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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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INDEX

| | |
|--|----|
| National & States Affairs | 6 |
| International Affairs | 10 |
| Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs | 11 |
| Defence Affairs | 12 |
| Sports & Games | 13 |
| Science & Technology | 14 |
| Appointments & Resignations | 14 |
| Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes | 15 |
| Schemes & Initiatives | 17 |
| Important Days & Dates | 17 |
| Books & Authors | 17 |
| Obituaries | 17 |
| Meetings, Conferences and Summits | 18 |
| Ranks, Reports & Serveys | 18 |
| Amount & Agreements | 19 |
| Ordinance, Bills & Acts | 19 |
| MoUs, Collaborations & Partnership | 19 |



National & States Affairs

351. On December 14, Maruti Suzuki India has showcased the Wagon R Flex Fuel prototype model in Delhi. It is India's first mass-segment flex-fuel car designed to run on any ethanol-petrol blend between 20% ethanol and 85% petrol (E20-E85). India is the largest producer and consumer of sugar, and its second-largest exporter in the world. Ethanol made from processing crop waste, is ideal for an agrarian economy. This also gives an impetus to the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative. Maruti Suzuki is working on a variety of technologies including electric, hybrid electric, CNG, bio-gas, ethanol, Flex-Fuel, etc. The company has already announced its commitment to make its entire product range E20 fuel material compliant by March 2023. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Maruti Suzuki India – unveiled India's first mass-segment flex-fuel car prototype model (Wagon R)
- It is designed to run on any ethanol-petrol blend between 20% ethanol and 85% petrol
- HQs of Maruti Suzuki India – New Delhi | Chairman – R C Bhargava | MD & CEO – Hisashi Takeuchi

352. On December 13, the Government of India announced to introduce a 'Family Pehchan Patra' (identity card) for residents of Jammu and Kashmir. It will be an identity card with a unique eight-digit alphanumeric number to identify each family and its members through the head of the family. The card will contain details of all members of the family. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- GoI announced to introduce a 'Family Pehchan Patra' (identity card) for residents of Jammu & Kashmir
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

353. On December 14, Minister of State in the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Gen V. K. Singh, announced that the Central government has accorded 'in-principal' approval for the setting up of 21 greenfield airports across India. Out of these, 9 Greenfield airports - Durgapur, Shirdi, Kannur, Pakyong, Kalaburagi, Orvakal (Kurnool), Sindhudurg, Kushinagar and Donyi Polo, Itanagar - have been operationalized. Development of a Greenfield airport is governed under the 'Greenfield Airports (GFA) Policy, 2008'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Central government has accorded 'in-principal' approval for the setting up of 21 greenfield airports across India
- Out of these, 9 Greenfield airports have been operationalized
- Development of a Greenfield airport is governed under the 'Greenfield Airports (GFA) Policy, 2008'

354. On December 14, Karnataka's Tobacco Control Cell has developed a GPS-based mobile app 'StopTobacco'. Now, the state's public can lodge complaints of smoking in public places by using an app on mobile phone. If anyone is found to be violating the 'Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act, 2003 (COTPA)', the state's anti-tobacco squad will rush to the spot and slap a penalty of Rs 200 on the violator. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Karnataka's Tobacco Control Cell – developed a GPS-based mobile app 'StopTobacco'
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – Basavaraj Bommai | Governor – Thaawarchand Gehlot

355. On December 14, the NTPC's 240 MW (150 MW & 90 MW) Devikot Solar Project at Jaisalmer in Rajasthan has begun commercial operations. With this, standalone installed and commercial capacity of the NTPC has become 58,041.27 MW, while group installed and commercial capacity of NTPC has become 70,656.27 MW. NTPC crossed the 1 GW annual capacity in renewable energy (RE) segment by adding 1,074.59 MW RE in FY23. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- NTPC's 240 MW Devikot Solar Project – began commercial operations in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan
- HQs of NTPC – New Delhi | CMD – Gurdeep Singh | Founded in – 1975
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra

356. On December 15, District Tourism Promotion Council, Kozhikode has applied for a Geographical Indication (GI) tag for the famous Beypore Uru (boat). It is a wooden dhow (ship/sailing boat/sailing vessel) handcrafted by skilled artisans and carpenters in Beypore, Kerala. The Beypore Urus are purely made of premium wood, without using any modern techniques. It takes anywhere between 1-4 years to build each Uru and the entire process is done manually. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- District Tourism Promotion Council, Kozhikode – has applied for GI tag for the 'Beypore Uru' (boat)
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

357. On December 15, Maharashtra government has set up "Intercaste/Interfaith marriage-family coordination committee" to gather information about the inter-caste or inter-faith marriage couples and the maternal families of the women involved if they are estranged. The committee will be headed by state Women and Child Development Minister Mangal Prabhat Lodha. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Maharashtra Govt – set up "Intercaste/Interfaith marriage-family Coordination Committee"
- The committee will be headed by – Mangal Prabhat Lodha
- Maharashtra: CM – Eknath Shinde | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

