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



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**Test Launch Date: 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2022**

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# National & States Affairs

**251.** In October 2022, Google launched its reward point system in India, which can be redeemed for making purchases at Play Store. The facility, Google Play Points, was first launched in 2018 and is currently available in 28 countries globally. With Play Points, users will be able to earn points when they make purchases with Google Play, including in-app items, apps, games, and subscriptions. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Google – launched its reward point system, 'Google Play Points' in India (Globally, it was first launched in 2018)
- HQs of Google – California, US | CEO – Sundar Pichai | Founded in – 1998

**252.** On October 13, the government accorded 'Infrastructure' status to Data Centres with more than 5 Megawatt (MW) capacity of IT load. The move helps data centre companies to get easier access to institutional credit at lower rates, attract foreign investments and the like. Data Centre is included in the Harmonized Master List of Infrastructure sub-sectors by insertion of a new item in the category of 'Communication'. A CBRE report released in September stated that India's data centre market witnessed an investment of \$14 billion (₹1.15 lakh Crore) in the last 5 years. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Government accorded 'Infrastructure' status to Data Centres with more than 5 MW capacity of IT load
- India's data centre market witnessed an investment of \$14 billion (₹1.15 lakh Crore) in the last 5 years

**253.** On October 12, the Indian government formed a 4-member Panel of Experts to examine the details received from the World Health Organization (WHO) on the deaths of 66 children in The Gambia being linked to four made-in-India cough syrups. After examining and analysing the adverse event reports, the committee will advise and recommend further course of action to the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI). The four cough syrups were manufactured and exported by Maiden Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Sonapat, Haryana. The four-member committee of technical experts are: Dr. Y. K Gupta, Dr Pragya D. Yadav, Dr Arti Bahl & A. K. Pradhan. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- 4-member Panel of Experts has been formed to examine the deaths of 66 children in – The Gambia
- The four members are – Dr. Y. K Gupta, Dr Pragya D. Yadav, Dr Arti Bahl & A. K. Pradhan
- According to WHO details – the deaths are linked to four made-in-India cough syrups
- The four cough syrups were manufactured and exported by – Maiden Pharmaceuticals Ltd (Sonapat, Haryana)
- Gambia – Banjul – Gambian dalasi | President – Adama Barrow
- HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194 | Founded in – 1948

**254.** On October 12, the government scrapped the privatisation of Steel Authority of India Limited's (SAIL) Visvesvaraya Iron & Steel Plant (VISP), Bhadravathi, Karnataka due to insufficient bidder interest. The Expression of Interest (EoI) for selling SAIL's 100% stake in the steel plant was invited on July 2019. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Government scrapped the privatisation of SAIL's Visvesvaraya Iron & Steel Plant (VISP) in Bhadravathi, Karnataka
- HQs of SAIL – New Delhi | CEO – Soma Mondal | Founded on – January 24, 1973



**255.** On October 12, the Karnataka government made booking of autorickshaws illegal on the ride-hailing apps like Ola and Uber. A penalty of Rs 5,000 per vehicle will be levied on the cab aggregators as a first-time offence in case they operate three-wheelers. The three-day deadline that the government issued to cab aggregators to stop offering auto services ended October 11. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Karnataka – made booking of autorickshaws illegal on ride-hailing apps like Ola & Uber (penalty of Rs 5,000 per vehicle)
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – Basavaraj Bommai | Governor – Thaawarchand Gehlot

**256.** On October 7, the Railways has renamed Tipu Express, which runs between Mysuru and Bengaluru, as Wodeyar Express. The demand was made by Mysuru MP Pratap Simha. Mr. Simha, in his letter, highlighted the contribution of the Wadiyars to the development and expansion of railways in the then princely Mysore state. Tipu Express was flagged off on April 15, 1980. Similarly, the Talguppa-Mysuru Express has been renamed as Kuvempu Express after the poet laureate Kuvempu, who was born in Tirthahalli in Shivamogga district. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Tipu Express – renamed as ‘Wodeyar Express’ (running between Mysuru & Bengaluru)
- Talguppa-Mysuru Express – renamed as ‘Kuvempu Express’
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – Basavaraj Bommai | Governor – Thaawarchand Gehlot

