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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.

Folks! We feel thrilled to present you the **Qudoo App**, India's first Education-Gaming-Social platform (EGS) for all major competitive Exams, which has the unique capability of making your breaks extremely productive and refilling.

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# National & States Affairs

**451.** On October 19, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has been granted an extension for the 7<sup>th</sup> time to frame rules for the 'Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA)'. The Parliamentary Committees on Subordinate Legislation in the Rajya Sabha granted permission until December 31, 2022, while the Lok Sabha extended it till January 9, 2023. The CAA was passed by Parliament on December 11, 2019. The CAA seeks to grant Indian citizenship to persecuted minorities belonging to Hindu, Sikh, Jain, Buddhist, Parsi and Christian communities from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan who entered India on or before December 31, 2014. Part II of the Constitution of India (Articles 5 to 11) deals with the Citizenship of India. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- MHA has been granted an extension for the 7<sup>th</sup> time to frame rules for the 'Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA)'
- Rajya Sabha granted permission until Dec 31, 2022, while the Lok Sabha extended it till January 9, 2023
- CAA was passed by Parliament on December 11, 2019
- CAA seeks to grant Indian citizenship to those who entered India on or before December 31, 2014

**452.** On October 19, Central government put into place two action plans at the National Level to protect India's vulture population, the first in 2006 and the second, ongoing plan for 2020-2025. Acting on it, the Tamil Nadu Government formed a State-level Committee to set up an institutional framework for the effective conservation of vultures, which almost went extinct in the country at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. In Tamil Nadu, 4 species of vultures are found - the Oriental white-backed vulture, the long-billed vulture, the red-headed vulture, and the Egyptian vulture. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Tamil Nadu – formed a State-level Committee to set up an institutional framework for effective conservation of Vultures
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi

**453.** On October 19, Ministry of Railways announced the closure of the four-decade old Central Organisation for Modernisation of Workshops (COFMOW), New Delhi, with effect from December 1, 2022. Since its inception in 1979, the COFMOW successfully helped in the modernisation of Production Units and Workshops across the Indian Railways. Ministry of Railways had earlier wound-up major establishments like the Special Railway Establishment for Strategic and Holistic Advancement (SRESTHA), Lucknow, and the Indian Railways Organisation of Alternative Fuel (IROAF), New Delhi. Other organisations like the Central Organisation for Railway Electrification (CORE), Allahabad, and the Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS), New Delhi, were also likely to be closed as part of the massive restructure plan. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Railways Ministry – announced to close Central Organisation for Modernisation of Workshops – from Dec 1, 2022
- COFMOW was established in 1979 | Location – New Delhi
- Ministry of Railways: Ashwini Vaishnav | Constituency – Odisha
- MoS in Ministry of Railways: Danve Raosaheb Dadarao & Darshana Vikram Jardosh



**454.** On October 21, PM Narendra Modi launched 'Mission LiFE', India's programme to fight climate change, at Statue of Unity in Ekta Nagar (previously known as Kevadia) in Narmada district of Gujarat. Mission LiFE aims at following a three-pronged strategy for changing our collective approach towards sustainability - first by nudging individuals to practise simple yet effective environment-friendly actions in their daily lives (demand), secondly by enabling industries and markets to respond swiftly to the changing demand (supply) and thirdly by influencing government and industrial policy to support both sustainable consumption and production (policy). The mission also emboldens the spirit of the P3 model - Pro, Planet, People. It functions on the basic principles of 'Lifestyle of the Planet, for the Planet and by the Planet'. The mantra of Mission Life is "Lifestyle For Environment". [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- PM Modi launched 'Mission LiFE', India's programme to fight climate change, at Statue of Unity, Kevadia, Gujarat
- The mantra of Mission Life is "Lifestyle For Environment"
- [Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar](#) | [CM – Bhupendra Patel](#) | [Governor – Acharya Dev Vrat](#)

**455.** On October 18, Union Minister of state for Science and Technology, Jitendra Singh launched the Single Integrated Pensioners' Portal. The portal is developed in collaboration with State Bank of India and aimed at 'Ease of Living' for the central government pensioners. The minister said that 'Bhavishya 9.0' version is being released with its integration with Pension Disbursing Banks. All remaining 16 pension disbursing banks will now begin their integration with 'Bhavishya'. 'Bhavishya' is a portal for pension payment and tracking system. It is being integrated with 'Pension Seva' portal of SBI and will enable pensioners to get all information and services at one place with a single login. 'Bhavishya' was recently rated as the 3<sup>rd</sup> best portal among all government of India service portals by National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment (NeSDA). The minister also inaugurated 'Pre-Retirement Counselling' for about 900 officials about to retire in 2023. Besides, the Minister inaugurated a 'Pension Disbursing Bank Exhibition' in which all the 17 Pension Disbursing Banks participated to display their digital initiatives and products meant for retiring government officials. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Jitendra Singh – launched the Single Integrated Pensioners' Portal, 'Bhavishya 9.0' (developed in collaboration with SBI)
- 'Bhavishya' is a portal for pension payment and tracking system & being integrated with 'Pension Seva' portal of SBI
- Jitendra Singh – also inaugurated 'Pre-Retirement Counselling' for about 900 officials about to retire in 2023
- Jitendra Singh – also inaugurated a 'Pension Disbursing Bank Exhibition' for 17 Pension Disbursing Banks

