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- 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?

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National & States Affairs

701. On October 28, Rajnath Singh dedicated to the nation 75 infrastructure projects built by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) at a function organised in Ladakh. These 75 projects - 45 bridges, 27 roads, 2 Helipads & 1 Carbon Neutral Habitat, are spread across 6 states & 2 Union Territories. These strategically important projects have been constructed at a total cost of Rs 2,180 Crore by the BRO in record time. India's first Carbon Neutral Habitat by the BRO, at a height of 19,000 feet for BRO's personnel, was inaugurated at Hanle in Ladakh. Moreover, a Museum at Leh is also being set up to honour the sacrifices of its personnel and institutionalise and put on record the achievements of BRO. This museum building will also be constructed using 3D Printing Technology and on completion, will become the world's highest 3D Printed Building. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajnath Singh – dedicated to the nation 75 infrastructure projects built by BRO at a function organised in Ladakh
- These 75 projects are spread across 6 states & 2 UTs
- India's first Carbon Neutral Habitat by the BRO was inaugurated at Hanle, Ladakh (at a height of 19,000 feet)
- [Ladakh: Capital – Leh | Lt. Governor – R. K. Mathur](#)

702. On October 27, V.O. Chidambaranar Port in Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu handled 120 number of imported windmill blades, the highest volume in a single consignment. The port surpassed the previous highest import of 60 windmill blades in a single consignment. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- V.O. Chidambaranar Port (Tamil Nadu) – handled highest no. (120) of imported windmill blades in a single consignment
- [Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi](#)

703. In October 2022, the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) has again approved the proposal for the commercial cultivation of genetically modified (GM) mustard. The recommendation will now again go for the approval of the Environment Ministry. Though the GEAC had cleared the proposal in 2017, the Ministry had vetoed it and suggested that the GEAC hold more studies on the GM crop. Once approved by the ministry, it will be India's first transgenic food crop. The transgenic mustard hybrid Dhara Mustard Hybrid (DMH-11) has been developed by the Centre for Genetic Manipulation of Crop Plants (CGMCP), New Delhi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- GEAC – approved the proposal for the commercial cultivation of genetically modified (GM) mustard
- Once approved by the ministry, it will be India's first transgenic food crop
- GEAC – an expert body of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change

704. On October 31, The Election Commission (EC) hosted a two-day international conference on the 'Role, Framework & Capacity of Election Management Bodies (EMBs)' in New Delhi. The EC leads the Cohort on Election Integrity, established following the 'Summit for Democracy' held in December 2021. As the lead for the Cohort on Election Integrity, the EC invited Greece, Mauritius and the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) to be co-leads. The conference was inaugurated by Chief Election Commissioner of India Rajiv Kumar and its concluding session were chaired by Election Commissioner Anup Chandra Pandey. The EC has also invited the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) for the event. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- EC – hosted international conference on the ‘Role, Framework & Capacity of EMBs’ in New Delhi
- Cohort on Election Integrity – headed by EC | EC – invited UNDP & IDEA for the event
- HQs of ECI – New Delhi | Chief Election Commissioner – Rajiv Kumar (25th) | Formed on – 25th Jan, 1950

705. On October 28, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated India’s third branch of the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) on the Kakinada coast in Andhra Pradesh. Ministry of Commerce and Industry has granted ₹230 Crore to establish the third branch. The IIFT has two branches in Kolkata and Delhi. The IIFT-Kakinada temporary campus is now located on the campus of the Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University (JNTU-Kakinada). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nirmala Sitharaman – inaugurated India’s 3rd branch of the IIFT in Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh
- Ministry of C&I granted ₹230 Cr to establish the 3rd branch of IIFT | Other branches are in Kolkata & Delhi
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati | CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan
- HQs of IIFT – New Delhi | Vice-Chancellor – Professor Manoj Pant | Established in – 1963

706. On October 31, Arunachal Pradesh announced to establish a fish museum, the first of its type in the entire North-East, with fish species of the State to attract tourists, fish lovers and serve as a training centre for fish farmers. The fish museum would be part of the Integrated Aqua Park (IAP), sanctioned by Union Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying (MoFAHD). Narendra Modi three years ago had announced one IAP for each State and Union Territory under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampad Yojana (PMMSY) for bringing blue revolution. The existing Tarin Fish Farm (TFF), located at high altitude Bulla village, would be upgraded as IAP including a fish museum. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Arunachal Pradesh – to establish North-East’s first fish museum as part of the ‘Integrated Aqua Park (IAP)’
- IAP – announced by PM Modi for each State & UT under PMMSY for bringing blue revolution
- Arunachal Pradesh: Capital – Itanagar | CM – Pema Khandu | Governor – B. D. Mishra

