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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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Time and tide wait for none! Team Smartkeeda perceived the importance of time and practice in your test preparation journey. We understood how each second can make a huge difference to your career. Therefore, we were determined to build an application that has the competence to save each second of your preparation time making you 100% productive. We worked diligently for 3-4 years to build an application with the single aim of making each second of your test preparation time, efficient.

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National & States Affairs

101. During the inaugural address at the 1st edition of 'Mobility Next Hyderabad Summit', a part of the Hyderabad E-Mobility Week, Telangana Minister for IT, Industries and Commerce, K. T. Rama Rao, launched India's first new mobility-focused cluster called "Telangana Mobility Valley (TMV)" which aims to attract investments of around Rs 50,000 crore and generate more than 4 lakh jobs in the next 5 years in the state. TMV will create best in class infrastructure making Telangana the most competitive destination for both manufacturing and R&D in India. {Read more}



Smart Points:

- 1st 'Mobility Next Hyderabad Summit' held in Telangana a part of the Hyderabad E-Mobility Week
- Telanagna launched India's 1st new mobility-focused cluster "Telangana Mobility Valley (TMV)"
- Telangana: Capital Hyderabad | CM K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan

102. On February 8, with a growing concern for health and increasing demand for organic food, the Jammu and Kashmir government launched a vital programme, "Alternate Agriculture System for Sustainability", to support its farmers and promote sustainable agriculture in the Union Territory. The government is investing in a project that will boost organic food production and increase economic returns for farmers in the UT. This is a part of the government's larger efforts to create a safer, cleaner and more sustainable environment for agriculture and food production in the region. The government has kept a budget of Rs 84 Crore to support the program over the next 5 years. The program will also provide training to 10,000 farmer families in organic farming and establish 200 commercial and 3000 low-cost vermicompost units and 100 Integrated Organic Farming System Units. {Read more}

Smart Points:

- J & K launched "Alternate Agriculture System for Sustainability" to support farmers & promote sustainable agriculture
- Budget of the prograof Rs 84 Crore to support the program over the next 5 years
- J & K: Capital Srinagar | Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha

103. On February 6, the Central Government constituted a 16-member inter-ministerial committee to examine the need for a separate law on competition in digital markets. The panel has been tasked with submitting its report, including a draft Digital Competition Act, within 3 months. The Inter-ministerial Committee will be headed by Manoj Govil MCA Secretary. Also the Panel has been tasked to study the practices of leading players/ systemically important digital intermediaries (SIDIs) which limit or have the potential to cause harm in digital markets, sources added. Besides, the Standing Committee on Finance, headed by BJP MP Jayant Sinha, recently recommended the enactment of the Digital Competition Act. {Read more} **Smart Points:**

- A 16-member committee is constituted to examine need for separate law for competition in digital markets
- The Committee will be headed by Manoj Govil, MCA Secretary
- Standing Committee on Finance (headed by Jayant Sinha) recommended enactment of the Digital Competition Act
- Ministry of Corporate Affairs: Nirmala Sitharaman | Constituency Karnataka
- MoS in Ministry of Corporate Affairs: Rao Inderjit Singh



104. In February 2023, Minister of State for Culture Arjun Ram Meghwal inaugurated the 22nd "Bharat Rang Mahotsav - 2023" at Kamani Auditorium in New Delhi. Around 100 theatre companies were likely to attend this annual festival. Organised by National School of Drama (NSD), the prestigious international theatre festival will be held in Delhi, Jaipur, Rajahmundry, Ranchi, Guwahati, Jammu, Srinagar, Bhopal, Nashik and Kevadia. The closing ceremony was scheduled to take place in Kevadia on the 26th of February. The Bharat Rang Mahotsav aimed to strengthen international tie-ups and cultural exchange programmes with other nations. {Read more}

Smart Points:

- Arjun Ram Meghwal inaugurated 22nd "Bharat Rang Mahotsav 2023" at Kamani Auditorium in New Delhi
- It is organised by National School of Drama (NSD)
- Minister of Culture: G. Kishan Reddy | Constituency Secunderabad, Telangana
- MoS in Minister of Culture: Arjun Ram Meghwal & Meenakashi Lekhi

