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

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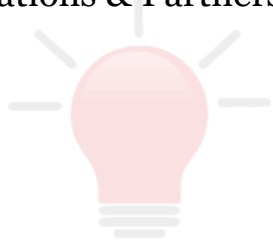
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National & States Affairs

51. On February 3, PM Narendra Modi participated in the “Krishnaguru Eknaam Akhanda Kirtan for World Peace” held at Krishnaguru Sevashram at Barpeta, Assam via video conferencing. The Prime Minister also addressed the devotees of Krishnaguru Sevashram. Paramguru Krishnaguru Ishwar established the Krishnaguru Sevashram in the year 1974, at village Nasatra, Barpeta in Assam. Krishnaguru Eknaam Akhanda Kirtan for World Peace is a month-long kirtan being held from 6th January at Krishnaguru Sevashram. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Narendra Modi – participated in the “Krishnaguru Eknaam Akhanda Kirtan for World Peace” virtually
- Krishnaguru Sevashram – established in 1974, at village Nasatra, Barpeta in Assam
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Gulab Chand Kataria

52. On February 3, Kerala government announced a scheme of Rs 200 Crore for developing Green Hydrogen Hubs at Trivandrum and Kochi over the next 2 years. Kerala aims to become a 100% renewable energy dependent state by 2040 and a net carbon neutral state by 2050. An amount of Rs 10 crore is earmarked for an industrial park manufacturing EV batteries and allied equipment. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Kerala – announced Rs 200 Cr scheme for developing Green Hydrogen Hubs at Trivandrum & Kochi
- Kerala aims to become 100% renewable energy dependent by 2040 & net carbon neutral by 2050
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

53. Under the aegis of “Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav”, the Ministry of Development of the North Eastern Region (MDoNER) organized 1-hour Introductory Session on Meditation and Mental Health under “Har Ghar Dhyam” campaign for their officers/staff at Vigyan Bhawan Annexe, New Delhi. The Session was presided by Ms. Arunima Sinha and Mr. Suyash Raj Shivam from the Art of Living. The “Har Ghar Dhyam” campaign was launched by Ministry of Culture. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- MDoNER – organized 1-hour Introductory Session on Meditation & Mental Health under “Har Ghar Dhyam” campaign
- “Har Ghar Dhyam” campaign – launched by Ministry of Culture
- Minister of Culture: G. Kishan Reddy | Constituency – Secunderabad, Telangana
- MoS in Minister of Culture: Arjun Ram Meghwal & Meenakshi Lekhi

54. On February 3, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced an allocation of Rs 242 Crore to the India Centre for Lab Grown Diamonds (InCent-LGD) at IIT Madras for the development of laboratory-grown diamonds in India. The research will be focused on driving indigenisation of the Lab-grown diamonds (LGD) manufacturing process and that the technology will be ready by 2028. LGD is a technology and innovation-driven emerging sector with high employment potential. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Nirmala Sitharaman – allocated Rs 242 Cr to InCent-LGD at IIT Madras for development of Lab-Grown Diamonds
- The LGD technology will be ready by 2028
- Director of IIT Madras – V. Kamakoti



55. On February 6, the Supreme Court got 5 new judges, increasing its judicial strength to 32. The five new judges are - Rajasthan HC Chief Justice Pankaj Mithal; Patna HC Chief Justice Sanjay Karol; Manipur HC Chief Justice P.V. Sanjay Kumar; Patna HC judge Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah; and Allahabad HC judge Justice Manoj Misra. The court is now just two short of its sanctioned strength of 34 judges. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- The five new judges appointed to the Supreme court:
 - Rajasthan HC Chief Justice Pankaj Mithal
 - Patna HC Chief Justice Sanjay Karol
 - Manipur HC Chief Justice P.V. Sanjay Kumar
 - Patna HC judge Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah
 - Allahabad HC judge Justice Manoj Misra
- With this total strength of SC – 32 | Total Sanctioned strength – 34
- [Present CJI of Supreme Court – Justice Dhananjaya Y. Chandrachud \(50th\) | Established on – Jan 28, 1950](#)

56. On February 4, Union Home Minister Amit Shah laid the foundation stone of a Rs 450 Crore nano urea plant and township of the Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative (IFFCO) in Jharkhand's Deoghar. This will be India's 5th nano urea plant. PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the world's first nano urea plant in Gujarat last year. Nano urea improves crop productivity, soil health, and nutritional quality of produce and aims to address the imbalanced and excessive use of conventional urea. The plant will be constructed at a cost of Rs 300 crore and the township at a cost of Rs 150 crore. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Amit Shah – laid the foundation stone of (India's 5th) a nano urea plant (300 Cr) & township of the IFFCO (150 Cr)
- World's first nano urea plant – was launched in Gujarat in 2022
- [Jharkhand: Capital – Ranchi | CM – Hemant Soren | Governor – C. P. Radhakrishnan](#)
- [HQs of IFFCO – New Delhi | Chairman – Dileep Sanghani](#)

57. On February 3, Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd (MCL), the premier CPSE under the Ministry of Coal, introduced drone technology in coal mines by launching a web-based portal VIHANGAM along with a drone and ground control system. The portal allows an authorised person to access real time drone video from the mine through a dedicated 40 Mbps internet lease line near the mines. MCL is making use of drone technology for environmental monitoring, volume measurement and photogrammetric mapping of mine for digitalization of mining process. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- MCL – introduced drone technology in coal mines through a web-based portal VIHANGAM
- MCL – launched a drone & ground control system along with the portal
- [Ministry of Coal & Ministry of Mines: Pralhad Joshi | Constituency – Dharwad, Karnataka](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Coal & Ministry of Mines: Danve Raosaheb Dadarao](#)

