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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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The Question Bank

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National & States Affairs

151. On January 5, Goa's newly developed Manohar International Airport, Mopa started its commercial operations. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Manohar International Airport, Goa on 11th December 2022. The foundation stone of the airport was laid by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi in November 2016 and it has been developed at a cost of around Rs 2,870 Cr. Dabolim airport of Goa, being a Defence airport, put limitations on air traffic. The new airport would help tourism and enable Goa to become a hub for exporting perishable goods like fruits, vegetables, and fish. This would create employment opportunities, increase income for locals, and attract visitors from across India. Recently, Goa reduced VAT on aviation fuel from 18% to 8%. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- Manohar International Airport, Mopa (Goa) – started its commercial operations (development cost - Rs 2,870 Cr)
- Narendra Modi – inaugurated the airport on 11th Dec, 2022 | Goa reduced VAT on aviation fuel from 18% to 8%
- Goa: Capital – Panaji | CM – Pramod Sawant | Governor – P. S. Sreedharan Pillai

152. On January 10, ReNew Power installed India's first 3x platform Wind Turbine Generators (WTGs) in Gadag, Karnataka. The new WTGs will be a part of India's first 'Round the Clock' renewable energy project, combining wind, solar and a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). This project will produce enough energy to power over 1 million households in India annually. In a first for an Indian business, the installations have been executed by a specialized Wind Engineering Procurement and Construction (EPC) team. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- ReNew Power – installed India's first 3x platform Wind Turbine Generators (WTGs) in Gadag, Karnataka
- The new WTGs will be a part of India's first 'Round the Clock' renewable energy project, combining wind, solar & BESS
- HQs of ReNew Power – Gurugram, Haryana | MD & Chairman – Sumant Sinha

153. On January 8, Osmanabad District Court became the first court in Maharashtra to introduce e-system of functioning. Under this system, all the court-related work including filing, payment and other court services, etc. can be done through mobile app or online modes. Besides, library of the court has also been converted into digital mode. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Osmanabad District Court – became the first court in Maharashtra to introduce e-system of functioning
- Maharashtra: CM – Eknath Shinde | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

154. On January 9, Science and Technology Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh released the theme of National Science Day 2023 at a function in New Delhi. This year, the theme of National Science Day is "Global Science for Global Wellbeing". The theme has been chosen for the purpose of raising public appreciation of scientific issues in a global context which is having a bearing on global Well-being. National Science Day is celebrated every year on the 28th of February to commemorate the discovery of the Raman Effect by Indian Physicist Sir C. V. Raman. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Dr. Jitendra Singh – released the Theme of National Science Day 2023
- February 28 – National Science Day | 2023's Theme – "Global Science for Global Wellbeing"
- The day commemorates the discovery of the 'Raman Effect' by Indian Physicist Sir C. V. Raman

155. On January 8, Uttar Pradesh government launched a statewide 100-day 'UP Global City' campaign in all the 762 urban bodies ahead of the upcoming Global Investors Summit. The campaign was launched by Arvind Kumar Sharma, Minister of Urban Development, the government of UP. It aims to transform the lifestyle of urban bodies of the state on par with global standards. The campaign will focus on urban facilities, improving air quality, better cleanliness, and beautification. It also aims for proper disposal of garbage, installation of garbage etc. The three-day long 'Global Investors Summit' will begin from February 10, 2023 and will conclude on February 12, 2023 at Lucknow. Moreover, the government will introduce 'Brand UP' in G-20. Apart from 100-day 'UP Global City', other similar campaigns being run by the Uttar Pradesh government are - Swachh Dhaba campaign, Swachh Virasat Abhiyan etc. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- UP – launched 100-day 'UP Global City' campaign ahead of upcoming 'Global Investors Summit'
- The campaign will focus on urban facilities, improving air quality, better cleanliness & beautification
- 'Global Investors Summit' – to be held in Lucknow from 10 to 12 February
- [UP: Capital – Lucknow](#) | [CM – Yogi Adityanath](#) | [Governor – Anandiben Patel](#)

156. On January 3, International Institute of Information Technology Bangalore (IIITB) rolled out Modular Open-Source Identity Platform (MOSIP) which is a digital identity platform. Upon the request of World Bank to initiate research and development, the project provides digital identities similar to Aadhaar to underdeveloped and developing countries. So far, 16 lakh lines of codes have been developed and used by countries, free of cost. Although the project was first aimed at providing MOSIP to five countries, it has now been extended to nine countries. Philippines, Morocco, Sri Lanka, Uganda, Ethiopia, Republic of Guinea, Sierra Leone, Burkina Faso, and Togolese Republic are the countries whose citizens will enroll on the platform. The project is highly scalable and secure. The developers have also figured out a way to operate in 5,000+ habitable islands of Philippines where there is no good internet connection. The project is also being funded by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Norad, Sir Ratan Tata Trust, Pratiksha Trust and Omidyar Network. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- IIITB – rolled out 'MOSIP', an Aadhar like digital identity platform for 9 countries
- 9 countries: Philippines, Morocco, Sri Lanka, Uganda, Ethiopia, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Burkina Faso & Togolese
- The project is funded by – Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Norad, Ratan Tata Trust, Pratiksha Trust & Omidyar Network