707. During the two-day ‘Chintan Shibir’ held at Surajkund in Haryana, Maharashtra’s Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis announced that Maharashtra will set up a dedicated Cyber Intelligence Unit to check growing instances of cyber crime. Whether it is national or private banks, social media, cyber police, technicians and experts will all be on this platform. A quick response will be an integral aspect of this unit. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Maharashtra – to set up a dedicated ‘Cyber Intelligence Unit’ to check growing instances of cyber crime
- Two-day ‘Chintan Shibir’ – held at Surajkund, Haryana
- Maharashtra: CM – Eknath Shinde | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

708. On October 31, Tata Steel has received ResponsibleSteel certification for 3 of its production facilities in Jamshedpur - Steel Works, Tubes Division, and Cold Rolling Mill (Bara). ResponsibleSteel is the steel industry’s first global multi-stakeholder standard and certification initiative that works with steel producers, consumers, and intermediaries towards building a sustainable steel industry by addressing pressing challenges including climate change, diversity, human rights and more. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Tata Steel – received ResponsibleSteel certification for 3 of its production facilities in Jamshedpur, Jharkhand
- Three facilities – Steel Works, Tubes Division, and Cold Rolling Mill (Bara)
- HQs of Tata Steel Ltd – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – T. V. Narendran

709. On October 29, Kalanamak, a traditional variety of paddy with a black husk and a strong fragrance, which is considered a gift from Lord Buddha to the people of the Sravasti, received a new look and name. Grown in 11 districts of the Terai region of northeastern Uttar Pradesh and in Nepal, the traditional variety has been prone to lodging, a reason for its low yield. Addressing the problem, the ICAR-Indian Agriculture Research Institute (IARI) has successfully developed two dwarf varieties of Kalanamak rice. They have been named ‘Pusa Narendra Kalanamak 1638’ and ‘Pusa Narendra Kalanamak 1652’. The traditional Kalanamak rice is protected under the Geographical Indication (GI) tag system. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IARI developed 2 dwarf varieties of Kalanamak rice, ‘Pusa Narendra Kalanamak 1638’ & ‘Pusa Narendra Kalanamak 1652’
- ICAR-IARI – located in New Delhi

710. On October 31, ReNew Energy Global PLC (parent company of ReNew Power) announced its ESG (environmental, social and governance) targets including a commitment to become a net-zero firm by 2040 through its latest Sustainability Report for 2021-22. The 2040 commitment is 30 years ahead of India’s 2070 target. It aims to reduce GHG (green house gases) emissions by 29.4% across all scopes by 2027. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ReNew Energy Global PLC – announced its ESG targets including a commitment to become a net-zero firm by 2040
- It aims to reduce GHG emissions by 29.4% across all scopes by 2027
- HQs of ReNew Power – Gurugram, Haryana | MD & Chairman – Sumant Sinha

711. On October 31, Malabar Gold and Diamonds has become the first jeweller in India to import gold under the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between India and the UAE. The Kozhikode-headquartered jewellery retail chain with a robust presence in India and in West Asia has imported 25 kg gold through ICICI Bank. Under the agreement, the UAE Government has waived the 5% import duty into the UAE. The CEPA between India and the UAE came into effect on May 1, 2022. Founded in 1993, Malabar Gold and Diamonds has come a long way to become the world’s fifth largest jewellery retailer with its annual turnover touching approximately ₹30,000 crore. It has 290 showrooms and 14 manufacturing units across 10 countries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Malabar Gold & Diamonds – became the first jeweller in India to import 25kg gold under ‘CEPA’ between India & UAE
- Malabar Gold & Diamonds – based in Kozhikode, Kerala (world’s 5th largest jewellery retailer)
- UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

712. On October 27, Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated and laid the foundation stones of projects worth Rs 6,629 crore in Haryana’s Faridabad. The projects include - Haryana Orbital Rail Corridor, worth Rs 5,600 crore, Rail Coach Factory at Sonapat, worth Rs 590 crore, Elevated Rail Track at Rohtak, worth Rs 315.40 crore, and a Police Housing Complex at Bhondsi, worth Rs 106 crore. The 126-km-long orbital rail corridor will connect Palwal with Sonipat and the work is expected to be over by 2025. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Amit Shah – inaugurated & laid the foundation stones of projects worth Rs 6,629 Cr in Faridabad, Haryana
- Among the projects, a 126-km-long Haryana Orbital Rail Corridor will connect Palwal with Sonapat

