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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?

But what if you could effectively utilize this time to validate the knowledge you just gained during your study sessions? How about competing with your friend in a live Current Affairs battle instead of just sitting and listening to the traffic horns? How about dominating the English language leaderboard instead of searching for a filter on Snapchat?

Time and tide wait for none! Team Smartkeeda perceived the importance of time and practice in your test preparation journey. We understood how each second can make a huge difference to your career. Therefore, we were determined to build an application that has the competence to save each second of your preparation time making you 100% productive. We worked diligently for 3-4 years to build an application with the single aim of making each second of your test preparation time, efficient.

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We, team **Smartkeeda**, promise that with the effective use of the Qudoo app, you will be able to see a drastic change in your performance at exams including your **speed, accuracy, and percentile** within a couple of weeks with minimum effort. “KYUKI MAA-BAAP KI FIKRA KO FAKRA ME BADALNA HAI”, so every second counts!!

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Smartkeeda
The Question Bank



National & States Affairs

401. On December 16, Reliance Consumer Products, the FMCG arm of Reliance Retail announced the launch of its made-for-India consumer packaged goods brand 'Independence' in Gujarat. The company will be selling products ranging from staples to processed foods and other daily essentials. INDEPENDENCE brings a wide choice of high quality and affordable products including edible oils, pulses, grains, packaged foods and other daily need products. Reliance Retail Ventures Limited is a subsidiary of Reliance Industries Ltd and the holding company of all the retail businesses under the RIL group. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Reliance Retail Ventures Limited – launched its consumer packaged goods brand 'Independence' in Gujarat
- HQs of RRVL – Mumbai, MH | CEO – V. Subramaniam

402. On December 16, the Curtain Raiser of India's flagship Energy Event "India Energy Week 2023 (IEW 2023)", was organised at the Bangalore palace, Bengaluru. India Energy Week 2023 is being organised during India's G20 Presidency, under the tagline "Growth, Collaboration, Transition", from 6-8 February 2023 in Bengaluru. The India Energy Week 2023 is expected to feature more than 30 Energy Ministers, 50 CEOs and 10,000 delegates. [{Read more}](#).

Key Points:

- Curtain Raiser of India's flagship Energy Event "India Energy Week 2023 (IEW 2023)" – organised in Bengaluru
- Tagline of IEW 2023 – "Growth, Collaboration, Transition" | The event will be held in Bengaluru in Feb 2023

403. On December 15, Energy Efficiency Services (EESL), a joint venture of public sector undertakings under the Union Ministry of Power signed an MoU with Energy Conservation Mission of The Institution of Engineers (India) to conduct awareness sessions on energy conservation across 30 schools in Telangana. The collaboration will also be for developing and conducting skill development and training activities for upskilling unemployed youth as well as facilitating capacity building sessions for educational institutions, MSMEs engaged in energy-related businesses, non-governmental organisations, women's SHGs on energy conservation practices as well as energy efficiency technologies and programmes. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- EESL + Institution of Engineers = an MoU to collaborate on energy conservation in Telangana
- The MoU is also for developing and conducting skill development and training activities
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan
- HQs of EESL – New Delhi | CEO – Vishal Kapoor | Chairman – K. Sreekant

404. On December 15, the Namami Gange initiative has been recognised by the United Nations as one of the Top 10 World Restoration Flagships to revive the natural world. Following the award, the initiative will be eligible to receive UN support, funding or technical expertise. The Namami Gange initiative is committed to reviving the River Ganga, and was started in 2014. The programme was selected from over 150 such initiatives from across 70 countries across the globe under the banner United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. The movement is designed to prevent and reverse the degradation of natural spaces. Director General of Namami Gange, G. Asok Kumar, received the award at a function in the 15th Conference of Parties (COP15) to the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) in Montreal, Canada. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Namami Gange initiative – recognised by UN as one of Top 10 World Restoration Flagships to revive the Natural World
- Namami Gange initiative was started in 2014 | DG – G. Asok Kumar

405. On December 15, NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and UNDP India launched the 5th edition of 'Youth Co:Lab' to support young social entrepreneurs. Launched in partnership with AIM in 2019, Youth Co:Lab is an UNDP India initiative that aims to establish a common agenda for Asia-Pacific countries to invest in and empower youth to accelerate implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through leadership, social innovation, and entrepreneurship. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- AIM + UNDP India = launched the 5th edition of 'Youth Co:Lab' (initially launched in 2019)
- HQs of NITI Aayog – New Delhi | CEO – Parmameswaran Iyer | Chairperson – Narendra Modi | VC – Suman Bery
- HQs of UNDP – New York, US | Administrator – Achim Steiner | Founded in – 1965

406. On December 15, India has launched a 'Group of Friends to Promote Accountability for Crimes against Peacekeepers'. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar co-chaired the launch event and announced that New Delhi will soon have a database that will record all crimes against the Blue Helmets. India, Bangladesh, Egypt, France, Morocco and Nepal are co-chairs of the 'Group of Friends'. The Group of Friends will convene two meetings of its members per year, organise and host one event per year involving Permanent Missions and other stakeholders. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – launched a 'Group of Friends to Promote Accountability for Crimes against Peacekeepers'
- Co-chairs of the 'Group of Friends' – India, Bangladesh, Egypt, France, Morocco, Nepal