**456.** On October 19, marking the beginning of the 5G enabled education system in India, PM Narendra Modi launched "Mission Schools of Excellence" at Trimandir, Adalaj village near Gujarat capital Gandhinagar. The Mission has been conceived with a total outlay of Rs 10,000 Crore. The Mission will help strengthen education infrastructure in Gujarat by setting up new classrooms, smart classrooms, computer labs and overall upgradation of the infrastructure of schools in the state. The PM also recalled 'Gunotsav', a festival focussing on the quality of education. A more advanced technology-based version of the 'Gunotsav' is functioning in Vidiya Sameeksha Kendra in Gujarat. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- PM Narendra Modi – launched "Mission Schools of Excellence" at Trimandir, Adalaj, in Gujarat
- Mission outlay – Rs 10,000 Crore | 'Gunotsav' is functioning in Vidiya Sameeksha Kendra in Gujarat
- [Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar](#) | [CM – Bhupendra Patel](#) | [Governor – Acharya Dev Vrat](#)

**457.** On October 19, in a major boost to agriculture startups, the Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar announced that a Rs 500 Crore Accelerator Programme will be launched for taking forward and popularizing the successful initiatives of agri startups. A High-Level Steering Committee will be constituted for overall guidance of the Agriculture Startup Ecosystem under the Chairmanship of the Agriculture Minister. A marketing linkage will also be created with organizations like e-NAM and NAFED to meet the market needs of the products developed by the agri startups. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- Narendra Singh Tomar – announced to launch a Rs 500 Crore Accelerator Programme to boost Agriculture Startups
- High-Level Steering Committee for overall guidance of Agriculture Startup Ecosystem – chaired by Agriculture Minister

**458.** On October 19, with the aim of achieving self-reliance and boosting exports in the defence sector, PM Narendra Modi announced the 4<sup>th</sup> 'Positive Indigenisation List (PIL)' of 101 items during the opening ceremony of DefExpo 2022 in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. The MoD had earlier promulgated 'First, Second and Third Positive Indigenisation Lists' also. Details of these items are available on SRIJAN portal. They will only be procured from Indian Industry after the timelines indicated in the list. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- PM Narendra Modi – announced the 4<sup>th</sup> 'Positive Indigenisation List (PIL)' of 101 items
- It will minimize imports by DPSUs & bring self-reliance in defence manufacturing
- Details of these items is available at – 'SRIJAN' portal
- [Ministry of Defence: Rajnath Singh](#) | [Constituency – Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Defence: Ajay Bhatt](#)

**459.** On October 18, the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) topped among all Group A Ministries, Departments and Autonomous Bodies for resolving public grievances in the rankings report published by Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) for September, 2022. This is the second consecutive month UIDAI has topped the rankings. UIDAI has been a top performer in resolution of cases received through Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS). [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- DARPG: UIDAI has topped amongst all Ministries/Departments for resolving Public Grievances during Sep 2022
- Cases were received through CPGRAMS - **C**entralized **P**ublic **G**rievance **R**edress **A**nd **M**onitoring **S**ystem
- [HQs of UIDAI – New Delhi](#) | [CEO – Saurabh Garg](#) | [Founded on – January 28, 2009](#)

## International Affairs

**460.** On October 18, Australia's present government, led by PM Anthony Albanese, has reversed its recognition of west Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and agreed to again recognize Tel Aviv as Israel's capital. In 2018, Australian government, led by then PM Scott Morrison, became the 3<sup>rd</sup> country to formally recognise Jerusalem as Israel's capital, following the US and Guatemala. However, the Australian embassy remained in Tel Aviv. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Australia's Govt – reversed its recognition of west Jerusalem as Israel's capital & agreed to again recognize Tel Aviv
- In 2018, Australian government, led by then PM Scott Morrison, became the 3<sup>rd</sup> country to recognise Jerusalem
- [Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar](#) | [PM – Anthony Albanese](#)
- [Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel](#) | [President – Isaac Herzog](#) | [PM – Benjamin Netanyahu](#)





# **Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs**

**461.** GanderCoin is India's first and foremost cryptocurrency that was launched in the market. Currently, GanderCoin is listed on three major Indian crypto trading platforms - CoinCRED, COINLORD, and INDOEX. Two strong female entrepreneurs, Shaik Ayesha and Subi Ansari, are the founders of this new cryptocurrency. Currently, the initial price of GanderCoin is 10 rupees (in INR) which is equal to 0.13 USDT.