**257.** On October 12, the Union cabinet has approved a one-time grant of Rs 22,000 Crore to three oil marketing companies - Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation (HPCL), to reduce cost pressures and cover the last two years’ losses on selling LPG in domestic market. Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur said that the LPG prices rose 300% between June 2020 and June 2022. In addition to this, the cabinet also approved the disbursement of productivity-linked bonus (PLB) of Rs 1,832 Crores among 11,27,000 railway employees. The limit of these bonuses is capped at Rs 17,951. Moreover, the cabinet approved the central sector scheme, Prime Minister Development Initiative for North-eastern Region (PM-DevINE), which was announced in the Budget 2022. The government has allocated a total of Rs 6,600 Crore for this scheme for the period of FY23 to FY26. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Cabinet approved a one-time grant of Rs 22,000 Cr to 3 companies (IOCL, BPCL & HPCL) to reduce cost pressures
- Cabinet approved the disbursement of productivity-linked bonus of Rs 1,832 Cr among 11,27,000 railway employees
- Cabinet approved the central sector scheme, ‘PM-DevINE’, with an outlay of Rs 6,600 Cr for FY23 to FY26

**258.** In October 2022, the Rubber Board introduced the updated version of ‘mRube’, the electronic market for rubber, which went live for trading in July 2022. In less than 50 trading days, mRube has traded more than 500 tonnes in this lean production period. Besides this, the Rubber Board partnered with Federal Bank and ICICI Bank for operating the payment gateway and escrow account, which will nullify the payment risk of buyers and sellers involved in trade. Rubber Board is a statutory body under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Rubber Board – introduced the updated version of ‘mRube’, the electronic market for rubber
- Rubber Board – partnered with Federal Bank & ICICI Bank for operating the payment gateway and escrow account
- HQs of Rubber Board – Kottayam, Kerala | Executive Director – K. N. Raghavan



**259.** On October 10, the International Federation of Association Football (FIFA), in partnership with the All India Football Federation (AIFF), and the support of the Union Government, launched the “Football for Schools” project in India, which is aimed at broad-basing Football across India. The FIFA’s project, which also aims to reach out to over 700 million children worldwide, would lay special emphasis on reaching out to all the tribal communities of the world. FIFA also targets of having 50% girls under this project. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- FIFA + AIFF = launched the “Football for Schools” project in India
- The FIFA’s project aims to reach out to over 700 million children worldwide
- HQs of FIFA – Zurich, Switzerland | President – Gianni Infantino
- HQs of AIFF – Dwarka, Delhi | President – Kalyan Chaubey | Secretary General – Shaji Prabhakaran

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

**260.** On October 12, Dvara E-Dairy Solutions Pvt Ltd launched ‘Dvara Surabhi Loan’, a true cattle loan, offered digitally in partnership with Jana Small Finance Bank to create scalable access to finance for small dairy farmers in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. The Dvara Surabhi Loan is a tailored loan product for dairy farmers towards cattle purchase and maintenance. The cashflow dependency on dairy is assessed through a combination of the ‘Surabhi Score’, as well as the farmer’s credit score. The loan amount ranges from ₹30,000 to ₹1,50,000, with an average ticket size of ₹80,000. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Dvara E-Dairy Solutions (Chennai) + Jana SFB = launched a cattle loan, ‘Dvara Surabhi Loan’ in Tamil Nadu & Karnataka
- The loan amount ranges from ₹30,000 to ₹1,50,000, with an average ticket size of ₹80,000
- HQs of Jana SFB – Bengaluru, Karnataka | MD & CEO – Ajay Kanwal | Chairman (part-time) – S. C. Khuntia

**261.** On October 11, the RBI modified and consolidated guidelines for banks on Unhedged Foreign Currency Exposure (UFCE) of any entity to prevent losses due to heightened volatility in the forex market. These instructions shall come into force from January 1, 2023. The directions have been issued by RBI in exercise of the powers conferred under ‘Section 35 A’ of the ‘Banking Regulation Act, 1949’. Entities which do not hedge their foreign currency exposure can incur significant losses during a period of heightened volatility in foreign exchange rates. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- RBI modified & consolidated guidelines for banks on **Unhedged Foreign Currency Exposure (UFCE)** of any entity to prevent losses due to heightened volatility in the forex market (w.e.f. January 1, 2023)
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established on – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935

**262.** On October 12, RBL Bank and BookMyShow partnered to launch a new credit card, ‘Play’, that will take the entertainment quotient for Indian audiences several notches higher. Earlier in 2016, RBL Bank had partnered with BookMyShow for the launch of Fun Plus credit card. It will be a first on any entertainment platform in India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- RBL Bank + BookMyShow = partnered to launch a new credit card ‘Play’
- ‘Fun Plus Credit Card’ launched by = RBL Bank + BookMyShow (in 2016)
- HQs of RBL Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – R. Subramaniakumar | Chairman – Prakash Chandra