407. In December 2022, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) has further expanded the scope of 'RoDTEP (Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products) Scheme' by including the exports made from the Chemical sector, Pharmaceuticals sector and exports of articles of iron & steel under chapters 28, 29, 30 and 73 of ITC (HS) schedule of items. The expanded list of items will be applicable for exports made from December 15, 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MoCI expanded the scope of 'RoDTEP Scheme' by including Chemical, Pharmaceuticals, Iron & Steel related exports
- Ministry of Commerce & Industry: Piyush Goyal | Constituency – Maharashtra
- MoS in Ministry of Commerce & Industry: Anupriya Singh Patel & Som Parkash

408. On December 19, the Indian Government announced to build a 1,748 km long frontier highway close to the India-Tibet-China-Myanmar border in Arunachal Pradesh in the next 5 years. It will be as close as 20 km from the international border. The two-lane highway, NH-913, will aim to stop infiltration in the border areas and will be built by the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways. The highway will start from Bomdila, a town in Arunachal Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Govt announced to build a 1,748 km long frontier national highway namely 'NH-913' in Arunachal Pradesh
- The NH will be close to the 'India-Tibet-China-Myanmar' international border
- Arunachal Pradesh: Capital – Itanagar | CM – Pema Khandu | Governor – B. D. Mishra

409. On December 10, Union Minister of Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw announced a new train service "Kashi Tamil Sangamam Express" between Kashi and Tamil Nadu to commemorate the ongoing Kashi Tamil Sangamam being held in Varanasi. The station will be developed into a world-class facility in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of making railway stations resemble airport terminals. Kashi Tamil Sangamam is a month-long programme organised by the Ministry of Education as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ashwini Vaishnaw – announced “Kashi Tamil Sangamam Express” between Uttar Pradesh & Tamil Nadu
- Kashi Tamil Sangamam – organised in Varanasi by Ministry of Education as part of ‘Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav’
- [Ministry of Education: Dharmendra Pradhan](#) | [Constituency – Madhya Pradesh](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Education: Subhas Sarkar](#)

410. On December 14, National Technical Advisory Group on Immunization (NTAGI) announced that India will soon immunize girls aged 9-14 from HPV under a national vaccination program. The nationwide drive will begin by mid-May 2023. The quadrivalent vaccine called Cervavac which will be used for the nationwide vaccination drive of adolescent girls is developed by the Serum Institute of India (SII) and will offer protection against four strains of HPV - 16, 18, 6, and 11. Following Sikkim’s 2016 model, girls in the age group of 9-14 years will be given the HPV vaccine in campaign mode first. The approval of SII’s vaccine was granted by the drug regulator (DGCI) in July 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NTAGI – to launch HPV vaccine namely ‘Cervavac’ for preventing cervical cancer in 2023
- Girls in the age group of 9-14 years will be given the HPV vaccine first | The vaccine is developed by – SII
- It will offer protection against 4 strains of HPV – 16, 18, 6 & 11
- [HQs of SII – Pune, Maharashtra](#) | [Chairman – Cyrus S. Poonawalla](#) | [CEO – Adar C. Poonawalla](#) | [Founded in – 1966](#)

411. On December 13, Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud virtually inaugurated 10 District Court Digitisation Hubs (DCDH) in Odisha. With this, a total of 15 DCDHs have now become functional in the state with each catering to a neighbouring district, thus covering all 30 district courts. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- D Y Chandrachud – inaugurated 10 DCDH in Odisha (taking total number of DCDHs to 15 in the state)
- DCDH – **D**istrict **C**ourt **D**igitisation **H**ubs
- [Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar](#) | [CM – Naveen Patnaik](#) | [Governor – Ganeshi Lal](#)

412. On December 14, Mangaluru International Airport (MIA) received the certificate of accreditation from the Airports Council International (ACI). The accreditation is for level-2 of the airport customer experience accreditation programme. The certificate recognises the commitment of MIA to continue with its customer experience improvement. The accreditation is valid for one year. The accreditation program aims to further strengthen the continued endeavour of this ‘Gateway To Goodness’ to enhance customer experience enhancement. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mangaluru International Airport – received the certificate of accreditation from ACI
- The accreditation is valid for 1 year
- [HQs of ACI – Montreal, Canada](#) | [DG – Luis Felipe de Oliveira](#)

413. Kolkata will host the “Tramjatra Event”, an event that will celebrate 150 years of its iconic tram, in February 2023. Tramjatra (tram’s journey) is a moving tram carnival that was started back in 1996 jointly by enthusiasts from Melbourne and Kolkata. The theme of the 2023 Tramjatra will be “Heritage, Clean Air and Green Mobility”. Tramjatra is essentially an international collaboration of trammies, artists, environmentalists, and tram-loving communities. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kolkata – to host the “Tramjatra Event” (tram’s journey) in February 2023
- Theme of the 2023 Tramjatra – “Heritage, Clean Air and Green Mobility”

Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

414. On December 15, Tata AIA Life Insurance (Tata AIA) has unveiled Emerging Opportunities Fund to invest in mid-cap firms and emerging leading companies. The New Fund Offering (NFO) window was available at a NAV of Rs. 10 per unit. Through ULIPs from Tata AIA including Fortune Pro, Wealth Pro, Fortune Maxima, and Wealth Maxima, investors can invest in the fund. Additionally, Tata AIA’s Param Rakshak Solutions will be linked to this fund. the fund’s investment goal is to generate capital appreciation over the long term. Up to 30% of the portfolio could be allocated by the fund to equity and equity-related securities that lie outside the mid-cap bracket. Tata AIA Life Insurance Company Limited (Tata AIA Life) is a joint venture company, established by Tata Sons Pvt. Ltd. and AIA Group Ltd. (AIA). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tata AIA Life Insurance – unveiled Emerging Opportunities Fund to invest in mid-cap firms & emerging companies
- Tata AIA’s ‘Param Rakshak Solutions’ will be linked to this fund
- Tata AIA Life, a JV between = Tata Sons Pvt Ltd + AIA Group Ltd
- HQs of Tata AIA Life – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Naveen Tahilyani

415. On December 17, Equitas Small Finance Bank signed an MoU with the Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA), Ministry of Defence, Government of India. The MoU will allow Equitas to be a SPARSH (System for Pension Administration (Raksha) service centre to provide data verification for pensioners. This makes Equitas SFB the first small finance bank inducted by the government for the SPARSH programme. Defence pensioners and their families can avail a few services for the pension account from branches PAN India. Some of the key services include, annual issuing of life certificate (digital or manual), change of bank details for pension account, information of pensioners and the accounts. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Equitas SFB – signed an MoU with CGDA to be a SPARSH service centre to provide data verification for pensioners
- Equitas SFB – is the first SFB inducted by the government for the SPARSH programme
- HQs of Equitas SFB – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | MD & CEO – Vasudevan Pathangi Narasimhan (till the succession)
- Ministry of Defence: Rajnath Singh | Constituency – Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Defence: Ajay Bhatt

416. On December 15, Reliance General Insurance Company Ltd. (RGICL) announced the launch of a premium health insurance product – Reliance Health Infinity Policy that claims to offer limitless benefits. This first of its kind policy comes loaded with high sum insured up to ₹5 Cr that includes features like moreGlobal cover, maternity cover, OPD cover, unlimited restoration of sum insured, and 15 plus useful add-on benefits. It also rewards customers for being fit both financially and physically by offering India’s first credit score-based discount and BMI-based discount on the premium. The policy is available in individual and family floater, covering up to 8 members, categories and offers sum-insured options starting from ₹5 lakh to ₹5 Cr. Children above 90 days of age and adults between the age of 18 to 65 years are covered in this policy. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Reliance General Insurance – launched “Reliance Health Infinity Policy”
- It also rewards customers for being fit both financially and physically
- [HQs of Reliance General Insurance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Rakesh Jain](#)

417. On December 16, AU Small Finance Bank entered into a corporate agency arrangement with HDFC Life for soliciting insurance plans of HDFC Life through the bancassurance business model. Through this partnership, AU Small Finance Bank will be able to offer its customers the entire range of life insurance products offered by HDFC Life. The bank quoted the Swiss Re report (2019) to highlight that India has the highest protection gap of 83% in comparison to other insurance markets. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- AU SFB + HDFC Life = a bancassurance agreement for soliciting insurance plans of HDFC Life
- [HQs of AU SFB – Jaipur, Rajasthan | MD & CEO – Sanjay Agarwal](#)
- [HQs of HDFC Life Insurance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Vibha Padalkar](#)

418. On December 16, HDFC Securities launched “Roots”, a dedicated platform of Google for providing comprehensive investor education and market analysis. The site offers multiple forms of valuable information, including articles, bite-sized tips, podcasts by experts, video tutorials and explainers, and live social media feed on the Indian financial markets. Roots is expected to have a wider impact on how Indian audience is absorbing information and how quickly such information is translated into investment decisions. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HDFC Securities – launched a platform of Google named “Roots” for providing investor education and market analysis
- [HQs of HDFC Securities Ltd – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Dhiraj Relli](#)

Defence Affairs

419. From 15 to 28 December 2022, 6th Edition of Indo-Kazakhstan joint training exercise “KAZIND-22” was conducted at Umroi (Meghalaya). Joint annual training exercise with the Kazakhstan Army was instituted in 2016 as Exercise Prabal Dostyk, which was later upgraded to a company level exercise and renamed as Ex Kazind in 2018. This joint exercise will enable the two armies to train, plan and execute a series of combined tactical drills for neutralising of likely threats that may be encountered in UN peace keeping operations. “Exercise KAZIND” will enhance the level of defence cooperation between Indian Army and Kazakhstan Army which will further foster the bilateral relations between the two nations. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “KAZIND-22” – joint training exercise between India and Kazakhstan was conducted at Umroi, Meghalaya
- The exercise was instituted in 2016 as ‘Exercise Prabal Dostyk’ | Renamed as ‘Exercise Kazind’ in 2018
- [Kazakhstan – Astana – Tenge | President – Kassym-Jomart Tokayev | PM – Alikhan Smailov](#)
- [Meghalaya: Capital – Shillong | CM – Conrad Kongkal Sangma | Governor – B. D. Mishra \(addi. charge\)](#)