713. In October 2022, Mawmluh Cave in Meghalaya's Sohra, locally known as Krem Mawmluh, has been listed as UNESCO's one of the 'First 100 IUGS (International Union of Geological Sciences) Geological Sites' in the world. It is believed to be the fourth longest cave in the Indian subcontinent with a total length of 7 km of cave passages. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mawmluh Cave (Meghalaya) – listed as UNESCO's one of the 'First 100 IUGS Geological Sites' in the world
- Meghalaya: Capital – Shillong | CM – Conrad Kongkal Sangma | Governor – B. D. Mishra (addi. charge)
- HQs of UNESCO – Paris, France | Director-General – Audrey Azoulay | Founded in – 1945 | Members – 193 Countries

International Affairs

714. On October 31, the United States has launched its much anticipated National Security Strategy (NSS). All U.S. Presidents are mandated by the "Goldwater-Nichols Department of Defense Reorganization Act, 1986" to bring out their NSS, to communicate the executive's vision of national security to the legislative. The Biden administration's NSS primarily focuses on the current decade as a 'decisive' one in which the U.S. seeks to sustain U.S. leadership, improve the U.S. economy, build on a vast network of alliances and partnerships; counter China as its strategic competitor and Russia as a disruptor, and boost U.S. competitiveness and defend democracy. The NSS lays down three main fulcrums of U.S. strategy going forward: Invest, Build & Modernise. A critical part of the NSS is to inform the U.S. Department of Defense's strategy, especially in the two areas of the country's nuclear posture and missile defence. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- US – launched its much anticipated 'National Security Strategy (NSS)'
- The NSS lays down 3 main fulcrums of U.S. strategy going forward: Invest, Build & Modernise
- All US Presidents are mandated by "Goldwater-Nichols Dept. of Defense Reorganization Act, 1986" to bring out their NSS
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

715. On October 29, the fourth edition of the Bangladesh Film Festival was held in Kolkata and concluded on 2nd November. 37 films and documentaries were screened in the event. This was the fourth year of organising the Bangladesh Film Festival in Kolkata. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 4th Bangladesh Film Festival – held in Kolkata
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – La. Ganesan
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid



Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

716. On October 31, HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company launched a technology backed 'Farm Yield Insurance Policy' for farmers. This is a first-of-its-kind insurance solution, where a satellite-based index will be used to provide localized farm level coverage. It will provide comprehensive cover across the crop life cycle from sowing to harvesting, basis satellite-based data. The product is targeted at farmers under corporate/farm input company (FIC) contracts and is valid for food, oilseed, commercial or horticulture crops. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HDFC ERGO – launched a first-of-its-kind satellite index-based 'Farm Yield Insurance Policy'
- HQs of HDFC ERGO General Insurance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Ritesh Kumar

Defence Affairs

717. On October 27, the first edition of "India-Mozambique-Tanzania Trilateral Exercise" was conducted at Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania. Indian Navy was represented by the guided missile frigate, INS Tarkash, a Chetak helicopter and MARCOS (Special Forces). The exercise was held till 29 October and included harbour and sea phases. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 1st edition of "India-Mozambique-Tanzania Trilateral Exercise" – conducted at Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania
- Indian Navy was represented by – INS Tarkash
- Tanzania – Dodoma – Tanzanian shilling | President – Samia Suluhu Hassan | PM – Kassim Majaliwa
- Mozambique – Maputo – Mozambican Metical | President – Filipe Nyusi

Sports & Games

718. On October 31, Spain won the 7th edition of the "FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup" with a 1-0 victory over first-time finalists Colombia. In the third-place classification match, Nigeria beat Germany 3-2 on penalties. Hosts India failed to clear the group stage after losing all their three matches. FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup is a multinational-international women's youth football championship. The final of the tournament was held at the D Y Patil Sports Stadium, Navi Mumbai. Other two venues were Bhubaneswar, Odisha & Margao, Goa. "Ibha", an Asiatic lioness, was the mascot. While "Kick Off The Dream" was the slogan of the tournament. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Spain – won the 7th edition of the "FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup" – in Navi Mumbai (beating - Colombia)
- India hosted this tournament at 3 venues: Bhubaneswar (Odisha), Margao (Goa), Navi Mumbai (Maharashtra)
- Mascot – "Ibha" | Slogan – "Kick Off The Dream"