105. On February 6, the government has passed an order to convert Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) dues of telecom services provider, Vodafone Idea (Vi) into equities for nearly ₹16,133.2 Crore. This conversion of AGR dues into equities is likely to make the Government of India the largest shareholder in this loss-making telecom services provider. At present, the promoter and promoter group in Vodafone Idea holds a 74.99% stake, while public shareholding is at 25.01% as of December 31, 2022. Post this transaction, the promoter's shareholding will trim down to 50%. {Read more}

Smart Points:

- Government ordered to convert AGR dues of Vi into equities for nearly ₹16,133.2 Cr
- After this, promoter's shareholding will reduce to 50% from current 74.99% and GoI will be the largest shareholder
- HQs of Vi Ltd Mumbai | MD & CEO Akshaya Moondra | Non-Executive Chairman Himanshu Kapania

106. On February 5, the Gujarat government signed an agreement with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to conduct the 'Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA)' test for the students of government schools. The agreement was signed in the presence of Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel and OECD's Paris director Andreas Schliecher. Gujarat is the first state in the country to sign such an agreement. The PISA measures 15-year-olds' ability to use reading, mathematics and science knowledge and skills to meet real-life challenges. {Read more}

Smart Points:

- Gujarat + OECD = agreement to conduct PISA test for government schools students
- PISA measures 15-year-olds' reading ability, mathematics & science knowledge & skills to meet real-life challenges
- Gujarat first state in the country to sign such an agreement
- Gujarat: Capital Gandhinagar | CM Bhupendra Patel | Governor Acharya Dev Vrat

107. On February 5, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated the "VFS Global Visa Application Centre" in Lucknow. The newly inaugurated visa application centre, the first of its kind in Lucknow, would facilitate completion of the visa application process for 10 countries - Austria, Netherlands, Czech Republic, Switzerland, Estonia, Hungary, Portugal, Germany, Italy and Saudi Arabia. The visa application process facilitation center has the capacity to handle more than 1.20 lakh visa applications every year. Moreover, "VFS Global Academy" has also been opened in Lucknow where VFS Global, in collaboration with the Indian Hotels Company Limited, will train the youth of the state in hospitality services as per the skill development program of the state government. {Read more}

- Yogi Adityanath inaugurated the "VFS Global Visa Application Centre" in Lucknow
- VFS Global Academy opened in Lucknow



108. On February 6, Indore Municipal Corporation has become India's first civic body to launch Green Bonds, seeking to raise Rs 244 Crore for a 60-mw solar plant at its water pumping station. The public issues of the green bonds was open for subscription from February 10-14. The drinking water department of the city administration spends over Rs 300 Crore in annual electricity charges. Its Juladh pumping station, by the Narmada river falling in the Khargone district, is the biggest pumping station for the city. {Read more}

Smart Points:

- Indore Municipal Corporation India's first civic body to launch Green Bonds
- It is seeking to raise Rs 244 Cr for a 60 MW solar plant at its water pumping station
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital Bhopal | CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel

109. On February 10, Reliance Industries (RIL) and Ashok Leyland unveiled India's first Hydrogen Internal Combustion Engine (H2-ICE)-powered heavy duty Truck at the India Energy Week in Bengaluru. Heavy duty trucks are the biggest emitter, producing 60% of road-freight CO2 emissions, which is expected to increase to 66% by 2050. Green hydrogen is the cleanest form of fuel when produced through renewable sources of energy. Ashok Leyland is the Indian flagship company of the Hinduja Group. {Read more}



Smart Points:

- RIL + Ashok Leyland = unveiled India's first H2-ICE powered heavy duty Truck at 'India Energy Week' in Bengaluru
- Heavy duty trucks produce 60% of road-freight CO2 emissions which is expected to increase to 66% by 2050
- HQs of Ashok Leyland Chennai, TN | CEO Shenu Agarwal | President Sanjay V. Jorapur (owned by Hinduja Group)
- HQs of Reliance Industries Ltd Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman Mukesh Ambani | Founded in 1973

