
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi

262. On December 19, Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways, Nitin Gadkari, launched the maiden surety bonds insurance product by general insurance companies for highway contractors. It is India's first-ever surety bond insurance product. Surety bonds are guarantees of payment issued by insurers, but different from bank guarantees in that a sizable amount of the project funds of contractors do not get frozen. The surety bonds will help in boosting the liquidity in the infrastructure sector by freeing the contractors' working capital stuck in bank guarantees. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nitin Gadkari (MoRTH) – launched India's first-ever surety bond insurance product
- Ministry of Road Transport & Highways: Nitin Gadkari | Constituency – Nagpur, Maharashtra
- MoS in Ministry of Road Transport & Highways: V. K. Singh

International Affairs

263. On December 10, Britain's Prime Minister (PM) Rishi Sunak announced Global Combat Air Programme (GCAP), a partnership between the UK, Italy, and Japan in an ambitious project to develop the fighter jet of the future. It will be called the "Tempest". Due to fly by 2035, Tempest will be a sixth-generation stealth fighter with a network of capabilities: The ability to operate manned or unmanned; control swarms of attack drones; present a low radar profile; have innovative data systems, and be armed with cutting-edge weapons such as hypersonic missiles. Britain and Italy are developing the Tempest to rival an aircraft being built by a Franco-German coalition: Future Combat Air System (FCAS). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UK + Italy + Japan = partnered & formed GCAP to develop the 6th generation fighter jet called "Tempest"
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Fumio Kishida
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM – Rishi Sunak (57th) | New King – King Charles III
- Italy – Rome – Euro | President – Sergio Mattarella | PM – Giorgia Meloni

264. In a first, Janet Yellen, the first woman to head the US Treasury department and chair the US Federal Reserve, created history again as she unveiled US currency notes bearing signatures of two women - Yellen and US Treasury Chief Lynn Malerba. Malerba is the first Native American to serve in the role at US Treasury. The notes of denominations \$1 and \$5 will bear their signatures. The new currency bills will be a reminder of the contributions of women who have worked hard at the Treasury and in economics. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- In a first, US currency notes will bear signatures of two women - Janet Yellen & Lynn Malerba
- Janet Yellen – the first woman to head the US Treasury department & chair the US Federal Reserve
- Lynn Malerba – the first Native American to serve in the role at US Treasury
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris



Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

265. On December 7, PNB Housing Finance (HFC) unveiled 'Roshni', a low-cost home loan programme. Individuals may apply for loans under this scheme ranging from Rs. 5 lakh to Rs. 30 lakh. The programme offers a variety of loans for self-building, home expansions and renovations, plot purchases combined with construction, loans against property, and the purchase of property investment. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PNB Housing Finance – unveiled a low-cost home loan programme named 'Roshni'
- Loan range – from Rs. 5 lakh to Rs. 30 lakh
- HQs of PNBHF – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Girish Kousgi | Tagline – "Ghar Ki Baat"

266. On December 12, HDFC Bank launched its 6th annual grants program for social startups known as "Parivartan SmartUp Grants" in partnership with the Government of India's flagship initiative 'Startup India'. The program aims to identify startups working in the social impact space and support them through monetary grants to their incubators. The grants have been offered under the aegis of Parivartan, the umbrella name for the bank's social initiatives. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HDFC Bank + Startup India = launched the bank's 6th "Parivartan SmartUp Grants" for social startups
- Parivartan – the umbrella name for the social initiatives of HDFC Bank
- HQs of HDFC Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sashidhar Jagdishan | Tagline – "We understand your World"

267. On December 10, World Bank launched a "Toolkit on Enabling Gender Responsive Urban Mobility and Public Spaces in India". Studies show that women, especially those from lower socio-economic groups, are among the biggest users of public transport in Indian cities. Their dependence on public transport stems from lower discretionary incomes. The World Bank suggests a four-pillared approach to help address prevailing issues in urban transport for women. The toolkit contains practical tools that can inform a wide set of policymakers as well as private or community-based organisations. The aim is for this toolkit to be a reference for any entity engaging in any work regarding public transport and urban mobility. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- World Bank – launched a "Toolkit on Enabling Gender Responsive Urban Mobility and Public Spaces in India"
- Toolkit contains practical tools that can inform a wide set of policymakers & private or community-based organisations
- HQs of World Bank – Washington D.C., US | Members – 189 | President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant

Defence Affairs

268. The 39th edition of India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol (IND-INDO CORPAT) between the Indian Navy and the Indonesian Navy was conducted from 8 December to 19 December, 2022. INS Karmuk, an indigenously built Missile Corvette, participated in the pre-deployment briefing at Belawan, Indonesia. The CORPAT concluded with a debrief at Port Blair, Andaman and Nicobar Islands. India and Indonesia have conducted CORPATs twice a year since 2002. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Indonesia = concluded the 39th 'India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol (IND-INDO CORPAT)' at Port Blair
- Indonesia – Jakarta – Rupiah | President – Joko Widodo



Sports & Games

269. On December 6, the Admiral's Cup Sailing Regatta was started at the Indian Naval Academy (INA) at Ezhimala in Kannur district, Kerala. The event was inaugurated by Vice Admiral Puneet K. Bahl, Commandant, INA. Two teams from India Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala and National Defence Academy, Khadakvasla also participated in the championship. It was started in 2010. For the first time, a Defence Technology Exhibition was organised at INA, Ezhimala, in association with the Centre for Indigenisation and Self Reliance (CISR), Coimbatore, as part of the event. The exhibition focused on Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat initiatives of the Union government. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Admiral's Cup Sailing Regatta – started at the Indian Naval Academy (INA) at Ezhimala, Kannur district, Kerala
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

270. Tokyo 1964 Olympian and Asian Games bronze medallist athlete Kenneth Powell died in Bengaluru due to age-related illnesses. He was 82. Kenneth Powell was selected for the Tokyo 1964 Olympics and was part of India's 4x100m men's relay team which made the semi-finals. He was referred to as the Gentleman Sprinter due to his calm demeanour. His first major breakthrough came at the 1957 National School Games in Calcutta when he finished third. In 1965, Kenneth Powell became the first sports person from his home state Karnataka to win the Arjuna Award - India's second-highest honour for sports persons after the Khel Ratna. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kenneth Powell (Karnataka) – Sprinter (Athlete) – passed away (Tokyo 1964 Olympian & Asian Games bronze medallist)
- Awards: Arjuna Award (1965)

271. On December 13, Adidas introduced 'Al Hilm', the ball to be used in the FIFA World Cup 2022 semi-finals and final in Doha, Qatar. 'Al Hilm' took the place of 'Al Rihla', the match ball used in the event until the quarterfinals. The new ball will use the same groundbreaking Adidas 'Connected Ball' technology. Al Hilm, which translates to "The Dream" in Arabic, is the first World Cup match ball made using water-based inks and glues and was created with the environment in mind. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Adidas – introduced 'Al Hilm', the ball to be used in the FIFA World Cup 2022 Semi-finals & Final in Qatar
- 'Al Hilm' took the place of 'Al Rihla' (the match ball until the quarterfinals)
- 'Al Hilm' ("The Dream" in Arabic) – the first World Cup match ball made using water-based inks & glues
- HQs of Adidas – Herzogenaurach, Germany | CEO – Bjorn Gulden

272. On December 10, Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur, during the Winter Session of the Parliament, announced that 1,000 Khelo India centres will be opened all over the country by August 15, 2023. Out of the 1,000 centres, 733 centres have been already sanctioned at present. He also announced that 398 coaches have been appointed across 21 sports disciplines. The Winter Session of the Parliament began on December 7 and had 17 working days. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 1,000 Khelo India centres will be opened all over the country by August 15, 2023





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Persons in News

273. In December 2022, Bollywood actor Deepika Padukone unveiled the FIFA World Cup trophy during the final took place at Lusail Stadium in Qatar. Earlier, she represented India at the prestigious Cannes Film Festival as one of the jury members. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Deepika Padukone – unveiled the ‘2022 FIFA World Cup’ trophy during the final at Lusail Stadium, Qatar
- Qatar – Doha – Riyal | PM – Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz Al Thani

Science & Technology

274. Students of the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) launched the first electric formula racing car from the institute. The formula car ‘RF23’ is built completely by students of Team Raftar. Like RF23, technologies in the autonomous race car will be put to various stress tests. The team looks forward to representing India at International level, fostering industry-standard engineering practices and nurturing real-world technical expertise among engineering students. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IIT Madras – launched the first electric formula racing car ‘RF23’ from the institute
- Director of IIT Madras – V. Kamakoti

275. On December 11, SpaceX launched a private mission to the moon with a Japanese lander “HAKUTO”, and United Arab Emirates rover “Rashid” aboard Falcon 9 rocket from Cape Canaveral, Florida, US. ‘Rashid’ will be the first Moon mission for the Arab world if it is successful. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SpaceX – launched a private mission to the moon with Japanese lander “HAKUTO” & UAE’s rover “Rashid”
- HQs of SpaceX – California, U.S. | Founder & CEO – Elon Musk | Founded in – 2002