420. The 16th Edition of Indo-Nepal joint training Exercise “SURYA KIRAN-XVI” between India and Nepal was conducted at Nepal Army Battle School, Saljhandi (Nepal), from 16 - 29 December 2022. Exercise “SURYA KIRAN” is conducted annually between India and Nepal with the aim to enhance interoperability in jungle warfare & counter terrorism operations in mountainous terrain and HADR under UN mandate. [{Read more}](#)

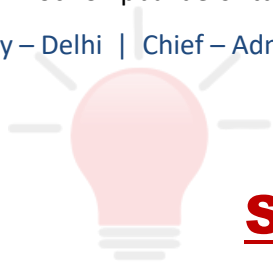
Key Points:

- India + Nepal – conducted 16th SURYA KIRAN joint training Exercise at – Nepal Army Battle School, Saljhandi (Nepal)
- Nepal – Kathmandu – Nepalese Rupee | President – Bidhya Devi Bhandari | PM – Sher Bahadur Deuba

421. INS Mormugao (D67), second warship of the P15B class of stealth, guided-missile destroyers of the Indian Navy, was commissioned on December 18 at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai, in the presence of Rajnath Singh, Defence Minister, the Chief Guest for the function. The commissioning ceremony marks the formal induction of the ship into the Indian Navy. ‘Y 12705’ (Mormugao) is the second ship of Project 15B stealth guided missile destroyers, built at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL). Designed by Indian Navy’s in-house Warship Design Bureau, and built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd, Mumbai, the four ships of the Project are christened after major cities from all four corners of the country, viz. Visakhapatnam, Mormugao, Imphal and Surat. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- INS Mormugao (D67 or Y 12705) – was formally commissioned at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai
- It is the the second ship of Project 15B stealth guided missile destroyers of Indian Navy
- Built by – Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd | Designed by – Warship Design Bureau
- HQs of Indian Navy – Delhi | Chief – Admiral R. Hari Kumar | VC – S. N. Ghormade | Founded in – 26th Jan, 1950



Sports & Games

422. The United States, Canada, and Mexico are all set to jointly host the prestigious “FIFA World Cup 2026”. Canada will be hosting the prestigious FIFA World Cup for the very first time in comparison to the United States and Mexico which will be hosting it for the second and third time respectively. FIFA has released a list of 16 cities from these 3 countries which will be hosting the matches. The three countries won the bid to host the tournament in 2018 and named it “United 2026”. These North American nations will be hosting the tournament in a completely new and expanded format by giving platforms to 48 teams/nations. The natural format of FIFA had 32 teams drawn into 8 groups of 4 countries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- US + Canada + Mexico = to jointly host the prestigious “FIFA World Cup 2026”
- Canada – will be hosting the prestigious FIFA World Cup for the very first time
- 48 teams/nations will participate in FIFA World Cup 2026 (as per new format)

423. On December 14, Indian swimmer Chahat Arora set a national record in the women’s 100m breaststroke at the 16th edition of the “FINA World Swimming Championships 2022” in Melbourne, Australia. Chahat Arora completed the 100m breaststroke race in 1:13.13s at the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre’s 25m short course pool. Moreover, Chahat also set a new national record in the women’s 50m breaststroke at the same tournament on December 17. She clocked 32.91s to top heat 2 at the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre’s 25m short course pool and bettered her own previous record of 32.94s. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 16th edition of the “FINA World Swimming Championships 2022” – held in Melbourne, Australia
- Chahat Arora – set a national record in the women’s 100m breaststroke, clocking 1:13.13s
- Chahat Arora – also set a new national record in the women’s 50m breaststroke, clocking 32.91s

Science & Technology

424. On December 15, India successfully carried out night trials of Agni-5 nuclear-capable ballistic missile. The test was carried out from APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha to validate new technologies and equipment on the missile. The trial has proved the capability to enhance the range of the Agni-5 missile if required. The missile, which uses a three-stage solid-fuelled engine, is capable of striking targets at ranges up to 5,000 kilometres with a very high degree of accuracy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – carried out night trials of Agni-5 nuclear-capable ballistic missile
- Test was carried out from – APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha | Range – up to 5,000 Kms
- Ministry of Defence: Rajnath Singh | Constituency – Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Defence: Ajay Bhatt

425. On December 11, the historical launch of the Arab world’s first lunar rover marked the culmination of a two-year long effort by ST Advanced Composites (STAC), a Chennai-based MSME that had been entrusted with the task of manufacturing and supplying key structural parts of the rover. Weighing a little less than 10 kg, ‘Rashid’ rover is the Arab world’s first lunar rover, conceived by Mohammed bin Rashid Space Centre, UAE’s national space agency. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ST Advanced Composites (Chennai) – was assigned the task of manufacturing key structural parts of ‘Rashid’ rover
- ‘Rashid’ rover (UAE) – the Arab world’s first lunar rover
- UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