358. On December 16, NASSCOM Foundation announced the launch of its "Aspirational Districts Programme" with the objective of digitally enabling and skilling more than 3.5 million lives by March 2024, thus empowering the marginalized in remote and backward sectors of India. Under the programme, NASSCOM Foundation is tapping into more than 100 aspirational districts out of which 55 districts have been identified as of now across 23 states. This will also prioritize economic development across communities in alignment with the PM's vision of Digital India mission. Another key focus area of the NASSCOM Foundation programme is to generate awareness of appropriate government schemes and e-governance services in addition to imparting quality training in digital skills. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NASSCOM Foundation – launched its "Aspirational Districts Programme"
- Objective: digitally enabling & skilling more than 3.5 million lives by March 2024
- HQs of NASSCOM – New Delhi | President – Debjani Ghosh | Chairman – Krishnan Ramanujam
- HQs of Nasscom Foundation – Noida, Delhi NCR | CEO – Nidhi Bhasin

359. A total of 52 individuals and 34 start-ups have been awarded under three 'Dare to Dream' contests out of 5,637 applications received in last 3 years. The contest aims to promote individual and start-ups for innovation in the area of Defence and Aerospace. A total of 7 projects have been sanctioned and awarded to start-ups of Dare to Dream contest winners so far. The DRDO has been conducting Dare to Dream Contest every year since 2019 to bring together innovators, entrepreneurs, individuals above 18 years and start-ups (recognised by DPIIT and with Indian founders) for innovative ideas in the field of Defence and Aerospace. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- DRDO conducts 'Dare to Dream' contests to promote individual/start-ups for innovation in Defence & Aerospace sector
- Total 52 individuals & 34 start-ups have been awarded under 3 'Dare to Dream' contests out of 5,637 applications
- [HQs of DRDO – New Delhi](#) | [Chairman – Samir V. Kamat](#) | [Established in – 1958](#)

360. On December 14, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) Startup Hub and Google announced to help 100 Indian startups, across different Indian cities, scale their app businesses with the second edition of Appscale Academy. The Appscale Academy program is a growth and development program to train early to mid-stage startups to build high-quality apps for the world. The program will run for six months where startups will be trained on several aspects of building successful apps, including UX design, business model and monetization strategies, international expansion best practices, and data safety and security practices. Startups will have access to virtual instructor-led webinars, self-learning material, and mentorship sessions with leading local and global industry leaders. They will also get an opportunity to pitch to leading venture capitalists. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MeitY Startup Hub + Google = to help 100 Indian startups scale their app businesses
- Appscale Academy program – a growth & development program to train startups to build high-quality apps
- [HQs of Google – California, US](#) | [CEO – Sundar Pichai](#) | [Founded in – 1998](#)
- [Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology: Ashwini Vaishnav](#) | [Constituency – Odisha](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology: Rajeev Chandrasekhar](#)

361. On December 16, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Bharati Pravin Pawar told the Lok Sabha in a written reply, there has been an upsurge in measles cases in many states in India during November 2022. Some 10,416 cases and 40 deaths were registered through December 12, 2022. Six states - Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Kerala and Maharashtra, contributed most to the caseload. Maharashtra contributed the maximum to the burden. Financial support up to Rs 50 lakh is provided under the "National Policy for Rare Diseases (NPRD)" to the patients suffering from such diseases, Pawar told the Lok Sabha. India's doctor-population ratio is 1:834 per thousand population. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Maharashtra – contributed the maximum to the burden of measles cases in Nov 2022
- Financial support up to Rs 50 lakh is provided under the "National Policy for Rare Diseases (NPRD)" to such patients
- India's doctor-population ratio – 1:834 (per thousand population)

362. On December 11, Uttarakhand is planning for its genetic enhancement to increase the productivity of its indigenous petite Badri cow that grazes on the medicinal herbs of the Himalayas. The Badri cow is the first registered cattle breed of Uttarakhand which has been certified by the National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (NBAGR). It gives only one to three litres of milk per day. To make the farmers of Uttarakhand breed Badri and not to shift to other high milk-producing alternative breeds like Jersey cows, the state officials have decided to opt for Multiple Ovulation Embryo Transfer (MOET), a conventional embryo flush, which is the most common procedure used in advanced cattle breeding. Moreover, ovum pickup in vitro fertilisation (IVF) is the other technology that will be used to increase the yield per animal. The State aims to achieve its targets in the next 10 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttarakhand – announced for genetic enhancement of its indigenous 'Badri cow' to increase the productivity
- Badri cow – first registered cattle breed of Uttarakhand certified by NBAGR
- Techniques that will be used – MOET & IVF | Target – 10 years
- [Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain](#) | [CM – Pushkar Singh Dhami](#) | [Governor – Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh](#)