## **Key Points:**

- 'GanderCoin' – India's first and foremost Cryptocurrency | Founders – Shaik Ayesha & Subi Ansari
- Currently, GanderCoin is listed on 3 Indian crypto trading platforms: CoinCRED, COINLORD & INDOEX
- Initial price of GanderCoin was – Rs 10 ~ 0.13 USDT (Tether)

**462.** On October 19, India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) and Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) joined hands to focus on their efforts on enhancing the reach of financial solutions to large sections of society across India. IPPB and RBIH will plan, design and execute innovative products and offerings to bridge the existing gap by bringing digitalised services at the customer's doorstep. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- IPPB + RBIH = joined hands to focus on enhancing the reach of financial solutions to large sections of society across India
- CEO of RBIH – Rajesh Bansal | CTO of RBIH – Amit Saxena
- HQs of IPPB – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Venkatram Jayanthi | Established on – 1st Sep, 2018

**463.** On October 20, Karnataka Bank was awarded the National Digital Transformation Awards, "DX 2022 Awards", by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for best practice in digital transformation under the 'BFSI' (banking, financial services and insurance) segment. The awards recognise 'innovative excellence' in three categories: Employee Engagement, Operational Excellence, and Customer Experience. The bank launched 'KBL NxT' in 2021 in a bid to emerge as the 'digital bank of future'. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Karnataka Bank – awarded the National Digital Transformation Awards, "DX 2022 Awards" by CII
- Award recognises excellence in 3 categories: Employee Engagement, Operational Excellence & Customer Experience
- HQs of Karnataka Bank – Mangalore, Karnataka | CEO – Mahabaleshwara M. S. | Chairman – Pradeep Kumar Panja

**464.** On October 20, HDFC Securities announced the opening of the first-ever women-only Digital Centre (DC) in India. The centre will be based in Bengaluru and cater to customers from Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. With the DCs, customers will be able to access support as and when they need it, without needing to search for a physical branch.

[{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- HDFC Securities – announced the opening of the first-ever women-only Digital Centre (DC) in Bengaluru
- HQs of HDFC Securities Ltd – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Dhiraj Relli



**465.** On October 20, Walmart-owned payment services provider, PhonePe, is investing USD 200 million (around Rs 1,661 Crore) for building Data Centres in India. The company has already invested USD 150 million but did not specify a timeline for investing the remaining USD 50 million. The USD 150 million investments will take the overall capacity to over 14 MW spread across 3 facilities in Bengaluru, and the one inaugurated in Navi Mumbai. PhonePe, NTT and Dell Technologies launched India's first Green Data Centre with a Smart Cooling technology in Navi Mumbai. This 4.8-megawatt facility at Mahape, Navi Mumbai is built and designed with advanced alternative cooling technologies like Direct Contact Liquid Cooling (DCLC) and Liquid Immersion Cooling (LIC), a first in India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- PhonePe + NTT + Dell Tech = launched India's first Green Data Centre with Smart Cooling technology in Navi Mumbai
- It is built & designed with **Direct Contact Liquid Cooling (DCLC) & Liquid Immersion Cooling (LIC)** technologies
- PhonePe is investing overall \$200 million (Rs 1,661 Cr) for building Data Centres in India (of which \$150 mn is invested)
- [HQs of PhonePe – Bangalore, Karnataka | MD & CEO – Sameer Nigam | Founded in – 2015](#)
- [HQs of Dell Technologies – Texas, US | CEO – Michael S. Dell](#)

**466.** In October 2022, PayU Payments Private Limited (PayU), a subsidiary of Prosus N.V. (Prosus), cancelled a 13-month-old deal worth \$4.7 billion to buy Indian payments firm BillDesk, after certain conditions on the deal were not met by the deadline at the end of September. The deal was announced on 31 August 2021. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- PayU Payments (Prosus) – cancelled a 13-month-old deal worth \$4.7 billion to buy BillDesk
- [HQs of PayU – Netherlands | CEO – Laurent le Moal \(Parent Company – Prosus N.V.\)](#)
- [HQs of BillDesk – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Co-Founder – Srinivasu MN](#)

**467.** On October 21, the private sector lender IDBI Bank launched the “Amrit Mahotsav FD” scheme as part of its festive offer. The bank has launched a special, limited-time offer with maximum interest rate of 6.90% for a period of 555 days. The bank provides a 6.40% interest rate on the “Amrit Mahotsav FD” programme to the general public and a 6.90% interest rate to senior citizens. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IDBI Bank – launched the “Amrit Mahotsav FD” scheme as part of its festive offer
- Interest rate: 6.40% for general public & 6.90% for senior citizens | FD Period – 555 days
- [HQs of IDBI Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD CEO – Rakesh Sharma | Chairman – M. R. Kumar | Established in – 1964](#)

