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The first question that might come to your mind is “Is that even possible to use each second of your time effectively?” or “Do I even have that much spare time?” Let's help you by looking over the top time drainers of your daily routine:

- On an average, a person spends 67 minutes per day eating and drinking beverages while watching their favorite TV series.
- Travelling is one of the most overlooked time drainers. CNBC claims that the average commute is a little over 50 minutes per day.
- 44% of people waste tons of time just sitting in the traffic, while others keep scrolling through their feeds.
- Digital Information World suggests that people spend 2 hours and 22 minutes on social media.
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National & States Affairs

601. On October 25, Agriculture Ministry has set up two committees to make nation-wide crop yield estimation and improve weather data infrastructure. The move will reduce the delay in crop loss/damage estimation and ensure timely settlement of claims by farmers. The panels will be headed by Dr. C. S. Murthy, the director of Mahalanobis National Crop Forecast Centre (MNCFC). The committee has been tasked to help the Ministry in the creation of the proposed 'Weather Information Network Data System (WINDS)', under which a system of automatic weather stations (AWS) and automatic rain gauges (ARG) will be implemented throughout the country. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Agriculture Ministry set up two committees for:
 - Nationwide implementation of technology-based crop yield estimation
 - Standardisation & improvement of weather data infrastructure
- The panels will be headed by – Director of MNCFC (Dr. C. S. Murthy at present)
- The committee will help the ministry to create – WINDS (**W**eather **I**nformation **N**etwork **D**ata **S**ystem)
- Under WINDS, a system of AWS & ARG will be implemented throughout India

602. On October 27, the Central government has officially restricted the use of the widely used herbicide, Glyphosate, fearing risk to human and animal health. From now, glyphosate will be applied only through pest control operators (PCOs). PCOs are licensed to use deadly chemicals for treating pests such as rodents. Glyphosate has been majorly used in tea plantations in India where it is applied to control herbicides. The World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) published a study in 2015 that said glyphosate is 'probably carcinogenic to humans'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Govt has officially restricted the use of the widely used herbicide, 'Glyphosate'
- From now, glyphosate will be applied only through pest control operators (PCOs)
- Glyphosate has been majorly used in tea plantations in India
- WHO + IARC = said glyphosate is 'probably carcinogenic to humans' in their study published in 2015

603. On October 26, Odisha launched a common credit portal 'SAFAL' (Simplified Application for Agricultural Loans) for the welfare of farmers. It has also been integrated with Krushak Odisha and will have access to 70-plus model project reports. The portal will ease the loan application process benefiting both the farmers and banks significantly. SAFAL will also provide the government with complete visibility of demand and disbursement of formal credit across states and ensure schemes are designed in a data-backed manner. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Odisha – launched a common credit portal 'SAFAL' to ease the loan application process for farmers
- SAFAL – **S**implified **A**pplication **F**or **A**gricultural **L**oans
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal



604. On October 26, as part of 'Project Suryagram' (Sun Village), Gujarat's Modhera has emerged as India's first solar-powered village. It is also a 'net-zero' energy community, meeting 100% of its energy requirements using on-site solar power. Under the project, 1 kilowatt (KW) solar panels have been installed on the roof of almost every house in Modhera in two phases. Apart from panels, the Gujarat Power Corporation Ltd (GPCL) has set up a 6 MW ground-mounted solar power plant with a 15 MWh Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) at Sujjanpura near Modhera. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Modhera (Gujarat) – emerged as India's first solar-powered village
- Modhera is also a 'net-zero' energy community, meeting 100% of its energy requirements using on-site solar power
- [Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Bhupendra Patel | Governor – Acharya Dev Vrat](#)

605. On October 20, Karnataka Government promulgated an ordinance for increasing reservation for Scheduled Castes (SCs) from 15% to 17%, and for Scheduled Tribes (STs) from 3% to 7%. The hike in reservation would benefit 103 communities among SCs and 56 communities among STs in Karnataka. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Karnataka – increased reservation for SCs from 15% to 17%, & for STs from 3% to 7%
- [Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – Basavaraj Bommai | Governor – Thaawarchand Gehlot](#)

606. On October 27, Aviation watchdog Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has given the aerodrome licence for the new airport at Mopa in Goa, making Goa the first Indian city-state to have two airports that will soon witness regular commercial flights. Mopa airport will be operated by GMR group. Dabolim airport is another operational airport in Goa. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DGCA has given the aerodrome licence for the new Mopa airport in Goa
- Goa became the first Indian city-state to have two airports
- [Goa: Capital – Panaji | CM – Pramod Sawant | Governor – P. S. Sreedharan Pillai](#)

607. On October 27, Gujarat has been declared as 100% "Har Ghar Jal" state. PM Narendra Modi announced a 100-days campaign to ensure the health and well-being of children by providing clean tap water in schools and Anganwadi centres in India. The campaign was initially launched by Minister of Jal Shakti, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, on October 2, 2020. The motto of the Jal Jeevan Mission is 'No One is Left Out'. Goa and Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu (D&NH and D&D) had become the first 'Har Ghar Jal' certified State and UT in India, respectively. While Madhya Pradesh's Burhanpur is the first 'Har Ghar Jal' certified district in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gujarat – declared as 100% "Har Ghar Jal" state
- Motto of the Jal Jeevan Mission – 'No One is Left Out'
- First 'Har Ghar Jal' certified State – Goa | UT – Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu | District – Burhanpur, MP
- [Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Bhupendra Patel | Governor – Acharya Dev Vrat](#)