157. On January 8, Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel inaugurated the International Kite Festival 2023 in Ahmedabad. In 2023, The International Kite Festival was organised by Gujarat Tourism on the G20 theme of 'One Earth, One Family, One Future' from the January 8-14, 2023. The delegates from G20 countries have been invited to the inauguration of the international kite festival 2023 to exchange their culture. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- International Kite Festival 2023 – inaugurated in Ahmedabad, Gujarat (organised on G20 theme)
- [Presidency of G20 Summit: 2023 – India \(Dec 1, 2022 to Nov 30, 2023\)](#) | [2024 – Brazil](#)
- [India's G20 motto – 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'](#) | [Theme – 'One Earth One Family One Future'](#) | [Sherpa – Amitabh Kant](#)
- [Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar](#) | [CM – Bhupendra Patel](#) | [Governor – Acharya Dev Vrat](#)

158. On January 8, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has been granted an extension for the seventh time for 6 months till June 30, 2023, to frame rules for the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). The citizenship amendment Bill (CAB) was passed by Parliament on December 11, 2019. It got the President's assent the next day. The law is yet to be implemented, as rules under the CAA are yet to be framed. According to the Manual on Parliamentary Work, rules for any legislation should have been framed within six months of Presidential assent, or seek extension from the committees on subordinate legislation of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha. The MHA sought time from the Parliamentary committees on six occasions. The first extension was granted in June 2020. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- MHA – is granted an extension (7th time) till June 30, 2023 to frame rules for 'Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA)'
- CAB – was passed by Parliament on December 11, 2019
- Ministry of Home Affairs: Amit Shah | Constituency – Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- MoS in Ministry of Home Affairs: Nityanand Rai, Ajay Kumar & Nisith Pramanik

159. On January 7, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya reviewed the progress of Fertilizers Corporation of India Ltd. (FCIL) Talcher unit at Angul, Odisha. Revival of FCIL Talcher unit is being undertaken by Talcher Fertilizers Ltd. (TFL). He informed that India's domestic production of urea will see a major boost with five new fertilizer plants coming up in the country. Four of these plants are already functional while Talcher is a coal gasification plant which will become functional by October 2024. Talcher unit which will be India's largest and first coal gasification urea plant. Since the project promotes coal gasification, it shall also aid in meeting the stated aim of gasifying 100 MT of coal by 2030. Start of all five plants would add 63.5 Lakh Metric Ton per annum (LMTPA) indigenous urea production capacity in the country. Out of five, four plants i.e. Ramagundam, Gorakhpur, Sindri and Barauni Fertilizer Plants have already started urea production in the country. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- 5 new fertilizer plants coming up in the country & 4 of these plants are already functional
- FCIL Talcher – is a coal gasification plant which will become functional by October 2024
- Talcher unit (in Odisha) – will be India's largest & first coal gasification urea plant
- Start of all five plants would add 63.5 LMTPA indigenous urea production capacity in India
- Other 4 Fertilizer Plants are in: Ramagundam, Gorakhpur, Sindri, Barauni
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

160. On January 10, Supreme Court effectively extended the ground for enforcement of the fundamental rights. With this, a citizen can seek enforcement of the fundamental rights to freedom of speech not just against the state but against other citizens as well. Article 19 which guarantees freedom of speech and expression, is a right invoked against the state. The court, extending free speech against private citizens, opens up a range of possibilities in Constitutional law. This interpretation could also bring an obligation on the state to ensure private entities also abide by Constitutional norms. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- Supreme Court – extended the ground for enforcement of the fundamental rights from the state to citizens as well
- Article 19 – guarantees the right to freedom of speech and expression
- Present Chief of Justice of the Supreme Court of India – Justice Dhananjaya Y. Chandrachud (50th)
- Retirement age: Chief Justices & Judges of HC – 62 years | Chief Justice of India & judges of the SC – 65 years

International Affairs

161. On January 8, India handed 75 passenger buses to Sri Lanka as part of its assistance towards strengthening public transport infrastructure. As part of its 'Neighbourhood First' policy, India has extended multi-pronged assistance to Sri Lanka to help the country tide over its worst economic and humanitarian crisis since its independence from Great Britain in 1948. India handed 125 SUVs to the Sri Lanka Police under a line of credit in December to support the island nation and help it address the serious mobility restriction issues faced by the police, due to the non-availability of vehicles. The Sri Lankan government in May last year declared a debt default on over \$51 billion in the foreign loan – a first in the country's history. The Indian credit lines since early 2022 have been in use to import essentials and fuel after street protests erupted due to severe shortages of essentials. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- India – handed 75 passenger buses to Sri Lanka as part of its 'Neighbourhood First' policy
- Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan Rupee
- PM – Dinesh Gunawardena | President – Ranil Wickremesinghe

162. On January 9, the governments of India and the UK marked Pravasi Bharatiya Divas by launching the "Young Professionals Scheme", which will permit up to 3,000 of their degree-holding citizens aged between 18 and 30 to live and work in each other's countries for a period of two years. The launch of the scheme, which was conceived as part of an India-U.K. Migration and Mobility MoU signed in May 2021, was announced in November at the G20 summit in Bali. The letters were signed and exchanged between the two countries at the High Commission of India in London. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- India + UK = launched the "Young Professionals Scheme"
- It will permit up to 3,000 of their degree-holding citizens aged 18-30 to live & work in each other's countries for 2 years
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM – Rishi Sunak (57th) | New King – King Charles III

Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

163. On January 7, Kerala has become the first state in the country to go fully digital in its banking service. This achievement was possible due to social interventions through local self-government institutions along with infrastructure development and technological advances in the banking sector. Also, Kerala has received three 'Digital India' awards for the advancement in the digital sector. These medals are: silver medal for Ksheerashree portal, platinum award for Digital Workforce Management System and gold medal for District Administration of Kottayam. Kerala Fibre Optic Network (K-FON) project of the state government, which is almost 90% completed, will reduce the digital divide. The K-FON will ensure internet facility to everyone in the state and 17,155 km-long optic fibre cable network has been laid. Once the project gets completed, internet will be available to everyone in the state either for a cheaper price or for free-of-cost. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Kerala – became the first state in India to go fully digital in its banking service
- Kerala – received three 'Digital India' awards for the advancement in the digital sector
- K-FON project – started by Kerala to ensure internet facility to everyone for a cheaper price or for free-of-cost
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