**468.** On October 19, the US government arm Development Finance Corporation (DFC) signed a USD 35 million loan with Indian microfinance institution CreditAccess Grameen (CAG) with an aim to help 5 lakh women entrepreneurs gain access to credit. The ceremonial signing was done by DFC's CEO Scott Nathan during his visit to India. CreditAccess is the largest NBFC-MFI in India, serving nearly 4 million women. CreditAccess is also the first institution to partner with DFC in a new initiative that will aim to increase financial inclusion for marginalized women. Also, the US Corporation signed an agreement for USD 10 million guarantees of a Rupee loan to Punjab Renewable Energy Systems Private Limited (PRESPL). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- DFC (US) + CreditAccess Grameen = a USD 35 million loan agreement to help 5 lakh women entrepreneurs
- US Corporation signed an agreement for \$10 million guarantees of a Rupee loan to Punjab Renewable Energy Systems
- [US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46<sup>th</sup> President – Joe Biden | 49<sup>th</sup> VP – Kamala Harris](#)
- [HQs of CreditAccess Gramee Ltd – Bengaluru, Karnataka | MD & CEO – Udaya Kumar Hebbar](#)

**469.** On October 22, GIFT City collaborated with the Fintech Association of Japan (FAJ) to strengthen the fintech ecosystem in GIFT City. As part of the MoU, GIFT City and FAJ plan to promote fintech innovation and a fintech accelerator for encouraging, promoting and supporting fintech startups. GIFT City and FAJ will also collaborate to design and execute innovation and entrepreneurial programmes like bootcamps, hackathons, and incubation and acceleration in the fintech domain. GIFT-IFSC houses two international stock exchanges with a combined average daily trading volume of over US\$11 billion. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- GIFT City + Fintech Association of Japan = an MoU to promote fintech Innovation & Entrepreneurship
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Fumio Kishida

## Defence Affairs

**470.** On October 19, PM Narendra Modi unveiled an indigenously built aircraft, “HTT-40” (Hindustan Turbo Trainer), at the 12<sup>th</sup> DefExpo in Gujarat’s Gandhinagar. The HTT-40 is a basic trainer plane designed and developed by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for the Indian Air Force. The HTT-40 will replace the IAF’s ageing fleet of ‘HPT-32 Deepak trainers’. Its first flight was in 2016. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Narendra Modi – unveiled an indigenously built aircraft, “HTT-40” (Hindustan Turbo Trainer) at DefExpo2022
- The aircraft is developed by – HAL | It will replace the IAF’s ‘HPT-32 Deepak trainers’
- HQs of HAL – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Amitabh Bhatt | Chairma & MD – C. B. Ananthakrishnan (addi. charge)

## Sports & Games

**471.** On October 18, Tazuni, a fun, football-loving penguin was unveiled as the Official Mascot of the “2023 FIFA Women’s World Cup” to be co-hosted by Australia & New Zealand. Based on the ‘Eudyptula minor’ species endemic to Aotearoa New Zealand and Australia, Tazuni is the perfect representative of the host region and will help to bring the excitement to a new generation of fans. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ‘Tazuni’, a football-loving penguin – unveiled as the Official Mascot of the “2023 FIFA Women’s World Cup”
- The tournament is to be co-hosted by – Australia & New Zealand
- HQs of FIFA – Zurich, Switzerland | President – Gianni Infantino

**472.** October 19, Mubassina Mohammed from Lakshadweep islands won Silver medals in Long Jump and Heptathlon at the 4<sup>th</sup> “Asian Youth Athletics Championship” held in Kuwait. She represented India at the 19<sup>th</sup> International School Sports Federation (ISF) and World School Gymnastics held in Normandy, France. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 4<sup>th</sup> “Asian Youth Athletics Championship” – held in Kuwait
- Mubassina Mohammed (Lakshadweep) – won Silver medals in Long Jump & Heptathlon





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## Science & Technology

**473.** On October 18, A team of professors from the IIT Roorkee developed a breath-based cancer detector (BLO Detector), which works on the principles of colorimetry. The institute has also signed technology transfer for the BLO detector with Tata Steel. BLO Detector will be important for screening a large pull of the population who are susceptible to any of cancer.

[{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- IIT Roorkee – developed a breath-based cancer detector, ‘BLO Detector’
- Director of IIT Roorkee – Ajit K. Chaturvedi

## Appointments & Resignations

**474.** On October 18, India and France are re-elected as President and Co-President of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) at the 5<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the ISA. Union Power and New & Renewable Energy Minister R. K. Singh will be the President of the ISA while Chrysoula Zacharopoulou, France’s Minister, will be Co-President of the ISA. R K Singh mentioned that the ISA has really grown fast and now it has 110 countries. ISA’s mission is to unlock USD 1 trillion of investments in solar by 2030 while reducing the cost of the technology and its financing. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- R. K. Singh (India) & Chrysoula Zacharopoulou (France) – re-elected as President & Co-President of the ISA
- ISA’s Mission: To unlock \$1 trillion of investments in Solar by 2030
- HQs of ISA – Gurugram, Haryana | DG – Ajay Mathur | Signatory Countries – 110 | Member countries – 90