110. On February 7, the Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI) and the National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) signed an MoU for setting up digital forensic laboratories along with exchange of information and knowledge, technological advancement and skill development in the field of digital forensics. DGGI is the apex intelligence organisation, under the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), for collection and dissemination of information and for taking necessary measures to check evasion of GST. NFSU is an institution of national importance established to promote studies and research in forensic sciences and related fields. It is the first and only institute in the field of forensic sciences. {Read more}

Smart Points:

- DGGI + NFSU = an MoU for setting up digital forensic laboratories
- DGGI an apex intelligence organisation under the CBIC
- NFSU first & only institute in India in the field of forensic sciences
- HQs of CBIC New Delhi | Chairman Vivek Johri | Founded in 1964
- Vice-Chancellor of NFSU J. M. Vyas

111. On February 7, Union Minister of Education, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Dharmendra Pradhan, launched "Yuva Sangam" portal with the aim to build empathy between youth of the North Eastern States and other States. The initiative has been conceptusalied under 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' in collaboration with various other ministries and departments. Around 1,000 youth will participate in the pilot of Yuva Sangam. It aims to provide an immersive, multidimensional experience of various facets-under 4 broad areas - Paryatan (Tourism), Parampara (Traditions), Pragati (Development) and Paraspar Sampark (People-to-people connect). {Read more}



- Dharmendra Pradhan launched "Yuva Sangam" portal to build empathy between North Eastern & other States' youth
- It will provide experience of under 4 broad areas: Paryatan, Parampara, Pragati & Paraspar Sampark

112. On February 8, the Secretary (Telecom), Government of India & the Chairman of Digital Communications Commission, K. Rajaraman launched the "IEEE C-DOT Certified Telecom Expert Program (ICCTEP)" which was collaborated by IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers) and C-DOT (Centre for Development of Telematics) to bring learning in the areas of Telecom including 5G, Cyber Security and Quantum Communication to bridge the skill gap. This program was launched during the IEEE Standards Association (IEEE SA) Workshop centred on "Next Generation Connectivity". This platform will offer specially-tailored certification program that aims at providing quality learning in diverse



areas of Telecom. The key focus is on building skills that would accelerate the participation of students, academia, technologists, industry, start-ups and other relevant stakeholders in developing globally-competitive Telecom technologies and solutions. IEEE is the world's largest technical professional organization dedicated to advancing technology for the benefit of humanity. {Read more}

Smart Points:

- IEEE + C-DOT = collaborated to launch "IEEE C-DOT Certified Telecom Expert Program (ICCTEP)"
- HQs of C-DoT New Delhi | Executive Director Rajkumar Upadhyay

International Affairs

113. Switzerland became the first WTO member to formally submit its acceptance of the WTO's new Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, paving the way for the historic agreement for ocean sustainability to enter into force. Swiss Minister Guy Parmelin presented his country's instrument of acceptance to Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala at the informal WTO ministerial meeting held on the side lines of the World Economic Forum's annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland. {Read more}

Smart Points:

- Switzerland 1st WTO member to formally accept WTO's new Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies
- WTO ministerial meeting held on the side lines of WEFs annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland
- HQs of WTO Geneva, Switzerland | 7th DG Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala (Nigeria) | Members 164 | Founded 1995
- Switzerland Bern Swiss Franc | President Guy Parmelin

114. On February 2, Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif inaugurated the third unit of the Karachi Nuclear Power Plant (KANUPP) worth USD 2.7 billion built with China's assistance under the ambitious China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Known as the K-3, the plant will provide 1,100 megawatts of electricity to the national grid. The construction work on two nuclear power reactors, K-2 and K-3, was started in August 2015 and in May 2016 respectively. The USD 60 billion CPEC is part of China's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), a pet project of Chinese President Xi Jinping. {Read more}