164. On January 9, the RBI notified the revised list of accredited Credit Rating Agencies (CRAs) for the purpose of assigning risk weight to assets for capital adequacy purposes by the banks. On a review, banks are advised to use the ratings of these six domestic credit rating agencies - Acuite Ratings & Research Limited (Acuite), Credit Analysis and Research Limited (CARE), CRISIL Ratings Limited, ICRA Limited, India Ratings and Research Private Limited (India Ratings), and INFOMERICS Valuation and Rating Pvt Ltd. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- RBI notified the revised list of accredited Credit Rating Agencies (CRAs) for the purpose of assigning risk weight to assets for capital adequacy purposes by the banks
- Six suggested CRAs by RBI: Acuite, CARE, CRISIL, ICRA, India Ratings & INFOMERICS
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established on – 1st April, 1935
- Total Deputy Governors (4) – Mahesh Kumar Jain | T. Rabi Sankar | Michael D. Patra | M. Rajeshwar Rao

165. On January 9, Kotak Mahindra General Insurance partnered with Clootrack, an AI-powered Kochi-based start-up, for customer experience analytics. Clootrack's AI-driven comprehensive intelligent customer experience analytics platform offers a fully SAAS model, gathers and analyses billions of customer reviews to help enterprises understand why customer experience drops. This tie-up will empower Kotak Mahindra General Insurance with actionable insights into its non-life insurance products. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Kotak Mahindra General Insurance + Clootrack = partnership for customer experience analytics
- HQs of Kotak Mahindra General Insurance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Suresh Agarwal
- HQs of Clootrack in India – Bengaluru & Kochi | CEO – Shameel Abdulla

166. On January 9, Axis Bank signed an MoU with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru to establish a Centre for Mathematics and Computing at the Institute. The centre spread over 1.6 lakh square feet will have labs and programmes benefitting faculty and students. Additionally, it will host the new IISc BTech programme in Mathematics and Computing and the ongoing Interdisciplinary PhD programme in Mathematical Sciences. Over 500 engineers and scientists are estimated to be benefited annually. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- Axis Bank + IISc, Bengaluru = an MoU to establish a Centre for Mathematics and Computing at the Institute
- HQs of Axis Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Amitabh Chaudhry | Tagline – “Badhti ka Naam Zindagi”

167. On January 9, HDFC Capital, the real estate private equity arm of HDFC Group, achieved the initial close for second scheme of its third fund, by raising USD 376 million. The latest fund raising is the third by HDFC Capital’s affordable real estate (H-Care 3) fund and the primary investor in the H-Care schemes is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA). The fund will provide long-term, flexible funding across the life cycle of affordable and mid-income housing projects including early-stage funding. Since the launch in 2016, the fund, across its schemes, has created a USD 3.1 billion funding platform, making it one of the largest private finance platforms in the world focused on development of affordable housing. HDFC Capital targets to finance 10 lakh affordable homes. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- HDFC Capital – raised \$376 million for affordable housing fund ‘HDFC Capital’s affordable real estate (H-Care 3)’
- The latest fund raising is 3rd by HDFC Capital | Primary investor in ‘H-Care’ schemes is ADIA | Fund is launched in 2016
- HQs of HDFC Capital – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Vipul Roongta

168. According to credit rating agency ICRA Limited, Indian banks have issued a record quantum of bonds, with gross issuances hitting an all-time high of Rs 91,500 Crore in first 9 months (April-Dec) of FY 2022-23, and are likely to close the financial year with around Rs 1.4 lakh Crore. The previous high was Rs 80,000 Crore in FY17, while in FY22 it was Rs 70,000 Crore. Within overall bond issuances of Rs 91,500 Cr in the first 3 quarters of FY23, tier-II issuance reached an all-time high of Rs 47,200 Crore. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- ICRA: Indian banks’ gross issuances reached an all-time high of Rs 91,500 Cr in first 9 months (April-Dec) of FY 2022-23
- It was Rs 70,000 Cr in FY22 & Rs 80,000 Cr in FY17 (previous high)
- HQs of ICRA – Gurgaon, Haryana | MD & Group CEO of ICRA – Ramnath Krishnan

169. On January 9, South Indian Bank launched an MSME Online Portal providing instant online ‘In Principle’ approval of up to Rs 1 Crore. This initiative will help thousands of micro and small businesses avail loans quickly. This development is at the backdrop of central government considering to make India a \$5 trillion economy. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- South Indian Bank – launched an MSME Online Portal providing instant online ‘In Principle’ approval of up to ₹1 Cr
- HQs of South Indian Bank – Thrissur, Kerala | MD & CEO – Murali Ramakrishnan

170. On January 9, PayRup, India’s fastest payment app, was launched by Mahadevappa Halagatti. PayRup is built by cutting-edge technology of web 3.0. It provides advanced digital payment experience with outstanding user experience. PayRup users can pay utility bills & landline bills, recharge their mobile, broadband, DTH, and purchase Gift Cards. PayRup gives 5% cashback for all the payments through the app as a New Year offer. The Launching event was hosted in Lulu Mall, Bangalore. [{Read more}](#)