**475.** On October 21, Bolt Games Private Limited’s Fire-Bolt brand has appointed actor and film producer Vijay Deverakonda as its new brand ambassador. Alongside cricketing legend Virat Kohli and actors Vicky Kaushal and Kiara Advani, Devarakonda will participate in the company’s commercial marketing efforts and will help in establishing its presence in the Indian market. The company has been incubated by Savex Technologies. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Vijay Deverakonda – appointed as brand ambassador of Fire-Bolt, a brand of Bolt Games

**476.** On October 18, Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) nominated two directors, G Mahalingam and Deepak Mohanty, as Non-Executive Directors on the board of IL&FS (Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services). The appointment of these two directors was approved by both the MCA and National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT). Both Mahalingam and Mohanty are former Executive Directors of the Reserve Bank of India. With this induction, the existing board of IL&FS now comprises 6 members with C. S. Rajan as Non-Executive Chairman. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- G Mahalingam & Deepak Mohanty – nominated as Non-Executive Directors on the board of IL&FS
- Both are former Executive Directors of the RBI | With this induction, the IL&FS now comprises 6 members
- HQs of IL&FS – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – C. S. Rajan | MD – Nand Kishore



**477.** On October 19, K.P. Ashwini, a Dalit scholar whose roots are in Kurabarahalli in Kolar district, has been appointed Special Rapporteur for United Nations Human Rights Commission (UNHRC). She is the first Indian and Asian woman to be appointed to this post. Ms. Ashwini is also keen to address the issues of how the social media is being used to spread and amplify hate. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- K. P. Ashwini (Dalit Scholar) – became the first Indian & Asian woman to be appointed as Special Rapporteur for UNHRC
- HQs of UNHRC – Geneva, Switzerland | President – Nazahat Shameen Khan | Members – 47 countries

**478.** On October 20, UK Prime Minister Liz Truss resigned after spending just 45 days in office. Her resignation came after a falling out among the ministers in her cabinet over the 'mini-budget' policy she introduced. After Liz's resignation, on October 25, Rishi Sunak became UK's 57<sup>th</sup> Prime Minister by winning the race to lead the Conservative Party. Sunak became the UK's first Prime Minister of colour as well Indian origin. He defeated centrist politician Penny Mordaunt, who failed to get enough backing from lawmakers to enter the ballot. Sunak is a former Goldman Sachs analyst. Rishi was born in Southampton, UK to parents of Indian descent who migrated to Britain from East Africa in the 1960s. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Rishi Sunak – became UK's 57<sup>th</sup> Prime Minister (succeeding - Liz Truss)
- Rishi Sunak: UK's first PM of colour (Indian origin) | Born in – Southampton, UK | Party – Conservative Party
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM – Rishi Sunak (57<sup>th</sup>) | New King – King Charles III

**479.** On October 19, Sankarasubramanian K has been designated Principal Scientist of ISRO's Aditya-L1 mission. Aditya-L1 is the first observatory-class space-based solar mission from India. The spacecraft will be placed in a halo orbit around the first Lagrange point, L1, of the Sun-Earth system. A satellite around the L1 point has the advantage of continuously viewing the sun without occultation/ eclipses. Aditya-L1 carries seven payloads to observe the photosphere, chromosphere, and the outermost layers of the sun (the corona) using electromagnetic and particle detectors. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Sankarasubramanian K – designated as Principal Scientist of ISRO's Aditya-L1 mission
- Aditya-L1 – the first observatory-class space-based solar mission from India
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – S. Somanath | Formed on – August 15, 1969

## **Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes**

**480.** On October 24, HCL founder Shiv Nadar topped the "EdelGive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2022" and earned 'India's Most Generous' title, with an estimated ₹1,161 Crore given away over the course of a year. He displaced Wipro's Azim Premji who come second in the latest ranking, with donations of ₹484 Crore. Reliance's Mukesh Ambani was ranked third. Zerodha's co-founder Nikhil Kamath, aged 36, is the youngest philanthropist on the list. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- "EdelGive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2022" – released on October 24, 2022
- Top: Shiv Nadar (HCL Founder) who earned 'India's Most Generous' title (His total donation – ₹1,161 Cr)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Azim Premji, 3<sup>rd</sup> – Mukesh Ambani | Youngest Philanthropist on the List – Nikhil Kamath (Zerodha's Co-founder)



**481.** On October 19, European Parliament announced its top human rights prize to the people of Ukraine amid Russia's ongoing invasion which started in February. This award is for those Ukrainians fighting on the ground, for those who have been forced to flee, for those who have lost relatives and friends, for all those who stand up and fight for who and what they believe in. The Sakharov Prize for freedom of thought is named after the late Soviet dissident Andrei Sakharov and has been awarded annually since 1988 to individuals and organizations defending human rights and freedoms. The prize comes with a cash prize of €50,000. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- European Parliament – announced its top human rights prize 'Sakharov Prize' to the people of Ukraine
- 'Sakharov Prize' – named after late Soviet dissident Andrei Sakharov (Cash prize of €50,000)
- Ukraine – Kyiv – Ukrainian Hryvnia | President – Volodymyr Zelensky
- HQs of EU – Brussels, Belgium | Member Countries – 27
- President of European Parliament – Roberta Metsola
- President of European Council – Charles Michel
- President of European Commission – Ursula von der Leyen