58. On February 5, 'Operation AAAG', a Statewide drive, was undertaken by the Kerala police to prevent antisocial activities. A total of 333 people have been arrested in 239 cases registered from across the capital district. 113 people were taken into custody in the city. District Police Chief (Thiruvananthapuram City) C.H. Nagaraju, also launched the night-time patrolling by the Pink Police to prevent attacks against women and children. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- Kerala police – started ‘Operation AAAG’ to prevent antisocial activities
- The night-time patrolling has also been launched by Pink Police to prevent attacks against women & children
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

59. Union Tourism Minister G. Kishan Reddy launched the “Visit India Year 2023” campaign to encourage inbound travel to the country. The minister also launched a logo of the campaign that draws inspiration from visual representation of ‘namaste’. The logo represents a “microcosm of the countless stories India holds”, from heritage to gastronomy to our art and our rich wildlife, and its imbibes the country’s philosophy of ‘Atithi Devo Bhava’. The Visit India Year 2023 campaign is an initiative of the Tourism Ministry. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- Tourism Ministry – launched “Visit India Year 2023” campaign to encourage inbound travel
- He also launched logo of campaign which is similar to ‘namaste’ & imbibes India’s philosophy of ‘Atithi Devo Bhava’
- Ministry of Tourism: G. Kishan Reddy | Constituency – Secunderabad, Telangana
- MoS in Ministry of Tourism: Shripad Yesso Naik & Ajay Bhatt

60. On February 6, the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd (IRCTC) started WhatsApp food delivery facility through an app called, ‘Zoop’. Through this app, passengers travelling in Indian Railways can now order food online through WhatsApp while undertaking a journey by using their PNR number. Approximately 50,000 meals are served in a day to customers through IRCTC’s e-catering services enabled through its website as well as app. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- IRCTC – started WhatsApp food delivery facility through an app – ‘Zoop’
- HQs of IRCTC – New Delhi | Chairman & MD – Rajni Hasija (addi. Charge)

61. On February 3, Bhupender Yadav, Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change launched the ‘Save Wetlands Campaign’ in the presence of Chief Minister of Goa. This campaign is structured on a “whole of society” approach for wetlands conservation, enabling affirmative actions for wetlands conservation at all levels of the society and involving all strata of the society. Two publications were also released during the occasion, ‘India’s 75 Amrit Dharohar - India’s Ramsar Sites Factbook’ and ‘Managing Climate Risks in Wetlands - A Practitioner’s Guide’. On this occasion, the Union Environment Minister also unfurled the National Flag and unveiled the signboard of Nanda Lake, a Ramsar site located in Goa. Moreover, a ‘Regional Consultative Workshop for Restoration and Integrated Management of Wetlands’ was held at Goa on February 3, 2023. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Bhupender Yadav – launched ‘Save Wetlands Campaign’ in Goa structured on “whole of society” approach
- He also released two publications:
 - India’s 75 Amrit Dharohar - India’s Ramsar Sites Factbook
 - Managing Climate Risks in Wetlands - A Practitioner’s Guide
- Nanda Lake – a Ramsar site located in Goa
- ‘Regional Consultative Workshop for Restoration & Integrated Management of Wetlands’ held in – Goa

62. On February 3, Chief Justice of Singapore Sundaresh Menon sat on the Supreme Court of India bench headed by CJI D Y Chandrachud. Justice Menon, who has been serving as the fourth chief justice of Singapore since 2012, was in India to take part as the chief guest of a function to be held to commemorate the 73rd anniversary of the establishment of the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court of India came into existence on January 28, 1950, two days after India became Republic. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- Supreme Court – commemorate the 73rd anniversary of establishment of Supreme Court
- Sundaresh Menon (Chief Justice of Singapore) – attended the event as the chief guest
- Supreme Court of India – came into existence on January 28, 1950
- Present CJI of Supreme Court – Justice Dhananjaya Y. Chandrachud (50th) | Established on – Jan 28, 1950

63. Maharashtra topped the list in sales of Electric Vehicles across all segments which have availed of the FAME II subsidy, followed by Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Rajasthan. The top five states collectively account for over 56% of the 0.85 million electric vehicles bought through the scheme. Government has approved Phase-II of FAME Scheme with an outlay of Rs. 10,000 Crore for a period of 3 years commencing from 1st April 2019. Ministry of Heavy Industries is the implementing agency of this scheme. It aims at supporting the electrification of public and shared transportation: around 7,000 electric and hybrid buses, 500,000 lakh electric three wheelers, 55,000 electric four wheeler passenger cars, and 1 million electric two wheelers. [{Read more}](#)

THE PECKING ORDER			
State	Total EV sales where FAME II was availed	Two-wheeler EV sales based on FAME II subsidy	Motorvehicle registration share as on March 19 (%)
Maharashtra	143,986 (16.8)	139,109	12
Karnataka	120,070 (14.05)*	112,997	7.1
Tamil Nadu	82,955 (9.71)	80,784	10.2
Gujarat	72,302 (8.46)	70,778	8.5
Rajasthan	60,584 (7.09)	58,185	5.9
Uttar Pradesh	39,572 (4.6)	11,707	11
Kerala	39,379 (4.6)	36,313	4.4

Smart Points:

- Maharashtra – topped in sales of Electric Vehicles across all segments which have availed of FAME II subsidy
- MH is followed by – Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Rajasthan
- The top 5 states account for over 56% of the 0.85 million electric vehicles bought through scheme
- Government approved Phase-II of FAME Scheme with Rs. 10,000 Cr outlay for 3 years (from 1st April 2019)
- Implementing agency of the scheme – Ministry of Heavy Industries
- Ministry of Heavy Industries: Mahendra Nath Pandey | Constituency – Chandauli, Uttar Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Heavy Industries: Krishan Pal

64. Indian Railways has come up with a special tour Garvi Gujarat to showcase the cultural and Spiritual Heritage of Vibrant Gujarat State by running its ‘Bharat Gaurav Deluxe AC Tourist Train’. This special tourist train, operated by IRCTC, will depart on 28 February from Safdarjung railway station in Delhi on the eight-day tour. This train tour package has been designed on the lines of government of India scheme of “Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat” conceptualized on the life of Great Freedom Fighter Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel. The entire train journey will cover a distance of 3,500 km during the course of the 8-days. Bharat Gaurav Tourist Train launch is also in line with the government of India initiative “Dekho Apna Desh” to promote domestic tourism. The price range starts from ₹52,250 per person in AC 2 Tier, ₹67,140 per person for AC 1 (cabin) and ₹77,400 per person for AC 1 (Coupe). [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- Garvi Gujarat – a special tour initiated by Indian Railways through ‘Bharat Gaurav Deluxe AC Tourist Train’
- The train is operated by IRCTC & entire train journey will cover 3,500 km during in 8-days tour
- HQs of IRCTC – New Delhi | Chairman & MD – Rajni Hasija (addi. Charge)
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Bhupendra Patel | Governor – Acharya Dev Vrat

65. On February 6, PM Narendra Modi inaugurated “India Energy Week (IEW) 2023” in Bengaluru, Karnataka under the theme of “Growth, Collaboration, Transition”. Held between February 6-8, IEW was aimed to showcase India's rising prowess as an energy transition powerhouse. During the programme, Prime Minister participated in a roundtable interaction with global oil and gas CEOs and also launched multiple initiatives in the field of green energy. The ethanol blending programme has been a key focus area of the government to achieve self-reliance in the field of energy. The government aims to achieve a complete 20% blending of ethanol by 2025. Moreover, Prime Minister launched the uniforms under ‘Unbottled’ initiative of Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL). Prime Minister inaugurated the HAL Helicopter Factory in Tumakuru, Karnataka. This helicopter factory is Asia’s largest helicopter manufacturing facility and will initially produce Light Utility Helicopters (LUH). Prime Minister laid the foundation stones of two Jal Jeevan Mission projects at Tiptur and Chikkanayakanahalli in Tumakuru. The Tiptur Multi-Village Drinking Water Supply Project will be built at a cost of over Rs 430 Crore. Moreover, PM Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of South India’s 1st Industrial Corridor Project, “Tumakuru Industrial Township project and the Industrial Corridor Programme”. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- February 6-8 – ‘India Energy Week 2023’ inaugurated by PM Modi in Bengaluru, Karnataka
- Theme – “Growth, Collaboration, Transition”
- PM Modi also launched the following initiatives:
 - Asia’s largest helicopter manufacturing facility in Tumakuru, Karnataka
 - The uniforms under ‘Unbottled’ initiative of IOCL
 - Foundation stones of two Jal Jeevan Mission projects at Tiptur & Chikkanayakanahalli in Tumakuru
 - “Tumakuru Industrial Township project & Industrial Corridor Program”, South India’s 1st Industrial Corridor Project

66. On February 2, the Central Government’s “Deep Ocean Mission”, which aims to explore marine biodiversity for the sustainable use of resources, has been allocated Rs 600 Crore in the Union Budget 2023-2024. The government has doubled the allocation from last year’s revised fund of Rs 300 Crore. Oceans are storehouses of food, energy, minerals and medicines, according to the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), which oversees the mission. In 2016, India was awarded a 15-year contract to explore an area of 75,000 square kilometres for mining polymetallic nodules from the Central Indian Ocean Basin at depths of 5,000-6,000 metres. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- “Deep Ocean Mission” – has been allocated Rs 600 Cr in the Union Budget 2023-24
- Ministry of Earth Sciences – oversees the “Deep Ocean Mission” which aims to explore marine biodiversity
- MoS I/C in Ministry of Earth Sciences: Dr. Jitendra Singh | Constituency – Udhampur, J&K

67. On February 4, Deputy chief minister Tejashwi Prasad Yadav inaugurated a floating restaurant “MV Ganga Vihar” at NIT Ghat. Tourists can now cruise down the Ganga in this floating restaurant operated by the Bihar State Tourism Development Corporation (BSTDC). First launched in 2009, the ship was sent to Kolkata for repair and beautification in 2017 due to technical and security issues. It has been handed over to a private firm for operation for a period of 15 years. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- Tejashwi Prasad Yadav – inaugurated a floating restaurant “MV Ganga Vihar” at NIT Ghat
- The restaurant is operated by – Bihar State Tourism Development Corporation (BSTDC)
- Bihar: Capital – Patna | CM – Nitish Kumar | Governor – Rajendra Vishwanath Arleka

68. The South Central Railway (SCR) completed the Vikarabad-Parli Vaijnath electrification project. The final 63.75km stretch of the project between Latur road and Parli Vaijnath in Marathwada was commissioned, marking the completion of the project. Indian Railways aims to achieve 100% electrification by 2024. The Indian Railways has been allocated a capital outlay of Rs 2.4 lakh Cr in the Union Budget 2023-24. Moreover, Ministry of Railways accorded in principle approval for the Pune-Nashik High-Speed Rail Project. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- South Central Railway (SCR) – completed Vikarabad-Parli Vaijnath electrification project
- Indian Railways’ target is to achieve 100% electrification by 2024
- Indian Railways – has been allocated a capital outlay of Rs 2.4 lakh Cr in the Union Budget 2023-24
- Ministry of Railways: Ashwini Vaishnaw | Constituency – Odisha
- MoS in Ministry of Railways: Danve Raosaheb Dadarao & Darshana Vikram Jardos