**Smart Points:**

- PayRup (Bengaluru) – launched by Mahadevappa Halagatti recently
- PayRup is built by cutting-edge technology of web 3.0

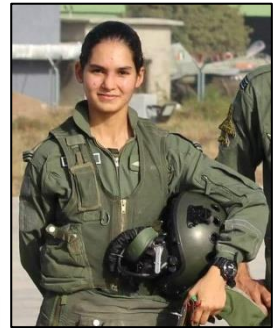
171. On January 9, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) came out with guidelines for stock exchanges to handle outages and extend trading hours to mitigate the impact of disruptions. The regulator said market participants should be intimated immediately but not later than 15 minutes from occurrence of outage through broadcast message and by publishing on its website. The affected exchange should update about outage in intervals of 45 minutes from the initial intimation, until normalcy to operations is restored. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- SEBI came out with guidelines for stock exchanges to handle outages & extend trading hours
- Market participants should be intimated immediately but not later than 15 minutes from occurrence of outage
- The affected exchange should update about outage in intervals of 45 minutes from the initial intimation
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Madhabi Puri Buch | Established in – 1992

Defence Affairs

172. India and Japan conducted their first-ever bilateral combat air exercise named 'Veer Guardian 23' exercise from January 12 to 26 at the Hyakuri Air Base in Omitama, and the Iruma Air Base in Sayama in Japan. Sukhoi-30MKI Squadron Leader Avni Chaturvedi, India's first woman fighter pilot, was also a part of the Indian contingent that will feature in aerial wargames with Japan. This was the first instance of a woman air warrior leading an Indian fighter squadron on foreign soil. IAF participated with four Su-30 MKI, two C-17 Globemasters and an IL-78 tanker. Squadron leader Chaturvedi was inducted into the Indian Air Force fighter squadron in June 2016 alongside Mohana Jitarwal and Bhawana Kanth. In 2018, she became the first Indian woman pilot to take a solo flight in a MiG-21 aircraft. In March 2020, she was awarded the Nari Shakti Purashkar by President Ram Nath Kovind. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- India + Japan = conducted first-ever bilateral combat air exercise named 'Veer Guardian 23'
- Squadron Leader Avni Chaturvedi – became the 1st woman fighter pilot to lead an Indian fighter squadron on foreign soil
- Avni Chaturvedi – received 'Nari Shakti Purashkar' in March 2020
- HQs of IAF – New Delhi | Chief – Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari | Vice Chief – Air Marshal Sandeep Singh
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Fumio Kishida

173. On January 7, Indian Navy signed an agreement with Sagar Defence Engineering Pvt Ltd for armed autonomous boat swarms under 'SPRINT', an initiative to promote development of niche defence technologies by domestic companies. This is the 50th contract under 'SPRINT', which aims at the development of 75 indigenous technologies by the industry for the Navy. The target of Indian Navy is to sign the 100th contract by January end and to induct 75 new technologies by August 15, 2023 as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav. The platform will be able to conduct a range of navy and security tasks including high-speed interdiction; surveillance; constabulary operations; Command, Control, Communications, Computers (C4) Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (C4ISR); and low-intensity maritime operations. 'SPRINT' stands for Supporting Pole-vaulting In R&D through Innovations for Defence Excellence (IdeX), Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation (NIIO) and Technology Development Acceleration Cell (TDAC). It was launched by PM Narendra Modi in July 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Indian Navy + Sagar Defence Engineering Pvt Ltd = agreement for armed autonomous boat swarms under 'SPRINT'
- HQs of Indian Navy – Delhi | Chief – Admiral R. Hari Kumar | VC – S. N. Ghormade | Founded in – 26th Jan, 1950

174. On January 6, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) developed an untethered multi-copter payload, an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV), capable of flying with a five-kilo payload. It was unveiled at the 108th Indian Science Congress in Maharashtra's Nagpur. It has been developed with the aim to improve logistics for operations in the Himalayas. It is capable of dropping bombs in enemy territories and can be helpful to drop medicines for soldiers deployed at high altitude or war zones. The trials of the multi-copter were conducted at Sikkim at an altitude of 14,000 ft, with the product set to undergo two more trials before it is ready for induction in the Armed Forces. The multi-copter can carry out autonomous missions with waypoint navigation up to 5 km radius. Beacon-based landing accuracy of 100 mm, ground vehicle follow mode and modular design for ease of operation are some of the other features of the multi-copter payload.

[{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- DRDO – developed an untethered multi-copter payload, a UAV to improve logistics for operations in the Himalayas
- 108th Indian Science Congress – held in Nagpur, Maharashtra
- Waypoint Navigation up to 5 km radius | Landing Accuracy – 100 mm
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – Samir V. Kamat | Established in – 1958

Sports & Games

175. On January 8, Serbian Player Novak Djokovic clinched the 'Adelaide International 1' men's singles title defeating American Sebastian Korda in the finals. This is Djokovic's 92nd tour-level title from his 131st final. He is now tied with Rafael Nadal at the fourth position in the list of most men's singles titles in the Open Era, trailing only Jimmy Connors (109), Roger Federer (103) and Ivan Lendl (94). Belarusian player Aryna Sabalenka claimed her 11th career singles title with victory over Czech player Linda Noskova in the Women's singles. Men's Doubles title was won by Lloyd Glasspool (UK) & Harri Heliövaara (Finland). Women's Doubles title was clinched by US players Asia Muhammad & Taylor Townsend. It is a combined ATP Tour 250 and WTA 500 tournament played on outdoor hard courts in Adelaide, Australia. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- 'Adelaide International 1' tournament (Australia) winners
 - Men's singles: Novak Djokovic (Serbia) | He defeated – Sebastian Korda (USA)
 - Women's singles: Aryna Sabalenka (Belarus) | She defeated – Linda Noskova (Czech Republic)
 - Men's Doubles: Lloyd Glasspool (UK) & Harri Heliövaara (Finland)
 - Women's Doubles: Asia Muhammad & Taylor Townsend (USA)