719. On October 30, Belgian-Dutch Max Verstappen and double world champion of Red Bull won the Mexico City Grand Prix to set a Formula One record of 14 victories in a single season. Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton of UK finished second and Red Bull's Sergio Perez of Mexico finished third. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Max Verstappen (Belgian-Dutch - Red Bull) – won the F1 “Mexico City Grand Prix 2022”
- 2nd – Lewis Hamilton (UK - Mercedes) | 3rd – Sergio Perez (Mexico - Red Bull)
- Mexico – Mexico City – Peso | President – Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador

720. On October 29, India defeated Australia 5-4 in a penalty shootout to reclaim the Sultan of Johor Cup crown. The Indians have won the age group tournament twice 2013 and 2014 and finished second best four times in 2012, 2015, 2018 and the last edition of the event in 2019. The tournament was not held in 2020 and 2021 because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Sultan of Johor Cup is an annual, international under 21 men’s field hockey tournament held in Malaysia. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – won the ‘Sultan of Johor Cup’ (defeating - Australia)
- India – have also won the tournament twice 2013 & 2014
- ‘Sultan of Johor Cup’ – an international under 21 men’s field hockey tournament held in Malaysia
- Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Anthony Albanese
- Malaysia – Kuala Lumpur – Ringgit | PM – Ismail Sabri Yaakob | King – Al-Sultan Abdullah

721. On October 31, Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy of India won the men’s doubles event at the French Open 2022. The Indian badminton team defeated Chinese Taipei’s Lu Ching Yao and Yang Po Han. This was the first time an Indian men’s doubles team won the French Open badminton championship since Partho Ganguli and Vikram Singh’s victory in 1983. Men’s singles title was won by Denmark’s Viktor Axelsen whereas Women’s singles title was won by China’s He Bingjiao. Women’s Doubles was won by Pearly Tan and Thinaah Muralitharan of Malaysia. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- French Open 2022:
- Men’s singles title: Viktor Axelsen (Denmark)
- Women’s singles title: He Bingjiao (China)
- Men’s Doubles: Chirag Shetty & Satwiksairaj Rankireddy (India)
- Women’s Doubles: Pearly Tan & Thinaah Muralitharan (Malaysia)

Appointments & Resignations

722. On October 28, Dr G. Hemaprabha, was appointed as Director of the ICAR-Sugarcane Breeding Institute (ICAR-SBI) up to 2024, on the recommendations of the Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board, New Delhi, under the Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare. She is the first-ever woman director in ICAR-SBI since its establishment. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- G. Hemaprabha – appointed as the first-ever woman Director of the ICAR-Sugarcane Breeding Institute (Coimbatore, TN)



723. On October 27, Samsung Electronics' de facto leader Jay Y. Lee was named executive chairman, a symbolic move confirming that South Korea's most valuable company will be officially run by the third generation of its founding family. Lee has been vice chairman of Samsung Electronics since 2012. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jay Y. Lee – named as Executive Chairman of Samsung Electronics
- HQs of Samsung Electronics – Suwon-si, South Korea | CEO – Jong Hee Han | Executive Chairman – Jay Y. Lee

724. On October 31, Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva is elected as new President of Brazil. He defeated incumbent president Jair Bolsonaro in a close contest. Lula da Silva has secured 50.83% of the votes, whereas his opponent Bolsonaro managed to get 49.17% votes. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva – elected as new President of Brazil (defeating - Jair Bolsonaro)
- Brazil – Brasilia – Brazilian Real | President – Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva

725. On October 28, Dr. Rajesh Ranjan has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire. He replaced Mr. Y. K. Sailas Thangal. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr. Rajesh Ranjan – appointed as next Ambassador of India to Republic of Cote d'Ivoire (replaced - Y. K. Sailas Thangal)
- Cote d'Ivoire – Yamoussoukro – CFA franc | PM – Patrick Achi | President – Alassane Ouattara

726. On October 30, Michel Aoun, the 89-year-old President of Lebanon, vacated the Presidential designation, a day before his mandate expires without a designated successor. Mr. Aoun also said he had signed a decree formalising the resignation of Najib Mikati's caretaker government, deepening a political crisis in the country. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Michel Aoun – the President of Lebanon – vacated the Presidential designation
- Lebanon – Beirut – Lebanese Pound

Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

727. On October 28, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) a 'Maharatna' and a Fortune Global 500 Company, has once again achieved the No.1 rank in Indian oil and gas sector for its sustainability performance in the 2022 edition of the S&P Dow Jones Sustainability Indices (DJSI) Corporate Sustainability Assessment (CSA) rankings. This is the 3rd consecutive year that BPCL is at the top of the DJSI Indices in India having achieved a score of 65 percentage points, against an industry average score of 31. This benchmarking is a complete assessment of economic, environmental and social criteria with a strong focus on long-term shareholder value. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BPCL – recognized as India's most sustainable Oil & Gas Company in 'Dow Jones Sustainability Indices 2022'
- This is the 3rd consecutive year that BPCL is at the top of the DJSI Indices
- HQs of BPCL – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman & MD – Vetsa Rama Krishna Gupta (additional) | Founded in – 1952