International Affairs

608. On October 26, Cognizant expanded its collaboration with chipmaker Qualcomm to open a 5G experience center in Atlanta, the first such center in North America which will focus on use cases in manufacturing and supply chain management. The new Atlanta experience center builds on Cognizant's 5G center in Bangalore, India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Cognizant + Qualcomm = collaborated to open North America's first 5G experience center in Atlanta
- The new center builds on – Cognizant's 5G center in Bangalore, India
- [HQs of Cognizant – New Jersey, US](#) | [CEO – Brian Humphries](#)

609. Infantry Day is celebrated on October 27 to honour, respect and pay tribute to the courageous Indian infantry soldiers who fought and were martyred while saving the nation and its people when the Pakistan Army invaded Kashmir at the time of Independence. Indian Army celebrated the 76th Infantry Day this year. Indian Army had organised special bike rallies for the day across the country in Jammu (Jammu and Kashmir), Shillong (Meghalaya), Wellington (Tamil Nadu), and Ahmedabad (Gujarat). The endpoint was New Delhi to join the day's celebrations at the National War Memorial. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- October 27 – 76th Infantry Day
- The day is celebrated to pay tribute to infantry soldiers who were martyred when Pakistan Army invaded Kashmir at the time of Independence
- [HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi](#) | [Chief – Lt. Gen. Manoj Pande](#) | [Vice Chief – Lt. General Baggavalli Somashekar Raj](#)

610. On October 26, Microsoft has launched an ARM-powered Mac Mini-like desktop PC dubbed "Windows Dev Kit 2023" that is designed to help developers build and create apps for Windows on ARM machines. This system is codenamed "Project Volterra" and was unveiled earlier in May, 2022. The device is available in 8 countries which include Australia, China, Canada, Germany, Japan, the UK, China, France and the US. It is powered by the Snapdragon 8cx Gen 3 Compute Platform and backed by the Qualcomm Neural Processing SDK. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Microsoft – launched an ARM-powered Mac Mini-like desktop PC dubbed "Windows Dev Kit 2023"
- This device is codenamed "Project Volterra" & available in 8 countries
- [HQs of Microsoft – Washington, US](#) | [Chairman & CEO – Satya Nadella](#) | [Founded in – 1975](#)

611. On October 27, The United States decided to retrieve older HAWK air defence equipment from storage to send to Ukraine which is facing a heavy barrage of Russian drone-fired and cruise missiles. The HAWK interceptor missiles would be an upgrade to the Stinger missile system, which US sent to Ukraine early on in the war. HAWK (Homing All the Way Killer) entered service with the US Army in 1959, during the Vietnam war. The HAWK system was the predecessor to the PATRIOT missile defence system that Raytheon built in the 1990s. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- US – to send 'HAWK' air defence equipment to Ukraine | US has already sent 'Stinger missile system' to Ukraine
- HAWK – **H**oming **A**ll the **W**ay **K**iller
- [US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar](#) | [46th President – Joe Biden](#) | [49th VP – Kamala Harris](#)
- [Ukraine – Kyiv – Ukrainian Hryvnia](#) | [President – Volodymyr Zelensky](#)



Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

612. On October 25, BSE launched Electronic Gold Receipt (EGR) on its platform, a move that will help in efficient and transparent price discovery of the yellow metal. It introduced two new products of 995 and 999 purity during the Muhurat trading on Diwali and trading will be in multiples of 1 gram and deliveries in multiples of 10 gram and 100 gram. This can create a vibrant gold ecosystem in India by enabling actual fungibility of gold. India is the second largest consumer of gold globally with annual gold demand of approximately 800-900 tonne and holds an important position in the global markets. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BSE – launched Electronic Gold Receipt (EGR) on its platform
- Trading will be in multiples of 1 gram and deliveries in multiples of 10 gram and 100 gram
- BSE – introduced two new products of 995 and 999 purity on Diwali
- India – second largest consumer of gold globally
- HQs of BSE – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Subhash Sheoratan Mundra | MD & CEO – Ashish kumar Chauhan

613. On October 27, Indian Bank launched several digital initiatives under “Project WAVE” in a bid to enhance the customer experience through integrated services on its digital platform. Indian Bank has tied-up with Universal Sompo General Insurance for providing online two- and four-wheeler and health insurance through its mobile banking app IndoASIS. This digital collaboration would enable the bank’s customers to access and buy general insurance products digitally, anytime, anywhere, thus augmenting insurance inclusion in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Bank launched several digital initiatives under “Project WAVE” to enhance the customer experience
- Indian Bank + Universal Sompo Gen Ins = tie up to provide online two- & four-wheeler & health insurance on ‘IndoASIS’
- HQs of Indian Bank – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | MD & CEO – Shanti Lal Jain | Tagline – “Your Own Bank”
- HQs of Universal Sompo Gen. Ins. – Mumbai, Maharashtra | HQs of Repco Home Finance – Chennai, Tamil Nadu

