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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?

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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.

If you use the **Qudoo App** for 11-21 days during your preparation, in between your breaks, like while travelling, having meals, or instead of using any other social media app, within a few days, you'll feel like you've developed a mechanism inside your head that has the capability to answer the questions within a fraction of seconds. Timer-based points in Qudoo quizzes will create a cognitive reserve inside your brain that will automatically let you develop strategies to solve the questions within seconds to beat the opponent.

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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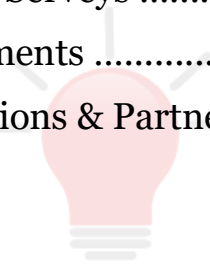
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The Question Bank



# National & States Affairs

**301.** On October 12, the Minister of State for Communications, Devusinh Chauhan, released Commemorative Postage Stamp on the occasion of Golden Jubilee of PIN (Postal Index Number) Code, in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. PIN Code is a 6-digit numeric code. He also launched the e-Passbook which is a feature for the account holders of POSB schemes. 'PLI Mobile Training App' was also launched by the Minister which will not only provide online training but also facilitate conducting of online licentiate examination. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Devusinh Chauhan – released Commemorative Postage Stamp on Golden Jubilee of PIN Code, in Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- PIN – **Postal Index Number** (a 6-digit numeric code)
- Devusinh Chauhan – launched PLI Mobile Training App, e-Passbook for the account holders of POSB schemes
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Bhupendra Patel | Governor – Acharya Dev Vrat

**302.** In October 2022, the Supreme Court held that Part IX B inserted by the “Constitution (97th Amendment) Act, 2011” would not be applicable to the local co-operative societies and the same would be applicable to the multi-State co-operative societies and the societies within the Union territories. The 97<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment granted a Constitutional status to Cooperative Societies and inserted Part IX B in the Constitution which specified several conditions for state laws relating to cooperative societies. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- SC: Part IX B inserted by “Constitution (97<sup>th</sup> Amendment) Act, 2011” won't be applicable to 'Local Co-operative Societies'
- It would be applicable to the multi-State co-operative societies & the societies within the UTs
- 97<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment – granted a Constitutional status to 'Cooperative Societies'
- Present Chief of Justice of the Supreme Court of India – Justice Dhananjaya Y. Chandrachud (50<sup>th</sup>)

**303.** On October 12, in a first of its kind in India, Tamil Nadu government notified Kaduvur Slender Loris Sanctuary, covering 11,806 hectares in Karur and Dindigul districts. Slender lorises, which are small nocturnal mammals, are arboreal in nature as they spend most of their life on trees. It is listed as an 'Endangered' species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). A total of ₹5 Cr has been earmarked for the Dindigul and Karur forest reserves to establish this Sanctuary by 2026. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Tamil Nadu – notified first of its kind Kaduvur Slender Loris Sanctuary in Karur and Dindigul districts
- Tamil Nadu – earmarked ₹5 Cr for the Dindigul and Karur forest reserves to establish this Sanctuary by 2026
- Slender lorises – listed as an 'Endangered' species by IUCN
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi

**304.** On October 14, the contract for Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) of new Talcher Thermal Power Station (TTPS) with 1,320 MW capacity has been awarded to Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) for around Rs 8,000 Cr. BHEL had won the tender floated by NTPC. Two 660 MW units will be constructed within 52 months. The 54-year-old old Talcher Thermal Power Station, located in Angul district of Odisha, was shut down on March 31, 2021 because it failed to adhere to environment norms. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- Contract for new Talcher Thermal Power Station of 1,320 MW (Two 660 MW units) awarded to – BHEL for (Rs 8,000 Cr)
- Old Talcher Thermal Power Station – located in Angul district of Odisha was shut down on March 31, 2021
- [Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal](#)
- [HQs of BHEL – New Delhi | Chairman & MD – Nalin Shinghal](#)

**305.** On October 12, Adani Data Network was granted unified licence for access services, which enables it to provide all telecom services in India. Adani Data Networks Ltd (ADNL), a subsidiary of Adani Enterprises Ltd, acquired the right to use 400 MHz of spectrum in the 26 GHz millimetre wave band worth Rs 212 Crore for 20 years in the recent 5G spectrum auction. As of now, ADNL has received the licence for access services in 6 circles: Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, and Mumbai. From the first-ever 5G spectrum auction, the Government of India earned Rs 1.5 lakh Crore by selling 71% of the total spectrum. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Adani Data Network – has been granted unified licence to provide all telecom services in India
- ADNL – acquired the right to use 400 MHz of spectrum in the 26 GHz millimetre wave band
- From the first-ever 5G spectrum auction, GoI earned Rs 1.5 lakh Cr by selling 71% of the total spectrum
- [HQs of Adani Enterprises – Ahmedabad, Gujarat | Chairman – Gautam Adani | MD – Rajesh Adani](#)

**306.** On October 13, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. K. Stalin virtually launched 'Kutty Cop', a road safety awareness education project of the Coimbatore-based NGO 'Uyir'. He also administered a road safety pledge to 4.5 lakh students in the district. Under the project, 'Uyir' aims to educate school children on road safety through a specially designed curriculum and make them messengers of road safety. Workbooks will be given to students of Classes III-VIII of all schools in Coimbatore and faculty manuals will be given to teachers. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Tamil Nadu – launched 'Kutty Cop' a road safety awareness education project of the Coimbatore-based NGO 'Uyir'
- It is for the students of Classes 3-8 of all schools in Coimbatore
- [Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi](#)