363. On December 14, Indian Energy Exchange (IEX) became India's first Carbon-Neutral Power Exchange, using market based tradable instruments to offset its carbon emissions. To reduce its carbon footprint, IEX voluntarily cancelled CERs (Certified Emissions Reductions) from clean projects registered under the Clean Development Mechanism of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). According to the UNEP 2022 report, global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions must be cut 45% by 2030 to get on track to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Energy Exchange (IEX) – became India's first Carbon-Neutral Power Exchange
- CERs – **C**ertified **E**missions **R**eductions
- According to UNEP 2022 report: GHG emissions must be cut 45% by 2030 to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees
- [HQs of IEX – New Delhi](#) | [Chairman & Managing Director – Satyanarayan Goel](#)

364. On December 10, the Forest department of Kerala, in association with Noolpuzha grama panchayat, launched the 'Vanikaran' (afforestation) project to restore natural vegetation and root out invasive plants. The project was executed under the Sulthan Bathery forest range of the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary. 7,000 bamboo seedlings and 12,000 saplings of fruit plants were supplied for the project. Apart from planting the saplings, the authorities ensure the protection of plants for the next five years under the project. The workers have also constructed soil bunds and pits for harvesting rainwater to ensure availability of water for the saplings. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kerala Forest department – launched 'Vanikaran' project to restore natural vegetation
- [Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram](#) | [CM – Pinarayi Vijayan](#) | [Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan](#)

365. On December 14, Ministry of Tribal Affairs implemented a dedicated centrally sponsored scheme (CSS) called "Scheme of Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups" aimed at planning for the socio-economic development of the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). There are 75 groups of most vulnerable sections amongst the tribals who are classified as the PVTGs spread over 18 States and the UT of Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Further, Ministry of Tribal Affairs is also implementing a scheme of Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) to provide quality education to Scheduled Tribes (ST) students including PVTG students (Class 6th to 12th) in remote areas. As per provision, 5% seat in each of the EMRSs is reserved for PVTG students only. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Tribal Affairs – implemented the "Scheme of Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups"
- There are 75 groups of most vulnerable sections amongst the tribals who are classified as the PVTGs
- 5% seat in each of the Eklavya Model Residential Schools is reserved for PVTG students only
- [Ministry of Tribal Affairs: Arjun Munda](#) | [Constituency – Khunti, Jharkhand](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Tribal Affairs: Renuka Singh Saruta & Bishweswar Tudu](#)

366. On December 14, Tamil Nadu Governor R. N. Ravi unveiled the statue of former President A. P. J. Abdul Kalam on the campus of the Madras Institute of Technology (MIT). APJ Abdul Kalam was the most illustrious among the alumni of the Madras Institute of Technology. Kalam earned a degree in Aeronautical Engineering from the MIT. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- R. N. Ravi – unveiled the statue of A. P. J. Abdul Kalam on the campus of the Madras Institute of Technology (MIT)
- [Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai](#) | [CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin](#) | [Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi](#)



367. On December 14, the Union government has granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag to 9 products from across India. Of the 9 GI tags given, 5 were for products from Kerala. With this, the total number of registered GI products in India stands at 432. The nine products include - Gamocha, pronounced as Gamosa or Gamusa, (Assam), Tandur Redgram (Telangana), Raktsey Karpo Apricot (Ladakh), Alibag White Onion (Maharashtra), and Kerala's products - Attappady Aattukombu Avara (oilseed crops), Kanthalloor Vattavada Veluthulli (Kanthalloor Vattavada Garlic), Attappady Thuvvara (Attappady red gram), Kodungallur Pottuvellari (Kodungallur Snap Melon), and Onattukara Ellu (Onattukara Sesame). The GI status is valid for 10 years in India, and it can be renewed again. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Government has granted GI tag to 9 products from across India
 - Gamocha or Gamosa or Gamusa (Assam)
 - Tandur Redgram (Telangana)
 - Raktsey Karpo Apricot (Ladakh)
 - Alibag White Onion (Maharashtra)
 - Attappady Aattukombu Avara (oilseed crops) – Kerala
 - Kanthalloor Vattavada Veluthulli (Kanthalloor Vattavada Garlic) – Kerala
 - Attappady Thuvvara (Attappady red gram) – Kerala
 - Kodungallur Pottuvellari (Kodungallur Snap Melon) – Kerala
 - Onattukara Ellu (Onattukara Sesame) – Kerala

368. On December 15, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Secretary Arun Kumar Mehta launched the online Visitor Management System called "SWAGATAM" to ensure easy and hassle-free entry of visitors to both Secretariats at Jammu and Srinagar. The system shall enable a person to schedule a meeting in advance for the redressal of his genuine grievances. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- J & K – launched the online Visitor Management System called "SWAGATAM"
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