614. On October 26, India Post Payments Bank (IPPB), operating under the Department of Posts, launched a “Group Accident Insurance Plan” with an accidental death coverage of Rs 10 lakh. The India Post in partnership with TATA AIG and Bajaj Allianz General Insurance companies will offer the insurance plan at a premium of Rs 399 or Rs 396 per annum. Anyone aged between 18 and 65 years can join this insurance plan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IPPB – launched a “Group Accident Insurance Plan” with an accidental death coverage of Rs 10 lakh
- For this, IPPB partnered with TATA AIG & Bajaj Allianz General Insurance companies
- HQs of IPPB – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Venkatram Jayanthi | Established on – 1st Sep, 2018

615. In October 2022, Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) launched “Bima Sugam”, an online marketplace that will house all companies selling life and non-life insurance on a single platform. The portal is scheduled to go live from 1 January, 2023. The online platform will provide you with a one-stop destination for all insurance needs, providing services like buying insurance policies, portability facilities, change of insurance agents and settling of claims. The Bima Sugam platform will provide all these facilities to policyholders with an e-insurance account (E-IA). The platform will also help reduce commissions paid to intermediaries. The major stakeholders in Bima Sugam will be Life Insurance Council (30%), General Insurance Council at (30%), Online PSBs-Public Sector Banks (35%) and Brokers Association (5%). [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- IRDAI launched “Bima Sugam”, an online marketplace that will house all insurance companies on a single platform
- The portal is scheduled to go live from 1 January, 2023 | Policyholders will get e-insurance account (E-IA) for this
- HQs of IRDAI – Hyderabad, Telangana | Chairman – Debasish Panda

Defence Affairs

616. On October 26, Naval Innovation Indigenisation Organisation (NIIO) under the Indian Navy and Drone Federation of India (DFI) have joined hands to collaboratively work towards promoting indigenous development, manufacturing and testing of a drone, counter-drone. The Drone Federation of India is a non-government, not-for-profit, industry-led body that promotes the drone industry by creating business opportunities, developing a robust skilling infrastructure, developing standards, and promoting R&D efforts. A special maritime drone testing site shall also be earmarked for the Indian drone industry to facilitate faster development and testing of drones. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NIIO (Indian Navy) + DFI = partnered to promote indigenous drone technology
- HQs of Indian Navy – Delhi | Chief – Admiral R. Hari Kumar | VC – S. N. Ghormade | Founded in – 26th Jan, 1950

617. On October 27, Tata, an Indian multinational conglomerate, and Airbus will jointly manufacture ‘C-295’ transport aircraft for the Indian Air Force in Vadodara, Gujarat. The deal, worth Rs 21,000 crore, was signed between the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and the European aerospace/defense major Airbus for the purchase of 56 C-295 aircraft. It is a joint venture between Tata and Airbus. Airbus will deliver the first 16 aircraft in 'fly-away' condition from its final assembly line in Seville, Spain within 4 years, and the subsequent 40 aircraft will be manufactured and assembled in India by Tata Advanced Systems (TASL). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tata + Airbus = will jointly manufacture ‘C-295’ transport aircraft for the Indian Air Force in Vadodara, Gujarat
- Out of 56 aircrafts, 40 will be manufactured and assembled by Tata Advanced Systems
- HQs of Airbus – Leiden, Netherlands | CEO – Guillaume Faury
- HQs of Tata Advanced Systems – Hyderabad, Telangana | CEO – Sukaran Singh

618. Indian and the US militaries will conduct the battalion-level “Yudh Abhyas” exercise between November 15 and December 2 at Auli in Uttarakhand, just 100 km from the Line of Actual Control (LAC). Before this, between November 8 and 18, the member countries of the Quad (US, Japan, Australia & India) will conduct the “Malabar” exercise off Yokosuka in Japan. The US and Indian forces had concluded the “Vajra Prahar” exercise at Bakloh in Himachal Pradesh in August. India will also conduct the “Austra-Hind” infantry combat exercise at the Mahajan range in Rajasthan between November 28 and December 11. Recently, the two countries concluded the “Pitch Black” air combat exercise at Darwin. Moreover, India and Singapore will also conduct the “Agni Warrior” exercise at Deolali in Maharashtra between November 13 and 30. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- “Yudh Abhyas” exercise – between India & US – at Auli, Uttarakhand (in Nov-Dec 2022)
- “Malabar” exercise – among Quad members – off Yokosuka, Japan
- “Vajra Prahar” exercise – between India & US – at Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh (in Aug 2022)
- “Austra-Hind” infantry combat exercise – at the Mahajan range, Rajasthan (in Nov-Dec 2022)
- “Pitch Black” air combat exercise – between India & Australia – at Darwin
- “Agni Warrior” exercise – between India & Singapore