**307.** On October 11, Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) has entirely switched to green sources for its energy consumption needs, making it one of India's 100% sustainable airports as part of the airport's efforts to reduce its carbon footprint and further propel its journey towards 'Net Zero' emissions. CSMIA was also the first in India to launch Hybrid Technology that solely runs on Green Energy. In June 2022, Indira Gandhi International Airport (Delhi Airport) became India's first 100% Sustainable Airport to run completely on solar and hydropower. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (Mumbai) – entirely switched to Green sources for its Energy needs
- It was also the first in India to launch Hybrid Technology that solely runs on Green Energy
- IGI Airport (Delhi) – India's first 100% Sustainable Airport to run completely on solar & hydropower
- [Maharashtra: CM – Eknath Shinde | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari](#)



**308** On October 13, PM Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of India's 2<sup>nd</sup> Bulk Drug Park in Una and dedicated the Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) Una to the nation, during his visit to Una in Himachal Pradesh. The Prime Minister flagged off the inaugural run of the new Vande Bharat Express from Amb Andaura, Una to New Delhi, and it will be the 4<sup>th</sup> Vande Bharat train to be introduced in India. Una's drug park is built at a cost of over Rs 1900 Cr. India's first bulk drug park was built in Bharuch, Gujarat. Moreover, PM Narendra Modi launched the rural road scheme in Himachal Pradesh called the "Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)-III" for the upgradation of 3,125 km of rural roads. PM Modi also laid the foundation stones of two hydropower projects - 48 MW Chanju-III hydroelectric project and 30 MW Deothal Chanju hydroelectric project, both in Chamba district of Himachal Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Narendra Modi launched/inaugurated:
  - India's 2<sup>nd</sup> Bulk Drug Park (foundation stone) in – Una, HP (India's 1<sup>st</sup> bulk drug park is built in Bharuch, Gujarat)
  - India's 4<sup>th</sup> Vande Bharat Express – from Amb Andaura, Una to New Delhi
  - Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)-III for the upgradation of 3,125 km of rural roads
  - Foundation stone of 48 MW Chanju-III & 30 MW Deothal Chanju hydroelectric projects, both in Chamba, HP
- [Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar](#)

**309.** On October 13, Tamil Nadu emerged as the only State which has achieved the target for 2022 Q1 and Q2 for Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), with 69.57 lakh households provided with tap connections till date. Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat visited Chennai and reviewed the progress of work pertaining to Jal Jeevan Mission for assured potable tap water supply to every rural household by 2024. Of the 1.25 Cr households in Tamil Nadu, 69.57 lakh households have received tap connections till date. The percentage of households (55.63%) with tap connections in Tamil Nadu is higher than the national average of 53.96%. The target set by the Union government for Q1 and Q2 for 2022 was 12.1 lakh tap connections in Tamil Nadu. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Tamil Nadu – the only State to achieve the target for 2022 Q1 and Q2 for Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)
- Tamil Nadu – provided 69.57 lakh households with tap connections (55.63%) | National Average – 53.96%
- [Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi](#)

**310.** On October 14, the President of India Droupadi Murmu inaugurated a supercomputer facility named "Param-Kamrupa" and a laboratory named "SAMEER" (Society for Applied Microwave Electronics Engineering and Research) at IIT Guwahati for the design and development of high power microwave components. She also laid the foundation stones for two zonal institutes of National Institute of Virology (NIV) at Dibrugarh, Assam and Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh. In a separate event, the President flagged off Agartala-Khongsang Janshatabdi Express and Agartala-Kolkata Express from Agartala Railway Station. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Droupadi Murmu – inaugurated a supercomputer facility "Param-Kamrupa" & a laboratory "SAMEER" at IIT Guwahati
- She also laid the foundation stones for 2 zonal institutes of NIV – at Dibrugarh (Assam) & Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh)
- [Director of IIT Guwahati – Dr. T. G. Sitharam](#)





**311.** On October 13, the UNDP partnered with integrated grain commerce platform Arya.ag and Friends of Women's World Banking India (FWWB India) for agri-value chain intervention, enterprise promotion and skilling in agriculture sector. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is implementing "Project Excel" in Jamnagar and Devbhumi Dwaraka districts of Gujarat to improve the incomes of 10,000 farmer households through enterprise promotion, agri-value chain interventions, skilling, employment and social protection. This partnership aims to create a cadre of community resource persons for mentoring and supporting entrepreneurs and promoting individual and group enterprises by December 2023. [{Read more}](#)