International Affairs

369. India recently approved a Sri Lankan request to designate the INR as a foreign currency. Sri Lankans can now hold \$10,000 worth of the Indian rupee (INR) in physical form, though the INR would not be legal tender in the island nation. This also means that Sri Lankans and Indians can use Indian rupees instead of US dollars for international transactions with each other. And for this, Sri Lankan banks must open Nostro Accounts with Indian banks. A nostro account refers to an account that a bank holds in a foreign currency in another bank. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – approved a Sri Lankan request to designate the INR as a foreign currency
- Sri Lankans can now hold \$10,000 worth of INR in physical form
- Nostro Account – an account that a bank holds in a foreign currency in another bank
- Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan Rupee
- PM – Dinesh Gunawardena | President – Ranil Wickremesinghe



370. On December 15, the Group of Seven (G7) countries, along with Norway and Denmark, signed an agreement called 'Just Energy Transition Partnership' to provide Vietnam with \$15.5 billion to help the Southeast Asian nation move faster from coal power to renewable energy, cutting its climate-damaging pollution. The aim is to help Vietnam reduce its emissions to "Net Zero" by 2050. The first such deal was signed with South Africa in 2021, and a similar agreement was signed with Indonesia in November. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- G7 nations + Norway + Denmark = signed a 'Just Energy Transition Partnership' to provide Vietnam with \$15.5 billion
- G7 member countries – US, UK, Japan, Germany, France, Italy, Canada | Founded in – 1975
- Vietnam – Hanoi – Vietnamese dong | PM – Pham Minh Chinh | President – Nguyen Xuan Phuc
- Norway – Oslo – Krone | PM – Jonas Gahr Store
- Denmark – Copenhagen – Danish krone | PM – Mette Frederiksen

371. On December 14, the 54-member United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) adopted the draft resolution, introduced by the US, to remove Iran from the membership of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW) for the remainder of its 2022-2026 term, citing its oppression of women and girls in Iran. India abstained in the ECOSOC on a draft resolution to oust Iran. Iran was rocked by protests after the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini. The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. After Iran's removal, now ECOSOC has 53 members. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ECOSOC adopted the draft resolution to remove Iran from the membership of UNCSW for its 2022-2026 term
- HQs of ECOSOC – New York, US | President – Lachezara Stoeva | Established in – 1945 | Members – 53

372. On December 13, New Zealand passed into law a unique plan to phase out tobacco smoking by imposing a lifetime ban on young people buying cigarettes. The law states that tobacco can't ever be sold to anybody born on or after Jan 1, 2009. Health authorities hope smoking will fade away well before then. They have a stated goal of making New Zealand smoke-free by 2025. The law does not affect vaping, which has already become more popular than smoking in New Zealand. New Zealand in recent years also imposed a series of hefty tax hikes on cigarettes. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- New Zealand – passed a law to impose a lifetime ban on young people buying cigarettes to phase out tobacco smoking
- According to law, tobacco can't ever be sold to anybody born on or after Jan 1, 2009
- New Zealand – Wellington – Dollar (NZD) | PM – Jacinda Ardern

Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

373. On December 13, HDFC got in-principle approval from BSE and NSE for its merger with HDFC Bank. In April 2022, HDFC Bank agreed to take over HDFC, the biggest domestic mortgage lender. Once merged, the new entity will have a combined asset base of around Rs 18 lakh Cr. The merger is expected to be completed by the second or third quarter of FY24. After the merger, HDFC Bank will be 100% owned by public shareholders while existing shareholders of HDFC will own 41% of the bank. Every HDFC shareholder will get 42 shares of HDFC Bank for every 25 shares held. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- HDFC – got in-principle approval from BSE & NSE for its merger with HDFC Bank
- HDFC Bank will be 100% owned by public shareholders after the merger & HDFC will own 41% of the HDFC Bank
- HQs of HDFC Ltd – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Deepak Parekh | VC & CEO – Keki Mistry
- HQs of HDFC Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sashidhar Jagdishan | Tagline – “We understand your World”

374. On December 14, according to a report by Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the wholesale price-based inflation (WPI) declined to a 21-month low of 5.85% in November on easing prices of food, fuel and manufactured items. The inflation was 14.87% in November 2021. Inflation in food articles in November was 1.07% against 8.33% in the previous month. Retail inflation dipped below the RBI’s upper tolerance level of 6% the first time in 11 months in November on softening food price index. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- WPI – declined to a 21-month low of 5.85% in November 2022 (from 14.87% in Nov’21)
- Inflation in food articles in Nov 2022 was 1.07% (against 8.33% in Oct 2022)
- Ministry of Commerce & Industry: Piyush Goyal | Constituency – Maharashtra
- MoS in Ministry of Commerce & Industry: Anupriya Singh Patel & Som Parkash

375. On December 15, HDFC Bank announced to acquire 7.75% stake in fintech startup Mintoak Innovations for Rs 31.14 Cr. Founded in 2017, Mintoak is a payments-led fintech platform which provides digital point-of-sale and value-added services to merchants. Mintoak currently has a presence in Mauritius and Kuwait, apart from India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HDFC Bank – to acquire 7.75% stake in Mintoak Innovations
- HQs of HDFC Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sashidhar Jagdishan | Tagline – “We understand your World”