176. On January 9, Hockey India became the first National Sports Federation to enter the world of metaverse. A few days before the FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023 in Bhubaneswar-Rourkela, Hockey India launched the 'Hockeyverse' on their social media platforms. 'Hockeyverse' will provide a new virtual experience where global hockey fans can visit and experience their favourite sport from the comfort of their home, on their personal computer. [{Read smore}](#)

Smart Points:

- Hockey India – launched the 'Hockeyverse' on their social media platforms
- Hockey India – became the first National Sports Federation to enter the world of metaverse
- HQs of Hockey India – New Delhi | President – Dilip Tirkey | Secretary General – Bhola Nath

177. On January 7, 5th edition of the Tata Open Maharashtra was concluded at Balewadi Stadium in Pune. The tournament is sponsored by Tata Motors. South Asia's only ATP 250 was conducted by the Maharashtra State Lawn Tennis Association (MSLTA) in association with the Government of Maharashtra. The Dutch tennis star Tallon Griekspoor won the men's single title against French player Benjamin Bonzi as his maiden ATP Tour title. Moreover, the Indian pair of N Sriram Balaji and Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan finished as runners-up finish in the doubles against the duo of Sander Gille and Joran Vliegen in the final. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- 5th edition of the Tata Open Maharashtra – held at Balewadi Stadium in Pune
- The tournament was conducted by – MSLTA in association with Govt of Maharashtra | Sponsored by – Tata Motors
- Men singles won by – Tallon Griekspoor (Dutch) (defeating - France's Benjamin Bonzi)
- Men doubles won by – Sander Gille and Joran Vliegen (defeating - India's N Sriram Balaji & Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan)

178. WTA 250 competition, 2023 Auckland Open tennis tournaments were held from the 2nd to the 14th of January 2023. It is also known as ASB Classic. In the Men's singles, French player Richard Gasquet clinched the title defeating Cameron Norrie of England. American Duo of Nathaniel Lammons & Jackson Withrow won the title in Men's Doubles category. The winner of the women's singles competition was Coco Gauff of USA who defeated Spanish-Swiss tennis player Rebeka Masarova. Japanese Players Miyu Kato & Aldila Sutjiadi won the women's Doubles title. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- 2023 Auckland Open/ ASB Classic tennis tournaments winners:
 - Men's singles: Richard Gasquet (France) | He defeated – Cameron Norrie (England)
 - Women's singles: Coco Gauff (USA) | She defeated – Rebeka Masarova (Spanish-Swiss)
 - Men's Doubles: Nathaniel Lammons & Jackson Withrow (USA)
 - Women's Doubles: Miyu Kato & Aldila Sutjiadi (Japan)

Science & Technology

179. In January 2023, the United Kingdom's attempt to launch the first satellite into orbit from Western Europe ended up in a failure. The Richard Branson-founded company, Virgin Orbit, was flying the satellites on a repurposed Boeing 747 in a bid to attempt its first international launch using a modified jumbo jet dubbed 'Cosmic Girl'. The mission was dubbed "Start Me Up" and the aircraft took off from Spaceport Cornwall, UK before dropping the Virgin Orbit's 70-foot-long 'LauncherOne' rocket that was carrying the satellites. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- UK's attempt to launch the first satellite into orbit failed | The mission was dubbed "Start Me Up"
- Virgin Orbit launched the satellites using a modified jumbo jet dubbed 'Cosmic Girl'
- Virgin Orbit's 70-foot-long 'LauncherOne' rocket was carrying the satellites
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM – Rishi Sunak (57th) | New King – King Charles III

Appointments & Resignations

180. On January 7, the BCCI announced the reappointment of Chetan Sharma as the chairman of five-member panel of senior men's selection committee. Shiv Sunder Das, Salil Ankola, Subroto Banerjee and S Sharath are the other members of the committee. The Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) has 3 members which are Sulakshana Naik, Ashok Malhotra, and Jatin Paranjape. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- Chetan Sharma – appointed as Chairman of BCCI's five-member panel of senior men's selection committee
- CAC comprises 3 members – Sulakshana Naik, Ashok Malhotra, & Jatin Paranjape
- HQs of BCCI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | President – Roger Binny | Secretary – Jay Shah | Founded in – 1928

181. On January 10, Justice Nongmeikapam Kotiswar Singh has been appointed as the acting Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court, Assam. Justice Singh took over from January 12 after incumbent Chief Justice Rashmin Manharbhai Chhaya demitted office on January 11. In exercise of the power conferred by Article 223 of the Constitution of India, the President appointed Justice Nongmeikapam Kotiswar Singh. Judges of High Courts retire at the age of 62 while Supreme Court judges retire at the age of 65 years. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- Justice Nongmeikapam Kotiswar Singh – appointed as the acting Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court
- He took over from incumbent Chief Justice Rashmin Manharbhai Chhaya
- Retirement age: Chief Justices & Judges of HC – 62 years | Chief Justice of India & judges of the SC – 65 years