## **Important Days & Dates**

**482.** World Statistics Day is celebrated all over the world on October 20. Whereas the National Statistics Day of India is celebrated on 29 June. World Statistics Day is celebrated under the guidance of the United Nations Statistical Commission as a day to celebrate the contribution of statistics in the socio-economic development of the world. It is celebrated every five years and was first celebrated on 20 October 2010. In 2022, the theme is "Data for Sustainable Development". [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- October 20 – World Statistics Day (since 2010 & once in every five years)
- 2022's Theme – "Data for Sustainable Development"
- June 29 – National Statistics Day in India

**483.** World Osteoporosis Day is celebrated every year on 20 October. Osteoporosis is a silent killer and it is a bone disease. Osteoporosis makes a bone weak and brittle to the extent that even the slightest physical stress can cause breakage and fracture. The day was first celebrated by United Kingdom's National Osteoporosis Society in 1996. The theme for 2022 was "Step Up For Bone Health". This day is organised by the International Osteoporosis Foundation (IOF) which is the world's largest non-governmental organisation dedicated to the prevention, diagnosis, & treatment of osteoporosis. IOF was formed in 1998. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- October 20 – World Osteoporosis Day – by IOF (since 1996)
- 2022's theme – "Step Up For Bone Health"
- HQs of IOF – Nyon, Switzerland | President – Cyrus Cooper | CEO – Philippe Halbout



**484.** Global Iodine Deficiency Disorders Prevention Day (IDD) or World Iodine Deficiency Day is observed every year on October 21. Under the theme 'Thyroid and Communication' in 2022, the idea is to spread awareness of iodine and its importance. Iodine is an essential micronutrient that the human body cannot produce on its own. Iodine regulates the thyroid hormone in our body. Irregular secretion of thyroid hormones can lead to a condition called goiter as well. In 1962, India launched the National Goiter Control Program (NGCP) which was renamed as 'National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Program (NIDDCP)' in 1992. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- October 21 – World Iodine Deficiency Day or Global Iodine Deficiency Disorders Prevention Day
- India launched 'National Goiter Control Program (NGCP)' in 1962

**485.** The International Chefs' Day is celebrated across the globe every year on 20 October to create awareness about the profession & healthy food. In 2004, Dr. Bill Gallagher, a famous chef & former president of the 'World Association of Chefs Societies' (Worldchefs) initiated this Day. This day was instituted to remind chefs that it was their duty to pass on their knowledge & culinary skills to the next generation of chefs. The theme for International Chefs Day this year too is "Growing A Healthy Future". [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- October 20 – International Chefs' Day (since 2004)
- 2022's Theme – "Growing A Healthy Future"
- The day was initiated by – Dr. Bill Gallagher (Former president of World Association of Chefs Societies)

**486.** The third Wednesday of October is observed as Global Dignity Day. In 2022, the day fell on October 19. The initiative educates & inspires youth to help them better understand their self-worth. The day also taps into the values of kindness, understanding, tolerance, and compassion. The first official observance took place on October 20, 2008. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- October 19 (3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of Oct) – Global Dignity Day (since 2008)

## **Books & Authors**

**487.** On October 18, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan released the autobiography of senior Congress leader Adv C. K. Sreedharan, titled "Jeevitham, Niyamam, Nilapadukal". The autobiography is written in Malayalam and published by Olive Publication. CK Sreedharan had served as the Vice President of Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Pinarayi Vijayan – released the autobiography of C. K. Sreedharan, titled "Jeevitham, Niyamam, Nilapadukal"
- The autobiography is written in Malayalam & published by Olive Publication
- C. K. Sreedharan (Senior Congress Leader) – served as the Vice President of Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee





## Obituaries

**488.** In October 2022, Nepal's veteran historian and the longest-surviving literature writer of the country, Satya Mohan Joshi, passed away at the age of 103. He was honoured as the 'Shatabdi Purush' (Man of the Century). He was three-time recipient of the 'Madan Puraskar' for his work on folk studies. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Satya Mohan Joshi (Nepal) – Veteran Writer, Scholar & Historian – passed away
- He was honoured as the 'Shatabdi Purush' (Man of the Century)

## Meetings, Conferences & Summits

**489.** The 22<sup>nd</sup> edition of the "World Blockchain Summit" took place in Dubai's Atlantis from October 17 to 19. The Summit aimed to bring experts including government and investors together to initiate conversation and action on blockchain. The next such Summit will be held in Bangkok, Thailand from December 8 to 9, 2022. Earlier, Dubai hosted the Summit in March 2022 and October 2021. India has also entered into the world of blockchains. IIT Kanpur, in 2021, became the first institute in India to launch a system to award blockchain-based educational degrees in digital form to students. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- 22<sup>nd</sup> edition of the "World Blockchain Summit" took place in Dubai, UAE
- Next such Summit will be held in Bangkok, Thailand (in Dec 2022)
- In 2022, IIT Kanpur became 1<sup>st</sup> institute in India to award blockchain-based Educational Degrees to students
- UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