**263.** On October 13, Paytm partnered with Jana Small Finance Bank to deploy card machines to further drive digitisation among merchants across India. This partnership will enable Jana Small Finance Bank to extend Paytm's All-in-one EDC machines to its existing and potential customers, providing a one-stop solution for all their digital payment needs. With over 4.5 million devices deployed, Paytm remains the market leader in offline payments. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Paytm + Jana SFB = partnership to deploy card machines to further drive digitisation among Indian merchants
- HQs of Paytm – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | MD & CEO – Vijay Sekhar Sharma | Founded in – 2010
- HQs of Jana SFB – Bengaluru, Karnataka | MD & CEO – Ajay Kanwal | Chairman (part-time) – S. C. Khuntia

**264.** On October 13, NPCI International Payments (NIPL), the international arm of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), partnered with Euronext-listed payments facilitator, Worldline, to facilitate UPI payments across Europe. It will bring convenience to millions of Indians travelling to the Europe every year. With this, Worldline became the first EU acquirer to offer UPI & RuPay to European merchants. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NIPL (NPCI) + Worldline = partnered to facilitate UPI payments across Europe
- Worldline – became the first EU acquirer to offer UPI & RuPay to European merchants
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD & CEO – Dilip Asbe | Established in – 2008

**265.** On October 13, Karur Vysya Bank (KVB) re-appointed Non-Executive Independent Director, K. G. Mohan, for the 2<sup>nd</sup> term of 3 years on its board. The first term of Mohan was completed on October 11, 2022. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- K. G. Mohan – re-appointed as Non-Executive Independent Director of Karur Vysya Bank – for 3 years (2<sup>nd</sup> term)
- HQs of KVB – Karur, Tamil Nadu | MD & CEO – B. Ramesh Babu

**266.** On October 11, the RBI raised the minimum capital requirement for setting up an Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC) to Rs 300 Cr from the existing Rs 100 Cr with an aim to strengthen the securitisation sector which plays a vital role in the management of distressed financial assets. The existing ARCs have to meet the minimum net owned fund (NOF) requirement by April 2026. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- RBI raised the minimum capital requirement for setting up an ARC to Rs 300 Cr (from the existing Rs 100 Cr)
- The existing ARCs have to meet the minimum net owned fund (NOF) requirement by April 2026
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established on – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935

**267.** On October 12, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) released its new tax reporting framework, the “Crypto-Asset Reporting Framework (CARF)” to ensure the collection and automatic exchange of information on transactions for relevant crypto. The definition of crypto assets includes “the assets that can be held and transferred in a decentralised manner, without the intervention of traditional financial intermediaries, including stablecoins, derivatives issued in the form of a crypto-asset and certain non-fungible tokens”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- OECD – released its new tax reporting framework, “Crypto-Asset Reporting Framework (CARF)”
- HQs of OECD – Paris, France | Secretary-General – Mathias Cormann | Member countries – 38



## Defence Affairs

**268.** On October 11, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) members conducted a long-planned nuclear exercise dubbed as 'Steadfast Noon'. It involves fighter jets capable of carrying nuclear warheads but does not involve any live bombs. 14 of the 30 NATO member countries were involved in the exercise. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- NATO members (14 out of 30) – conducted a nuclear exercise dubbed as 'Steadfast Noon'
- HQs of NATO – Brussels, Belgium | Secretary General – Jens Stoltenberg | Member Countries – 30

## Sports & Games

**269.** On October 12, Indian discus thrower Kamalpreet Kaur was handed a three-year ban by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) for the use of a prohibited substance (Stanozolol), as informed by Athletics Integrity Unity (AIU). Kamalpreet was part of the national camp conducted by the Athletics Federation of India and also was included in the Target Olympic Podium Scheme. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Kamalpreet Kaur (Discus thrower) – banned for 3 years by WADA for the use of a prohibited substance (Stanozolol)
- HQs of WADA – Montreal, Canada | President – Witold Banka
- HQs of AFI – New Delhi | President – Adille J. Sumariwalla | Secretary General – Ravinder Chaudhry

**270.** On October 10, Portuguese star Cristiano Ronaldo scripted history as he reached the landmark of 700 club goals. Ronaldo became the only player to have 700 club goals in his name in 945<sup>th</sup> appearance. He has scored 450 goals for Real Madrid, 144 goals for Manchester United, 101 for Juventus, and 5 for Sporting Lisbon. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Cristiano Ronaldo (Footballer - Portugal) – the only player to reach the landmark of 700 club goals in 945<sup>th</sup> appearance
- Goals scored by him: 450 (Real Madrid), 144 (Manchester United), 101 (Juventus) & 5 (Sporting Lisbon)

**271.** In October 2022, Shrikrishna Suryanarayan claimed the World 6-Red Snooker Championships title after defeating Habib Sabah of Bahrain. The title was won by India's Laxman Rawat in the last edition. Shrikrishna is the reigning National 6-Reds Snooker Champion (2021) and has won the National Billiards Championship in 2019. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Shrikrishna Suryanarayan – claimed the World 6-Red Snooker Championships title (defeating - Habib Sabah of Bahrain)
- Bahrain – Manama – Dinar | PM – Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa | King – Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa

**272.** At the 36<sup>th</sup> National Games in Gujarat, Maharashtra's Rupali Gangawane bagged the gold medal in the women's rope mallakhamb competition. Akshay Prakash Taral also from Maharashtra, won gold in the men's rope mallakhamb competition. Shubhankar Vinay Khawle scored 9.20 points to win Maharashtra's third gold medal in pole Mallakhamb competition. 10-year-old Shauryajit Khaire from Gujarat created history by becoming the youngest medallist of the 2022 National Games with a bronze in pole mallakhamb. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- 36<sup>th</sup> National Games – held in Gujarat
- Rupali Gangawane (Maharashtra) – won the gold in the women’s rope mallakhamb competition
- Akshay Prakash Taral (Maharashtra) – won gold in the men’s rope mallakhamb competition
- Shubhankar Vinay Khawle (Maharashtra) – won gold medal in pole Mallakhamb competition
- Shauryajit Khaire (Gujarat) – won a bronze in pole mallakhamb (youngest medallist of the 36<sup>th</sup> National Games)

**273.** In October 2022, Rashmi Kumari emerged the most victorious in the 8<sup>th</sup> World Carrom Championship in Langkawi, Malaysia, as she won three titles. The 38-year-old Rashmi won her third singles title in the World Championship. Rashmi also won the team title along with Nilam Ghodake, Kajal Kumari and Debajani Tamuly. Moreover, she won the doubles title earlier with Nilam. The men’s title was bagged by Sandeep Dive beating Abdul Rahman. India had earlier won both the men’s and women’s team titles, by beating Sri Lanka and USA respectively. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- 8<sup>th</sup> World Carrom Championship – held in Langkawi, Malaysia
- Rashmi Kumari – won women’s singles title along with other team titles & double titles
- Sandeep Dive – won men’s singles title (defeating - Abdul Rahman)
- Malaysia – Kuala Lumpur – Ringgit | PM – Ismail Sabri Yaakob | King – Al-Sultan Abdullah

**274.** On October 14, Jammu & Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha inaugurated 6<sup>th</sup> Senior Asian Pencak Silat Championship in Srinagar. The event brought together over 150 athletes from different countries. Pencak silat is an umbrella term for a class of related Indonesian martial arts. Pencak Silat is relatively new to India and was introduced in 2014. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Manoj Sinha (J&K Lt. Gov) – inaugurated 6<sup>th</sup> Senior Asian Pencak Silat Championship in Srinagar
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

**275.** On October 14, Services Sports Control Board (SSCB), a sports board run by the Indian Armed Forces, once again topped the medals tally at the recently-concluded “National Games 2022” for the 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive time. The 36<sup>th</sup> National Games was hosted by Gujarat. The Services team was the winner of ‘Raja Bhalindra Singh Trophy’, which is given to team that win the most number of gold medals at the National Games. Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar presented the trophy to President SSCB Air Marshal K. Anatharaman. The Services team bagged 128 medals in total (61 Gold, 35 Silver & 32 Bronze medals), followed by Maharashtra with 140 medals (39 Gold, 38 Silver & 63 Bronze) & Haryana with 115 medals (38 Gold, 38 Silver & 39 Bronze). Moreover, Kerala’s Sajan Prakash was named ‘Best Male Athlete’ with 5 Gold, 2 Silver & 1 bronze medals. While Karnataka’s Hashika Ramachandra was named ‘Best Female Athlete’ with 6 Gold & 1 bronze medals. The SSCB was established in 1919 and is one of the founder members of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA). [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Services Sports Control Board – topped the medals tally at 36<sup>th</sup> “National Games 2022” (61 Gold + 35 Silver + 32 Bronze)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Maharashtra (39 Gold + 38 Silver + 63 Bronze) | 3<sup>rd</sup> – Haryana (38 Gold + 38 Silver + 39 Bronze)
- Best Male Athlete: Sajan Prakash (Kerala) | Best Female Athlete: Hashika Ramachandra (Karnataka)
- SSCB – was the winner of ‘Raja Bhalindra Singh Trophy’ (given to the team that win the most number of gold medals)

## Science & Technology

**276.** On October 16, China launched the Advanced Space-based Solar Observatory (ASO-S), nicknamed Kuafu-1 in to the planned orbit. The ASO-S observatory was launched on a Long March-2D carrier rocket from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China. The trio of instruments on board will provide insights into how the Sun's magnetic field causes coronal mass ejections (CMEs) and other eruptions. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- China – launched 'Kuafu-1', Advanced Space-based Solar Observatory (ASO-S) in to the planned orbit
- It was launched on – Long March-2D carrier rocket
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