Sports & Games

619. In October 2022, India among 12 teams finalised for Men’s 2022 World Team Chess Championship which will be held in Jerusalem, Israel. After five rounds, the first four teams in each pool will advance to the quarterfinals. The final match will be played on November 25. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – qualified among 12 teams for ‘Men’s 2022 World Team Chess Championship’
- The Championship will be held in – Jerusalem, Israel
- Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel | President – Isaac Herzog | PM – Benjamin Netanyahu

620. On October 27, Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced that male and female cricket players will be paid an equal match fee as to promote gender equality in the country’s most popular sport. This decision was taken at the BCCI Apex Council emergent meeting. As per the newly introduced system, the Indian women’s cricketers will now receive Rs 15 lakh per Test, Rs 6 lakh per ODI, and Rs 3 lakh per T20I, the same as their male counterparts. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BCCI announced to pay equal match fee to male and female cricket players to promote gender equality in Cricket
- New fees: Rs 15 lakh per Test match, Rs 6 lakh per ODI match & Rs 3 lakh per T20 match
- HQs of BCCI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | President – Roger Binny | Secretary – Jay Shah | Founded in – 1928

621. On October 23, the 10th Senior National Pencak Silat Championship 2022 for Senior and master (Men and Women) was inaugurated at Srinagar. The event was sponsored by J&K Sports Council and organized by the Pencak Silat Association of J&K under the banner of the Indian Pencak Silat Association. The three-day event hosted 1200 participants including officials and match referees from 34 States and UTs, in addition to teams of Indian Police and Para-Military. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 10th Senior National Pencak Silat Championship 2022 for Senior & master (Men & Women) – held at Srinagar, J & K
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

622. On October 21, Magnus Carlsen claimed the Meltwater Champions Chess Tour 2022 title with a tournament defeating Arjun Erigaisi in the quarter-finals of the 8th and penultimate event of the Meltwater Champions Chess Tour. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Magnus Carlsen – claimed the ‘Meltwater Champions Chess Tour 2022’ title (defeating - Arjun Erigaisi)
- HQs of FIDE – Lausanne, Switzerland | President – Arkady Dvorkovich | Founded on – July 20, 1924





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Persons in News

623. On October 27, Indian-origin Navjit Kaur Brar, a healthcare worker in Canada, has become the first turban-wearing Sikh woman to be elected as a city councillor of Brampton city. Navjit Kaur Brar is a respiratory therapist. Navjit Kaur Brar secured 28.85% of the votes cast beating Jermaine Chambers who got 22.59%. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Navjit Kaur Brar – became the first turban-wearing Sikh woman to be elected as a city councillor of Brampton, Canada
- [Canada – Ottawa – Canadian Dollar](#) | [PM – Justin Trudeau](#)

Science & Technology

624. On October 24, NASA announced a new team of 16 individuals to be part of its independent study team on unidentified aerial phenomena (UAP). UAP refers to things in the sky that cannot be identified as aircraft or natural phenomena, or in common parlance, UFOs. The team's research will lay the groundwork for studies of UAPs in the future. A full report of the team's findings will be released to the public in mid-2023 and the study will focus only on unclassified data. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NASA – announced a 16 members team to study UFOs & Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP)
- [HQs of NASA – Washington D.C., US](#) | [Administrator – Bill Nelson](#) | [Founded in – 1958](#)

Appointments & Resignations

625. On October 22, The Cricket Association for the Blind in India (CABI) has announced Yuvraj Singh as the brand ambassador for the third T20 World Cup for the Blind to be held in India. The participating countries are India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Australia, South Africa, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. I. Ajay Kumar Reddy (Andhra Pradesh) will be leading the Indian team as a captain and Venkateswara Rao Dunna (Andhra Pradesh) as the vice-captain. The world cup is an initiative of the Samarthanam Trust for the disabled, which has been organising this championship since 2012. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Yuvraj Singh – named the brand ambassador of the third 'T20 World Cup for the Blind'
- The world cup is organised by – Cricket Association for the Blind in India
- It is an initiative of – Samarthanam Trust for the disabled

626. On October 17, Dr. Prashant Garg (Executive-Chair of L V Prasad Eye Institute), is elected as a member of the Academia Ophthalmologica Internationalis (AOI). It is a university-centred international organisation committed to excellence in education, research and culturally appropriate medical services to preserve and restore the vision of people of the world. Dr Garg becomes the 5th from India to receive this honour. AOI membership is limited to 100 active members, and they represent the most eminent academicians in ophthalmology in the world. Dr Garg's tenure will formally commence in 2023 during AOI's next General Assembly meeting. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Prashant Garg – 5th Indian to be elected as a member of the Academia Ophthalmologica Internationalis (AOI)
- [President of AOI – Marie-Jose Tassignon](#)