**490.** The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), along with the Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST), organised a two-day conference themed "Akash Tatva" (the element Akash) in Dehradun, Uttarakhand. A co-organiser of the conference, scheduled to be held on November 5 & 6, is Vijnana Bharati, a swadeshi science organisation linked to the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- ISRO + Ministry of S&T = organised a two-day conference themed "Akash Tatva" in Dehradun, Uttarakhand (in Nov)
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – S. Somanath | Formed on – August 15, 1969

**491.** The world's largest exclusive business platform for the spice sector, 14<sup>th</sup> World Spice Congress (WSC), will be organized by Spices Board India, under Ministry of Commerce and Industry, at CIDCO Exhibition and Convention Centre, Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra during 16-18 February 2023. Over 1000 delegates from more than 50 countries are expected to participate in the event. The theme chosen for the 14<sup>th</sup> edition of WSC is "Vision 2030: SPICES" (Sustainability, Productivity, Innovation, Collaboration, Excellence & Safety). The first ever WSC was held in 1990. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- 14<sup>th</sup> World Spice Congress (WSC) – to be organized by Spices Board India in Navi Mumbai in February 2023
- Theme – "Vision 2030: SPICES" (Sustainability, Productivity, Innovation, Collaboration, Excellence & Safety)
- HQs of Spices Board India – Kochi, Kerala | Chairman – A. G. Thankappan



## Ranks, Reports & Surveys

**492.** Drones have the potential to be at the centre of a technology-led transformation of Indian agriculture and boost India's GDP by 1-1.5% while adding at least 5 lakh jobs in the coming years, according to World Economic Forum's report titled "Using Technology to Improve a Billion Livelihoods" prepared by WEF's Centre for Fourth Industrial Revolution in India in collaboration with Adani Group. India's agriculture sector provides livelihood for 8% of families and ensure food security to 1.3 billion of people residing in India. India exported agriculture and allied products valuing \$29,815 million in 2020-21. Agriculture accounts for 45.6% of the workforce at 18.29% of the gross value added (GVA) as of 2019-2020. Digital tech-based agriculture can unlock further value of \$65 billion by 2025. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- "Using Technology to Improve a Billion Livelihoods" – prepared by WEF + Adani Group
- Drones can boost India's GDP by 1-1.5% with a technology-led transformation of Indian agriculture
- India exported agriculture and allied products worth \$29,815 million in 2020-21
- HQs of WEF – Cologne, Switzerland | Exe Chairman – Klaus Schwab | President – Borge Brende | Founded in – 1971
- HQs of Adani Group – Ahmedabad, Gujarat | Chairman – Gautam Adani | MD – Rajesh Adani

**493.** On October 20, the 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the "Climate Transparency Report 2022" was released. It is a comprehensive annual review on the state of climate performance of the G20 nations. It is a concise report developed by experts from 16 partner organisations from the majority of the G20 countries. The theme for the 2022 edition is "G20 response to the Energy Crisis: Critical for 1.5°C". The report bridges Climate Emergency to Energy Crisis. As per the data, G20 countries with highest total subsidies for the fossil fuel consumption and continued production are China, Indonesia and the UK. It also highlights that India is among the top 3 G20 nations with 10.5% methane emissions, after China and the USA. According to the 'Climate Action Tracker statistics', the overall rating of climate action efforts by India is 'highly insufficient'. The review is based on 100 indicators for adaptation, mitigation and finance with detailed country profiles of all G20 members and a summary of key findings. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the "Climate Transparency Report 2022" – developed by experts from 16 partner organisations
- Theme for the 2022 edition – "G20 response to the Energy Crisis: Critical for 1.5°C"
- This report is a comprehensive annual review on the state of climate performance of 'G20 nations'
- India is among the top 3 G20 nations with 10.5% methane emissions, after China & USA
- Climate Action Tracker statistics: Overall rating of climate action efforts by India is 'highly insufficient'
- Presidency of G20 Summit: 2022 – Indonesia | 2023 – India | 2024 – Brazil

**494.** Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Jio became the largest landline service provider in India for the first time, in August. With 7.35 million landline connections as on August 31, Reliance Jio beat state-owned telecom operator and hitherto market leader Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited's (BSNL) 7.13 million connections, according to the latest data released by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). Third-placed MTNL provided 2.6 million connections. The total number of landline connections in India rose to 25.97 million in August, 2022, according to TRAI. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Reliance Jio – became the largest landline service provider in India for the first time, in August (7.35 mn connections)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – BSNL (7.13 million connections) | 3<sup>rd</sup> – MTNL (2.6 million connections)
- HQs of Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd – Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Akash Ambani
- HQs of TRAI – New Delhi | Chairman – P. D. Vaghela | Established in – 1997