728. On October 29, West Bengal bagged the prestigious SKOCH award in the women and child development category for its popular 'Lakshmir Bhandar' scheme. The West Bengal government had launched the scheme in August 2021 to provide financial support to a woman head of a family and is in the age group of 25-60 years. Under the scheme Rs 500 per month is being given in respect of general caste category and around Rs 1,000 per month for those in the SC and ST categories. Instituted in 2003, the SKOCH Award is given to best of governance, inclusive growth, excellence in technology and applications, change management, corporate leadership, corporate governance, citizen services delivery, capacity building and empowerment among others. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- West Bengal – bagged the SKOCH award in the women & child development category for 'Lakshmir Bhandar' scheme
- West Bengal – launched the scheme in August 2021 | It provides Rs 500 (General) & Rs 1000 (SC & ST)
- [West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata](#) | [CM – Mamta Banerjee](#) | [Governor – La. Ganesan](#)

729. On October 28, the Ambassador of Iran has been excluded from 2022's Nobel Prize ceremony in Stockholm because of the serious and escalating situation in the country. Since 1901, the Nobel Prizes are always handed over on December 10, the anniversary of prize founder Alfred Nobel's death in 1896. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ambassador of Iran – excluded from 2022's Nobel Prize ceremony in Stockholm
- Nobel Prizes are always handed over on December 10, the anniversary of prize founder Alfred Nobel's death in 1896



Schemes & Initiatives

730. On October 30, as many as 13 states & 3 Union Territories, along with the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) and Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS), signed an MoU with the Ministry of Education to upgrade their schools under the Pradhan Mantri Schools For Rising India (PM-SHRI) scheme. The upper limit for each state is two schools per block. The scheme of PM SHRI schools is to be implemented as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with a total project cost of Rs 27,360 crore which would include a central share of Rs 18,128 crore for the period of five academic sessions starting from 2022-23 to 2026-27. The cost of implementation is mostly split in a 60:40 ratio between the Union government and the states/UTs. These schools are scheduled to be developed as Green schools, which will incorporate environment-friendly aspects. PM Shri Schools would be implemented through the existing administrative structure available for Samagra Shiksha, KVS and NVS. An Expert committee would be constituted for the final selection of schools. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 13 states/3 UTs + KVS/NVS = signed an MoU with Education Ministry to upgrade their schools under 'PM-SHRI' scheme
- PM SHRI schools is to be implemented as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with an Outlay of Rs 27,360 Crore
- PM-SHRI – Pradhan **M**antri **S**chools For **R**ising India
- "PM SHRI Schools" scheme cost is split in a 60:40 ratio between Central Govt & State/UT Govt





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Important Days & Dates

731. The 9th edition of 'India Sweden Innovation Day 2022' concluded successfully on October 27. The day-long event was organised in Stockholm by India Unlimited in association with the Embassy of India to Sweden & Latvia, Sweden-India Business Council (SIBC), and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). The event was a massive success with over 1,000 participants from across the globe. The event was themed "Accelerating India Sweden's Green Transition". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 9th edition of 'India Sweden Innovation Day 2022' – held in Stockholm, Sweden
- The event was organised by = India Unlimited + Embassy of India to Sweden & Latvia + SIBC + CII
- Theme – "Accelerating India Sweden's Green Transition"

732. World Cities Day ends Urban October, a month to promote urban issues and solutions, on 31 October each year. It was first celebrated in Shanghai, China in 2014. This year's global observance takes place on 31 October 2022 under the theme "Act Local to Go Global" in Shanghai, China where World Cities Day was initiated. 'Urban October' was launched by UN-Habitat in 2014 to emphasize the world's urban challenges. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- October 31 – World Cities Day
- 2022's Theme – "Act Local to Go Global"
- 'Urban October' was launched by UN-Habitat in 2014

733. In 2022, Vigilance Awareness Week was observed from 31st October to 6th November, 2022 with the theme "Corruption free India for a developed Nation". Vigilance Awareness Week is observed by Central Vigilance Commission. As a precursor to Vigilance Awareness Week 2022, the Central Vigilance Commission had carried out a three-month campaign highlighting certain preventive vigilance initiatives as focus areas for all the Ministries/ Departments/ Organizations. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- October 31 to November 6 – Vigilance Awareness Week – by Central Vigilance Commission
- 2022's Theme – "Corruption free India for a developed Nation"
- [Present Central Vigilance Commissioner – Suresh N. Patel](#) | [CVC is appointed by – President of India](#)