**277.** On October 13, Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) in collaboration with Power-CSIRTs (Computer Security Incident Response Teams in Power sector) designed and conducted a cyber security exercise "PowerEX" for 193 power sector utilities. The objective of the exercise was to Recognize, Analyse & Respond to Cyber Incident in IT & OT Systems. The theme of the exercise was "Defending Cyber induced disruption in IT & OT infrastructure". [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- CERT-In + Power-CSIRTs = designed & conducted a cyber security exercise "PowerEX" for 193 power sector utilities
- Theme – "Defending Cyber induced disruption in IT & OT infrastructure"

**278.** On October 10, the NASA announced that its "Dragonfly" mission to Saturn's largest moon Titan, will be launched in 2027. Dragonfly is a rotorcraft that will arrive in 2034 and explore Titan from the air. Dragonfly capable of covering around 10 miles (16 kilometers) in each half-hour flight, according to NASA. Dragonfly's landing site will be the Shangri-La dune field. This region was imaged by NASA's Cassini spacecraft during its mission to Saturn between 2004 and 2017. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- NASA – will launch its "Dragonfly" mission to Saturn's largest moon Titan in 2027
- 'Dragonfly', a rotorcraft, will arrive in 2034 & explore Titan from the air | Landing site – Shangri-La dune field
- HQs of NASA – Washington D.C., US | Administrator – Bill Nelson | Founded in – 1958

## Appointments & Resignations

**279.** On October 13, Dr Adarsh Swaika, a joint secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, was appointed India's next Ambassador to Kuwait. Moreover, Avtar Singh, a Director in the Ministry of External Affairs, was appointed as India's next Ambassador to the Republic of Guinea. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Adarsh Swaika – appointed India's next Ambassador to Kuwait
- Avtar Singh – appointed as India's next Ambassador to Guinea
- Kuwait – Kuwait City – Dinar | PM – Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah | Emir – Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah
- Guinea – Conakry – Guinean franc | PM – Bernard Gomou | President – Colonel Mamadi Doumbouya (Interim)





**280.** On October 12, the present Chief Justice of India, U. U. Lalit, nominated Justice D. Y. Chandrachud as his successor (50th CJI), in a brief meeting held at the Supreme Court judges' lounge in the presence of all the other judges of the court. If the government approval comes through, Justice D. Y. Chandrachud would be the first second-generation Chief Justice of India. His father, Justice Y. V. Chandrachud, was the 16<sup>th</sup> Chief Justice of India and one of the longest serving ones. Chief Justice Lalit was scheduled to retire on November 8, 2022 at the end of 74-day tenure as top judge. Justice Chandrachud was expected to be sworn in and assume charge as Chief Justice of India from November 9. He will have a tenure of about two years as Chief Justice until his retirement on November 11, 2024. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Justice D. Y. Chandrachud – nominated as the successor of U. U. Lalit to be the next Chief Justice of India (50<sup>th</sup> CJI)
- Justice Y. V. Chandrachud (Father of D. Y. Chandrachud) – was the 16<sup>th</sup> Chief Justice of India
- Present Chief of Justice of the Supreme Court of India – Justice Dhananjaya Y. Chandrachud (50<sup>th</sup>)

**281.** Kartik Pande, presently a Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Seychelles. Pande succeeds former Indian Army Chief General Dalbir Singh Suhag. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Kartik Pande – appointed as India's next High Commissioner to Seychelles
- Seychelles – Victoria – Seychellois Rupee | President – Wavel Ramkalawan

**282.** Dinkar Asthana, presently Ambassador of India to Lao, is appointed as the next ambassador to Senegal. He was Deputy Director General in the Indian Council for Cultural Relations from March 2014 to September 2015 and Joint Secretary (SAARC, BIMSTEC & Border Connectivity) from October 2015 to January 2016. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Dinkar Asthana – appointed as the next ambassador to Senegal
- Senegal – Dakar – CFA franc | President – Macky Sall | PM – Amadou Ba

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

**283.** On October 12, the World Economic Forum (WEF) announced the addition of 11 factories and industrial sites, including 3 from India, to its Global Lighthouse Network. From India, the additions are pharma major Cipla's Indore facility, Dr Reddy's Laboratories' Hyderabad facility and the Mondelez facility in Sri City. The Global Lighthouse Network is a community of over 100 manufacturers that are showing leadership in applying Fourth Industrial Revolution technologies such as artificial intelligence, 3D-printing and big data analytics. Moreover, 4 lighthouse members with outstanding environmental footprint reductions have been given an additional designation of Sustainability Lighthouses. These 4 include Unilever's Dapada facility in India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- WEF – added 11 factories & industrial sites (3 from India) to its 'Global Lighthouse Network'
- 3 sites from India are: Cipla's Indore facility, Dr Reddy's Lab' Hyderabad facility & Mondelez facility in Sri City
- HQs of WEF – Cologny, Switzerland | Exe Chairman – Klaus Schwab | President – Borge Brende | Founded in – 1971