International Affairs

69. On February 3, India handed over the Instrument of Ratification to Brazil as it became a full member of the International Solar Alliance. The ISA is an action-oriented, collaborative platform for enhanced solar energy technology deployment in member nations to ensure energy security and drive the energy transition. Moreover, India also welcomed Congo to the International Solar Alliance. Ambassador Raymond Serge Bale of the Republic of Congo signed the Framework Agreement. The ISA’s mission is to unlock USD 1 trillion of investments in solar by 2030 while reducing the cost of the technology and its financing. The International Solar Alliance is an international organisation with 109 member and signatory countries. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Brazil (91st) – became a full member of the International Solar Alliance
- ISA’s mission is to unlock \$1 trillion of investments in solar by 2030
- ISA’s latest Signatory Countries: 114th – New Zealand | 113th – Republic of Congo | 112th – Spain
- ISA’s latest Member Countries: 92nd – Cyprus | 91st – Brazil | 90th – USA
- HQs of ISA – Gurugram, Haryana | DG – Ajay Mathur | Signatory Countries – 114 | Member countries – 92



70. On February 2, India has handed over to Kenya 100 nautical charts covering the general coastal area around the Lamu Archipelago (near Kenya's northern coast), following a joint survey of the area by the Navies of the two countries. The charts were handed over by Indian High Commissioner to Kenya, Namgya Khampa. The survey was carried out under the aegis of the National Hydrography Office that functions under the Indian Navy at a total cost of about US\$ 1.8 Million. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- India – handed over 100 nautical charts covering the general coastal area around the Lamu Archipelago to Kenya
- Navies of India and Kenya carried out a survey under the aegis of the National Hydrography Office
- Kenya – Nairobi – Kenyan Shilling | President – William Samoei Ruto
- Chief Hydrographer of India – Vice Admiral Adhir Arora

Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

71. On February 4, the SEBI strengthened the framework for Green Bonds by introducing the concept of 'Blue' and 'Yellow' bonds as new modes of sustainable finance. Blue bonds relate to water management and marine sector, while yellow bonds pertain to solar energy. These are sub-categories of green debt securities. For this, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) amended norms governing issue and listing of non-convertible securities. Indian companies raised nearly \$7 billion through ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) and green bonds in 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- SEBI – introduced 'Blue' & 'Yellow' bonds as new modes of sustainable finance to strengthen Green Bonds framework
- Blue bonds – relate to water management and marine sector
- Yellow bonds – related to Solar Energy
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Madhabi Puri Buch | Established in – 1992

72. The number of payment acceptance devices, including physical and digital, deployed under the Payments Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF) Scheme as on December 31, 2022, stood at about 1.87 crore, as per RBI's latest status update. Physical devices include PoS, mPoS (mobile PoS), GPRS (General Packet Radio Service), PSTN (Public Switched Telephone Network), etc. and digital devices include Inter-operable QR code-based payments such as UPI QR, Bharat QR, etc. The PIDF Scheme, launched by the RBI from January 1, 2021, subsidises the deployment of Points of Sale (PoS) infrastructure in tier-3 to tier-6 centres and northeastern states of the country. The PIDF corpus stood at ₹788.20 crore as on December 31, 2022. Contribution to PIDF is made by the RBI, authorised card networks and card issuing banks. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- As per RBI Report, as on December 31, 2022:
- Payment acceptance devices under the PIDF Scheme stood at 1.87 Cr
- The PIDF corpus stood at ₹788.20 Cr
- Physical devices: PoS, mPoS, GPRS, PSTN etc. | Digital devices: UPI QR, Bharat QR, etc.
- RBI launched the PIDF Scheme from January 1, 2021 to subsidises deployment of PoS infrastructure
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established on – 1st April, 1935
- Total Deputy Governors (4) – Mahesh Kumar Jain | T. Rabi Sankar | Michael D. Patra | M. Rajeshwar Rao



73. On February 1, the Indian government set a target for FY 2023-24 to raise Rs 51,000 Crore through the disinvestment (stake sales) in various state-run companies. In the current fiscal year FY23, the budgeted disinvestment target has been missed, like in the past four years. Data from the DIPAM website showed that proceeds from disinvestment stood at Rs 31,106.64 Crore, only 48% as against the full-year Budget target of Rs 65,000 crore for FY23. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Target set by Indian Government for Disinvestment for FY24 – Rs 51,000 Crore
- Only 48% (Rs 31,106.64 Cr) of disinvestment target has been achieved in FY23 so far against Rs 65,000 Cr
- Disinvestment is conducted by – DIPAM (Department of Investment and Public Asset Management)
- Secretary of DIPAM – Tuhin Kanta Pandey
- Ministry of Finance: Nirmala Sitharaman | Constituency – Karnataka
- MoS in Ministry of Finance: Pankaj Chaowdhary & Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad

Defence Affairs

74. The Andaman and Nicobar Command of the Indian tri-services arrested 7 foreign poachers under “Operation Cucumber”. The development comes after input was received by the A&N Command following the seizure of a suspicious boat off Barren Island by the Indian Coast Guard. The initial phase of the operation by the Indian Army’s Ghatak team led to the arrest of seven foreign poachers after the team tracked the poachers through difficult terrain. A Ghatak Platoon is a team of Indian Army commandos capable of special operations reconnaissance. The Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC), based at Port Blair, is the first and only operational theatre command of the Indian Armed Forces. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Andaman & Nicobar Command of Indian tri-services arrested 7 foreign poachers under “Operation Cucumber”
- Ghatak Platoon – team of Indian Army commandos
- ANC (based at Port Blair) – first & only operational theatre command of Indian Armed Forces
- Andaman & Nicobar Islands: Capital – Port Blair | Lt. Governor – Admiral Devendra Kumar Joshi

Sports & Games

75. On February 4, Union Minister for Youth Affairs & Sports, Anurag Singh Thakur, along with Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Manoj Sinha, launched Mascot, Theme Song and Jersey of the 3rd Khelo India Winter Games at Raj Bhavan, Jammu. The games were held in Gulmarg, Jammu & Kashmir between February 10 to 14, 2023. The mascot Snow Leopard depicts the vibrant heritage of the Himalayas. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- 3rd Khelo India Winter Games – held in Gulmarg, J & K
- Mascot – Snow Leopard
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

76. On February 6, Australia captain Aaron Finch announced his retirement from International Cricket. The long-term white-ball skipper represented Australia in 254 international matches across all formats, playing 5 Tests, 146 ODIs and 103 T20Is. He was Australia's most successful Twenty20 International (T20I) Captain. Under his captaincy, Australia won their first ICC T20I World Cup in 2021. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- Aaron Finch (Australia) – announced his retirement from International Cricket
- Australia – won their first ICC T20I World Cup in 2021 under his captaincy
- [Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar](#) | [PM – Anthony Albanese](#)

77. On February 4, High jumper Tejaswin Shankar clinched Gold in men's high jump event at the "2022 New Balance Indoor Grand Prix", the World Athletics Indoor Tour Gold Series event, held in Boston, US. Commonwealth bronze medallist Tejaswin Shankar showcased a faultless performance up to his winning height of 2.26m in the men's high jump. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- "2022 New Balance Indoor Grand Prix" – held in Boston, US
- Tejaswin Shankar (High Jumper) – won Gold in men's high jump
- [US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar](#) | [46th President – Joe Biden](#) | [49th VP – Kamala Harris](#)

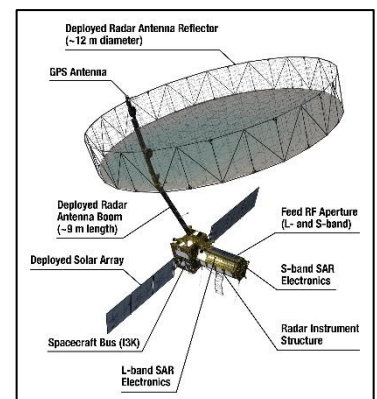
78. On February 4, Poland won all six of their matches to emerge as the winners of the first ever 'FIDE Chess Olympiad for People with Disabilities'. The event in Serbia's Belgrade featured 26 teams and participants from 33 countries, scoring 17.5 points out of 24 games. The International Physically Disabled Chess Association team (IPCA) took silver with 10 points, while the Philippines edged bronze on tiebreaks with 8 points. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Poland – won first ever 'FIDE Chess Olympiad for People with Disabilities' held in Belgrade, Serbia
- 2nd – IPCA Team | 3rd – Philippines
- [HQs of FIDE – Lausanne, Switzerland](#) | [President – Arkady Dvorkovich](#) | [Founded on – July 20, 1924](#)
- [Poland – Warsaw – Polish Zloty](#) | [President – Andrzej Sebastian Duda](#)

Science & Technology

79. On February 4, the ISRO officially announced that the "NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR)", a low Earth orbit (LEO) observatory being jointly developed with NASA, will be launched from Indian soil in the first quarter of 2024. The synthetic aperture radar (SAR) payloads mounted on integrated radar instrument structure (IRIS) and the spacecraft bus are together called an observatory. The observatory will map the entire globe in 12 days and provide spatially and temporally consistent data for understanding changes in Earth's ecosystems, ice mass, vegetation biomass, sea-level rise, groundwater and natural hazards. NASA is responsible for providing the L-Band SAR payload system in which the ISRO supplied S-Band SAR payload and both these systems will make use of a large size (about 12m diameter) common unfurlable reflector antenna. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- NISAR (a LEO observatory) – will be launched from India in the first quarter of 2024
- NISAR – NASA ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar – being jointly developed by NASA + ISRO
- NASA is providing L-Band SAR and ISRO supplied S-Band SAR payload system to make an unfurlable reflector antenna
- HQs of NASA – Washington D.C., US | Administrator – Bill Nelson | Founded in – 1958
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – S. Somanath | Formed on – August 15, 1969

80. On February 6, IIT Madras and the ISRO signed an MoU to collaborate on application of Extended Reality in Indian Human Spaceflight Program. IIT Madras will develop a training module for the Indian spaceflight programme using advanced technologies such as Augmented Reality (AR), Virtual Reality (VR) and Mixed Reality (MR). The ISRO will utilise these technologies at the newly-established eXperiential Technology Innovation Centre (XTIC) to promote research and development in the domain of Extended Reality (XR). This XTIC is India's first Research and Product Innovation centre for XR and haptics Technology. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- IIT Madras + ISRO = an MoU to collaborate on application of Extended Reality in Indian Human Spaceflight Program
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – S. Somanath | Formed on – August 15, 1969
- Director of IIT Madras – V. Kamakoti