734. World Thrift Day is observed on October 30 every year in India and on October 31 worldwide to promote the habit of savings among people. The day, also known as World Savings Day, was established by the World Society of Savings Banks, on October 31, 1924, at the first International Savings Bank Congress in Milan, Italy. According to the data released earlier this month by the Reserve Bank of India on Indian household savings for the fiscal year 2021-22, as of March 31, household gross financial savings stood at 10.8% of gross domestic product (GDP) at the current prices. This is a decline of over five percentage points from a year earlier when that figure peaked at 16% of the GDP. RBI data also show that the savings of Indian families are held mainly in cash, bank deposits, mutual funds, insurance and retirement funds. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- October 31 – World Thrift Day or World Savings Day (since 1924)
- In India the day is celebrated on – October 30



Books & Authors

735. On October 28, French Author Rene Naba has authored a new bilingual book in both French and English titled “De la Nuclearisation de l’Asie” (Nuclearization of Asia) on the nuclear emergency and threat posed by the nexus of Pakistan and China to South Asia, and the world at large. Previously, he authored a book titled ‘Pakistan, facing the challenge of the post-Western world’. The author is the former head of the Arab Muslim world in the diplomatic service of AFP and vice president of the International Center for the Fight against Terrorism (CILT). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Nuclearization of Asia” book – authored by Rene Naba (French Author)
- France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | PM – Elisabeth Borne

Meetings, Conferences & Summits

736. In October 2022, the SatCom Industry Association (SIAIndia) organised a three-day India Space Congress (ISC 2022) in New Delhi from October 26 to 28. The theme of ISC 2022 was “Leveraging Space to Power Next-Gen Communication & Businesses”. ISC 2022 was supported by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Ministry of Defence, NITI Aayog, In-Space, New Space India Ltd (NSIL) and the Department of Telecommunication. Five space tech startups pitched their ideas to industry leaders and investors during the session ‘Pitch Right for Skyrocketing Startups’. Microsoft announced partnerships with 15 space startups as an extension to its Founders Hub programme under which 15 startups can apply for free Azure credits worth up to \$150,000. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “India Space Congress 2022” – organized by SIAIndia in New Delhi
- Theme – “Leveraging Space to Power Next-Gen Communication & Businesses”

737. On October 27, India and the European Union co-chaired the 6th High-Level Dialogue on Migration and Mobility (HLDMM) in Brussels and held talks on issues related to the promotion of safe, orderly and regular migration. Dr. Ausaf Sayeed, Secretary and Ms. Monique Pariat, Director General (Migration and Home Affairs), European Commission co-Chaired the Dialogue. The 5th edition of the Dialogue was held in New Delhi in July 2019. As India and EU celebrate 60 years of diplomatic ties, the Dialogue is an important dimension of the strategic partnership between India and EU. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + EU = co-chaired the 6th ‘High-Level Dialogue on Migration and Mobility’ in Brussels, Belgium
- India & EU – completed 60 years of diplomatic ties
- 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

738. On October 26, Union Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman attended the 7th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) via video conference from New Delhi. The theme of this year’s Annual Meeting was “Sustainable Infrastructure Toward a Connected World”. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Nirmala Sitharaman – attended 7th Annual Meeting of Board of Governors of AIIB via video conference from New Delhi
- 2022'S Theme – “Sustainable Infrastructure Toward a Connected World”
- HQs of AIIB – Beijing, China | President – Jin Liqun | Established in – 2016 | Members – 105

739. On October 28 & 29, India hosted a special meeting of the United Nations Security Council's (UNSC) Counter Terrorism Committee (CTC) in Mumbai and Delhi to discuss the theme of “Countering the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes”. This was be the first such meeting of the UNSC-CTC in India since its establishment in 2001. The Permanent Representative of India to the UN (Ruchira Kamboj) was the Chair of the CTC for 2022. During the meeting, the non-binding document, known as ‘The Delhi Declaration’, was adopted. The outcomes of the UNSC CTC meeting will feed into India’s UNSC December Presidency Open Briefing on “Global counter terrorism architecture: Principles and the way ahead”, which is scheduled to be held in New York on December 15, 2022. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar addressed the plenary session of meeting from India. He announced that that India will contribute \$500,000 to the United Nations Trust Fund for Counter Terrorism this year to aid capacity-building support to member states in combating terrorism. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – hosted the UNSC CTC meeting in Mumbai and New Delhi (1st ever meeting of UNSC CTC in India)
- Theme – “Countering the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes”
- Chair of the meeting – Permanent Representative of India to the UN | S Jaishankar – represented India at the meeting
- UNSC-CTC – was established in 2001
- India – announced to contribute \$500,000 to the United Nations Trust Fund for Counter Terrorism
- HQs of UNSC – New York, US | Presidency in November – Ghana (October - Gabon | December - India)
- Permanent Representative of India to the UN at New York – Ruchira Kamboj