Defence Affairs

376. On December 13, Kalyani Rafael Advanced Systems (KRAS) rolled out its 100th Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM) mid-section kit. The kit was delivered to the Indian Air Force. The MRSAM kit is a collaborative effort of KRAS and the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). Rafael has supplied different kinds of missiles to the Indian armed forces. Kalyani Rafael Advanced Systems Pvt. Ltd. (KRAS) is a Joint Venture between Kalyani Group and Rafael Advanced Defense Systems Ltd., Israel. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- KRAS – delivered its 100th MRSAM kit and delivered to Indian Air Force
- MRSAM kit is jointly developed by = KRAS + DRDO
- KRAS – a JV between Kalyani Group (India) + Rafael Advanced Defense Systems (Israel)
- Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel | President – Isaac Herzog | PM – Benjamin Netanyahu



Sports & Games

377. Usain Bolt has failed to top the list of the most written-about athletes for the first time in years, as he has been replaced by India's javelin star Neeraj Chopra in 2022. Chopra leads the way with 812 articles ahead of a troika of Jamaican women sprint stars, Elaine Thompson-Herah, with 751 articles, world 100m champion Shelley-Ann Fraser-Pryce (698) and world 200m champion Shericka Jackson (679), with Bolt still featuring in 574 articles. Olympic gold medalist Neeraj Chopra has received the Padma Shri in 2022 in the field of Sports. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Neeraj Chopra (with 812 articles) – replaced Usain Bolt in the list of the most written-about athletes in 2022
- Neeraj Chopra received Padma Shri in 2022

378. In December 2022, Indian shuttlers clinched total 6 Gold medals at the “Peru Para Badminton International” in Lima, Peru. In the men’s section, World No. 3 Sukant Kadam and Nehal Gupta won the titles in the SL4 and SL3 singles events. In the women’s section, Nithya Sre Sumathy Sivan and Mandeep Kaur won the titles in the SH6 and SL3 singles categories. Men’s doubles pair of Nehal and Breno Johann (SL3-SL4) and women’s doubles combination of Parul Parmar and Vaishali Nilesh Patel (SL3-SU5) also bagged gold medals in their respective events. Mandeep Kaur also took a silver and bronze medal in women’s doubles and mixed doubles SL3-SU5 respectively. Overall, Indian shuttlers won 6 Gold, 1 Silver & 7 Bronze medals in this tournament. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian shuttlers – clinched 6 Gold, 1 Silver & 7 Bronze medals at the “Peru Para Badminton International” in Lima, Peru
- 6 Gold medalists: Sukant Kadam, Nehal Gupta, Nithya, Mandeep Kaur, Nehal & Breno (pair), Parul & Vaishali (pair)
- Peru – Lima – Sol | President – Dina Boluarte | PM – Betssy Chavez

379. On December 14, Tata Steel Limited signed an MoU with Hockey India to become an Official Partner of the ‘FIH Hockey Men’s World Cup 2023’ in Odisha. The 15th edition of the Hockey Men’s World Cup will take place in Bhubaneswar-Rourkela from January 13 to January 29, 2023. The FIH Odisha Hockey Men’s World Cup 2023 Bhubaneswar-Rourkela will be the fourth time that India will be hosting the prestigious tournament after having played hosts in 1982 in Bombay, 2010 in New Delhi, and 2018 in Odisha. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tata Steel – became an Official Partner of the ‘FIH Hockey Men’s World Cup 2023’ in Odisha
- FIH Hockey Men’s World Cup 2023 (15th edition) – will take place in Bhubaneswar-Rourkela (in Jan)
- It will be the 4th time of India hosting the tournament
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal
- HQs of Hockey India – New Delhi | President – Dilip Tirkey | Secretary General – Bhola Nath
- HQs of Tata Steel Ltd – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – T. V. Narendran

380. In December 2022, the Under-18 girls team won the silver medal losing to UAE in the final at the recently concluded “Under-18 Asia Rugby Sevens” held in Kathmandu, Nepal. The bronze medal match was won by Malaysia. The U18 boys have achieved the 4th place. The Indian Rugby Football Union (IRFU) is the sole governing body for the sport of Rugby in India. The IRFU is recognized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, and is a full member of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA), Asian Rugby Football Union (ARFU) and World Rugby. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- India's Under-18 girls team – won the silver medal at the “Under-18 Asia Rugby Sevens” held in Kathmandu, Nepal
- Under-18 girls: Gold – UAE | Bronze – Malaysia | India's U-18 boys achieved the 4th place

381. In December 2022, World number one Iga Swiatek was crowned “WTA Player of the Year 2022” for the first time in her career, while Czech Republic's Barbora Krejckova and Katerina Siniakova were named “WTA Doubles Team of the Year 2022”. Beatriz Haddad Maia of Brazil was named the “WTA Most Improved Player of the Year”. The “WTA Coach of the Year 2022” award went to David Witt. Moreover, among the winners of ‘2022 WTA Player Service Awards’, Ons Jabeur received the ‘Karen Krantzcke Sportsmanship Award’, Gabriela Dabrowski collected the ‘Peachy Kellmeyer Player Service Award’ for a third time and Maria Sakkari won the ‘Jerry Diamond ACES Award’ for helping promote the sport via off-court activities.