81. Recent developments at the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) found that Thorium can play a major role in India's green energy transition. BARC is working on several technologies for using thorium, of which two are noteworthy. One is the 'Indian High-Temperature Reactor (IHTR)', which is designed to produce heat and, in turn, produce hydrogen through the 'sulphur-iodine' method. The other important thorium technology at BARC is the 'Indian Molten Salt Breeder Reactor (IMSBR)'. This 5-MW pilot project in Visakhapatnam is cloaked in secrecy. Apart from coal, thorium is the only abundant energy source in India. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Two new BARC technologies for using thorium for India's green energy transition – IHTR & IMSBR
- IHTR – Indian High-Temperature Reactor | IMSBR – Indian Molten Salt Breeder Reactor
- IHTR – to produce heat & in turn produce hydrogen through the 'sulphur-iodine' method
- Thorium – only abundant energy source in India apart from coal
- Thorium: Symbol – Th | Atomic Number – 90 | Atomic Weight – 232.04

Appointments & Resignations

82. On February 1, Major General Girish Kalia assumed charge as General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the elite Vajr Division of Indian Army, from Major General Abhijit S Pendharkar. Major Gen Girish Kalia was commissioned on 14 December 1991 from IMA, Dehradun into the MADRAS Regiment. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Major General Girish Kalia – appointed as GOC of Vajr Division of Indian Army (replacing - Abhijit S Pendharkar)
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Lt. Gen. Manoj Pande | Vice Chief – Lt. General Baggavalli Somashekar Raju



83. On February 7, Union Government has appointed K. Satyanarayana Raju as the Managing Director and CEO of Canara Bank, with immediate effect. He will be replacing L. V. Prabhakar who demitted office on December 31, 2022. Mr. Raju had earlier served Canara Bank as Executive Director since March 10, 2021.

[{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- K. Satyanarayana Raju – appointed as MD & CEO of Canara Bank (replacing - L. V. Prabhakar)
- HQs of Canara Bank – Bengaluru, Karnataka | MD & CEO – K. Satyanarayana Raju | Non-Ex Chairman – Vijay Srirangam

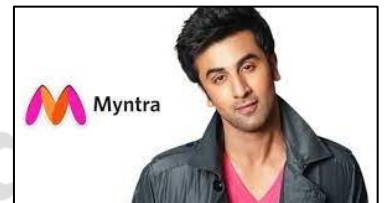
84. On February 2, Prashant Agrawal, currently serving as High Commissioner of India to Namibia, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Laos or Lao People's Democratic Republic. Prashant Agrawal is expected to take up the assignment shortly. He joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1998. Previously, he has served in India's Missions in Paris, Port Louis and Bangkok where he served as Deputy Chief of Mission and India's Deputy Permanent Representative to UNESCAP. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- Prashant Agrawal – appointed as next Ambassador of India to Laos or Lao People's Democratic Republic
- Laos – Vientiane – Laotian Kip | President – Thongloun Sisoulith

85. On February 7, Flipkart-owned Myntra Designs Private Limited announced the appointment of Bollywood actor Ranbir Kapoor as its brand ambassador. Kapoor will be seen focusing on men's fashion wear, in its upcoming brand campaign. The brand's existing ambassador and fashion icon, Kiara Advani, will continue to drive awareness about the women's western wear category. Kapoor joins Tamannaah Bhatia, and Vijay Deverakonda in representing the brand. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- Ranbir Kapoor – appointed as brand ambassador of Myntra
- Myntra – is owned by Flipkart
- Other Brand ambassadors of Myntra – Kiara Advani, Tamannaah Bhatia, and Vijay Deverakonda

86. On February 6, Economics professor and researcher Shamika Ravi has been appointed as a member of the Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister (EAC-PM). Shamika Ravi is currently non-resident senior fellow of the governance studies program at the Brookings Institution Washington D.C. EAC-PM, chaired by economist Bibek Debroy, currently has one member (Sanjeev Sanyal) and 6 part-time members. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- Shamika Ravi (Economics professor & researcher) – appointed as a member of EAC-PM
- Chairman of EAC-PM – Dr. Bibek Debroy



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Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

87. On February 6, V. P. Nandakumar, MD & CEO of Manappuram Finance Ltd, bagged the Hurun Industry Achievement Award 2022 for his remarkable achievements in the world of business. The award recognises the contributions of Manappuram Finance in the non-banking finance space. He received the award from Rupert Hoogewerf, Founder & Chairman of Hurun Global. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- V. P. Nandakumar (MD & CEO of Manappuram Finance Ltd) – bagged the “Hurun Industry Achievement Award 2022”
- HQs of Manappuram Finance Ltd – Thrissur, Kerala | MD & CEO – V. P. Nandakumar

Schemes & Initiatives

88. On February 1, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, in her Union Budget 2023-24 speech, announced that the Union government is looking to enable 100% mechanical desludging of septic tanks and sewers in all cities and towns. For this, she announced the allocation of Rs 100 Crore for the newly christened ‘NAMASTE’ (National Action Plan for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem) scheme. The NAMASTE scheme was launched in 2022, subsuming the already existing Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS). As part of the NAMASTE scheme, the Social Justice Ministry intends to first enumerate the number of people engaged in hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks across 500 AMRUT cities (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation) and then proceed with its plans. Namaste is a Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE) as a joint initiative of the MoSJE and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA). In addition to this, the Social Justice Ministry has increased the allocation for the SEED Scheme for economic empowerment of De-notified Tribes (DNT) from last year’s Rs 28 Crore to Rs 40.4 Crore this year. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Nirmala Sitharaman – announced Rs 100 Cr allocation for Central Sector ‘NAMASTE’ Scheme in the Budget 2023-24
- NAMASTE – National Action Plan for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem
- NAMASTE – launched in 2022 as a joint initiative of the MoSJE & the MoHUA
- The scheme is to enumerate people engaged in hazardous cleaning of sewers & septic tanks across 500 AMRUT cities
- Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment: Virendra Kumar | Constituency – Sagar, Madhya Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment: Ramdas Athawale