627. On October 19, Former Civil Aviation Secretary Pradeep Singh Kharola was named Chairman and Managing Director of India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO). In March 2022, he was appointed chairman of the National Recruitment Agency (NRA), which is responsible for conducting computer-based Common Eligibility Tests for government job recruitment. According to the order, he will continue to serve as Chairman of the NRA until a regular incumbent is appointed in his place. In September, the ACC appointed B V R Subrahmanyam as the ITPO Chief, but Mr. Subrahmanyam declined. The ITPO is a premier trade promotion enterprise of Commerce & Industry Ministry. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pradeep Singh Kharola – appointed as Chairman & MD of India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO)
- Mr. Pradeep is also the Chairman of NRA | In Sep, B V R Subrahmanyam was appointed for this post but he declined
- HQs of ITPO – New Delhi | MD & Chairman – Pradeep Singh Kharola

628. In October 2022, Former banker Ananth Narayan Gopalakrishnan took charge as the 4th whole time member (WTM) in the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), filling the position vacant since November 2021. Narayan, who has been a member of various advisory committees of SEBI and RBI, has been appointed for an initial period of 3 years. Before assuming charge, Narayan was an associate professor at SP Jain Institute of Management & Research. The SEBI now has two bankers as WTMs, including Ashwani Bhatia, former MD of the SBI. While the other two WTMs are Ananta Barua, who holds experience as legal advisor, and SK Mohanty is an Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ananth Narayan Gopalakrishnan – took charge as the 4th whole time member (WTM) of the SEBI for 3 years
- Other WTMs: Ashwani Bhatia, Ananta Barua & SK Mohanty
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Madhabi Puri Buch | Established in – 1992

Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

629. On October 12, The Natural History Museum announced the 'Wildlife Photographer of the Year' winners for 2022. The Natural History Museum is located in London. American photographer Karine Aigner won the grand title of the prestigious award for his photo, titled The Big Buzz, of a bunch of buzzing cactus bees spinning over hot sand in Texas. It was for the category called 'A Cuban Connection'. The competition had multiple categories. Anand Nambiar of India won the award in 'The Great Cliff' category. For complete list of winners in all categories: [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Wildlife Photographer of the Year Awards 2022" – announced by Natural History Museum (London)
- Karine Aigner (US) – won the grand title for his photo, 'The Big Buzz' in category called 'A Cuban Connection'
- Anand Nambiar (India) – won the award in 'The Great Cliff' category

630. On October 28, Minicoy Thundi beach and Kadmat beach (both in Lakshadweep) have been accorded the coveted International eco-label 'Blue Flag', taking India's tally to 12 in the list of world's cleanest and most eco-friendly "beaches, marinas, and sustainable boating tourism operators". Other Indian beaches which have received the 'Blue Flag' tag are – Shivrajpur in Gujarat, Ghoghla-Diu, Kasarkod and Padubidri in Karnataka, Kappad in Kerala, Rushikonda in Andhra Pradesh, Golden in Odisha, Radhanagar in Andaman and Nicobar, Kovalam in Tamil Nadu and Eden in Puducherry beaches. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Minicoy Thundi beach + Kadmat beach (both in Lakshadweep) – received International eco-label of ‘Blue Flag’ beaches
- Now total number of Blue Flag beached in India is – 12
- Lakshadweep: Capital – Kavaratti | Administrator – Praful Patel

631. On October 28, President Droupadi Murmu presented the Silver Trumpet and Trumpet Banner to the President’s Bodyguard in a ceremony on October 27 evening. The President’s Bodyguard (PBG) is the oldest regiment in the Indian Army, having been raised as the Governor-General’s Bodyguard (later the Viceroy’s Bodyguard) in 1773. The regiment was raised in Banaras (Varanasi) by the then Governor-General, Warren Hastings. On January 27, 1950, the regiment was renamed the President’s Bodyguard. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Droupadi Murmu – presented the Silver Trumpet and Trumpet Banner to the President’s Bodyguard
- The President’s Bodyguard – the oldest regiment in the Indian Army
- It was raised as the Governor-General’s Bodyguard in Banaras in 1773 by – Warren Hastings
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Lt. Gen. Manoj Pande | Vice Chief – Lt. General Baggavalli Somashekar Raj

Schemes & Initiatives

632. On October 26, Kerala launched ‘Women-friendly Tourism’ project, an initiative of the State Responsible Tourism Mission (RT Mission) to establish women-friendly tourism centres and empower women. The project will be implemented ensuring the participation of women from all sections of society. Through the project, the RT Mission aims to create a network of women’s units and tourism centres manned by women. The Minister also inaugurated a one-day workshop organised as part of the project. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kerala – launched ‘Women-friendly Tourism’ project to establish women-friendly tourism centres & empower women
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

Important Days & Dates

633. World Day for Audiovisual Heritage is observed every year on October 27 to raise general awareness of the need to take urgent measures and to acknowledge the importance of audiovisual documents. Audiovisual archives tell us stories about people’s lives and cultures from all over the world. The 2022 World Day for Audiovisual Heritage will be celebrated in conjunction with the 30th anniversary of the Memory of the World Programme. The celebration will take place from 27 October to 5 November 2022, under the theme “Enlisting documentary heritage to promote inclusive, just and peaceful societies”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- October 27 – World Day for Audiovisual Heritage
- 2022’s Theme – “Enlisting documentary heritage to promote inclusive, just and peaceful societies”