## Schemes & Initiatives

**284.** On October 11, the government has revised its flagship scheme called 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao'. The scheme was launched in 2015 to address the issue of decline in child sex ratio in the country, along with empowerment-related issues for girls and women. The revised scheme was launched on the occasion of the 'International Girl Child Day' by the Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD). The scheme is a joint initiative among Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) and Ministry of Education (MoE). Some of the new aims for the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao programme are 1% increment in enrolment at secondary level and skilling of girls and women every year, raising awareness about safe menstrual hygiene, and promulgating elimination of child marriages. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Government has revised its flagship scheme called 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' (launched in 2015)
- The scheme is a joint initiative among = MoWCD + MoHFW + MoE
- New aims of the Programme: 1% increment in enrolment at secondary level and skilling of girls & women
- [Ministry of Women & Child Development: Smriti Irani](#) | [Constituency – Amethi, Uttar Pradesh](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Women and Child Development: Munjapara Mahendrabhai](#)

## Important Days & Dates

**285.** Every year, International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDDRR) is observed on October 13. The day provides an opportunity to address the progress made in the field of preventing and reducing natural disasters. International Day for Disaster Risk Management has its origin in the year 1989 at the United Nations General Assembly. However, a resolution was passed in the year 2002 for the establishment of this day. The global theme for 2022's IDDRR was, "Early Warning and Early Action for All." [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- October 13 – International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction
- 2022's Theme – "Early Warning and Early Action for All"

**286.** World Sight Day is observed on the second Thursday of October every year and in 2022, the day was celebrated on October 13. It is a global event which aims to draw attention on the issue of blindness and vision impairment. World Sight Day is also known as 'World Eye Day' or 'World Vision Day'. The International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) has decided to continue the theme of "Love Your Eyes" for the World Sight Day 2022. The day was first observed in 1998. Globally, at least 2.2 billion people have a vision impairment or blindness, according to the WHO. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- October 13 (2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday) – World Sight Day, also known as 'World Eye Day' or 'World Vision Day' (since 1998)
- 2022's Theme – "Love Your Eyes"
- WHO Report: At least 2.2 billion people have a vision impairment or blindness





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## Books & Authors

**287.** On October 12, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik released a book titled “Pandemic Disruptions and Odisha’s Lessons in Governance” penned by Rajya Sabha MP Amar Patnaik. The book is a culmination of the various essays on pertinent contemporary issues that emerged in India during the pandemic years of 2020-21 and 2021-2022. It lays emphasis on Odisha’s 5-T framework. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Naveen Patnaik – released “Pandemic Disruptions and Odisha’s Lessons in Governance” book – penned by Amar Patnaik
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

## Meetings, Conferences & Summits

**288.** Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari and UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated the 81<sup>st</sup> annual convention of the “Indian Roads Congress (IRC)” held in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh from October 8 to 11 after 11 years. Nearly 1,500 delegates participated in the event held at Indira Gandhi Pratishthan. It may be noted that the Indian Roads Congress is the apex body of highway engineers and the IRC was set up in December 1934, by the Government of India. In 2022, Uttar Pradesh hosted the session for the 5<sup>th</sup> time since the inception of the body. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- 81<sup>st</sup> annual convention of the “Indian Roads Congress (IRC)” – held in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh (5<sup>th</sup> time in UP)
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

**289.** On October 14, the PM Narendra Modi addressed the 2<sup>nd</sup> “United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress (UNWGIC)” held in Hyderabad, Telangana under the theme of “Geo-Enabling the Global Village: No one should be left behind”. The 5-day conference was hosted by the Department of Science & Technology (DST) and convened by the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM). There are 3 main components of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) - Overarching Strategies, Implementation Guide, and Country Level Action Plan. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- PM Modi – addressed the 2<sup>nd</sup> “United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress (UNWGIC)” held in Hyderabad
- Theme of the conference – “Geo-Enabling the Global Village: No one should be left behind”
- The conference was hosted by – Dept of S&T | Convened by the – UN-GGIM