89. On February 3, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Som Parkash, said in his reply to the Parliament that Rs 477.25 Crore has been approved to 133 incubators under the Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS), a flagship scheme under Startup India initiative, that was launched in January 2016. Rs 211.63 Crore has been disbursed under the scheme as on December 31, 2022. The flagship schemes under Startup India initiative namely, Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS), Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS) and Credit Guarantee Scheme for Startups (CGSS) extend support to startups at various stages of their business cycle. The SISFS, being implemented by Ministry of Commerce and Industry, has been approved with a corpus of Rs 945 Crore for the period of 4 years starting from 2021-22. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- Rs 477.25 Cr were approved to 133 incubators under SISFS which is implemented by Ministry of Commerce & Industry
- The SISFS has been approved with a corpus of Rs 945 Crore for 4 years starting from 2021-22
- Rs 211.63 Crore has been disbursed under the scheme as on December 31, 2022
- Flagship schemes under Startup India initiative – FFS, SISFS, CGSS
- Startup India initiative – launched in January 2016
- [Ministry of Commerce & Industry: Piyush Goyal | Constituency – Maharashtra](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Commerce & Industry: Anupriya Singh Patel & Som Parkash](#)

90. On February 1, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's budget speech introduced schemes and policies aimed at ecological conservation. This is part of a larger "green push" with focus on the environment and climate change. The schemes include - MISHTI (Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes), PM PRANAM (Prime Minister Programme for Restoration, Awareness, Nourishment and Amelioration of Mother Earth), Bhartiya Prakritik Kheti Bio-Input Resource Centres, and Amrit Dharohar. MISHTI is a new programme that will facilitate mangrove plantation along India's coastline and on salt pan lands. The programme will operate through convergence between MGNREGS, Campa Fund and other sources. PM PRANAM is a programme that will seek to incentivise states and union territories promoting alternative fertilisers and the balanced use of chemical fertilisers. The programme aims to ultimately bring down the government's subsidy burden, which is estimated to reach Rs 2.25 lakh Crore in 2022-23. Besides, to further facilitate the adoption of natural farming, 10,000 Bio-Input Resource Centres will be set-up, creating a national-level distributed micro-fertiliser and pesticide manufacturing network. This will impact over 1 crore farmers over the next 3 years. Moreover, Amrit Dharohar is a scheme that will be implemented over the next 3 years to encourage optimal use of wetlands, and enhance bio-diversity, carbon stock, eco-tourism opportunities and income generation for local communities. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Schemes & Policies by Nirmala Sitharaman introduced in budget speech as part of a larger "green push":
 - MISHTI (to facilitate mangrove plantation)
 - PM PRANAM (to incentivise states & UTs promoting alternative fertilisers & balanced use of chemical fertilisers)
 - Bhartiya Prakritik Kheti Bio-Input Resource Centres (for adoption of natural farming)
 - Amrit Dharohar (to enhance bio-diversity, carbon stock & eco-tourism)
- 10,000 Bio-Input Resource Centres will be set-up to create micro-fertiliser & pesticide manufacturing network

91. On February 2, the government extended the "PM-KUSUM" scheme till March 2026 as its implementation was significantly affected due to the pandemic. Launched in 2019 by the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) to increase the income of farmers and provide sources for irrigation and de-dieselising the agricultural sector, "Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM)" aimed at adding solar capacity of 30,800 MW by 2022 with total central financial support of Rs 34,422 crore. The scheme consists of three components - Component A is for installation of 10,000 MW of solar capacity by installing small power plants of capacity up to 2 MW, component B aims at installation of 20 lakh standalone solar-powered agriculture pumps and component C is for solarisation of 15 lakh grid-connected agriculture pumps. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Government extended the “PM-KUSUM” scheme till March 2026
- PM-KUSUM – Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan
- The scheme was launched in 2019 by MNRE to increase income of farmers & provide sources for irrigation
- 3 components of the scheme:
 - Installation of 10,000 MW of solar capacity by installing small power plants of capacity up to 2 MW
 - Installation of 20 lakh standalone solar-powered agriculture pumps
 - Solarisation of 15 lakh grid-connected agriculture pumps

Obituaries

92. On February 4, Singer Vani Jairam, who was recently honoured with the Padma Bhushan, passed away at her residence in Chennai. She was 78. She received Padma Bhushan 2023 in the field of Art. She was honoured with the National Film Award for Best Female Playback Singer in 1975, 1980 and 1991. She recorded over 10,000 songs for Indian movies in various languages, including Tamil, Telugu, Hindi, Kannada, Gujarati, among many others. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- Singer Vani Jairam – a Singer – passed away (Padma Bhushan 2023 in Art)
- She received ‘National Film Award’ for ‘Best Female Playback Singer’ in 1975, 1980 & 1991