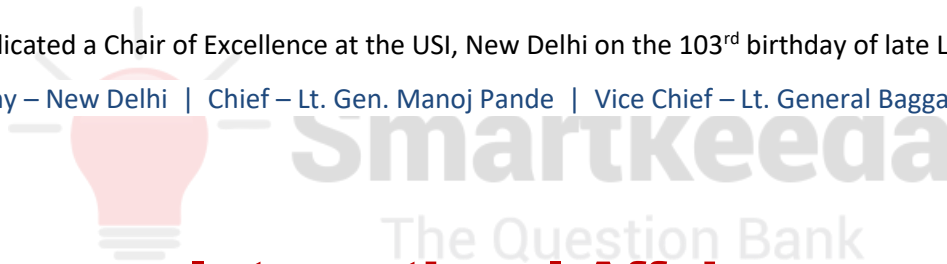
**Key Points:**

- UNDP + Arya.ag + FWWB India = partnership for agri-value chain intervention, enterprise promotion & skilling in Agriculture sector
- UNDP is implementing "Project Excel" in Gujarat's Jamnagar & Devbhumi Dwaraka districts
- HQs of UNDP – New York, US | Administrator – Achim Steiner | Founded in – 1965
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Bhupendra Patel | Governor – Acharya Dev Vrat

**312.** On October 14, the Indian Army has dedicated a Chair of Excellence at the United Service Institution of India (USI), New Delhi, on the 103<sup>rd</sup> birthday of late Lt Gen PS Bhagat, ex-Colonel Commandant of the Bombay Sappers and SIKH LI Regiment. The formal announcement of the establishment of the Chair of Excellence was made by Gen Manoj Pande, Chief of Army Staff. Late Lt Gen PS Bhagat who served as the first General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the re-raised Northern Command was an outstanding professional and a prolific writer. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Indian Army – dedicated a Chair of Excellence at the USI, New Delhi on the 103<sup>rd</sup> birthday of late Lt Gen PS Bhagat
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Lt. Gen. Manoj Pande | Vice Chief – Lt. General Baggavalli Somashekar Raj



## **International Affairs**

**313.** On October 12, Israel announced a "historic deal" with Lebanon, aimed at resolving a long-running maritime border dispute over Mediterranean waters. The draft agreement, floated by US envoy Amos J Hochstein, aims to settle Israel and Lebanon's competing claims over offshore gas fields in the region. This land border is currently patrolled by the United Nations forces. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Israel + Lebanon = a historical deal to resolve a long-running maritime border dispute over Mediterranean waters
- Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel | President – Isaac Herzog | PM – Yair Lapid
- Lebanon – Beirut – Lebanese Pound | President – Michel Aoun | PM – Najib Mikati

**314.** On October 11, the UN General Assembly (UNGA) elected 14 Member States to the UN Human Rights Council (UNHCR), which is the United Nations body responsible for promoting and protecting all human rights around the globe. By secret ballot, the Assembly elected Algeria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Chile, Costa Rica, Georgia, Germany, Kyrgyzstan, Maldives, Morocco, Romania, South Africa, Sudan, and Vietnam to the Geneva-based body. All 14 members will serve three-year terms beginning on 1 January 2023. Created by the UNGA in March 2006, the UNHCR comprises 47 elected Member States.

[{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- UNGA – elected 14 Member States to the UN Human Rights Council (UNHCR) by secret ballot for three-year term
- UNHCR – was created by UNGA in March 2006 and comprises 47 elected Member States
- HQs of UNGA – New York, US | President – Csaba Korosi (Hungary) | Member Countries – 193
- HQs of UNHCR – Geneva, Switzerland | Head – Filippo Grandi

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

**315.** On October 14, Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) granted final approval to HDFC Life Insurance Company Ltd (HDFC Life) to merge Exide Life into the company. In January 2022, HDFC Life acquired 100% stake in Exide Life Insurance Company from its parent firm Exide Industries for Rs 6,687 Cr in order to increase its presence in the south India market. With the transfer of its life insurance business to HDFC Life, Exide Industries acquired 4.12% stake in HDFC Life. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- IRDAI – granted final approval to HDFC Life Insurance to merge Exide Life into the company
- HDFC Life – acquired 100% stake in Exide Life | With this, Exide Industries acquired 4.12% stake in HDFC Life
- HQs of IRDAI – Hyderabad, Telangana | Chairman – Debasish Panda
- HQs of HDFC Life Insurance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Vibha Padalkar

**316.** On October 15, Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio launched a universal health insurance scheme namely “Chief Minister’s Health Insurance Scheme (CHIS)” for the people of the state. The scheme will be implemented in convergence with the Ayushman Bharat scheme of the Centre. The scheme has been categorised into CMHIS Employees and Pensioners (EP), and CMHIS (General). The sum insured for the first category (CMHIS Employees) is Rs 20 lakh per family per annum on a floater basis. The sum insured for CMHIS (General) category will be Rs 5 lakh. The Oriental Insurance Company Ltd (OICL) is the insurance partner and the government will spend Rs 69 Cr as premium for the first year of the scheme. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Nagaland – launched a universal health insurance scheme “Chief Minister’s Health Insurance Scheme (CHIS)”
- Insurance Partner – Oriental Insurance Company Ltd
- Sum insured – Rs. 20 Lakh (for EP category) & Rs. 5 Lakh (For general category)
- Nagaland: Capital – Kohima | CM – Neiphiu Rio | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi (addi. charge)
- HQs of OICL – New Delhi | CMD – Anjan Dey