182. On January 9, Nutrition company Herbalife Nutrition India Private Limited partnered with international women's cricketer, Smriti Mandhana as a 'Nutrition Sponsor'. She is the fifth Indian athlete and the second cricketer to join the company including Virat Kohli, Mary Kom, Lakshya Sen, and Manika Batra. The size of the Indian sports industry was estimated to have surpassed ₹9,500 crore in 2021, according to a report. Currently, she is the vice-captain of the Indian women's national cricket team. Mandhana's performance on the field made her the first Indian women cricketer to be recognized as the ICC Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year in 2018. She also won the Rachael Heyhoe Flint Award in 2018, a feat she repeated in 2021. She was also the only Indian player to be named in the ICC Women's Team of the Year 2016. She was also honoured with the Arjuna Award in 2019. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Smriti Mandhana – signed as 'Nutrition Sponsor' of Herbalife Nutrition India Private Limited
- She is 5th Indian athlete & 2nd cricketer to join the company after – Virat Kohli, Mary Kom, Lakshya Sen & Manika Batra

183. On January 9, Gabon's President Ali Bongo appointed the country's first female Prime Minister Rose Christiane Ossouka Raponda to the role of Vice-President. Former Minister Alain-Claude Bilie By Nze replaced Ossouka Raponda and has been appointed as the Prime Minister of the country. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- Rose Christiane Ossouka Raponda – appointed as Vice-President of Gabon
- Alain-Claude Bilie By Nze – appointed as Prime Minister of Gabon
- Gabon – Libreville – CFA franc | President – Ali Bongo Ondimba | PM – Alain-Claude Bilie By Nze

184. On January 10, Rupinder Singh Sodhi, managing director of Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF), the owner of India's biggest dairy brand Amul, has stepped down with immediate effect. Chief operating officer Jayen Mehta has been named interim managing director. Under his leadership, GCMMF's turnover surged from Rs 9,774.2 Cr in 2010-11 to Rs 46,481 crore in 2021-22. For more than three decades, Sodhi worked under the direct guidance of Verghese Kurien, the father of the White Revolution. So far, Amul has launched more than 100 products across dairy and non-dairy categories since Covid. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- Rupinder Singh Sodhi – stepped down as MD of Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF)
- Jayen Mehta – named as interim MD of GCMMF (GCMMF is owner of India's biggest dairy brand 'Amul')
- [HQs of AMUL/GCMMF – Anand, Gujarat](#) | [MD – Jayen Mehta \(interim\)](#) | [Established in – 1946](#)

185. On January 9, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved Michael Debabrata Patra's re-appointment as the RBI's deputy governor for a further period of one year with effect from January 15. Patra's three-year tenure was coming to an end on January 14. Patra looks after the monetary policy department as the deputy governor of the central bank and also as a member of the rate-setting Monetary Policy Committee. The six-member Monetary Policy Committee is headed by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das. Besides the governor, the RBI has four deputy governors. The three other deputy governors of the bank are M K Jain, M Rajeshwar Rao and T Rabi Sankar. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- Michael D Patra – re-appointment as the RBI's deputy governor for a further period of one year
- [HQs of RBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra](#) | [Governor – Shaktikanta Das \(25th\)](#) | [Established on – 1st April, 1935](#)
- [Total Deputy Governors \(4\) – Mahesh Kumar Jain](#) | [T. Rabi Sankar](#) | [Michael D. Patra](#) | [M. Rajeshwar Rao](#)

Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

186. On January 8, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis conferred the first Dr Patangrao Kadam Memorial Award to CEO of Serum Institute of India, Adar Poonawalla for the contribution to fight against COVID. Patangrao Kadam was a leader who created 190 institutes to provide quality education and created quality human resource. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- Adar Poonawalla – conferred with the 1st "Dr Patangrao Kadam Memorial Award"
- Patangrao Kadam – a leader who created 190 institutes to provide quality education
- [HQs of SII – Pune, Maharashtra](#) | [Chairman – Cyrus S. Poonawalla](#) | [CEO – Adar C. Poonawalla](#) | [Founded in – 1966](#)

187. On January 11, Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud was awarded the "Award for Global Leadership" by the Harvard Law School Center in recognition of his lifetime service to the legal profession in the country and around the world. Chandrachud obtained an LL.M degree and a Doctorate in Juridical Sciences (SJD) from the Harvard Law School in the United States. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- CJI D. Y. Chandrachud – awarded with the “Award for Global Leadership” by Harvard Law School Center
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM – Rishi Sunak (57th) | New King – King Charles III

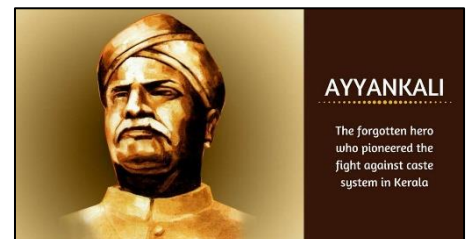
Schemes & Initiatives

188. On January 9, National Health Authority (NHA) introduced a new system to measure and grade hospital performance under the flagship scheme Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY). This has been done to shift the focus of measuring performance of hospitals from volume of services provided to the value of healthcare services. The new initiative will introduce the concept of ‘value-based care’, where payment will be outcome based and providers will be rewarded according to the quality of the treatment delivered. Under the new model, the providers will be rewarded for helping the patients improve their health, which consequently will reduce the effects of disease in the population in the long term. Under value-based care, the performance of AB PM-JAY empaneled hospitals will be measured based on five performance indicators such as: 1. Beneficiary Satisfaction; 2. Hospital Readmission Rate; 3. The extent of Out-of-Pocket Expenditure; 4. Confirmed Grievances and 5. Improvement in-patient’s Health-Related Quality of Life. Additionally, NHA has made a provision to incentivize best performing hospitals that provide quality care to patients. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- NHA – introduced a new system to measure & grade hospital performance under AB PM-JAY
- The new initiative will introduce the concept of ‘value- based care’ instead of ‘volume of services provided’
- Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PMJAY) – completed 4 years on September 23, 2022
- AB PMJAY: Launched by PM Narendra Modi in September 2018 | Health cover of up to ₹5 lakh per family per year
- HQs of NHA – New Delhi | CEO – Ram Sevak Sharma | Founded in – 2018