426. On December 16, SWOT (Surface Water and Ocean Topography), A US-French satellite was launched by NASA from a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from Vandenberg Space Force Base in California. The satellite will map almost all of the world’s oceans, lakes and rivers & measure the height of water on more than 90% of Earth’s surface, allowing scientists to track the flow and identify potential high-risk areas. It will also survey millions of lakes as well as 1.3 million miles (2.1 million kilometres) of rivers. The satellite will shoot radar pulses at Earth, with the signals bouncing back to be received by a pair of antennas, one on each end of a 33-foot (10-meter) boom. The satellite will reveal the location and speed of rising sea levels and the shift of coastlines, key to saving lives and property. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NASA – launched ‘SWOT’ from Falcon 9 rocket to map world’s oceans, lakes & rivers
- SWOT – Surface Water and Ocean Topography | NASA + French Space Agency = collaborated to build this Satellite
- HQs of NASA – Washington D.C., US | Administrator – Bill Nelson | Founded in – 1958

427. National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Astronomers discovered two exoplanets "Kepler-138c" and "Kepler-138d" with Hubble Space Telescope. These exoplanets are located in a planetary system 218 light-years away in the constellation Lyra. The discovery of a planetary system known as "Kepler-138" was published in the journal Nature Astronomy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NASA's Astronomers discovered two exoplanets "Kepler-138c" and "Kepler-138d" with Hubble Space Telescope
- They are 218 light-years away in the constellation Lyra
- [HQs of NASA – Washington D.C., US](#) | [Administrator – Bill Nelson](#) | [Founded in – 1958](#)

428. On December 9, the United States Air Force (USAF) successfully tested 'AGM-183A', an Air-launched Rapid Response Weapon, or ARRW ("Arrow") which is United States military's first hypersonic weapon to reach operational status. The exact speed of the AGM-183A isn't known, although the Lockheed Martin-designed weapon is based on previous test vehicles built by DARPA that have an alleged maximum speed of Mach 20, or 15,000 mph (24,000 kph). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- USAF – successfully tested its 1st hypersonic missile 'AGM-183A', an Air-launched Rapid Response Weapon (ARRW)
- Expected speed – Mach 20, or 15,000 mph (24,000 kph) | Designed by – Lockheed Martin
- [US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar](#) | [46th President – Joe Biden](#) | [49th VP – Kamala Harris](#)

Appointments & Resignations

429. On December 15, Mette Frederiksen was re-elected as the Prime Minister of Denmark for 2nd Term. PM Modi congratulated her and hoped for continuing cooperation in bolstering the India-Denmark Green Strategic Partnership. Frederiksen is from Social Democratic party. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mette Frederiksen (Social Democratic party) – re-elected as the Prime Minister of Denmark for 2nd term
- [Denmark – Copenhagen – Danish krone](#) | [PM – Mette Frederiksen](#)

Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

430. On December 15, Spain's Rafael Nadal was crowned the ITF world champion for the fifth time in his career. Iga Swiatek of Poland won the women's award. She was also named WTA Player of the Year. In the men's doubles category, American Rajeev Ram and Briton Joe Salisbury won the award for the first time, while Czech duo Barbora Krejčíková and Katerina Siniakova took the women's doubles honour for the third time. Moreover, retired Roger Federer has also won the award five-times behind Pete Sampras (6) and 2021 winner Novak Djokovic (7). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rafael Nadal ([Spain - Tennis](#)) – named as 'ITF World Champion' in men's category (5th time in his career)
- Iga Swiatek ([Poland - Tennis](#)) – named as 'ITF World Champion' in women's category

431. In December 2022, the 20th edition of “Kathmandu International Mountain Film Festival 2022” was started with the theme of “Sustainable Summits”. ‘Matto ki Saikil’ (or Matto’s bicycle), a 95-minute long drama which Indian filmmaker Prakash Jha produced and also features in, had a special screening on the opening day. The festival aims to raise awareness on climate change and its disproportionate impact on countries like Nepal, according to organisers. 2022’s festival screened more than 60 films from 30 countries over five days. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 20th edition of “Kathmandu International Mountain Film Festival 2022” started
- Theme – “Sustainable Summits”

432. On December 16, Sonakshi Sinha was awarded PETA India’s 2022 Person of the Year title. Her strong advocacy for dog and cat rights earned her the title. Last year, Alia Bhatt was awarded the same title. Moreover, John Abraham and Fatima Sana Shaikh are PETA India’s Most Beautiful Vegetarians of 2022. PETA India was founded in the year 2000. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sonakshi Sinha – awarded as PETA India’s ‘2022 Person of the Year’ title
- John Abraham & Fatima Sana Shaikh – named PETA India’s ‘Most Beautiful Vegetarians of the Year 2022’
- [HQs of PETA – Virginia, USA](#) | [President – Ingrid Newkirk](#)