**317.** On October 13, the SEBI re-constituted its Commodity Derivatives Advisory Committee (CDAC) that examines issues related to contract designs and new products in the segment as well as advises on matters related to delivery mechanism and warehouses. The 16-member CDAC is chaired by retired IAS officer Ashok Dalwani. The SEBI also restructured its Alternative Investment Policy Advisory Committee (AIPAC) which advises the capital markets regulator on a range of issues that impact further development of the Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) space. The 20-member committee is chaired by Infosys co-founder N. R. Narayana Murthy. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- SEBI – re-constituted its ‘Commodity Derivatives Advisory Committee’ chaired by – Ashok Dalwani
- SEBI – restructured ‘Alternative Investment Policy Advisory Committee’ chaired by – N. R. Narayana Murthy
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Madhabi Puri Buch | Established in – 1992



**318.** On October 13, In the revised MoU Guidelines for 2022-23 (FY23) released on October 13, the Department of Public Enterprises, under Ministry of Finance, Government of India, has withdrawn the criteria asking listed central public sector undertakings (CPSEs) to increase their share price over the BSE Sectoral Index. The criteria have been replaced by 'total return to shareholder'. The revised MoU has also decreased marks allocated to achieving export and import targets from 5 to 4 marks each. Among other key criteria, the MoU has now assigned 2 marks out of 100 for procurement from the Government eMarketplace (GeM) portal as percentage of total procurement. Earlier, the failure to procure from GeM portal had a negative marking (minus 2). Moreover, the revised MoU assigns 5 marks for acceptance or rejection of goods and services by CPSEs through the Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS) portal within a stipulated time. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Govt withdrew the criteria asking listed CPSEs to increase their share price over the BSE Sectoral Index
- Marks allocated to achieving Export & Import targets – 4 marks each (from 5)
- Marks as percentage of total procurement from the GeM portal – 2 marks (from -2)
- Marks for acceptance or rejection of goods and services by CPSEs through the TReDS – 5 marks

**319.** On October 13, Bandhan Bank announced that it has roped in Sourav Ganguly as its Brand Ambassador. Fondly called 'Dada' and 'The Maharaja of Indian Cricket', Sourav Ganguly will help amplify the brand message of the Bank and endorse the products and services of the Bank. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Sourav Ganguly – appointed as Brand Ambassador of Bandhan Bank
- HQs of Bandhan Bank – Kolkata, WB | MD & CEO – Chandra Shekhar Ghosh | Tagline – "Aapka Bhala, Sabki Bhalai"

**320.** On October 13, DCB Bank has relaunched its 'Suraksha Fixed Deposit (FD)' scheme that has a tenure of 3 years and offers an excellent mix of savings and safety for depositors as well as their dependents or loved ones. This FD offers higher interest rates and free insurance. For fixed deposits of 700 days or three years, the bank provides an attractive 7.10% annual interest rate, which yields 7.49% pa or 7.84% p.a, respectively. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- DCB Bank – relaunched its 'Suraksha Fixed Deposit (FD)' scheme with a tenure of 3 years (Interest - 7.10%)
- HQs of DCB bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Murali M. Natrajan

## **Defence Affairs**

**321.** Offshore security exercise 'Prasthan' was conducted by Indian Navy in the Krishna Godavari Basin Offshore Development Area (ODA) in Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh during 11-12 October, 2022, under the aegis of Headquarters, Eastern Naval Command. The exercise which is conducted every 6 months aims to integrate the efforts of all maritime stakeholders involved in offshore defence. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Prasthan (Offshore security exercise) – conducted by Indian Navy in Krishna Godavari Basin in Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh
- The exercise was conducted under the aegis of – Headquarters, Eastern Naval Command
- HQs of Indian Navy – Delhi | Chief – Admiral R. Hari Kumar | VC – S. N. Ghormade | Founded in – 26<sup>th</sup> Jan, 1950
- HQs of Eastern Fleet – Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh | FOC Eastern Fleet – Sanjay Bhalla
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati | CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan



**322.** On October 14, India's first ballistic missile nuclear submarine (SSBN), INS Arihant, carried out a successful launch of a Submarine Launched Ballistic Missile (SLBM), validating India's second strike nuclear capability. A defence source said it was not the longer K-4 SLBM but the older SLBM in use. INS Arihant is presently armed with K-15 SLBM with a range of 750 km. K-15 is also known as Sagarika. The missile hit the target area in the Bay of Bengal with very high accuracy. The second indigenous SSBN Arighat, which is in advanced stages of sea trials, is scheduled to be commissioned within this year. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- INS Arihant (India's 1<sup>st</sup> ballistic missile nuclear submarine) – carried out a successful launch of a SLBM
- INS Arihant – presently armed with 'K-15 SLBM' with a range of 750 km ('K-15' is also known as 'Sagarika')
- INS Arighat, the second indigenous SSBN, is in advanced stages of sea trials

**323.** INS Tarkash reached Port Grequhrea, also known as Port Elizabeth in South Africa to participate in the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of "IBSAMAR", a joint multinational maritime exercise among the Navies of India, Brazil and South Africa from 10-12 October, 2022. The Indian Navy was represented by the Teg class guided missile frigate, INS Tarkash, a Chetak helicopter and the personnel from the Marine Commando Force (MARCOS). The previous edition of IBSAMAR (IBSAMAR VI) was conducted off Simons Town, South Africa from 1 to 13 October, 2018. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 7<sup>th</sup> joint multinational maritime exercise "IBSAMAR" – held at Port Grequhrea or Port Elizabeth in South Africa
- Exercise was held among the Navies of – India, Brazil & South Africa | Indian Navy was represented by – INS Tarkash
- [South Africa – Cape Town – South African Rand](#) | [President – Cyril Ramaphosa](#)