# Ranks, Reports & Surveys

**290.** On October 11, India has moved up 6 places to rank overall 123<sup>rd</sup> out of 161 countries for reducing inequality but continues to be among the lowest performers in health spending, according to the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the “Commitment to Reducing Inequality Index 2022 (CRII Index)”. Norway leads the CRII followed by Germany and Australia. The Index which is prepared by Oxfam International and Development Finance International (DFI) measures governments policies and actions in three areas - Public Services, Taxation and Workers’ Rights. India’s overall rank was 123. However, India has fallen 73 places to 151 places in Labour Ranking, 129<sup>th</sup> in Public Service Ranking and 16<sup>th</sup> in Tax Ranking. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- “Commitment to Reducing Inequality Index 2022 (CRII Index)” – by Oxfam International & DFI
- India’s Rank – 123<sup>rd</sup> | 1<sup>st</sup> – Norway | 2<sup>nd</sup> – Germany | 3<sup>rd</sup> – Australia
- India’s rank in Labour Ranking – 151<sup>st</sup> | Public Service Ranking – 129<sup>th</sup> | Tax Ranking – 16<sup>th</sup>

**291.** A seminar on “Understanding Lead Poisoning Prevalence in India” was co-hosted by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) and Pure Earth in New Delhi in October 2022. India accounts for 26% of global deaths due to lead exposure every year and 50% of children with elevated blood lead levels globally are found in the country. Lead poisoning is associated with the loss of intelligence up to 5 IQ points. The staggering findings were part of a report titled “The Toxic Truth: Children’s Exposure to Lead Pollution Undermines a Generation of Future Potential” jointly published by UNICEF and Pure Earth in 2020, and “Assessment of Lead Impact on Human and India’s Response” published by NITI Aayog in association with the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) in 2022. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- A seminar on “Understanding Lead Poisoning Prevalence in India” – was co-hosted in New Delhi by TERI & Pure Earth
- India accounts for 26% of global deaths due to lead exposure every year
- “The Toxic Truth: Children’s Exposure to Lead Pollution Undermines a Generation of Future Potential” – released by UNICEF + Pure Earth
- “Assessment of Lead Impact on Human and India’s Response” – released by NITI Aayog + CSIR

**292.** India ranked 4<sup>th</sup> among 12 Indo-Pacific nations in self-reliant arms production capabilities, according to a study released by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) in October 2022. China topped the list, followed by Japan & South Korea. The study, which measures self-reliance until 2020, is based on three indicators of self-reliance in each country: Arms procurement, Arms industry & Uncrewed maritime vehicles. The 12 countries in the study were selected because they have the highest military spending in the region. China was the world’s 5<sup>th</sup> largest arms importer in 2016-20. India was ranked as the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest importer of arms for its armed forces in 2016-20. However, as per latest data published in 2022, India emerged as the world’s largest defence arm importer between 2017-21. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- ‘List of 12 Indo-Pacific Nations in Self-reliant Arms Production Capabilities’ – released by SIPRI
- India – ranked 4<sup>th</sup> | 1<sup>st</sup> – China | 2<sup>nd</sup> – Japan | 3<sup>rd</sup> – South Korea
- India – emerged as the world’s largest defence arm importer between 2017-21
- [China – Beijing – Renminbi](#) | [President – Xi Jinping](#)
- [HQs of SIPRI – Stockholm, Sweden](#) | [Chair – Jan Eliasson](#)



**293.** There has been a 69% decline in the wildlife populations of mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles and fish, across the globe in the last 50 years, according to the latest “Living Planet Report 2022” or “Living Planet Index (LPI) 2022” released by World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) on October 13, 2022. The highest decline (94%) was in the Latin America and the Caribbean region. Freshwater species populations globally reduced by 83%. WWF identified 6 key threats to biodiversity - Agriculture, Hunting, Logging, Pollution, Invasive Species & Climate Change, to highlight ‘threat hotspots’ for terrestrial vertebrates. The Living Planet Index (LPI), featured about 32,000 populations of 5,230 species across the world. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Living Planet Report 2022” or “Living Planet Index (LPI) 2022” released by – World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)
- There has been a 69% decline in the wildlife populations in the last 50 years
- WWF identified 6 key threats to biodiversity: Agriculture, Hunting, Logging, Pollution, Invasive Species & Climate Change
- [HQs of WWF – Gland, Switzerland](#) | [Director General – Marco Lambertini](#) | [Established in – 1961](#)

**294.** Interests of local communities are not considered while framing national forest policy and in the development of forest management plans, according to the “Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Forestry” report released by the UN FAO at the 26<sup>th</sup> Session of the Food and Agricultural Organization’s (FAO) Committee on Forestry October 7, 2022. An estimated 15% of global forests are managed as community resources by indigenous peoples and local communities, according to the “Sustainable Use of Wildlife” report released in July by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). Indigenous people manage over 38 million square kilometres of land in 87 countries, coinciding with 40% of conserved terrestrial areas with high biodiversity value. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Forestry” report – released by the FAO
- “Sustainable Use of Wildlife” report – released by IPBES
- 15% of global forests are managed as community resources by indigenous peoples & local communities
- [HQs of FAO – Rome, Italy](#) | [DG – QU Dongyu](#) | [Formation – 16<sup>th</sup> October, 1945](#)