433. Spain’s Carlos Alcaraz has been named the Most Improved Player of the Year in the 2022 ATP Awards. Alcaraz, also honoured as the ATP No. 1 presented by Pepperstone. He won five titles in 2022. Wesley Koolhof & Neal Skupski won the ATP Doubles No. 1 presented by Pepperstone. Coach Juan Carlos Ferrero of Spain has been named the Coach of the Year. Norway’s Casper Ruud has been voted by fellow players as the first Scandinavian winner of the Stefan Edberg Sportsmanship Award. Andy Murray of the UK has been named the 2022 Arthur Ashe Humanitarian Award recipient in recognition of his support for the humanitarian efforts in Ukraine. Murray donated all his prize money of 2022, worth more than \$6,30,000. Spain’s Rafael Nadal won Fans’ Favourite Award (Singles) for the first time in the ATP Awards. While Thanasi Kokkinakis & Nick Kyrgios won the Fans’ Favourite Award (Doubles). BNP Paribas Open (Indian Wells) won the ATP Masters 1000 Tournament of the Year. Sebastian Torok, a journalist for the Argentine newspaper LA NACION, won the Ron Bookman Media Excellence Award. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 2022 ATP Awards:
 - Most Improved Player of the Year – Carlos Alcaraz (Spain)
 - ATP Singles No. 1 presented by Pepperstone – Carlos Alcaraz (Spain)
 - ATP Doubles No. 1 presented by Pepperstone – Wesley Koolhof & Neal Skupski
 - Coach of the Year – Juan Carlos Ferrero (Spain)
 - Stefan Edberg Sportsmanship Award – Casper Ruud (Norway)
 - Arthur Ashe Humanitarian Award – Andy Murray (UK)
 - Fans’ Favourite Award (Singles) – Rafael Nadal (Spain)
 - Fans’ Favourite Award (Doubles) – Thanasi Kokkinakis & Nick Kyrgios
 - ATP Masters 1000 Tournament of the Year – BNP Paribas Open (Indian Wells)

434. On December 15, the 20th edition of the “Chennai International Film Festival”, where 102 films from 51 countries were scheduled to be screened, was inaugurated in Chennai. The film “Triangle of Sadness”, directed by Ruben Ostlund (Palme d’Or winner at the Cannes Festival 2022) was screened as the opening film at the event organised by the Indo Cine Appreciation Foundation in association with PVR. Apart from the world cinema section, 15 films which included 3 Tamil movies, were screened as part of the Indian Panorama. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Triangle of Sadness” film – screened as opening film at the 20th “Chennai International Film Festival”
- The film is directed by – Ruben Ostlund (Swedish Filmmaker)

Schemes & Initiatives

435. On December 16, Tamil Nadu government launched the ‘Friends of Library’ scheme, wherein books will be personally provided to those who are unable to visit state-run libraries. Accordingly, differently abled persons, senior citizens, children and hospital in-patients among others who cannot come to a library will benefit from the initiative. In its first phase, the scheme will cover 2,500 libraries including 31 district libraries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tamil Nadu – launched the ‘Friends of Library’ scheme
- Books will be personally provided to those who are unable to visit state-run libraries
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi

Important Days & Dates

436. “International Day to End Violence against Sex Workers” is annually observed on December 17 to remember the sex workers who lost their lives due to violence and stigma encountered across the globe. Inaugurated by Dr. Annie Sprinkle and started by the Sex Workers Outreach Project USA, the first annual day was observed in 2003. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 17 – International Day to End Violence against Sex Workers (since 2003)

Books & Authors

437. Katherine Rundell, an English Author and Academic, has won the £50,000 “Baillie Gifford Prize” for non-fiction for her book, “Super-Infinite: The Transformations of John Donne”. The book showcases the myriad lives of Donne, who, as well as being a renowned poet was a scholar of law, a sea adventurer, an MP, a priest, and the dean of St Paul’s Cathedral during his life. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Katherine Rundell – won the “Baillie Gifford Prize” for her book, “Super-Infinite: The Transformations of John Donne”



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Meetings, Conferences & Summits

438. On December 16, Uttar Pradesh government signed a number of agreements with investors in Singapore for reaching at least \$50 billion investment commitments target. It has been signed ahead of UP Global Investors Summit (UPGIS) that will be held in Lucknow from February 10-12, 2023. It includes an MoU worth \$1 billion with Singapore's SLG Capital for setting up a data centre in the state. Moreover, UP government signed an MoU with the Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SICCI) to set the pace for Singapore investors to participate in the prosperity of UP. SICCI will act as a bridge between investment companies in Singapore and the UP government. SICCI will also act as a knowledge partner, provide avenues for growth, and define the trajectory for investors. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UP + Singapore investors = signed agreements for reaching at least \$50 billion investment commitments target
- UP Global Investors Summit (UPGIS) – to be held in Lucknow (in Feb)
- UP + SICCI = an MoU for Singapore investors to participate in the prosperity of UP
- UP + SLG Capital = an MoU worth \$1 billion for setting up a Data Centre in the state
- [UP: Capital – Lucknow](#) | [CM – Yogi Adityanath](#) | [Governor – Anandiben Patel](#)