276. On December 10, three medicinal plant species found in the Himalayas have been added to IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Meizotropis pellita has been assessed as ‘critically endangered’, Fritilloria cirrhosa as ‘vulnerable’, and Dactylorhiza hatagirea as ‘endangered’. Meizotropis pellita, commonly known as Patwa, is a perennial shrub with restricted distribution that is endemic to Uttarakhand. Fritillaria cirrhosa (Himalayan fritillary) is a perennial bulbous herb. The plant is a strong cough suppressant and source of expectorant drugs. Dactylorhiza hatagirea (Salampanja) is extensively used in Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and other alternative systems of medicine. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 3 medicinal plant species (found in the Himalayas) – have been added to IUCN Red List
- Species: Meizotropis pellita (critically endangered), Fritilloria cirrhosa (vulnerable), Dactylorhiza hatagirea (endangered)
- HQs of IUCN – Gland, Switzerland | President – Xincheng Zhang | CEO – Bruno Oberle | Founded in – 1948



277. On December 9, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully conducted a joint hypersonic vehicle trial along with the Headquarters, Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS). The trials achieved all required parameters and demonstrated Hypersonic vehicle capability. ISRO operates under the Department of Space (DOS) which is directly overseen by the Prime Minister of India, while the Chairman of ISRO acts as the executive of DOS as well. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ISRO + IDS – successfully conducted a joint Hypersonic Vehicle Trial
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – S. Somanath | Formed on – August 15, 1969

278. The first of its kind in the subcontinent, the Centre of Excellence (CoE) for 3D bioprinting was established in partnership between BioConvergence (BICO) company CELLINK and Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore. The CoE is established at the Centre for BioSystems Science and Engineering (BSSE) at IISc. It will provide access to 3D bioprinting systems, and focus on advancing research on heart, bone, cartilage and cancer through the use of 3D bioprinting. 3D bioprinting is the method of printing three dimensional biomedical structures. Currently, it can be used to print tissue and organ models to help research drugs and potential treatments. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CELLINK + IISc Bangalore = partnered to establish the first of its kind ‘CoE for 3D bioprinting’ at IISc Bangalore
- Director of IISc, Bangalore – Govindan Rangarajan | Established in – 1909

279. A new species of the elusive wren babblers has been discovered in Arunachal Pradesh. It has been named as “Lisu wren babbler”. The team had sighted the new species in March this year at Mugaphi peak in Changlang district. Their finding was published by Indian BIRDS, a peer-reviewed journal of south Asian ornithology. There has been only one report of the sighting of the wren babbler in India way back in 1988. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Lisu wren babbler”– new species of wren babblers – discovered in Arunachal Pradesh
- The finding was published by – Indian BIRDS journal
- Arunachal Pradesh: Capital – Itanagar | CM – Pema Khandu | Governor – B. D. Mishra

Appointments & Resignations

280. On December 7, Shaji K V took the charge as Chairman of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) with effect from December 7, 2022. He has taken over from Suchindra Misra, Additional Secretary, Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, who was holding additional charge. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Shaji K V – appointed as Chairman of NABARD (replacing - Suchindra Misra)
- HQs of NABARD – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Shaji K V | Founded in – 1982

281. On December 11, Prasar Bharati Additional Director General Sunil Srivastava has been unanimously elected as the Vice President of the Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) for a 3-year term. Prasar Bharati had hosted the 59th ABU General Assembly and Associated Meetings in New Delhi in November. The ABU is a non-profit, professional association of broadcasters from Asia and Pacific regions. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Sunil Srivastava – elected as the Vice President of the Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) for a 3-year term
- HQs of Prasar Bharati – New Delhi | CEO – Gaurav Dwivedi | DG – Mayank Kumar Agrawal
- HQs of ABU – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia | President – Satoru Masagaki | Vice President – Sunil Srivastava

282. On December 7, Nihar Malaviya, an Indian-origin publishing executive, has been named interim CEO of New York-based international publishing group Penguin Random House after its current CEO Markus Dohle announced his resignation from the role. Malaviya, who has been President and Chief Operating Officer (COO) of the publisher's American division Penguin Random House US since 2019, will assume the role of Interim CEO of Penguin Random House starting January 1, 2023. Bertelsmann is the parent company of Penguin Random House. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nihar Malaviya – appointed as interim CEO of Penguin Random House (New York, US)