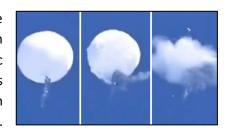
- Shehbaz Sharif inaugurated 3rd unit of Karachi Nuclear Power Plant (K-3) worth \$2.7 billion built under China's CPEC
- CPEC a \$60 billion project and it is part of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)
- China Beijing Renminbi | President Xi Jinping
- Pakistan Islamabad Pakistani Rupee | PM Shehbaz Sharif | President Arif Alvi

115. On February 7, India and the European Union announced setting up of a new 'Trade and Technology Council (TTC)' that is expected to facilitate exchange of critical technologies relating to an array of domains, including artificial intelligence, quantum computing, semiconductors and cybersecurity. The TTC with India is the European Union's second such technology partnership after the first one with the United States that was firmed up in June 2021. Under the TTC, three working groups have been established. The first working group is on strategic technologies, digital governance and digital connectivity while the second one will cover green and clean energy technologies. The third working group is on trade, investment and resilient value chains. The TTC will be co-chaired on the Indian side by the ministers for external affairs, commerce and industry, and communications, electronics and information technology. {Read more}

Smart Points:

- India + EU = announced to set up a new 'Trade and Technology Council (TTC)'
- TTC will facilitate exchange of technologies including AI, Quantum computing, semiconductors & cybersecurity
- TTC with India is the EU's 2nd such technology partnership after the first one with US (in June 2021)
- Under the TTC, 3 working groups have been established for:
 - Strategic technologies, digital governance & digital connectivity
 - Green & clean energy technologies
 - Trade, investment and resilient value chains
- HQs of EU Brussels, Belgium | Member Countries 27
- President of European Parliament Roberta Metsola
- President of European Council Charles Michel
- President of European Commission Ursula von der Leyen

116. On February 5, the United States shot down a Chinese surveillance balloon over the Atlantic Ocean as it crossed the continental America after hovering over its skies from Montana to South Carolina. The balloon, which was being used by the People's Republic of China in an attempt to surveil strategic sites in the continental United States, was brought down over the water off the coast of South Carolina in US airspace. This action was taken in coordination, and with the full support, of the Canadian government. {Read more}



- US shot down a Chinese surveillance balloon over the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of South Carolina in US airspace
- China Beijing Renminbi | President Xi Jinping
- US Washington, D.C. US Dollar | 46th President Joe Biden | 49th VP Kamala Harris



117. As of February 6, thousands of people were killed as well as trapped under rubble in Turkey and Syria after a 7.8 magnitude earthquake. The first earthquake was big - it was classified as 'major' on the official magnitude scale. The quake struck at a depth of 10 km near the southern Turkish city of Kahramanmaras. Currently, the combined death toll in Turkey and Syria passed 47,000, including more than 41,000 in Turkey and over 5,800 in Syria. Aid workers are among those killed. The humanitarian community estimates that 8.8 million people live in areas most affected by the earthquake in Syria. {Read more}

Smart Points:

- Turkey and Syria were struck with a 7.8 magnitude earthquake
- Combined death toll in Turkey and Syria passed 47,000
- The first earthquake was classified as 'major' on the official magnitude scale

118. In February 2023, Union Minister of State (I/C) Earth Sciences, Dr Jitendra Singh, announced that the world recognises India's Blue Economy resources and Jamaica-based International Seabed Authority (ISA) has officially designated India as a "Pioneer Investor". The ISA and Ministry of Earth Sciences also exchanged PMN (Polymetallic Nodules) Exploration Extension Contract in presence of Dr. Jitendra Singh. This contract was initially signed on 25th March, 2002 for a period of 15 years, which later was extended by the authority twice for 5 years period, during 2017 and 2022. {Read more}

Smart Points:

- International Seabed Authority (Jamaica) officially designated India as a "Pioneer Investor"
- Jamaica Kingston Jamaican dollar | PM Andrew Holness

Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

119. On February 6, the government allowed Indian Bank to increase the number of posts of Executive Directors from three to four. In August 2019, the Department of Financial Services (DFS), under the Finance Ministry, had said, nationalised banks with total business of ₹10 lakh or more as per the last declared results should have 4 executive directors. {Read more}