189. On January 8, Kerala government launched a welfare fund board for the workers registered for the MGNREGS and the state’s urban job guarantee scheme - Ayyankali Urban Employment Guarantee Scheme. This is the first time that a state government has formed a welfare fund board for MGNREGS workers. This will facilitate the workers to get a monthly pension from the board on they turn 60. S Rajendran has been selected as the chairman of the board. As per the norm, any worker between the age of 18 and 55 can take the membership in the fund board. They have to pay an amount as premium (Rs 50 tentatively fixed) every month until the age of 55 and a member who has paid the contribution for at least 10 years will be eligible for pension. Apart from the monthly contribution from the workers, the government will also make an equivalent contribution towards the fund. The government can revise the contribution once every three years. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- Kerala – launched a welfare fund board for ‘MGNREGS’ workers & ‘Ayyankali Urban Employment Guarantee Scheme’
- This is the first time that a state government has formed a welfare fund board for MGNREGS workers
- S. Rajendran – elected as the Chairman of the board
- Monthly contribution from workers – Rs 50 | Minimum payment tenure – 10 years | Pension starting age – 60 years
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

190. On January 7, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the government's Aspirational Block Programme (ABP), which is aimed at improving performance of blocks lagging on various development parameters. The programme will cover 500 districts across 31 states and Union Territories initially. Over half of these blocks are in 6 states - Uttar Pradesh (68 blocks), Bihar (61), Madhya Pradesh (42), Jharkhand (34), Odisha (29) and West Bengal (29). However, states can add more blocks to the programme later. The Aspirational Blocks Programme is on the lines of the Aspirational District Programme that was launched in 2018 and covers 112 districts across the country. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- PM Modi launched Aspirational Block Programme to improve performance of blocks on development parameters
- Aspirational District Programme – launched in 2018 & covers 112 districts across India

Obituaries

191. On January 7, Dr Tehemton Erach Udwadia, best known as the father of laparoscopic surgery in India, passed away. He conducted the country's first laparoscopic cholecystectomy (gall bladder removal) at JJ Hospital on May 31, 1990. He was awarded the Padma Bhushan, the country's third highest civilian award, in 2017 in the field of Medicine. "More Than Just Surgery: Life lessons beyond the O.T." book is authored by him. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- Dr Tehemton E Udwadia – also known as the 'Father of laparoscopic Surgery in India' – passed away
- He conducted India's first laparoscopic cholecystectomy (gall bladder removal) at JJ Hospital on May 31, 1990
- Awards: Padma Bhushan in 2017 in the field of Medicine
- "More Than Just Surgery: Life lessons beyond the O.T." book – authored by Tehemton Erach Udwadia

192. On January 11, Greece's former King Constantine II, whose nine-year reign coincided with one of the most turbulent periods in the country's political history, died aged 82. Constantine II, the only son of King Paul and Queen Frederica of Greece, ascended to the throne in 1964. Constantine II was a sailor whose team won a gold medal at the 1960 Olympics. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- Constantine II – Former King of Greece – passed away (1960 Olympic Gold Medalist)
- [Greece – Athens – Euro](#) | [PM – Kyriakos Mitsotakis](#)

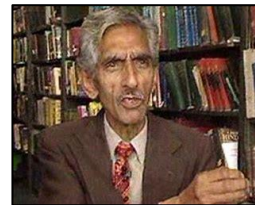
193. On January 8, Former governor of West Bengal, former speaker of Uttar Pradesh assembly and senior leader of Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP), Keshari Nath Tripathi, passed away. He was 89. He was born in erstwhile Allahabad (now Prayagraj) on November 10, 1934 and had an additional charge for short stints as governor of Bihar, Meghalaya and Mizoram while he was Governor of West Bengal. He was speaker of the UP State Legislative Assembly from 1991 to 1993, 1997 to 2002 and from May 2002 to March 2004. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- Keshari Nath Tripathi – former Governor of West Bengal – passed away
- He also had an additional charge as Governor of Bihar, Meghalaya & Mizoram
- [West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata](#) | [CM – Mamta Banerjee](#) | [Governor – CV Ananda Bose](#)

194. On January 9, Renowned Kashmiri poet, critic and scholar, Professor Abdul Rehman Rahi passed away. He was 98. He was awarded the Jnanpith Award for the year 2004. He got Sahitya Akademi Award in 1961 for his poetry collection 'Nawroz-e-Saba' and Padma Shri in 2000. He is the first Kashmiri writer to be awarded Jnanpith, the country's highest literary award, for his poetic collection 'Siyah Rood Jaeren Manz' (In Black Drizzle). [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- Professor Abdul Rehman Rahi – Kashmiri poet, critic & scholar – passed away
- Awards: Jnanpith Award (2004), Sahitya Akademi Award (1961) & Padma Shri (2000)
- Professor Abdul Rehman Rahi – first Kashmiri writer to be awarded Jnanpith Award (India's highest literary award)