Ranks, Reports & Surveys

740. IIT Bombay is the best educational institution in India, as per the “QS World University Rankings: Sustainability 2023”. IIT Bombay was featured in the 281-300 rank range, followed by IIT Delhi (321-340 rank) and Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) at the third rank (361-380) in India. Apart from this, IIT Bombay was also included in the world’s top 100 institutes based on the employability of its graduates. IIT Bombay was evaluated as India’s top higher education institution for its excellence in employability, social concern, and environment. IIT Delhi was ranked for its employability and environment while Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) was ranked for gender equality and removing other inequalities. Globally, the University of California was declared the top university, followed by the University of Toronto and the University of British Columbia in second and third ranks respectively. The US dominates the rankings with 135 ranked universities. Similarly, the UK was ranked second with 67 ranked British universities. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “QS World University Rankings: Sustainability 2023”
- IIT Bombay (281-300) – the Best Educational Institution in India | 2nd – IIT Delhi (321-340), 3rd – JNU (361-380)
- Globally: Top – University of California | 2nd – University of Toronto | 3rd – University of British Columbia
- Most ranked universities: 1st – US (135), 2nd – UK (67)



741. On October 27, according to the Lancet's latest report titled 'Countdown on health and climate change', India saw a 55% rise in deaths due to extreme heat between 2000-2004 and 2017-2019. Heat-related deaths increased by 68% between 2000-04 and 2017-21. During March-April, 2022, India experienced a heat wave that was 30 times more likely to have happened because of climate change. Exposure to heat caused a loss of 167.2 billion potential labour hours among Indians in 2021. Biomass accounted for 61% of household energy consumption in 2019 in India, against 20% for fossil fuels. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 'Countdown on health and climate change' report – released by Lancet
 - India saw a 55% rise in deaths due to extreme heat between 2000-2004 and 2017-2019
 - Exposure to heat caused a loss of 167.2 billion potential labour hours among Indians in 2021

742. India is the leading country of birth for recent immigration to Canada, according to the country's 2021 census data released by Statistics Canada. For the first time, India took the top spot as the primary place of birth of new immigrants to Canada, 18.6% of recent immigrants from 2016 to 2021. India was followed by Philippines with 11.4% share and China with 8.9% share. In 2021, more than 8.3 million people, or almost one-quarter (23%) of the population, was/were a landed immigrant or permanent resident in Canada. This is the largest immigrant share of Canada's population since the country was founded as a country in 1867. The Canadian government was all set to announce its 'Immigration Levels Plan for 2022-2024' on November 1. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India (18.6%) – is the leading country of birth for recent immigration to Canada (followed by Philippines & China)

743. India's Ministry of Defence is the world's biggest employer with 2.92 million people, which includes combined active service personnel, reservists and civilian staff, according to the Statista infographic on "Employers with the Largest Workforces Worldwide in 2022". The US Department of Defense stands second employing 2.91 million people. Statista is a Germany-based private organisation that provides data and statistics about various issues worldwide. In China, the People's Liberation Army, which doesn't include civilian positions, employs around 2.5 million people and stands at third position. Moreover, Walmart and Amazon stands at fourth and fifth places, respectively. Meanwhile, the SIPRI report stated that India's military spending of USD 76.6 billion ranked third highest in the world. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Employers with the Largest Workforces Worldwide in 2022" data – released by Statista
- 1st – Ministry of Defence (India) | 2nd – Department of Defense (US) | 3rd – People's Liberation Army (China)
- SIPRI's report: India's military spending of USD 76.6 billion ranked 3rd highest in the world

744. Deforestation rates worldwide declined slightly in 2021 by 6.3% compared to the 2018-20 baseline, according to the "2022 Forest Declaration Assessment" published on October 24, 2022. A 10% annual reduction is needed to be on course to halt deforestation completely by 2030. Some 145 countries affirmed their commitment to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030 at the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow (2021). Brazil was the world's largest contributor to deforestation in 2021. Global tree cover increased by 130.9 million hectares over the past two decades. China showed the largest net gain in tree cover - 2.1 million hectares (Mha). Globally, 118.6 Mha (approximately 90%) of the total tree cover gain is likely due to natural regeneration. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- “2022 Forest Declaration Assessment” – Deforestation rates worldwide declined slightly in 2021 by 6.3%
- 10% annual reduction is needed to be on course to halt deforestation completely by 2030
- Brazil – was the world’s largest contributor to deforestation in 2021
- China – showed the largest net gain in tree cover at 2.1 million hectares