Smart Points:

- Indian Bank got permission to increase number of posts of Executive Directors from 3 to 4
- Nationalised banks with total business of ₹10 lakh or more as per last declared results should have 4 Executive Directors
- Ministry of Finance: Nirmala Sitharaman | Constituency Karnataka
- MoS in Ministry of Finance: Pankaj Chaowdhary & Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad
- HQs of Indian Bank Chennai, Tamil Nadu | MD & CEO Shanti Lal Jain | Tagline "Your Own Bank"

120. On February 8, Edelweiss General Insurance has rebranded itself as ZunoGeneral Insurance Limited (Zuno GI), which gives it a new-age digital insurer with an aspiration to reimagine and redefine insurance to make it easy, friendly, and transparent. The company also launched the findings of its survey christened 'Usage Based Insurance: Decoding Awareness, Perception and Behaviour' to understand the needs of customers when looking at motor insurance, which helped it design and introduces a new usage-based smart policy. The study was done to understand Millennial and GenZ's awareness, understanding and consideration for the concept of usage-based insurance (UBI) in India. Zuno GI was the first in the country to launch usage-based insurance using mobile telematics in 2020. {Read more}



- Edelweiss General Insurance rebranded itself as ZunoGeneral Insurance Limited (Zuno GI)
- Zuno GI first in India to launch usage-based insurance using mobile telematics in 2020
- HQs of Zuno GI Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO & Executive Director Shanai Ghosh

121. On February 6, Airtel Payments Bank (APB) launched its current account, "BizKhata", which comes with unlimited transactions and instant activation for small merchants and business partners across the country. It brings all business transactions to one platform and allows them to maintain clear records while enjoying multiple banking benefits. Airtel Payments Bank is the only profitable full-scale payments bank at present. {Read more}

Smart Points:

- APB launched "BizKhata", current account with unlimited transactions for small merchants & business partners
- APB only profitable full-scale payments bank at present
- HQs of APB New Delhi | CEO Anubrata Biswas | Founded in 2017

122. On February 8, Ascenda, the world leader in powering global rewards card and payment value propositions for financial brands, announced its partnership with Axis Bank to power their innovative new rewards program. Axis Bank is going to leverage Ascenda's premium rewards infrastructure and points exchange marketplace to produce a unique proposition targeting the ever increasing premium traveler segment. {Read more}

Smart Points:

- Ascenda partnered with Axis Bank to power their innovative new rewards program
- HQs of Axis Bank Mumbai | MD & CEO Amitabh Chaudhry | Tagline "Badhti ka Naam Zindagi"

123. On February 7, Digital payments firm PhonePe launched support for 'UPI international' payments, allowing users to pay foreign merchants using the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) infrastructure. The launch supports international countries in which UPI has been launched, including the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Singapore, Mauritius, Nepal and Bhutan. With this, PhonePe became India's first fintech platform to enable cross-border UPI payments. {Read more}

Smart Points:

- PhonePe launched support for 'UPI international' & became India's 1st fintech to enable cross-border UPI payments
- UPI has been launched in UAE, Singapore, Mauritius, Nepal & Bhutan
- HQs of PhonePe Bangalore, Karnataka | MD & CEO Sameer Nigam | Founded in 2015

124. On February 4, Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL), in partnership with NPCI, introduced the "RuPay Credit Card on UPI" to enhance the payment experience for both the consumers and merchants. As per PPBL, it is a leader in the UPI space in P2M (peer to merchant) transactions, with the highest merchant partners in its ecosystem. Both offline and online payments will become faster as transactions can be done using the UPI ID linked to the RuPay credit card seamlessly. {Read more}



- PPBL + NPCI = introduced the "RuPay Credit Card on UPI"
- HQs of PPBL Noida, Uttar Pradesh | MD & CEO Surinder Chawla
- HQs of NPCI Mumbai | Chairman Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD & CEO Dilip Asbe | Established in 2008