**295.** On October 12, the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru bettered its position in the “Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2023” and was the only Indian university in the top 300 list. IISc has been placed in the 251-300 bracket, jumping one ranking band from last year. With 75 institutes featuring in THE’s 2023 ranking, India became the 6<sup>th</sup> most represented country in the list. In 2020, 56 universities participated. The US is the most-represented country overall with 177 institutions in the overall ranking list. Japan topped among the Asian countries with 117 ranked universities. Both THE and QS (Quacquarelli Symonds) are based in London and are two most prominent higher-education surveys in the world. Globally, the University of Oxford continued to retain the top spot for the 7<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, followed by Harvard University, the US. While the University of Cambridge jumped to joint 3<sup>rd</sup> place along with Stanford University. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2023” – released on October 12, 2022
- 1<sup>st</sup> – University of Oxford (UK), 2<sup>nd</sup> – Harvard University (US), 3<sup>rd</sup> – Uni. of Cambridge (UK) + Stanford University (US)
- IISc, Bengaluru – the only Indian university in the top 300 list (251-300 bracket)
- India (75) – became the 6<sup>th</sup> most represented country in the list | Top – US (177 institutions)



# Acquisitions & Mergers

**296.** On October 12, National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) acquired a 5.6% stake in the Union government's Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) for Rs 10 Crore. This strategic deal will further strengthen the digital ecosystem to take digital e-commerce to the people of India. ONDC is an initiative of the Commerce Ministry to create an open public digital infrastructure. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- NSDL – acquired a 5.6% stake in the Government's Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) for Rs 10 Crore
- ONDC, a 'Section 8' company, is an initiative of Ministry of Commerce & Industry
- HQs of NSDL – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Padmaja Chundururu

# MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

**297.** On October 12, Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) signed an MoU with India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd (IIFCL) to strengthen cooperation in financing railway infrastructure projects with forward and backward linkages to the Indian Railways sector. The MoU was signed by Amitabh Banerjee, Chairman and Managing Director, IRFC, and Padmanabhan Raja Jaishankar, Managing Director, IIFCL. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- IRFC + IIFCL = an MoU to strengthen cooperation in financing railway infrastructure projects
- UNGC – world's largest voluntary corporate sustainability initiative & works in accordance with the UN SDGs
- HQs of IRFC – New Delhi | CMD – Amitabh Banerjee
- HQs of IIFCL – New Delhi | MD – Padmanabhan Raja Jaishankar

**298.** In October 2022, India and the United States launched a new Energy Storage Task Force to support large-scale integration of renewable energy needed to support the clean energy transition. The announcement of the initiative came following a bilateral meeting between Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri and US Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm. During the meeting the two leaders underscored the critical importance of bilateral clean energy engagement to strengthen energy security and to accelerate clean, secure, and just energy transition. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- India + US = launched a new 'Energy Storage Task Force' to support the clean energy transition
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46<sup>th</sup> President – Joe Biden | 49<sup>th</sup> VP – Kamala Harris

**299.** On October 11, Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Mansukh L. Mandaviya, was presented with an MoU signed by Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers (RCF) Ltd with K Plus S Middle East FZE DMCC, a subsidiary of K + S Minerals and Agriculture GmbH, Germany. The MoU aims to improve the availability of MOP (Muriate of Potash) for farmers and boost indigenous production of various grades of complex fertilizers. As a part of the MoU, K plus S will supply 1,05,000 MT MOP per annum from 2022-25 at a discounted India specific price. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- RCF + K Plus S Middle East FZE DMCC + Agriculture GmbH (Germany) = an MoU to improve the availability of MOP
- K plus S will supply 1,05,000 MT MOP per annum from 2022-25 at a discounted India specific price



**300.** On October 12, the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM), in a joint collaboration with industry partners such as Fractal Analytics, Microsoft, Deloitte, Tata Consultancy Services and IBM Research, has launched the “Responsible AI Hub” and resource kit to ensure the responsible adoption of AI at scale. According to NASSCOM, the resource kit enables enterprises to independently assess and monitor the development and deployment of AI solutions. The resource kit comprises sector-agnostic tools and guidance to enable business to leverage AI to grow scale with confidence by prioritising user trust and safety. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NASSCOM – launched the “Responsible AI Hub” & Resource Kit to ensure the responsible adoption of AI at scale
- HQs of NASSCOM – New Delhi | President – Debjani Ghosh







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