283. On December 9, Congress leader Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu was sworn in as the 15th Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh. Mukesh Agnihotri, the leader of the opposition in the outgoing Assembly, took oath as the Deputy Chief Minister. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu (INC) – sworn in as the 15th Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh
- Mukesh Agnihotri (INC) – took oath as the Deputy CM of Himachal Pradesh
- Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar

284. Sanjeev Bisht has been elected as the Chairman of the All India Spices Exporters Forum (AISEF) for the year 2022-23. Bisht is the Vice President of Spices and Aqua of Agri Business Division of ITC Ltd in Andhra Pradesh. The All India Spices Exporters Forum (AISEF), established in the year 1987, works towards protecting the interests of the spice exporters in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sanjeev Bisht – elected as the Chairman of the All India Spices Exporters Forum (AISEF) for the year 2022-23
- HQs of AISEF – Ernakulam, Kerala | Chairman – Sanjeev Bisht

Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

285. Sony Entertainment Television has become the Official Satellite Partner of Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2023. Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival (DPIFF) will be telecasted on Sony Entertainment Television for the first time in history. Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2023 under the support of Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya to be held on 20th February 2023 in Mumbai. Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards is a prestigious platform that acknowledges and celebrates the pathbreaking contribution of the Indian Entertainment Industry. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sony Entertainment Television – Official Satellite Partner of 'DPIIF Awards 2023' (be held in Mumbai in Feb)
- DPIFF – will be telecasted on Sony Entertainment Television for the first time in history



286. On December 12, S. S. Rajamouli's period action movie "Rise Roar Revolt (RRR)" has been nominated for a 'Golden Globe Award' in the best picture non-English language category as well as for best original song. A pre-Independence fictional story, 'RRR' stars Ram Charan and Jr NTR as real-life Indian revolutionaries in the 1920s Alluri Sitarama Raju and Komaram Bheem, respectively. Earlier, SS Rajamouli bagged the Best Director award at the New York Film Critics Circle in December, 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "RRR" – nominated for 'Golden Globe Award' in Best Picture non-English language category (directed - S. S. Rajamouli)

287. On December 8, Indian-American Krishna Vavilala was awarded the Presidential Lifetime Achievement (PLA) Award by US President Joe Biden. The Presidential Lifetime Achievement (PLA) Awards, led by AmeriCorps, is an annual event held to honour citizens, who exhibit outstanding character, worth ethic, and dedication to their communities. AmeriCorps is an agency of the United States government which engages more than five million Americans in service through a variety of volunteer work programmes in many sectors. Originally from Andhra Pradesh, Vavilala is a retired Electrical Engineer, and currently, the founder and Chairman of the Foundation for India Studies (FIS), a 16-year-old non-profit organisation, whose signature project "the Indo-American Oral History Project" won the '2019 Mary Fay Barnes Award for Excellence'. In 2006, Vavilala established the India Studies programme at the University of Houston. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Krishna Vavilala (Indian-American) – awarded the 'Presidential Lifetime Achievement (PLA) Award' by USA
- Krishna Vavilala – is originally from Andhra Pradesh and founder & Chairman of Foundation for India Studies (FIS)
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

288. In December 2022, Former Vice President Venkaiah Naidu received the 25th "SIES (South Indian Education Society) Sri Chandrasekarendra Saraswathi National Eminence Award 2022" for Public Leadership. Other awardees in various categories included the Governor of Kerala, Arif Mohammed Khan, eminent industrialist Ratan Tata, renowned cardiologist Marthanda Varma Sankaran Valianathan, Scientific Advisor to the Government of India Ajay Sood and famous Harikatha artiste Vishakha Hari. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Venkaiah Naidu – received the 25th "SIES (South Indian Education Society) Sri Chandrasekarendra Saraswathi National Eminence Award 2022" for Public Leadership
- Other Awardees: Arif Mohammed Khan, Ratan Tata, MS Valianathan, Ajay Sood, Vishakha Hari

Schemes & Initiatives

289. On December 9, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. K. Stalin inaugurated the "Sanitation Workers' Development Scheme" to protect the welfare of conservancy workers in the State. He launched a mobile application to help identify and collect census data of sanitation workers as part of the scheme. With the support of the Urban Management Centre, Ahmedabad, the local bodies propose to implement the scheme effectively. Chief Minister M. K. Stalin also unveiled the statue of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar at Perungudi junction. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tamil Nadu – launched "Sanitation Workers' Development Scheme" to protect the welfare of conservancy workers
- M. K. Stalin – also unveiled the statue of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar at Perungudi junction
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi



Important Days & Dates

290. Jammu and Kashmir has been awarded 1st Prize in the category for Ayushman Bharat health account ID generation and 2nd Prize in the category for Teleconsultation conducted during the celebration of Universal Health Coverage Day 2022 on December 10 & 11 at International Cooperation and Convention Centre in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. Universal Health Coverage Day is celebrated every year to commemorate the significance of Universal health coverage which aims to ensure quality healthcare closer to the people without any financial hardships. In 2022, the theme of the day is “Build the World We Want: A Healthy Future for All”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 12 – Universal Health Coverage Day
- 2022’s Theme – “Build the World We Want: A Healthy Future for All”
- J & K – awarded 1st Prize in ‘Ayushman Bharat health account ID generation’ & 2nd Prize in ‘Teleconsultation’ category

291. December 11 was celebrated as the UN’s “International Mountain Day”. The date was designated by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) & is being celebrated since 2003. 2022’s theme was “Women Move Mountains”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 11 – UN’s International Mountain Day (since - 2003)
- 2022’s Theme – “Women Move Mountains”

292. Every year, “International Day of Neutrality” is observed on December 12 to raise public awareness of the value of neutrality in international relations. The day was first observed in 2017. Turkmenistan is recognized by the UN as a Permanently Neutral state since 12 December 1995. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 12 – International Day of Neutrality (since 2017)
- Turkmenistan – the only country to get recognised by the UN as a permanently Neutral State

293. Every year, UNICEF Day is celebrated on December 11. The word UNICEF stands for United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund and the purpose served by the organisation is to save children's lives by providing them with humanitarian aid across the world. It also defends children's rights and helps them fulfill their potential from childhood through adolescence. The fund for UNICEF was generated after World War II and then became a permanent organisation in 1953. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 11 – UNICEF Day
- HQs of UNICEF – New York, US | Executive Director – Catherine Russell | Established in – 1946



Meetings, Conferences & Summits

294. On December 7, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan released the World Bank report on Climate Change at the 'India Climate and Development Partners meet', hosted by the State government and the World Bank. Kerala aspires to become a 100% renewable energy-based State by 2040 and net carbon neutral by 2050. Kerala also released the Kerala State Action Plan on Climate Change 2023-2030 (Kerala SAPCC 2.0). Kerala is the first State in India to include hydrogen-powered mobility in its zero-emissions mobility policy. The State government inked an agreement with the Agence Francaise de Developpement (AFD – French Development Agency) for a performance-based loan of 100 million euros (₹865.8 Cr) on the occasion. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kerala + World Bank = hosted the 'India Climate & Development Partners Meet' in Kerala
- Kerala – to become a 100% renewable energy-based State by 2040 and net carbon neutral by 2050
- Kerala – released the 'Kerala State Action Plan on Climate Change 2023-2030' (Kerala SAPCC 2.0)
- Kerala + AFD = an agreement for a performance-based loan of 100 million euros
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan
- HQs of World Bank – Washington D.C., US | Members – 189 | President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant

295. On December 17, India's Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav led India's delegation at the 15th Conference of Parties (COP15) to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Montreal, Canada. According to the data shared by IUCN, 239 new species analysed in India have entered the list. Of these, 29 are threatened. The main objective of COP15 is to adopt a Global Biodiversity Framework, which will replace the Aichi Biodiversity Targets that expired in 2020. The global biodiversity framework calls upon member countries to protect a total of 30% of land and sea for biodiversity conservation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bhupender Yadav led India's delegation at the 'COP15 to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity' in Montreal, Canada
- 239 new species, analysed in India, have entered the IUCN Red List (Of these, 29 are threatened)
- Canada – Ottawa – Canadian Dollar | PM – Justin Trudeau