125. In February 2023, HDFC Bank partnered with National Institute of Information Technology (NIIT) Limited, a global talent development corporation, to build a large pool of skilled Virtual Relationship Management professionals for the banking industry. Spanning over a period of four weeks, the program is designed to build in-demand and advanced sales skills among the learners which will enable them to acquire new customers for multiple services and products. Any Graduate/Postgraduate with 0-2 years of experience will be eligible for the program. The extensive practice on real-life scenarios will equip the new professionals with the advanced sales skills and the confidence required for their job roles in the banking sector. {Read more}

Smart Points:

- HDFC Bank + NIIT = to build large pool of skilled Virtual Relationship Management professionals for banking industry
- HQs of NIIT Gurgaon, Haryana | CEO Sapnesh Lalla
- HQs of HDFC Bank Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO Sashidhar Jagdishan | Tagline "We understand your World"

Sports & Games

126. On February 5, the central ice hockey team of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) won the 12th edition of the Ice Hockey Association of India (IHAI) National Ice Hockey Championship for Men - 2023 organized in Leh, Ladakh. The ITBP team, for the third time in succession, won this championship, by defeating the Ladakh Scouts by a score of 1-0 at the final. {Read more}



Smart Points:

- ITBP won 12th edition of IHAI National Ice Hockey Championship for Men 2023 organized in Leh, Ladakh
- HQs of ITBP New Delhi | DG Anish Dayal Singh | Established on October 24, 1962
- Ladakh: Capital Leh | Lt. Governor B. D. Mishra

127. The inaugural season of the Women's Premier League (WPL) will be played from March 4 to 26, 2023 in Mumbai. The Brabourne Stadium and the DY Patil Stadium will host all the matches with the tournament opener expected to be played between Gujarat Giants and Mumbai Indians-owned franchise. With the five teams fetching Rs 4669.99 Crore and the BCCI selling the media rights for Rs 951 Crore, the WPL is the second biggest T20 League in the world behind the Indian Premier League. {Read more}

Smart Points:

- Inaugural season of Women's Premier League (WPL) to be held in Mumbai from March 4 to 26, 2023
- The matches will be played in Brabourne Stadium and the DY Patil Stadium
- WPL is 2nd biggest T20 League in the world after IPL
- Maharashtra: CM Eknath Shinde | Governor Ramesh Bais

128. On February 5, Indian Golfer Aditi Ashok won her fourth Ladies European Tour title at the "Kenya Ladies Open 2023" golf tournament at Vipingo Ridge, Kenya. Aditi Ashok carded a 12-under (67-70-69-74) to win the contest ahead of England's Alice Hewson and Thailand's April Angurasaranee. Aditi Ashok turned pro in 2016 and also represented India at Rio 2016 Olympics. {Read more}



- Aditi Ashok (Golfer) won her 4th Ladies European Tour title at "Kenya Ladies Open 2023" held at Vipingo Ridge, Kenya
- Kenya Nairobi Kenyan Shilling | President William Samoei Ruto



129. In February 2023, Aman Sehrawat of India won a bronze medal in the men's 57kg at the Zagreb Open 2023 Ranking Series in Croatia. Azerbaijan's Aliabbas Rzazade won the gold medal in the 57kg category. Indian greco-roman wrestler Ashu clinched a bronze medal in the men's 67 kg category at the Zagreb Open 2023. China's Husiyuetu won the gold medal in the 67 kg category. {Read more}



Smart Points:

- 'Zagreb Open 2023 Ranking Series' held in Croatia
- Aman Sehrawat (Indian Wrestler) won bronze medal in men's 57kg | Gold Aliabbas Rzazade (Azerbaijan)
- Ashu (Indian greco-roman wrestler) won bronze medal in men's 67 kg category | Gold Husiyuetu (China)
- Croatia Zagreb Euro | PM Andrej Plenkovic | President Zoran Milanovic

Science & Technology

130. On February 8, Skye Air Mobility launched "Skye UTM", India's 1st traffic management system for drones. Skye UTM is a cloud-based aerial traffic management system that stitches unmanned air traffic with manned aviation airspace. Skye UTM offers tons of features enabling situational awareness, handling more than 4000 flights per hour, Pop-up UTM & many others. It is the most advanced & indigenized Aerial traffic management platform that has been built towards providing situational awareness, autonomous



navigation, risk assessment & traffic management to all drone/other aerial mobility operators across the airspace. {Read more}