Meetings, Conferences & Summits

195. PM Narendra Modi chaired the second National Conference of Chief Secretaries in Delhi between 6-7 January to further boost the partnership between the Union and the State governments. This three-day Conference focused on achieving rapid and sustained economic growth in partnership with the States. The Conference also laid the ground for collaborative action for achieving a developed India with a thrust on growth and job creation and inclusive human development. The discussion during the conference was held on six identified themes: Thrust on MSMEs; Infrastructure and Investments; Minimizing Compliances; Women's Empowerment; Health and Nutrition; and Skill Development. Besides, focused deliberations were also held on four topics, viz. Vocal for Local; International Year of Millets; G20: Role of States; and Emerging Technologies. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- PM Narendra Modi – chaired 'National Conference of Chief Secretaries' held in New Delhi
- The Conference focused on achieving rapid & sustained economic growth in partnership with the States

196. On January 9, Tamil Nadu launched the 'Global Tamil Angels' platform for investors from the global Tamil diaspora to make investments in the State's start-ups. The platform was launched at the "Global Startup Investors Summit", jointly organised by the Tamil Nadu Startup and Innovation Mission and FeTNA International Tamil Entrepreneur Network. A multi-crore American Tamil Fund (ATF) by investors from the Tamil Diaspora in the US was announced at the event to invest in the State's start-ups. The ATF has pledged investments to the tune of ₹16 crore before December 2023. Global Tamil Angels is a platform by StartupTN that makes fundraising easy for Tamil Nadu-based start-ups and investing easy for Global Tamil Angel Investors by helping them get connected. It aims to onboard angel investors from the Tamil diaspora across countries. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Tamil Nadu – launched the 'Global Tamil Angels' platform at "Global Startup Investors Summit"
- Summit organised by = Tamil Nadu Startup & Innovation Mission + FeTNA International Tamil Entrepreneur Network
- The platform is launched for investors from the global Tamil diaspora to make investments in the State's start-ups
- American Tamil Fund (ATF) has pledged investments of about ₹16 Cr before December 2023
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi



197. On the occasion of World Hindi Day on January 10, the World Hindi Day 2023 Conference's main theme was announced which is "Hindi: From Traditional Knowledge to Artificial Intelligence". The conference will be held at the Denarau Island Convention Center in Nadi, Fiji. Hindi is the third most widely spoken language in the world after Mandarin Chinese and English, with about 600 million speakers globally. Vishwa Hindi Diwas marks the day when Hindi was first spoken in the United Nations' General Assembly in 1949. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- 12th "World Hindi Conference" – to be held in Nadi, Fiji (in Feb 2023)
- Conference's Theme – "Hindi: From Traditional Knowledge to Artificial Intelligence"
- January 10 – World Hindi Day | Hindi was first spoken in the UNGA in 1949

MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

198. On January 10, India and Panama signed an MoU to enhance cooperation in the training of diplomats. External Affairs Minister Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar held a bilateral meeting with Panama's Foreign Minister Janaina Tewaney Mencomo in the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention which was held in Indore. They also discussed the opportunities for greater economic, health, finance and people to people linkages. The PBD convention was held on January 8-10, 2023 on the theme 'Diaspora: Reliable Partners for India's Progress in Amrit Kaal'. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- India + Panama = an MoU to enhance cooperation in the training of diplomats
- PBD convention – held on January 8-10 in Indore, MP
- Theme of PBD convention – "Diaspora: Reliable Partners for India's Progress in Amrit Kaal"
- Panama – Panama City – Balboa | President – Laurentino Cortizo

199. On January 9, Garuda Aerospace, the Chennai-based drone manufacturing company has signed an MoU with Rallis India Ltd, a subsidiary of Tata Chemicals. Rallis will supply pesticides and crop nutrients to Garuda Aerospace for a pilot demonstration in Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh. The drone pilots will conduct demonstrations on a 1,000-acre crops such as paddy, onion, Bengal gram, wheat and vegetables. The drone-based solution will enable businesses achieving their sustainability goals by efficient use of resources. Garuda Aerospace has a fleet of 400 drones and a well-trained team of over 500 pilots in 26 locations across India while Rallis India holds a distribution network for crop care and seeds. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- Garuda Aerospace + Rallis India Ltd = an MoU for a pilot demonstration in Maharashtra & Andhra Pradesh
- Drone pilots will conduct demonstrations on 1,000-acre crops such as paddy, onion, Bengal gram, wheat & vegetables
- HQs of Garuda Aerospace – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | CEO – Agnishwar Jayaprakash



200. On January 7, the ODP Corporation selected HCL Technologies as its primary IT partner. ODP Corporation is a leading provider of products, services and technology solutions through an integrated business-to-business (B2B) distribution platform and omnichannel presence. As part of this agreement, HCLTech will leverage its automation and artificial intelligence (AI) capabilities to enable efficient IT operations with personalized and intuitive IT services. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- ODP Corporation – selected HCL Technologies as its primary IT partner
- HCLTech – will leverage its automation and AI capabilities to enable efficient IT operations
- [HQs of HCL Technologies – Noida, UP](#) | [MD & CEO – C. Vijayakumar](#) | [Chairperson – Roshni Nadar Malhotra](#)

Important Days	
January 1	205 th Anniversary of Bhima-Koregaon battle (1818)
January 1	Global Family Day
January 4	5 th World Braille Day by UN (since 2019) (birth anniversary of Louis Braille)
January 6	World Day of War Orphans
January 6	76 th Foundation Day of Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)
January 8	Earth’s Rotation Day
January 10	World Hindi Day (Vishwa Hindi Diwas)
January 16	National Startup Day
January 10-16	Startup India Innovation Week - by DPIIT
January 11-17	34 th National Road Safety Week



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