Ranks, Reports & Surveys

296. According to the International Energy Agency's (IEA) latest report, India is set to double its new RE capacity installations over 2022-27 with the addition of 145 GW, led by solar PV to achieve the ambitious target of 500 GW of non-fossil capacity by 2030. Solar PV accounts for 75% of this growth, followed by onshore wind with 15%, and hydropower providing almost all the rest. The Central Electricity Authority (CEA) said in a report that the share of generation from renewable energy in the country's total generation mix, which stood at 22.1% during FY22, is likely to increase to 40.9% during FY30. So far, a total of 172.72 GW of capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources has been installed in the country as of October 2022, which includes 119.09 GW of RE, 46.85 GW of large hydro, and 6.78 GW of nuclear power capacity. This has a share of 42.26% of the total installed generation capacity in the country (408.71 GW). Moreover, Production Linked Incentives (PLI) initiative closes nearly 80% of Indian manufacturers' investment cost gap with the lowest-cost manufacturers in China. From January to September 2022, India auctioned over 8 GW of renewable capacity, 30% below the average for these months in 2019-2021. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- According to latest IEA report:
- India is set to double its new RE capacity installations over 2022-27 with the addition of 145 GW
- India is set to achieve the target of 500 GW of non-fossil capacity by 2030
- Solar PV accounts for 75% of this growth, followed by onshore wind with 15% & hydropower providing all the rest
- Generation from RE in India stood at 22.1% during FY22 & is likely to increase to 40.9% during FY30
- Non-fossil fuel-based energy capacity installed (Oct 22) – 172.72 GW (119.09GW RE + 46.85GW hydro + 6.78GW nuclear)
- Total installed generation capacity in India – 408.71 GW
- Lowest-cost for manufacturing Non-fossil fuel-based energy – China
- HQs of IEA – Paris, France | Executive Director – Dr. Fatih Birol | Member countries – 30

297. Three Indian billionaires - Gautam Adani, Shiv Nadar, and Ashok Soota, as well as Malaysian-Indian businessman Brahma Vasudevan and his lawyer wife Shanthi Kandiah, were named in the 16th edition of “Forbes Asia’s Heroes of Philanthropy List” released on December 6. Adani was listed for having pledged ₹60,000 crore (\$7.7 billion) when he turned 60 in June, 2022. Shiv Nadar donated ₹11,600 crore (\$142 million) to the foundation he established in 1994. While Ashok Soota has pledged ₹600 crore (\$75 million) to the medical research trust he founded in April 2021 for the study of ageing and neurological illnesses. Soota started SKAN (Scientific Knowledge for Ageing and Neurological) ailments, with a ₹200 Crore outlay. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 16th edition of “Forbes Asia’s Heroes of Philanthropy List” – released on December 6
- 3 Indians on the list: Gautam Adani (₹60,000 Cr), Shiv Nadar (₹11,600 Cr) & Ashok Soota (₹600 Cr)
- 3 Malaysian-Indians on the list: Brahma Vasudevan & Shanthi Kandiah

Amount & Agreements

298. On December 9, the ADB approved a \$250 million policy-based loan to support India’s wide-ranging reforms that aim to strengthen and modernize the country’s logistics infrastructure, improve efficiency, and lower costs. The loan will finance the first sub-program of the strengthening multimodal and integrated logistics ecosystem program, which supports the government’s efforts to create a comprehensive policy, planning, and institutional framework at the federal, state, and city level. The program also supports the Ministry of Commerce and Industry’s initiatives to issue standards for warehousing, which would encourage operational efficiency and private sector investment. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ADB – approved a \$250 million policy-based loan to strengthen Logistics Sector
- HQs of ADB – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Members – 68 | Established in – 1966



Ordinance, Bills & Acts

299. In December 2022, the Rajya Sabha passed the “Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2022”. The Bill, which had undergone the scrutiny of a parliamentary panel, seeks to conserve and protect wildlife through better management of protected areas and rationalise schedules, which list out species under the ‘Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972’. The Bill was introduced by Environment and Forest Minister Bhupender Yadav. India was a signatory to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora that required certain legislative actions. The maximum fine has been increased to Rs 1,00,000 for ‘General Violations’ under this bill. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajya Sabha – passed the “Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2022”
- Maximum fine for ‘General Violations’ is increased to Rs 1,00,000

MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

300. On December 12, National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Limited (NIIFL) signed an MoU with Tamil Nadu Infrastructure Development Board (TNIDB) to help attract commercial capital into infrastructure opportunities in the state. NIIFL will support TNIDB in identifying potential private sector investment opportunities, including for asset recycling and developing greenfield and brownfield infrastructure projects in sectors such as renewable energy, roads, waste management, water, tourism and other related sectors. NIIFL’s Strategic Initiatives and Policy Advisory (SIPA) team provides high-level strategic advice to Central and State Government entities. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NIIFL + TNIDB (Tamil Nadu) = an MoU to help attract commercial capital into infrastructure opportunities in the state
- NIIFL’s Strategic Initiatives & Policy Advisory Team – provides high-level strategic advice to Central & State Govt entities
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi





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