439. The Internet Governance Forum (IGF) conducted a three-day hybrid event from December 9 to December 11, 2022 in New Delhi. The theme of the event was “Leveraging Techade for Empowering Bharat”. The event's goal was to discuss the roadmap to digitization and to reaffirm India's place on the global stage by emphasising its role and importance in international policy development on internet governance. This event focused on India's digitization roadmap, opportunities and possibilities, and challenges. The Internet Governance Forum (IGF) is a multi-stakeholder forum that brings together representatives from different groups to discuss public policy matters pertaining to the Internet. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Internet Governance Forum – conducted a 3-day Hybrid Event in New Delhi
- Theme – “Leveraging Techade for Empowering Bharat”

Ranks, Reports & Surveys

440. Gautam Adani has topped the list of people whose wealth witnessed the maximum rise globally during 2022, according to the 6th “Bloomberg 50” report. The report considers those in business, politics, science and technology, finance and entertainment whose accomplishments deserve recognition. Gautam Adani, 60, is the world's third-richest person, with an estimated net worth of \$134 billion. He's been the busiest dealmaker this year, acquiring assets such as Swiss cement giant Holcim Ltd's India units for \$10 billion. The Bloomberg report has taken into account the USD 49 billion surge in Adani's wealth during 2022, which has helped put him ahead of billionaires like Bill Gates and Warren Buffet. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 6th “Bloomberg 50” report – released on December 16, 2022
- Gautam Adani – topped the list of people whose wealth witnessed the maximum rise globally during 2022
- Gautam Adani has been the busiest dealmaker in the world during 2022

441. World Bank released the report titled, “Striving for Clean Air: Air Pollution and Public Health in South Asia”. South Asia is home to 9 of the world’s 10 cities with the worst air pollution, which causes an estimated 2 million premature deaths across the region each year and incurs significant economic costs. The report gives a detailed overview of current pollution levels, government policies and a roadmap to achieve air pollution goals. According to the report, in South Asia, nearly 60% of the population lives in areas where concentrations of PM2.5 exceed an annual mean of 35 µg/m3. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Striving for Clean Air: Air Pollution and Public Health in South Asia” – released by World Bank
- South Asia is home to 9 of the world’s 10 cities with the worst air pollution
- Air pollution causes an estimated 2 million premature deaths each year across South Asia
- [HQs of World Bank – Washington D.C., US](#) | [Members – 189](#) | [President – David Malpass](#) | [MD & CFO – Anshula Kant](#)

442. India, along with China, is the world’s largest coal producer, consumer and importer. Its own coal production will surpass 1 billion tonnes by 2025, as per the “Coal 2022: Analysis and forecast to 2025” released by the International Energy Agency (IEA). In 2021, coal production in India reached 800 million tonnes for the first time. Also, India’s coal consumption has doubled since 2007 at an annual growth rate of 6%. Global coal consumption would climb by 1.2% in 2022, surpassing 8 billion metric tonnes annually for the first time. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Coal 2022: Analysis and forecast to 2025” – released by the IEA
- India, along with China, is the world’s largest coal producer, consumer & importer
- India’s coal production will surpass 1 billion tonnes by 2025 | In 2021, it reached 800 million tonnes for the first time
- [HQs of IEA – Paris, France](#) | [Executive Director – Dr. Fatih Birol](#) | [Member countries – 30](#)

443. On December 20, Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister (EAC-PM) released the “Social Progress Index (SPI) for States and Districts of India”. The report has been prepared by Institute for Competitiveness, headed by Dr Amit Kapoor and the Social Progress Imperative, headed by Michael Green. SPI is a comprehensive tool intended to be a holistic measure of the Social Progress made by the country at the national and sub-national levels. SPI assesses the performance of states and districts on three dimensions of social progress: Basic Human Needs, Foundations of Wellbeing, and Opportunity. The report was released by Smriti Irani, Minister of Women and Child Development of India, and Dr Bibek Debroy, Chairman of EAC-PM. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Social Progress Index (SPI) for States and Districts of India” – released by EAC-PM
- The report has been prepared by = Institute for Competitiveness + Social Progress Imperative
- Chairman of EAC-PM – Dr. Bibek Debroy

Amount & Agreements

444. On December 13, Ministry of Education (MoE) allocated a total financial outlay of Rs. 1037.90 Cr for the implementation of New India Literacy Programme (NILP) during five years from 2022-23 to 2026-27. Out of the total financial outlay of NILP, Rs. 700 Cr is Central share and Rs. 337.90 Cr is State share. The ministry has also opted to use the phrase “Education for All” in place of “Adult Education”. The programme has five objectives: (i) Foundational Literacy and Numeracy, (ii) Critical Life Skills, (iii) Vocational Skills Development, (iv) Basic Education, and (v) Continuing Education. The teaching and learning resources are accessible on the NCERT-developed DIKSHA portal. In order to make it easier for girls to attend school, under the Samagra Shiksha scheme a number of interventions have been made, including the opening of schools in the neighbourhood, the construction of separate restrooms for girls etc. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Education – allocated total financial outlay of Rs 1037.90 Cr for NILP during 2022-23 to 2026-27
- Rs 1037.90 Cr outlay = Rs 700 Cr (Central share) + Rs 337.90 Cr (State share)
- The ministry has also opted to use the phrase – “Education for All” in place of “Adult Education”
- Teaching and learning resources are accessible on DIKSHA portal which is developed by NCERT
- [Ministry of Education: Dharmendra Pradhan | Constituency – Madhya Pradesh](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Education: Subhas Sarkar](#)

MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

445. On December 15, Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) inked a loan agreement with SJVN Green Energy for financing ₹4,444.71 Cr for 1,000 MW solar power project. The IREDA-funded project will connect to 400/220 KV substation Bikaner-II. This partnership will encourage green investment and generate both direct and indirect employment opportunities. SJVN has bagged the project through the tender floated by IREDA under the CPSU Phase-II (Tranche III) Scheme for the development of a grid-connected solar PV power project through a competitive bidding process. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IREDA + SJVN Green Energy = a loan agreement for financing ₹4,444.71 Cr for 1,000 MW solar power project
- [HQs of IREDA – New Delhi | CMD – Pradip Kumar Das](#)

446. On December 19, Russia signed an MoU with the Indian Chambers of International Business (ICIB) and Ministry of MSME to enter Indian e-trade platforms. The MoU aims to develop bilateral trade between India and Russia, as well as to assist local entrepreneurs and enterprises to find and promote investment projects on the territories of two countries. Integration of convenient payment and transportation systems for Russian businesses is currently underway. Sberbank and the Reserve Bank of India are developing an alternative to the SWIFT payment system for smooth bilateral trade. At the moment, payments are made under the “Ruble-Rupee” scheme. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Russia + ICIB + MoMSME = an MoU to develop bilateral trade between India & Russia
- They will also assist local entrepreneurs and enterprises to find and promote investment projects
- Sberbank + RBI = developing an alternative to the SWIFT payment system for smooth bilateral trade
- [Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin](#)

447. On December 15, Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council (Texprocil) and the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) signed an MoU for branding and traceability of Indian-grown Kasturi Cotton during the two-day Textile Conclave coinciding with the event Kashi Tamil Samagam at Deen Dayal Hast Kala Sankul, Badalapur, Varanasi, UP. Despite a very strong presence in the world market for cotton, India has been unable to brand its cotton varieties so far unlike USA - PIMA Cotton and Egypt - GIZA Cotton. Kasturi brand owned by the Ministry of Textiles will be solely managed by Texprocil on behalf of the Trade and Industry. A unique brand identity for 'KASTURI' Indian Cotton will be created by highlighting its specifications-based benefits, thereby enhancing export opportunities while complete traceability details will be provided to the 'end user' through Block Chain based software platform. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Texprocil + Cotton Corporation of India (Mumbai) = an MoU for branding and traceability of Indian-grown Kasturi Cotton
- 'Textile Conclave' & 'Kashi Tamil Samagam' – held in Varanasi, UP | Brand name of Indian cotton – “KASTURI”
- Kasturi brand – owned by the Ministry of Textiles & managed by Texprocil on behalf of the Trade & Industry
- [Ministry of Textiles: Piyush Goyal | Constituency – Maharashtra](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Textiles: Darshana Vikram Jardosh](#)

448. On December 16, Steelmaker ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India signed an MoU with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) to provide digital skill training to more than 1,600 young people across the country. The initiative aims to motivate young people from four states and equip them with vocational skills that will support their ability to secure and undertake employment in roles such as IT helpdesk attendant, and data entry operator. The Four states are: Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, and Maharashtra. This public-private partnership sits within the framework of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, with AM/NS India providing financial sponsorship for eligible candidates to be trained. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India + NSDC = an MoU to provide digital skill training to more than 1,600 young people
- Target states – Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat & Maharashtra
- [HQs of NSDC – New Delhi | CEO – Ved Mani Tiwar | Chairman – A. M. Naik \(works under MoSDE\)](#)

449. On December 16, Tata Motors announced that Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) signed a definitive agreement with its fully owned subsidiary TML Smart City Mobility Solutions Ltd. As a part of the agreement, TML Smart City Mobility Solutions Ltd will supply, operate and maintain 921 units of low-floor electric buses in Bengaluru for a period of 12 years. It is the first definitive agreement that TML Smart City Mobility Solutions Limited has signed under the larger CESL (Convergence Energy Service Limited) tender. Tata Motors claims to have supplied more than 730 electric buses across multiple cities in India till now. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BMTC + TML Smart City Mobility Solutions – signed an agreement for operating 921 electric buses in Bengaluru
- [Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – Basavaraj Bommai | Governor – Thaawarchand Gehlot](#)
- [HQs of Tata Motors – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Non-Executive Director & Chairman – Natarajan Chandrasekaran](#)

450. ReNew Power signed a renewable energy agreement with Microsoft India to produce & supply 150 MW of clean energy from a recently commissioned solar site near Bikaner. This venture will help contribute towards Microsoft's ambition of shifting to 100% supply of renewable energy by 2025. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ReNew Power – signed a renewable energy agreement to supply 150 MW of clean energy to Microsoft India
- Microsoft – aims 100% supply of renewable energy by 2025
- HQs of ReNew Power – Gurugram, Haryana | MD & Chairman – Sumant Sinha
- HQs of Microsoft – Washington, US | Chairman & CEO – Satya Nadella | Founded in – 1975





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