**324.** On October 14, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched the "Maa Bharati Ke Sapoot (MBKS)" website for the Armed Forces Battle Casualties Welfare Fund (AFBCWF) during a function at the National War Memorial Complex in New Delhi. The AFBCWF is a Tri-service fund utilised to grant immediate financial assistance of ex-gratia to the next of kin and dependents of Battle Casualties. Bollywood actor Amitabh Bachchan will be the 'Goodwill Ambassador' of this initiative. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Rajnath Singh – launched "Maa Bharati Ke Sapoot" website for the Armed Forces Battle Casualties Welfare Fund
- Goodwill Ambassador of AFBCWF – Amitabh Bachchan
- [HQs of Indian Navy – Delhi](#) | [Chief – Admiral R. Hari Kumar](#) | [VC – S. N. Ghormade](#) | [Founded in – 26<sup>th</sup> Jan, 1950](#)

## Science & Technology

**325.** On October 11, the scientists on the Nekton Maldives Mission have discovered evidence of 'The Trapping Zone' in Maldives. It was described as 'an oasis of oceanic life', 500 metres below the surface. The discovery provides us with critical new knowledge that further supports our conservation commitments and sustainable ocean management, and almost certainly support fisheries and tourism. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Scientists on the Nekton Maldives Mission have discovered evidence of 'The Trapping Zone' in Maldives
- The Trapping Zone – 'an oasis of oceanic life', 500 metres below the surface
- [Maldives – Male – Maldivian rufiyaa](#) | [President – Ibrahim Mohamed Solih](#)



# Appointments & Resignations

**326.** On October 11, Infosys President Ravi Kumar S resigned from the company with immediate effect after working at the information technology firm for almost 20 years. Kumar, who is based out of New York, was the third highest paid executive of the company. After resigning from Infosys, Ravi Kumar, on October 18, joined as the President of Cognizant Americas, effective from January 16, 2023. Kumar succeeds Dharmendra Kumar (DK) Sinha who retired from Cognizant in 2021. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Ravi Kumar S – resigned from the post of President of Infosys
- Ravi Kumar S – joined as the President of Cognizant Americas (succeeding - Dharmendra Kumar)
- HQs of Infosys – Bengaluru, Karnataka | MD & CEO – Salil Parekh | Chairman – Nandan Nilekani | Founded in – 1981

**327.** On October 13, Boulton Audio Private Limited, a company that imports and sells Chinese made electronics products like earphones and smartwatches, roped in actor Saif Ali Khan and cricketer Suryakumar Yadav as its new brand ambassadors. Yadav is the highest run-getter in T20Is this year and is currently ranked 2nd in the ICC T20I rankings. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Boulton Audio Private Limited – roped in actor Saif Ali Khan & cricketer Suryakumar Yadav as its new Brand Ambassadors

**328.** On October 14, Iraqi lawmakers elected Abdul Latif Rashid as the new President of Iraq, marking a crucial step toward forming a new government for the country. Rashid received 162 votes in the second round of voting, defeating Barham Salih who gained 99 votes. Rashid became the fifth President of Iraq since 2003. After the parliament session, Rashid tasked Mohammed Shia' al-Sudani with forming a new government as al-Sudani was nominated by the Coordination Framework (CF) as the Prime Minister-designate. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Abdul Latif Rashid – appointed as the new President (5<sup>th</sup>) of Iraq (defeating - Barham Salih)
- Mohammed Shia' al-Sudani – nominated as next Prime Minister of Iraq *{Dynamic Info}*
- Iraq – Baghdad – Iraqi Dinar | President – Abdul Latif Rashid

**329.** On October 13, Congress leader Shashi Tharoor was appointed as Chairperson of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers. The recommendation came at a time when the diplomat-turned-politician is contesting the Congress presidential election against his party colleague Mallikarjun Kharge. Mr. Tharoor was earlier chairing the parliamentary panel on information technology. M. K. Vishnu Prasad replaced Mr. Tharoor as Chairperson of the Committee on Information Technology. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Shashi Tharoor – appointed as Chairperson of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers
- M. K. Vishnu Prasad – appointed as Chairperson of Committee on Information Technology (succeeding - Shashi Tharoor)





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## Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

**330.** On October 15, Telangana's Hyderabad city won the overall "World Green City Award 2022" and "Living Green for Economic Recovery and Inclusive Growth" award at the "International Association of Horticulture Producers (AIPH) World Green City Awards 2022" held in Jeju, South Korea. Hyderabad is the only Indian city that was selected and it is a matter of pride for Telangana and India that Hyderabad has won not only the category award but the overall 'World Green City 2022' award, the best across all 6 categories. Hyderabad beat cities like Paris, Mexico City, Montreal, Fortaleza and Bogota to be adjudged the grand winner. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Hyderabad – won the overall "World Green City Award 2022" of AIPH across all 6 categories – in Jeju, South Korea
- Hyderabad – also won the "Living Green for Economic Recovery and Inclusive Growth" award
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan

## Schemes & Initiatives

**331.** On October 10, Himachal Pradesh government started a new scheme named "HIMCAD" to provide irrigation facilities to farmers of the state. According to latest data, about 80% of the agricultural area of Himachal Pradesh is rain-fed. The scheme will provide end-to-end connectivity of farmers' fields for better water conservation, crop diversification and integrated farming. Under the scheme, it is planned to provide command area development activities to 23,344 hectares of cultivable command area by March 2024. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- "HIMCAD" scheme – launched by Himachal Pradesh to provide irrigation facilities to farmers of the state
- Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar

## Important Days & Dates

**332.** "World Standards Day", also known as "International Standards Day" is observed on 14 October annually to spread awareness about the importance of standardisation to the global economy. In 2022, the theme is "Shared Vision For a Better World". Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is the national standards body in India. In 1970, the first World Standards Day was formally inaugurated by Faruk Sunter, President (at that time) of the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO). [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- October 14 – World Standards Day or International Standards Day – by ISO (since 1970)
- 2022's Theme – "Shared Vision For a Better World"
- HQs of ISO – Geneva, Switzerland | President – Ulrika Francke
- HQs of BIS – Manek Bhawan, Old Delhi | Director General – Pramod Kumar Tiwari



**333.** October 15 is marked as Global Handwashing Day, with the aim of increasing awareness and understanding about the importance of handwashing with soap as an effective and affordable way to prevent diseases and save lives. The year 2022's theme, "Unite for Universal Hand Hygiene", calls on all of society to work together to scale up hand hygiene. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- October 15 – Global Handwashing Day
- 2022's Theme – "Unite for Universal Hand Hygiene"

**334.** International Day of Rural Women is celebrated on 15 October every year, and this day is dedicated to the millions of women who live in remote, rural areas. The day focuses on gender equality and women empowerment in rural areas. In 2022, the theme of the day is "Rural Women, Key for a World Free from Hunger and Poverty". The United Nations declared to observe this day on 18 December, 2007. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- October 15 – International Day of Rural Women
- 2022's Theme – "Rural Women, Key for a World Free from Hunger and Poverty"

**335.** October 15 is observed as "World Students' Day" in India every year. World Students Day is celebrated in honour of former Indian President Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam to acknowledge his efforts towards education and students. He was often regarded as the "People's President" during his tenure. He was also awarded India's highest civilian honor or the Bharat Ratna. World Students' Day, despite the name, is only observed in India. The theme for World Students' Day 2022 is yet to be announced. For 2021, the theme was "Learning for People, Planet, Prosperity, and Peace". World Students Day is a day which has not been officially declared by the United Nations. The world observes "International Students' Day" on November 17 as a celebration of the multiculturalism of their students, particularly international students studying away from their homeland. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- October 15 – World Students' Day (only observed in India)
- It is observed in honour of former Indian President Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, also called as "People's President"
- November 17 – International Students' Day (celebrated worldwide)

**336.** World Egg Day is celebrated to acknowledge the power of the egg on the second Friday in October every year. This year, the day falls on October 14. World Egg Day was first observed in Vienna in 1996. In 2022, theme of the day is "Eggs for a Better Life". [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- October 14 (2<sup>nd</sup> Friday) – World Egg Day (since 1996)
- 2022's Theme – "Eggs for a Better Life"

**337.** The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has declared October 12 to be observed as the first ever 'World Sloth Bear Day'. The sloth bear is a unique bear species found mainly in India. It is listed as 'Vulnerable' on the IUCN Red List. Daroji Sloth Bear Sanctuary, Asia's first Sloth Bear Sanctuary, is located in Ballari district of Karnataka. Agra Bear Rescue Facility in Uttar Pradesh is the world's largest Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre for sloth bears that was established by Wildlife SOS in collaboration with Uttar Pradesh Forest Department in 1999. The sloth bear (*Melursus ursinus*) is one of the eight bear species found across the globe. [{Read more}](#)





**Key Points:**

- October 12 – 1<sup>st</sup> ever ‘World Sloth Bear Day’ (by IUCN)
- Sloth Bear (*Melursus ursinus*) – listed as ‘Vulnerable’ on the IUCN Red List
- Asia’s first Sloth Bear Sanctuary – located in Ballari district, Karnataka
- World’s largest Rescue & Rehabilitation Centre for sloth bears – Agra Bear Rescue Facility, Uttar Pradesh
- HQs of IUCN – Gland, Switzerland | President – Xinsheng Zhang | CEO – Bruno Oberle | Founded in – 1948

**338.** The 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the “International E-Waste Day” was observed on October 14, 2022 as an opportunity to reflect on the impacts of e-waste. This year’s slogan is “Recycle it all, No Matter How Small!”. ‘Hoarding of small, unused, dead or broken plug-in and battery-operated products’ is the focus of this year’s International E-Waste Day. Roughly 5.3 billion mobile/smartphones will drop out of use this year, according to non-profit Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Forum, which started observing International E-Waste Day in 2018. WEEE Forum is an international association of 46 e-waste producer responsibility organisations. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- October 14 – 5<sup>th</sup> “International E-Waste Day” (since 2018)
- 2022’s slogan – “Recycle it all, No Matter How Small!”
- 2022’s Focus – ‘Hoarding of small, unused, dead or broken plug-in and battery-operated products’



## **Books & Authors**

**339.** “The Philosophy of Modern Song” is Bob Dylan’s first book of new writing since 2004’s “Chronicles: Volume One” and since winning the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2016. Dylan, who began working on the book in 2010, offers his extraordinary insight into the nature of popular music. He writes over sixty essays focusing on songs by other artists. The new book was scheduled to be launched in November 2022.