[{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 2022 WTA Awards:
 - Player of the Year – Iga Swiatek (Poland)
 - Doubles Team of the Year – Barbora Krejckova & Katerina Siniakova (Czech Republic)
 - Most Improved Player of the Year – Beatriz Haddad Maia (Brazil)
 - Coach of the Year – David Witt (US)
- 2022 WTA Player Service Awards:
 - Karen Krantzcke Sportsmanship Award – Ons Jabeur (Tunisia)
 - Peachy Kellmeyer Player Service Award – Gabriela Dabrowski (Canada)
 - Jerry Diamond ACES Award – Maria Sakkari (Greece)

Science & Technology

382. On December 14, Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm announced a ‘major scientific breakthrough’ in the decades-long quest to harness fusion. Researchers at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California, for the first time, produced more energy in a fusion reaction than was used to ignite it, something called Net Energy Gain. The achievement will pave the way for advancements in national defense and the future of clean power. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The US Researchers achieved ‘Net Energy Gain’ in nuclear fusion reaction for the first time
- Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory – California, US
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

Appointments & Resignations

383. On December 13, Cindy Hook has been appointed as the inaugural CEO of the organising committee for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Brisbane, Australia. She would be moving to the Queensland state capital and starting the new role in February. Hook was based in Singapore as CEO of Deloitte Asia Pacific. Andrew Liveris is the Brisbane 2032 President. Australia has twice previously hosted the Summer Olympics, at Melbourne in 1956 and Sydney in 2000. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Cindy Hook – appointed as the inaugural CEO of ‘2032 Olympic & Paralympic Organising Committee’
- Australia has hosted the Summer Olympics twice – Melbourne in 1956 & Sydney in 2000
- Upcoming Olympics Venues:
 - 2024 Summer Olympics – Paris, France | 2026 Winter Olympics – Milan & Cortina D’Ampezzo, Italy
 - 2028 Summer Olympics – Los Angeles, US | 2032 Summer Olympics – Brisbane, Australia
- Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Anthony Albanese
- HQs of IOC – Lausanne, Switzerland | President – Thomas Bach | Established in – 1894

384. On December 13, National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) Ltd appointed Rajeev Kumar Vishnoi as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD). He is also the CMD of Rishikesh-based THDC India Limited. Until now, Yamuna Kumar Chaubey NHPC’s Director (Technical) was holding the additional charge of CMD of the company. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajeev Kumar Vishnoi – appointed as the CMD of NHPC Ltd (replacing - Yamuna Kumar Chaubey)
- He is also the CMD of THDC India Ltd (Rishikesh, Uttarakhand)
- HQs of NHPC – Faridabad, Haryana | MD & Chairman – Rajeev Kumar Vishnoi

385. On December 13, Senior cardiologist from Hyderabad, Dr P. C. Rath, was formally elected President of the Cardiological Society of India (CSI) for the year 2023-24, in an annual meeting held in Chennai. Dr Rath has pioneered many percutaneous cardiac interventions like complex coronary angioplasty and stenting, robotic angioplasty and percutaneous valve treatment procedures. The CSI is a national body of cardiologists within India and those settled abroad. It has more than 5,000 members and was formed in 1948 under the stewardship of Bharat Ratna Dr Vidhan Shankar Roy, who served as the first President of the society. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- P. C. Rath – formally elected President of the Cardiological Society of India (CSI) for the year 2023-24
- HQs of CSI – Kolkata, West Bengal | President – P. C. Rath

Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

386. On December 13, SpiceJet has been awarded the ‘Safety Performer of the Year 2022’ award by GMR Delhi Airport Awards for being the top performer among the self-handling airlines. Recently, the airline was audited by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), and its operations, safety processes, and systems were found to be strong and at par with the global best practices and safety standards. The airline was the only scheduled Indian airline part of the audit conducted by ICAO. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SpiceJet – awarded the ‘Safety Performer of the Year 2022’ award by GMR Delhi Airport Awards
- HQs of SpiceJet – Gurugram, Haryana | Chairman & MD – Ajay Singh
- HQs of ICAO – Montreal, Canada | Council President – Salvatore Sciacchitano | Members – 193





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Schemes & Initiatives

387. On December 14, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma inaugurated 'Orunodoi 2.0' scheme to help 17 lakh women in state. Under this scheme, women of Assam will receive Rs 1,250 in their bank account every month. Permanent residents of Assam, composite household income should be less than Rs 2 lakh per annum, households having any member who is dwarf or ailing from Cerebral palsy, ASD and Thalassaemia, Hemophilia, Leprosy, Autism spectrum disorder will be included in this scheme. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Himanta Biswa Sarma (Assam) – inaugurated 'Orunodoi 2.0' scheme
- Eligible women of Assam will receive Rs 1,250 in their bank account every month
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