**495.** On October 18, India ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> in the world's first-ever global study on the rise of centi-millionaires titled "The Centi-Millionaire: The Emergence of a New Class of Super-Rich" released by international investment migration advisory firm Henley & Partners. Centi-millionaires are individuals with assets of more than Rs 830 crore (\$100 million). Out of the world's 25,490 centi-millionaires, India has 1,132, beating countries like the UK, Russia and Switzerland. The US (9,730) has the highest number of centi-millionaires in the world, followed by China (2,021). By 2032, India is expected to overtake China as the fastest growing market for centi-millionaires. The UK is in fourth place (with 968 centi-millionaires) followed closely by Germany in fifth place (with 966). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- "The Centi-Millionaire: The Emergence of a New Class of Super-Rich" – released by Henley & Partners (UK)
- US – has the highest number of centi-millionaires in the world | 2<sup>nd</sup> – China, 3<sup>rd</sup> – India (1,132)
- India is expected to overtake China as the fastest growing market for centi-millionaires – by 2032

## **MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships**

**496.** On October 18, National Health Authority (NHA) and National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers (NABH) signed an MoU to expedite implementation of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) and collaborate in the areas of capacity building, dissemination of information, promotion of QCI (NABH) accreditation and ABDM standards, technical support, and stakeholder advocacy. The MoU also aims to create awareness for different initiatives of NABH and NHA by leveraging the reach and presence of each other. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NHA + NABH = an MoU to expedite implementation of 'Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission'
- HQs of NHA – New Delhi | CEO – Ram Sevak Sharma | Founded in – 2018
- HQs of NABH – New Delhi | CEO – Atul Mohan Kochhar

**497.** On October 19, Jindal Steel and Power (JSP) signed an MoU with Greenko Group to facilitate 1000 MW of Carbon-free energy for its steel-making operations at Angul in Odisha. The MoU is aimed at reducing Co2 emissions. Greenko Group shall offer energy storage capacity from its Off Stream Closed Loop Pumped Storage Project (OCPSP) under development in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- JSP + Greenko = an MoU to facilitate 1000 MW of Carbon-free energy for steel-making operations at Angul, Odisha
- Greenko Group – shall offer energy storage capacity from its OCPSP under development in MP & Rajasthan
- HQs of Jindal Steel & Power – New Delhi | Chairman – Naveen Jindal | MD – Bimlendra Jha
- HQs of Greenko – Hyderabad | Chairman – Om Prakash Bhatt | MD – Anil Chalamalasetty

**498.** On October 17, NTPC signed an MoU with Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Japan and its subsidiary Mitsubishi Power India to demonstrate the feasibility for Hydrogen co-firing blended with natural gas in MHI 701D gas turbines installed at NTPC Auraiya Gas Power Plant in Uttar Pradesh. The total installed capacity of the Auraiya Gas Power Plant is 663 MW with 4 gas turbines operating in combined cycle mode. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- NTPC + Mitsubishi Heavy Industries (Japan) = an MoU to demonstrate the feasibility for Hydrogen co-firing blended with natural gas in MHI 701D gas turbines – in UP
- NTPC Auraiya Gas Power Plant – located in Uttar Pradesh
- HQs of NTPC – New Delhi | CMD – Gurdeep Singh | Founded in – 1975
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

**499.** On October 19, The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) partnered with Indian Oil Corporation (IOCL) to launch project 'Vayu Amrit', a crop residue management initiative, in 9 villages of Sangrur in Punjab covering 7,000 acres of farmland. Stubble burning is a major cause of air pollution in the northwest, especially Delhi-NCR during winters. The CII runs a crop residue management programme in Punjab and Haryana to mitigate stubble burning to reduce air pollution. Through the project interventions, stubble burning was reduced by 84%. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- CII + IOCL = launched project 'Vayu Amrit', a crop residue management initiative, in Sangrur, Punjab
- CII – runs a crop residue management programme in Punjab & Haryana to mitigate stubble burning
- HQs of CII – New Delhi | President – Sanjiv Bajaj | VC – Sanjiv Puri | DG – Chandrajit Banerjee | Founded in – 1895
- HQs of IOCL – New Delhi | Chairperson – Shrikant Madhav Vaidya | Founded in – 1959

**500.** On October 19, Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) signed an MoU with a US-headquartered electric vehicle company, Triton Electric Vehicle (TEV), to manufacture Hydrogen Fuel Cells. The cells will be manufactured by BEL using the technology transfer from TEV. This would also help to meet the requirements of the Indian market and mutually agreed upon export markets. The MoU aims to tap the demand for clean energy solutions for various applications, including for e-Mobility. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- BEL + Triton Electric Vehicle (US) = an MoU to manufacture of Hydrogen Fuel Cells
- HQs of BEL – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CMD – Dinesh Kumar Batra (addi. charge)







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