Meetings, Conferences & Summits

93. Lucknow hosted the first meeting of the “G20 Digital Economy Working Group (DEWG)” from February 13-15, 2023. With respect to this, a “Digital India Mobile Van” was introduced by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), enlightening citizens about G20 DEWG and Digital India’s key initiatives. The Digital India Mobile Van is a veritable goldmine of state-of-the-art technology, brimming with knowledge and insight about the vital initiatives of Digital India and some of its key initiatives, including PMJDY, DigiLocker, Aadhaar, UMANG, e-Way Bill, e-Aushadhi, Aarogya Setu, Co-WIN, e-Rupi, and India Stack Global, among many others. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- Lucknow – hosted 1st meeting of the “G20 Digital Economy Working Group (DEWG)” from February 13-15, 2023
- MeitY – launched a “Digital India Mobile Van” for Digital India’s key initiatives
- Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology: Ashwini Vaishnaw | Constituency – Odisha
- MoS in Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology: Rajeev Chandrasekhar

94. On February 6, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) hosted the 6th “SCO Supreme Audit Institutions (SAI) Leaders’ Meeting” in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. Total 8 SCO SAI member country delegations participated in the event. Comptroller and Auditor General of India, Girish Chandra Murmu, led the discussions on the theme “Integrating Emerging Technologies in Audit”. Governor of Uttar Pradesh Anandiben Patel inaugurated the meeting. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- 6th “SCO Supreme Audit Institutions (SAI) Leaders’ Meeting” was hosted by CAG in Lucknow, UP
- Theme – “Integrating Emerging Technologies in Audit”
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel
- HQs of SCO – Beijing, China | SG – Zhang Ming | Present Member Countries – 8 | Current Presidency – India

Ranks, Reports & Surveys

95. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been pegged as the world’s most popular leader with an approval rating of 78% as per the “Global Leader Approval” survey by a US-based consulting firm Morning Consult. The poll surveyed 22 global leaders for the ratings. Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, President of Mexico, came in second with 68% ratings and Swiss President Alain Berset occupied the third position with 62% approval rating. The US President Joe Biden stood at 7th position, while the UK’s Prime Minister Rishi Sunak was in 12th position. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- “Global Leader Approval” survey – conducted by US based consulting firm ‘Morning Consult’
- Top – Narendra Modi (78% approval rating)
- 2nd – Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador (Mexico President) | 3rd – Alain Berset (Swiss President)
- 7th – Joe Biden | 12th – Rishi Sunak

96. Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has been included in the 25th edition of FORTUNE Magazine’s list of the “World’s Most Admired Companies 2023”. Regarded as a barometer of corporate reputation, the list is based on a survey of business executives, directors and analysts around the globe. The company has over 6,500 dedicated researchers and innovators, with 2,694 granted patents to their credit. Apple topped the list for the 16th consecutive year, followed by Amazon & Microsoft, both on 2nd position. Companies are evaluated based on criteria such as innovation, social responsibility, quality of management, global competitiveness, talent management, and quality of products/services. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- TCS – included in the 25th edition of FORTUNE Magazine’s list of “World’s Most Admired Companies 2023”
- 1st – Apple (for 16th consecutive year) | 2nd – Amazon & Microsoft
- HQs of TCS – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Rajesh Gopinathan | Founded in – 1968

97. Annual global carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions would fall by more than 2 billion tonnes in 2030 if measures targeted by India’s Lifestyle For Environment (LiFE) are adopted worldwide, according to a report by the International Energy Agency (IEA). As per the report, LiFE measures would also save consumers globally around \$440 billion in 2030, which will be equivalent to around 5% of all fuel spends projected across the global economy for that year. PM Narendra Modi had launched the LiFE initiative at COP26 in Glasgow in November 2021, with the goal of encouraging adoption of sustainable lifestyles to tackle the environment and climate crisis. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- IEA Report about India's LiFE (Lifestyle For Environment) initiative:
 - Annual global CO2 emissions would fall by 2 billion tonnes in 2030 from LiFE measures
 - LiFE measures would save consumers globally around \$440 billion in 2030
- LiFE initiative – launched by PM Modi at COP26 in Glasgow in November 2021
- HQs of IEA – Paris, France | Executive Director – Dr. Fatih Birol | Member countries – 30

MoUs, Collaborations & Partnership

98. On February 4, the Goa Department of Tourism launched a new helipad service, Heli-Tourism Service, which has been set up in Dauce, Ella, and Old Goa in partnership with a private company, Soaring Aerospace. Additionally, the State's Department of Tourism launched a tourism helpline service. The helipad can be used from the Mopa and Dabolim Airports. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Goa + Soaring Aerospace = launched a new helipad service, Heli-Tourism Service in Dauce, Ella, and Old Goa
- The helipad can be used from Mopa & Dabolim Airports
- Goa: Capital – Panaji | CM – Pramod Sawant | Governor – P. S. Sreedharan Pillai

99. On February 7, Reliance Jio and global mobile network operators' organisation GSMA (Groupe Speciale Mobile Association) announced to launch their digital skills programme to train rural women in India. The programme aims to provide need-based training to rural women and individuals from marginalised/low-income groups to help them make meaningful use of digital access. The national roll-out phase is now underway, with the programme being rolled out across 10 states. As per the GSMA's "Mobile Gender Gap Report 2022", women in India are 41% less likely than men to use mobile internet. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Reliance Jio + GSMA = launched their digital skills programme to train rural women in India
- GSMA's "Mobile Gender Gap Report 2022": women in India are 41% less likely than men to use mobile internet
- HQs of Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd – Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Akash Ambani

100. On February 5, India, France and the UAE unveiled an ambitious roadmap for cooperation in areas of defence, nuclear energy and technology under a trilateral framework. The three sides agreed that the trilateral initiative will serve as a forum to promote the design and execution of cooperation projects in the fields of energy, with a focus on solar and nuclear energy. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- India + France + UAE = cooperation in defence, nuclear energy & technology under a trilateral framework
- France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | PM – Elisabeth Borne
- UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan





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