Important Days & Dates

388. Vijay Diwas is celebrated across the nation on December 16 to commemorate India's victory against Pakistan in the 1971 war. The Indian Navy conducted Operation Trident and Operation Python during the 1971 war. Vijay Diwas tends to immortalise the story of every single brave Indian Army warrior who sacrificed his life during the 1971 conflict against Pakistan. During the 1971 war, the Indian Army lost 3,900 brave soldiers. Affixing to the surrender of the Pakistani Army, India also ensured the independence of Bangladesh which was erstwhile known as East Pakistan. The day is also known as Bijoy Dibos in Bangladesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 16 – Vijay Diwas in India & Bijoy Dibos in Bangladesh
- The day commemorates India's victory against Pakistan in the 1971 war
- Indian Navy conducted 'Operation Trident' & 'Operation Python' during the '1971 Indo-Pak War'

Books & Authors

389. In December 2022, Mansi Gulati, the Founder of Manasvani, has released her book "Miracles of Face Yoga", which has been appreciated by the President of India Droupadi Murmu. Mansi Gulati, an international Yogi, celebrated author, and thought leader, devoted her efforts to learning everything possible about yoga practices and philosophy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Miracles of Face Yoga" book – released by Mansi Gulati

Obituaries

390. On December 3, Veteran documentarian Julia Reichert, who won an Oscar in 2020 for her feature "American Factory", passed away at the age of 76. Across her more than 50 years as a filmmaker, Reichert received four Academy Award nominations and one win, two Primetime Emmys, a Director's Guild Award and two Peabody Awards nods. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Julia Reichert – a Documentarian & Filmmaker – passed away
- She won an Oscar in 2020 for her feature "American Factory"



Meetings, Conferences & Summits

391. On December 15, Union Minister for Jal Shakti, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, inaugurated the 7th edition of the “India Water Impact Summit (IWIS)” at New Delhi. The theme of this year’s Summit is “Restoration and Conservation of Small Rivers in a Large Basin” with emphasis on the select aspects of ‘Mapping and Convergence of 5Ps’ - People, Policy, Plan, Programme and Project. In the 3-day Summit, experts from India and abroad discussed ways in which small rivers in large river basins can be protected. The summit was organised by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gajendra Singh Shekhawat – inaugurated the 7th edition of the “India Water Impact Summit (IWIS)” at New Delhi
- Theme – “Restoration and Conservation of Small Rivers in a Large Basin” | Summit was organised by – NMCG
- NMCG functions under – Ministry of Jal Shakti | DG – G. Asok Kumar

Ranks, Reports & Surveys

392. According to the “India Skills Report (ISR) 2023” released by Wheebox, B.Com and MBA programmes are expected to become the most popular in 2023, with the most employable talent at 60.62% and 60.1%, respectively. Additionally, with an employability rate of 57.44% in the BE/B.Tech domain, candidates are the third most employable overall. Mumbai, Lucknow & Mangalore were the cities with the most employable talent and Bangalore, Chennai and New Delhi were the most preferred cities for work by graduates. Rajasthan was reported to have the greatest percentage of employable females who were prepared for the workforce (53.56%), followed by Uttar Pradesh with 46.51% of employable women. According to the survey, the BFSI, pharmaceutical, e-commerce, and IT/ITES sectors are driving the demand for skilled labour in the skills market. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “India Skills Report (ISR) 2023” – released by Wheebox
- B. Com (60.62%) & MBA (60.1%) programmes are expected to become the most popular in 2023
- BE/B.Tech domain (57.44%) will be the 3rd most employable overall
- Cities with the most employable talent – Mumbai, Lucknow & Mangalore
- Most preferred cities for work by graduates – Bangalore, Chennai and New Delhi
- Rajasthan (53.56%) – reported the greatest percentage of employable females | Followed by – UP (46.51%)

393. Global monthly wages in real terms fell to -0.9% in the first half (H1) of 2022, according to the “Global Wage Report 2022-23” released by the International Labour Organisation (ILO). This is the first time this century that real global wage growth has been negative. The crisis is reducing the purchasing power of the middle classes and hitting low-income households particularly hard. Real wages in emerging G20 countries grew by 0.8%. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Global Wage Report 2022-23” – released by the ILO
- Global monthly wages in real terms fell in the H1 2022 – to (-0.9%) | grew by 0.8% in emerging G20 countries
- HQs of ILO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Gilbert F. Houngbo | Founded in – 1919



394. Union Minister for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh revealed that India had jumped from 7th in 2010 to 3rd in 2020 in global scientific publications and scholarly output, according to a report by America's National Science Foundation (NSF). India's scholarly output increased from 60,555 papers in 2010 to 1,49,213 papers in 2020. India also ranks 3rd globally in the number of PhDs produced annually. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- According to NSF (US): India – ranked 3rd in 'Global Scientific Publications and Scholarly Output in 2020'
- India also ranks 3rd globally in the number of PhDs produced annually