Smart Points:

Skye Air Mobility – launched India's 1st traffic management system for drones namely "Skye UTM"

131. As of February 7, Google is all set to launch 'Bard', a new conversational AI chatbot, aimed at challenging OpenAI's ChatGPT, backed by Microsoft. Google opened 'Bard' to a group of trusted testers for testing purpose. Google's 'Bard' uses Google's own language model - Language Model for Dialogue Applications (LaMDA). {Read more}



- Google launched a new conversational AI chatbot namely 'Bard' to challeng ChatGPT
- 'Bard' uses Google's own language model LaMDA (Language Model for Dialogue Applications)
- ChatGPT is backed by Microsoft
- HQs of Google California, US | CEO Sundar Pichai | Founded in 1998
- HQs of Microsoft Washington, US | Chairman & CEO Satya Nadella | Founded in 1975





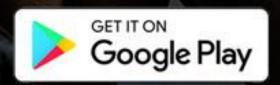
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Appointments & Resignations

132. On February 6, Cricket Association of Nepal (CAN) announced that Mrugng Monty Desai, a former Indian Cricketer & high-performance coach from India, has been appointed as the head coach of Nepal Men's National Cricket Team. Mr Desai succeeded Manoj Prabhakar who stepped down from his position of Nepal Men's National Cricket Team's Head Coach on December 15, 2022. Indian allrounder Prabhakar worked as head coach for three Ranji Trophy teams. In 2016, Prabhakar also served as Afghanistan's bowling coach. {Read more}



Smart Points:

- Mrugng Monty Desai appointed as head coach of Nepal Men's National Cricket Team (succeeding Manoj Prabhakar)
- He has also served as head coach for three Ranji Trophy teams & Afghanistan's bowling coach
- Nepal Kathmandu Nepalese Rupee | President Bidhya Devi Bhandari | PM Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda'

133. On February 7, Apsara A. Iyer, an Indian-American second year student at Harvard Law School, has been elected President of the prestigious Harvard Law Review. The 29-year-old has become the first woman from the community to be named to the position in the prestigious publication's 136-year-long history. The Harvard Law Review was founded in 1887 and is among the oldest student-run legal scholarship publications. {Read more}



Smart Points:

- Apsara A. Iyer (Indian-American) first woman to be elected President of Harvard Law Review
- She is a student at Harvard Law School
- Harvard Law Review founded in 1887

134. On February 4, Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Limited (MMFSL) announced the appointment of Raul Rebello as its Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, with effect from April 29, 2024. Rebello will replace Ramesh Iyer who is set to retire. Prior to joining MMFSL, Rebello was with Axis Bank, where he was most recently Executive Vice President and the Head of Rural Lending and Financial Inclusion. {Read more}



Smart Points:

- Raul Rebello appointed as MD & CEO of MMFSL (replacing Ramesh Iyer)
- HQs of MMFS Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO Raul Rebello (From April 29) | Non-Executive Chairman Anish Shah

Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

135. Founded by Rabindranath Tagore, Visva-Bharati University will get the 'heritage' tag from UNESCO, becoming the world's first living heritage university. Visva-Bharati is a public central university and an Institution of National Importance located in Shantiniketan, West Bengal. Bidyut Chakraborty is the Vice-Chancellor of Visva-Bharati University. When founded in 1921, it was named after Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore until Visva-Bharati Society was registered as an organisation in May 1922. {Read more}



- Visva-Bharati University to get the 'heritage' tag from UNESCO & to become world's 1st living heritage university
- The university was founded by Rabindranath Tagore in 1921

136. On February 8, the winners of prestigious "Golden Book Awards" were announced for the year 2023. This event recognizes and celebrates the best book in literature. Golden Book Awards was sponsored by Wings Publication International. There were more than 75,000 books published in India and nominees include a diverse mix of literary genres, including fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and children's books. The awards are judged by a panel of literary experts, like Dr Kailash Pinjani (President Indian Authors Association), Dr Deepak Parbat (Founder of Superfast Author) & Murali Sundaram (Founder of TLC). The winners are mentioned below. {Read more}