**Key Points:**

- “The Philosophy of Modern Song” book – authored by Bob Dylan
- “Chronicles: Volume One” book – authored by Bob Dylan

## **Meetings, Conferences & Summits**

**340.** On October 18, PM Narendra Modi addressed the 90<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of Interpol held in New Delhi’s Pragati Maidan. The meeting was attended by delegations from 195 INTERPOL member countries comprising of Ministers, Police Chiefs of countries, Heads of National Central Bureaus and Senior police officers. The General Assembly is INTERPOL’s supreme governing body and meets once a year to take key decisions. The INTERPOL General Assembly meeting took place in India after a gap of about 25 years, as it was last held in 1997. Motifs inspired by the chariot wheels of the 13th-century architectural marvel Konark Sun Temple was the logo of 90<sup>th</sup> Interpol General Assembly. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – addressed the 90<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of Interpol held in Pragati Maidan, New Delhi
- The INTERPOL General Assembly meeting took place in India after 25 years (last held in 1997)
- Logo of 90<sup>th</sup> Interpol General Assembly was inspired by chariot wheels of the 'Konark Sun Temple'
- HQs of Interpol – Lyon, France | President – Ahmed Naser Al-Raisi | Founded on – Sep 7, 1923

## Ranks, Reports & Surveys

**341.** On October 13, Minister of Commerce & Industry, Piyush Goyal, released the 4<sup>th</sup> "LEADS (Logistics Ease Across Different States) 2022" report. The report was prepared by the Logistics Division of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, with support from Ernst & Young (EY). Andhra Pradesh, Assam and Gujarat are among the 15 States and UTs categorised as achievers in the logistics index chart 2022, according to the LEADS report released by the Commerce & Industry Ministry on October 13, 2022. The index is an indicator of the efficiency of logistical services necessary for promoting exports and economic growth. Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Puducherry, Sikkim and Tripura are the other States categorised as fast movers in the ranking. The first logistics report was released in 2018. Mr. Goyal released this report while addressing the National Workshop on PM GatiShakti organised to mark the first anniversary of National Master Plan, in New Delhi. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- 4<sup>th</sup> "LEADS (Logistics Ease Across Different States) 2022" report – prepared by Logistics Division of the DPIIT
- The report was released by – Ministry of Commerce & Industry (with support from EY)
- Andhra Pradesh, Assam & Gujarat – were among the 15 States & UTs categorised as 'achievers'
- Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Puducherry, Sikkim & Tripura – categorised as 'fast movers'
- HQs of DPIIT – New Delhi | DPIIT works under – Ministry of Commerce & Industry
- Ministry of Commerce & Industry: Piyush Goyal | Constituency – Maharashtra
- MoS in Ministry of Commerce & Industry: Anupriya Singh Patel & Som Parkash

**342.** The 11<sup>th</sup> volume of the Report of the Official Language Committee headed by Home Minister Amit Shah, which was submitted to President Droupadi Murmu in September, has been opposed by the Chief Ministers of Tamil Nadu and Kerala, who have described the Report as an attempt by the Union government to impose Hindi on non-Hindi-speaking states. The Committee of Parliament on Official Language was set up in 1976 under Section 4 of "The Official Languages Act, 1963". [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Official Language Committee is headed by – Amit Shah
- 11<sup>th</sup> volume of report of the committee – has been opposed by the Chief Ministers of Tamil Nadu & Kerala
- Committee of Parliament on Official Language was set up in – 1976 under Section 4 of "Official Languages Act, 1963"
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan



## Amount & Agreements

**343.** On October 11, World Bank extended an unconditional loan of \$250 million to the “Supporting Andhra’s Learning Transformation (SALT)” project of Andhra Pradesh in appreciation of the path-breaking reforms implemented by the State government. Besides, the facilities in schools were vastly improved under the “Nadu-Nedu” programme to provide an atmosphere that was conducive for teaching and learning. The SALT is the first project in the school education sector to be funded by the World Bank without any precondition. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- World Bank – extended an unconditional loan of \$250 million to the ‘SALT’ project of Andhra Pradesh
- SALT – Supporting Andhra’s Learning Transformation (first project in education sector to be funded by World Bank)
- “Nadu-Nedu” Programme – started by Andhra Pradesh to provide a conducive atmosphere for teaching & learning
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati | CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan
- HQs of World Bank – Washington D.C., US | Members – 189 | President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant

## MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

**344.** On October 12, the Textiles Committee (TC) of Government of India entered into a Cooperation Agreement with United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on “Mainstreaming Sustainability & Circularity in the Textiles Sector” to minimize the negative environmental impacts of the Indian textile industry by promoting sustainable practices. The Cooperation Agreement was exchanged between the Secretary of Textiles Committee Ajit B Chavan and Head of UNEP India Country Office Atul Bagai. A one-day Stakeholders Consultation on “Sustainability in the Textile Value Chain (TVC) in India” was also organized on October 7 in New Delhi. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Textiles Committee + UNEP = a cooperation agreement on “Mainstreaming Sustainability & Circularity in Textiles Sector”
- Stakeholders Consultation on “Sustainability in the Textile Value Chain (TVC) in India” – organized in New Delhi
- HQs of UNEP – Nairobi, Kenya | Executive Director – Inger Andersen | Founded in – 1972
- Head of UNEP India – Atul Bagai

**345.** On October 13, Indian Navy and IIM Nagpur signed an MoU to explore Opportunities to train, up-skill and re-skill Armed Forces Personnel of Indian Navy, in emerging areas of Business Management, Financial Management, Block Chain, Project Management, Strategic Management, Digital Marketing, Supply chain, Logistic management and research. This will facilitate career enhancement/ progression of Serving Personnel and up skill retiring officers to meet industry requirement. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Indian Navy + IIM Nagpur = an MoU to train, up-skill and re-skill Armed Forces Personnel of Indian Navy
- HQs of Indian Navy – Delhi | Chief – Admiral R. Hari Kumar | VC – S. N. Ghormade | Founded in – 26<sup>th</sup> Jan, 1950



**346.** On October 12, Coal India Limited (CIL) signed agreements with three public sector enterprises - Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL), Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) and GAIL (India) Ltd, in order to set up 4 surface gasification projects. Through gasification process, coal is converted into syngas, a fuel gas which can be used in downstream production of value added chemicals. The government aims to achieve 100 million tonnes of coal gasification in the next 8 years by 2030 in order to reduce the import of crude oil. This 100 MT coal gasification will happen in three phases. In the first phase from 2020-2024, 4 million tonnes (MT) of coal will be gasified which will involve an investment of around Rs 20,000 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- CIL – signed agreements with BHEL, IOCL & GAIL to set up 4 surface gasification projects to reduce import of crude oil
- Aim is to achieve 100 million tonnes of coal gasification by 2030 (in 3 phases)
- HQs of CIL – Kolkata, West Bengal | CMD – Pramod Agrawal

**347.** On October 14, National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd (NHIDCL), a central public sector enterprise under the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, signed an MoU with IIT Patna for cooperation in innovative solutions for highways construction. The MoU was signed by IIT Patna Director TN Singh and Managing Director of NHIDCL Chanchal Kumar. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NHIDCL + IIT Patna = an MoU for cooperation in innovative solutions for Highways Construction
- HQs of NHIDCL – New Delhi | MD – Chanchal Kumar
- Director of IIT Patna – T. N. Singh

**348.** On October 14, the Coal India Limited (CIL) signed an MoU worth Rs 5,400 Cr with Rajasthan Vidyut Utpadan Nigam limited (RVUNL) for setting up a 1190 MW solar power plant in Bikaner district of Rajasthan. The plant will be installed in a 2000 MW Solar Park being developed by RVUNL in Poogal area of Bikaner. Rajasthan stands first in India by setting up 14,825 MW solar power projects. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- CIL + Rajasthan Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd = an MoU for setting up a 1190 MW solar power plant in Bikaner, Rajasthan
- Rajasthan – stands first in India by setting up 14,825 MW solar power projects
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra
- HQs of CIL – Kolkata, West Bengal | CMD – Pramod Agrawal

**349.** On October 15, Indian Army signed an MoU with 11 banks for providing banking facilities to Agniveers on enrollment. The 11 banks include State Bank of India, Punjab National Bank, Bank of Baroda, IDBI Bank, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, Axis Bank, Yes Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, IDFC First Bank and Bandhan Bank. The features and benefits offered under Agniveer salary package are similar to defence salary package. The first batch of Agniveers under the 'Agnipath Scheme' will join training centres by January 2023. The government later extended the upper age limit to 23 years for recruitment in 2022 under the 'Agnipath Scheme'. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Indian Army – signed an MoU with 11 banks for providing banking facilities to Agniveers on enrollment
- Upper age limit for recruitment under 'Agnipath Scheme' – 23 years
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Lt. Gen. Manoj Pande | Vice Chief – Lt. General Baggavalli Somashekar Raj



**350.** On October 14, the International Cricket Council (ICC) entered into a partnership with UNICEF to empower women and girls and promote inclusion and gender equality through cricket. The partnership will be activated in the upcoming T20 World Cup in Australia where all 16 nations will hold 'Cricket 4 Good Coaching Clinics' with up to 40 school children taking part in each one. The players will introduce the children to 'Cricket 4 Good', a cricket development curriculum. The partnership will continue throughout the ICC events till the men's ODI World Cup in India in October-November 2023. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ICC + UNICEF = partnership to empower women & girls and promote inclusion & gender equality through cricket
- The partnership was activated in the T20 World Cup in Australia
- The partnership will continue throughout the ICC events till the men's ODI World Cup in India in 2023
- HQs of ICC – Dubai, UAE | Chairman – Greg Barclay | CEO – Geoff Allardice | Members – 108 countries
- HQs of UNICEF – New York, US | Executive Director – Catherine Russell | Established in – 1946





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