634. 'Global Media & Information Literacy Week' is observed annually from October 24 to 31 to review & celebrate the progress achieved towards "Media & Information Literacy for All". In 2022, the week was hosted by Nigeria & Co-organised by UNESCO. This year marks the 11th anniversary of Global Media & Information Literacy Week. This year's theme is "Nurturing trust: A Media and Information Literacy Imperative". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- October 24 to 31 – Global Media & Information Literacy Week
- Hosted by – Nigeria & Co-organised by – UNESCO
- 2022's Theme – "Nurturing trust: A Media and Information Literacy Imperative"
- [HQs of UNESCO – Paris, France](#) | [Director-General – Audrey Azoulay](#) | [Founded in – 1945](#) | [Members – 193 Countries](#)

635. Every year, the October 29 is observed as World Stroke Day to build public awareness about the condition and to find ways to reduce the burden of stroke. In 2022, the focus of the day is "Learn the Signs of Stroke and Save #Precioustime". A report by the Indian Stroke Association indicates that approximately 18 lakh stroke cases are reported every year in India. Stroke is presently the third leading cause of mortality and the sixth leading cause of disability adjusted life years in India. The age group of 60 or older is the commonest age group who are affected by stroke. The day also aims to raise awareness about the benefits of acting FAST (Facial drooping, Arm weakness, Speech difficulty and Timely emergency service) to identify a stroke and access emergency medical care. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- October 29 – "World Stroke Day"
- 2022's focus: "Learn the Signs of Stroke and Save #Precioustime"



Books & Authors

636. The highly anticipated memoir of Prince Harry, titled "Spare" which is a landmark publication full of insight, revelation, self-examination, and hard-won wisdom about the eternal power of love over grief, is set to be released by Transworld Books on January 10, 2023. Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex, KCVO is a member of the British royal family. He is the younger son of King Charles III and his first wife Diana, Princess of Wales. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Spare" is the memoir of – Prince Harry (Duke of Sussex)
- To be published by – Transworld Books (in Jan 2023)

Obituaries

637. Amou Haji, an Iranian man considered as the 'dirtiest man in the world', has passed away at the age of 94. As per the state media, Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), Amou Haji had not taken a bath with water or soap for more than six decades. He died on October 23 in the village of Dejjah. He was also covered in a documentary titled "The Strange Life of Amou Haji" that was created about his life in 2013. According to the locals, Amou Hai suffered emotional setbacks in his youth, so he refused to take baths. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Amou Haji (Iran) – considered as the 'dirtiest man in the world' – passed away
- He was also covered in a documentary titled "The Strange Life of Amou Haji" (2013)



Meetings, Conferences & Summits

638. Fiji is the first country in the Pacific to hold the 12th “World Hindi Conference” in Nadi city from February 15-17, 2023. The conference will take place under the aegis of the Ministry of External Affairs and the Government of Fiji. External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar will lead the Indian delegation for the Conference. Hindi is taught in primary and secondary schools and Universities of Fiji and Fijian Hindi is enshrined in the constitution of Fiji as an official language. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 12th “World Hindi Conference” – will be held in Nadi, Fiji (in Feb 2023)
- External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar will lead the Indian delegation
- [Fiji – Suva – Fijian Dollar](#) | [President – Ratu Wiliame Katonivere](#) | [PM – Frank Bainimarama](#)

Ranks, Reports & Surveys

639. On October 19, as many as 9 scientists/researchers from Puducherry are listed among the world’s top-tier scientists in the latest “Stanford University Rankings 2022”. Globally, more than 2 lakh scientists come under the umbrella of top 2% scientists worldwide and of this, 3,796 scientists are from India. Jipmer Director Rakesh Aggarwal (Gastroenterology and Hepatology), former Jipmer chief and present Vice-Chancellor of Sri Balaji Vidyapeeth University Subhash Chandra Parija (Tropical Medicine) and Devinder Mohan Thappa (Dermatology and VD), Jipmer, are among Stanford’s top 2% scientists’ 2022 list. The Stanford enumerates career-wise rankings on the basis of a comprehensive data belonging to the last 25 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 9 scientists from Puducherry are listed among the world’s top scientists in the latest “Stanford University Rankings 2022”
- Globally, more than 2 lakh scientists come under the umbrella of top 2% scientists worldwide (Of this, 3796 are Indian)
- [Puducherry: CM – N. Rangasamy](#) | [Lt. Governor – Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan](#) (addi. charge)

640. The combined pledges made by countries to fight the climate crisis are insufficient to meet the Paris Agreement goal of limiting global warming to below 1.5°C, according to the “NDC Synthesis Report 2022” released by United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Ambitious climate action before 2030 is urgently needed to achieve the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement. If average temperatures exceed 2°C, compared to pre-industrial levels, the world will face fiercer storms, higher seas, melting ice and more people dying from heat. The Paris Agreement was adopted by 196 Parties at COP 21 in Paris, on 12 December, 2015 and entered into force on 4 November, 2016. Its goal is to limit global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius, preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius, compared to pre-industrial levels. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “NDC Synthesis Report 2022” – released by UNFCCC
- Report: Combined pledges made by countries to fight the climate crisis are insufficient to meet the Paris Agreement goal
- Paris Agreement was adopted by 196 Parties at COP 21 in Paris in 2015 to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius
- [HQs of UNFCCC – Bonn, Germany](#) | [Executive Secretary – Simon Stiell](#)