Amount & Agreements

745. On October 31, India presented a cheque of USD 2.5 million, the second tranche of the pledged USD 5 million annual support, to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) to support education & healthcare of Palestinian refugees. So far, India has given USD 22.5 million to the UNRWA since 2018. UNRWA Headquarters are located in Amman (Jordan) and in Gaza (Palestine). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – presented a cheque of USD 2.5 million (2nd tranche of the pledged \$5 million annual support) to the UNRWA
- So far, India has given USD 22.5 million to the UNRWA since 2018
- HQs of UNRWA – Amman (Jordan) & Gaza (Palestine) | Under-Secretary-General – Philippe Lazzarini

Acquisitions & Mergers

746. On October 31, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) raised its stake in Capri Global Capital by acquiring 2.02% between June 10, 2022 to October 28, 2022 at an investment of ₹257.37 crore. With this, the LIC’s stake in Capri Global Capital increase from 7.052% to 9.072%. As per regulatory norms, listed companies are required to disclose about change in shareholding of 2% and above. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- LIC – raised its stake in Capri Global Capital to 9.072% by acquiring 2.02% between June to Oct
- As per regulatory norms, listed companies are required to disclose about change in shareholding of 2% & above
- HQs of LIC – Mumbai | Chairman – M. R. Kumar | Founded in – 1956 | Tagline – “Yogakshemam Vahamyaham”

747. On October 26, Sony India and Zee Entertainment Enterprises (ZEEL) have agreed to sell three Hindi channels: Big Magic, Zee Action and Zee Classic. The two players have a combined viewership share of 36% in Hindi general entertainment, according to year-to-date data from the Broadcast Audience Research Council of India (BARC). The Zee-Sony combine will become India’s second-largest entertainment network by revenue with over 75 television (TV) channels, along with two video streaming services - ZEE5 and SonyLIV. It will also house two film studios - Zee Studios and Sony Pictures Films India and a digital content studio (Studio NXT). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Zee (ZEEL) & Sony – agreed to sell 3 Hindi channels (Big Magic, Zee Action & Zee Classic)



MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

748. On October 31, the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) signed an agreement with the IIT Kanpur, IIT (ISM) Dhanbad and NIT Rourkela for establishment of “BIS Standardization Chair Professor” at these institutes. This is an initiative towards institutionalising its engagement with the eminent institutes of the country for securing active participation of academia in standards formulation and making teaching of Indian standards an integral part of the curriculum. This will promote excellence and leadership in teaching, research and development in the field of science and various engineering disciplines. Rajiv Shekhar is the Director of Indian Institute of Technology (Indian School of Mines), Dhanbad (IIT-ISM, Dhanbad). While K Umamaheshwar Rao is the Director of National Institute of Technology, Rourkela (NIT Rourkela). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BIS + IIT Kanpur + IIT (ISM) Dhanbad + NIT Rourkela = an agreement to establish “BIS Standardization Chair Professor”
- HQs of BIS – Manek Bhawan, Old Delhi | Director General – Pramod Kumar Tiwari

749. On October 30, The All India Football Federation (AIFF), Union Ministry for Education and the FIFA signed an MoU to broadbase football across various schools in the country through the Football for Schools programme. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- AIFF + Ministry for Education + FIFA = an MoU to broadbase football across various schools in India
- HQs of FIFA – Zurich, Switzerland | President – Gianni Infantino
- HQs of AIFF – Dwarka, Delhi | President – Kalyan Chaubey | Secretary General – Shaji Prabhakaran
- Ministry of Education: Dharmendra Pradhan | Constituency – Madhya Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Education: Subhas Sarkar

750. On October 31, Hyderabad-based Edtech company byteXL signed an MoU with Microsoft to offer training in emerging technologies in tier-ii and iii cities of India. While byteXL will lead the training programme, Microsoft will support the effort with necessary infrastructure, including Artificial Intelligence (AI) Labs. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- byteXL (Hyderabad) + Microsoft = an MoU to offer training in emerging technologies in tier-ii & iii cities of India
- HQs of Microsoft – Washington, US | Chairman & CEO – Satya Nadella | Founded in – 1975





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