Amount & Agreements

395. On December 13, Under 'Phase-II of FAME-India Scheme', Rs 1000 Cr is allocated by the Ministry of Heavy Industries for the development of charging infrastructure. The Ministry has sanctioned 2,877 electric vehicle charging stations in 68 cities across 25 states/UTs. Further, 1576 charging stations across 9 Expressways and 16 Highways under phase-II of FAME India Scheme has also been sanctioned. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Heavy Industries – allocated Rs 1000 Cr under the 'Phase-II of FAME-India Scheme'
- Ministry has sanctioned 2,877 electric vehicle charging stations in 68 cities across 25 states/UTs
- Ministry of Heavy Industries: Mahendra Nath Pandey | Constituency – Chandauli, Uttar Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Heavy Industries: Krishan Pal



Ordinance, Bills & Acts

396. On December 14, Kerala Assembly passed the "University Laws (Amendments) Bill" to remove the Governor as the ex-officio Chancellor of 14 universities in the state. The CPI(M) government introduced this bill in the Assembly in the wake of recurring issues with Governor Arif Mohammed Khan on administration and appointments at these universities. The Bill envisages appointing academicians of high repute as the chancellor of universities. The chancellor would be appointed by the Cabinet for a term of 5 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kerala – passed "University Laws (Amendments) Bill" to remove Governor as the ex-officio Chancellor of 14 universities
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

397. On December 14, Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) signed an MoU with e-commerce enablement platform Shiprocket to support micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME) exporters in India showcasing their products on the Indian Business Portal (IBP). FIEO member exporters will be able to choose premium economy & express options under the Shiprocket panel. Shiprocket will also offer logistics-related services as a value add to Indian Business Portal (IBP) store holders and FIEO members which will include domestic shipping, warehousing management services, fulfillment services, and marketing tools under one single Shiprocket umbrella. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- FIEO + Shiprocket = an MoU to support MSME exporters in India showcasing their products on IBP
- Shiprocket (backed by Zomato) – is India's 106th unicorn
- HQs of FIEO – New Delhi | Director General and CEO – Ajay Sahai

398. In December 2022, IIT Ropar and the Army Training Command (ARTRAC) of the Indian Army signed an MoU for setting up a “Centre of Excellence for Studies and Applied Research in Defence and Security” at the premier institute. The CoE will be set up with an aim to leverage IIT Ropar's technical expertise and ARTRAC's operational expertise in advanced materials and manufacturing, design and development of deep learning algorithms. The CoE will focus on emerging areas of research and technology, including Information Warfare or Security, wireless communication; and many other fields in the larger domain of Defence and Security. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IIT Ropar + ARTRAC (Indian Army) = an MoU to set up “Centre of Excellence for Studies and Applied Research in Defence and Security” at IIT Ropar
- Director of IIT Ropar – Rajeev Ahuja

399. On December 13, Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and Department of Space signed an MoU to develop the ‘Krishi-Decision Support System (Krishi-DSS)’ using geospatial technologies and related databases for enhancing evidence-based decision-making capability of all the stakeholders in the agriculture sector. Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare is developing Krishi-DSS, a decision support system, on the lines of Gati Shakti, using RISAT-1A and VEDAS of Department of Space. This will enhance the evidence-based decision-making capability of all the stakeholders in the agriculture sector by way of integration with MOSDAC and BHUVAN (Geo-platform) of ISRO and systems of ICAR. The quality of production will increase and export opportunities will also increase. Agriculture Department is also working on AgriStack. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dept of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare + Dept of Space = an MoU to develop the ‘Krishi-Decision Support System’
- ‘RISAT-1A’ and ‘VEDAS’ of Department of Space are being used for the development of ‘Krishi-DSS’
- Union Minister for State (MoS) in the Department of Space – Dr. Jitendra Singh
- Ministry of Health & Family Welfare: Mansukh L. Mandaviya | Constituency – Palitana, Gujarat
- MoS in Ministry of Health & Family Welfare: Bharati Pravin Pawar

400. On December 15, Microsoft partnered with global communications company Viasat to deliver satellite internet access to 10 million people across the world by 2025. Viasat is the first satellite partner to work with Microsoft's Airband Initiative, and together they will deepen Airband's work. According to the International Telecommunication Union at the UN, around one-third of the world's population (2.7 billion people) have still never used the internet. By working together, the companies will combine their expertise and assets to help enable telehealth, distance learning and education, precision agriculture, clean power and other services to reach new areas through the transformational provision of power and connectivity. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Microsoft + Viasat = partnered to deliver satellite internet access to 10 million people across the world by 2025
- Viasat – the first satellite partner to work with Microsoft's Airband Initiative
- HQs of Microsoft – Washington, US | Chairman & CEO – Satya Nadella | Founded in – 1975





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