641. India's bilateral trade with Russia has soared to an all-time high of \$18,229.03 million in just 5 months (April-August) of this financial year (2022-23), according to the latest data available with the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry. In contrast, the total annual bilateral trade between the two countries stood at \$13,124.68 million in 2021-22, and \$8,141.26 million in 2020-21. With the sharp spike in trade, Russia has now become India's 7th biggest trading partner, up from its 25th position in 2021. The US (\$57,632.37 million), China (\$50,792.83 million), and the UAE (\$36,820.33 million) are India's top 3 trading partners. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India's bilateral trade with Russia has soared to an all-time high of \$18,229.03 million in April-August
- With this, Russia became India's 7th biggest trading partner | 1st – US (\$57,632.37 mn), 2nd – China (\$50,792.83 mn)
- [Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble](#) | [PM – Mikhail Mishustin](#) | [President – Vladimir Putin](#)

642. On October 26, the International Energy Agency (IEA) released its latest annual “World Energy Outlook 2022” report and stated that global emissions will reach their peak in 2025 as surging energy prices due the Russian invasion of Ukraine propel investment in renewables. Only last year the IEA said there was ‘no clear peak in sight’ in energy emissions, but the new higher investment in wind and solar is setting up demand for all fossil fuels to peak or plateau, leading to a drop in emissions. Also, the IEA forecasts global clean energy investment to rise by more than 50% from today's levels to \$2 trillion per year by 2030. Global CO₂ emissions are then set to fall back slowly from a high point of 37 billion tonnes per year to 32 billion tonnes by 2050. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “World Energy Outlook 2022” report – released by IEA
- Global emissions will reach their peak in 2025
- Global clean energy investment is expected to rise by more than 50% from today's levels to \$2 trillion per year by 2030
- [HQs of IEA – Paris, France](#) | [Executive Director – Dr. Fatih Birol](#) | [Member countries – 30](#)

643. According to the report released by aviation analytics firm OAG Aviation Worldwide Limited, Indira Gandhi International Airport or Delhi Airport, with the number of seats was 34,13,855, has emerged as the world's 10th busiest airport in October 2022, improving its ranking from 14th place during pre-pandemic period. In October 2022, Georgia's Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (also known as Atlanta Hartsfield–Jackson International Airport or Atlanta Airport) was the busiest in the world. After Atlanta, Dubai and Tokyo Haneda airports are at the 2nd and 3rd positions, respectively. The rankings by OAG are based on scheduled airline capacity in the current month and compared to the equivalent month in 2019, pre-pandemic. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- According to the report released by OAG Aviation Worldwide Limited:
- Indira Gandhi Int. Airport – emerged as the world's 10th busiest airport in October 2022 (from 14th place in 2019)
- World's Top 3 Busiest Airports: Atlanta Airport (Georgia), Dubai International Airport (UAE), Haneda Airport (Japan)

644. On October 26, the World Health Organisation (WHO) released the first-ever “Fungal Priority Pathogens List (FPPL)” - a catalogue of the 19 fungi that represent the greatest threat to public health. The WHO FPPL is the first global effort to systematically prioritize fungal pathogens, considering the unmet research and development (R&D) needs and the perceived public health importance. This report is based on research led by the University of Sydney in Australia. The WHO FPPL list is divided into three categories: critical, high and medium priority. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- WHO – released the first-ever “Fungal Priority Pathogens List (FPPL)”
- It is a catalogue of the 19 fungi that represent the greatest threat to Public Health
- HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194 | Founded in – 1948

645. 52 Indian scientists have ranked in the top 2% in the world, as per the “Alper Dodger (AD) Scientific Index 2023”. India ranks at number 21 in the top 2% scientists’ list, which is led by the United States with 4,935 of the world’s top scientists. Scientists from 216 countries have been listed in the “overall ranking”, and has 50,245 Indian scientists on it. The index used the total and last 5 years’ values of the i10 index (the number of publications with at least 10 citations), h-index (a metric that uses both productivity and citation level impact) and citation scores in Google Scholar. J. B. Singh, a Panjab University professor, tops the list of scientists from India. He ranks at number 124 in the world. The index mentions that Harvard University has the maximum number of the world’s top 2% scientists - 576 from the university are on the list, followed by Stanford University and Oxford University, with 377 and 252 scientists respectively. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ‘Alper Dodger (AD) Scientific Index 2023’: 52 Indian scientists have ranked in the top 2% in the world
- India ranks at number 21 in the top 2% scientists’ list | Top – US (4,935)
- J. B. Singh (a Panjab University professor) – tops the list of scientists from India (He ranked 124th in the world)
- Harvard University – has the maximum number of the world’s top 2% scientists (576)

646. On October 27, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoAFW) released the 3rd Advance Estimates of the area and production of various horticultural crops for the year 2021-22. According to this estimate, a record 342.33 million tonnes are estimated to be produced in an area of 28.08 million hectares. Production of fruits is estimated to be 107.24 million tonnes as against 102.48 million tonnes in 2020-21. Similarly, Production of vegetables is estimated to be 204.84 million tonnes in 2020-21. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MoAFW released the 3rd Advance Estimates of the area & production of various horticultural crops for 2021-22
- A record 342.33 million tonnes are estimated to be produced in an area of 28.08 million hectares
- Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare: Narendra Singh Tomar | Constituency – Morena, Madhya Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare: Shobha Karandlaje & Kailash Choudhary

647. At 2.4 tCO₂e (tonne carbon dioxide equivalent), India’s per capita greenhouse gas emissions were far below the world average of 6.3 tCO₂e in 2020, according to a new report titled “Emissions Gap Report 2022: The Closing Window” released by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on October 27. The US remains far above this level at 14 tCO₂e, followed by 13 tCO₂e in Russia, and 9.7 tCO₂e in China. The report is released ahead of the UN Climate Change conference (COP27) in Egypt in November 2022. The report also stated that the international community is still falling far short of the Paris goals, with no credible pathway to limiting global temperature rise to 1.5 degree Celsius in place. Current policies alone would lead to a 2.8 degrees Celsius hike. To get on a least-cost pathway to holding global warming to 1.5 degree Celsius, emissions must fall by 45% over those envisaged under current policies by 2030. For the two degrees Celsius target, a 30% cut is needed. India’s contribution to historical cumulative CO₂ emissions (excluding LULUCF) is 3%, whereas the US and the EU have contributed 25% and 17% respectively to total fossil CO₂ emissions from 1850 to 2019. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- “Emissions Gap Report 2022: The Closing Window” – released by UNEP
- India’s per capita greenhouse gas emissions were at 2.4 tCO₂e, far below the world average of 6.3 tCO₂e in 2020
- US – 14 tCO₂e, Russia – 13 tCO₂e, China – 9.7 tCO₂e
- ‘UN Climate Change Conference (COP27)’ – to be held in Egypt (in Nov 2022)
- Emissions must fall by 45% by 2030 to get on a least-cost pathway to holding global warming to 1.5 degree Celsius
- India’s contribution to historical cumulative CO₂ emissions (excluding LULUCF) is 3% (from 1850 to 2019)

MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

648. In October 25, India and Singapore signed an MoU under which India will export green energy from 2025 for the first-time. Further, the contract for the export of green ammonia would also expand to cover bunker fuel through the Keppel network in Singapore. Greenko would participate in green hydrogen exports from 2025-26 onwards, estimating global demand of 50 million tonnes a year globally, including 15 million tonnes replacing bunkers fuels in ships. The green ammonia will fuel newly built ships, including a fleet ordered by the international shipping group Maersk. Last month, Greenko signed a deal to supply one million tonnes a year of green ammonia supply to South Korean steel and power producer, Posco. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Keppel Infrastructure + Greenko = an MoU to explore green ammonia and renewable energy prospects
- Singapore – Singapore – Dollar | PM – Lee Hsien Loong | President – Halimah Yacob

649. On October 26, PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry (PHDCCI) and Greenstat Hydrogen India partnered for setting up a Centre of Excellence for Green Hydrogen at its headquarter at New Delhi. Greenstat Hydrogen India Pvt Ltd has joined as a Knowledge Partner. Greenstat has over 100 years of knowledge in hydrogen production, storage, transportation and end-use application. ‘National Green Hydrogen Mission’ was announced by PM Narendra Modi in August 2021. Green hydrogen is generated by breaking down water in an electrolyzer. India has set a target of 5 million tonnes of green hydrogen by 2030. Over the next decade, the Centre plans to add 175 GW of green hydrogen-based energy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PHDCCI + Greenstat Hydrogen India = partnered for setting up a Centre of Excellence for Green Hydrogen in New Delhi
- ‘National Green Hydrogen Mission’ was in August 2021 by PM Modi
- India’s target: 5 million tonnes of green hydrogen by 2030 & to add 175 GW of green hydrogen-based energy by 2030
- HQs of PHDCCI – New Delhi | President – Pradeep Multani

650. On October 21, Flipkart in collaboration with The Spices Board of India introduced a nationwide training programme for spice farmers in the country. The programme would start with 100 farmers and representatives of FPOs in the Idukki district of Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Farmers would be provided with assistance in procuring spices and access to the pan-India market. The programme would also include better harvesting techniques, storage and maintenance, quality control, packaging, and even logistics. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Flipkart + Spices Board of India = introduced a training programme for spice farmers
- HQs of Flipkart – Bangalore, Karnataka | Chairperson – Binny Bansal | CEO – Kalyan Krishnamurthy
- HQs of Spices Board of India – Kochi, Kerala | Chairman – A. G. Thankappan





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