Smart Points:

- Golden Book Awards sponsored by Wings Publication International
- List of some important winners:
 - J. K. Rowling 'Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets Of Dumbledore'
 - Gaur Gopal Das 'Energize Your Mind: A Monk's Guide To Mindful Living'
 - Ashneer Grover 'Doglapan: The Hard Truth About Life And Start-Ups'
 - Ruskin Bond 'How To Live Your Life'
 - Namita Thapar 'The Dolphin And The Shark: Stories On Entrepreneurship'
 - Chandrima Chowdhury 'The Tales Of The Uncommon Commons'
 - Dr P. Madhurima Reddy 'The Awakening'
 - Parag Pandya 'Padagha' (Japanese Version Bussokusekika)
 - Navin Reuben Dawson 'Chimaera'
 - Ashutosh Madhukar Marathe 'The Extra In Ordinary'
 - Bhupendra Singh Raathore 'The Magic Of Thinking Rich'
 - Deepak Bajaj 'Network Marketing In 60 Minutes'
 - Dr Soumendra Nath Bandyopadhyay 'The Mysteries Of The Universe-Where Fact Is More Interesting Than Fiction'
 - Gowri Venket 'Superstar Of My Life Saibaba'
 - Dr K. Sreekumar 'Buddhavelicham'
 - Rakhi Kapoor 'Now You Breathe Overcoming Toxic Relationships And Abuse'
 - Kiran Sidde 'Vidyarthi-Betal'
 - Osama Regaah 'Travel And Thoughts'

137. On February 6, Indian Music composer Ricky Kej, based in Bengaluru, won his third Grammy Award for the album "Divine Tides". The US-born musician shared the award with Stewart Copeland, who collaborated with Kej on the album. At the 65th Annual Grammy Awards, the duo earned the gramophone trophy in the 'Best Immersive Audio Album Winner' category. American singer Lizzo won 'Record of the Year' for "About Damn Time" at 2023 Grammys. English singer and songwriter Harry Styles bagged the 'Album of the Year' award for his solo album "Harry's House". Bonnie Raitt won 'Song of the Year' for "Just Like That". Samara Joy, a New York-born jazz singer, clinched the prize for 'Best New Artist'. {Read more}





- 65th Annual Grammy Awards:
- Ricky Kej (Indian Music composer) won his 3rd Grammy Award for the album "Divine Tides"
- Best Immersive Audio Album Winner Ricky Kej + Stewart Copeland
- Record of the Year Lizzo (US singer) for "About Damn Time"
- Album of the Year Harry Styles (singer & songwriter) for his solo album "Harry's House"
- Song of the Year Bonnie Raitt for "Just Like That"
- Best New Artist Samara Joy (jazz singer)

138. On February 9, Veteran journalist Dr Anne Bhavani Koteswara Prasad, popularly known as ABK, has been chosen for the prestigious "Raja Ram Mohan Roy National Award for Excellence in Journalism-2020" for his outstanding contribution to the field of journalism. In a career spanning over 75 years, Dr Prasad has been the editor of nearly all mainstream journals in the State. He also served as the Chairman of the Official Language Commission from 2004 to 2009 in undivided Andhra Pradesh. The award was conferred by Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai, Chairperson of Press Council of India. {Read more}

Smart Points:

- Dr Anne Bhavani Koteswara Prasad awarded "Raja Ram Mohan Roy National Award for Excellence in Journalism-2020"
- The award was conferred by Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai, Chairperson of Press Council of India
- HQs of PCI New Delhi | Chairman Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai

139. On February 6, Author Dr Peggy Mohan won the "Mathrubhumi Book of The Year" award at the 4th edition of Mathrubhumi International Festival of Letters (MBIFL 2023), also known as 'Ka' in Malayalam. Her book "Wanderers, Kings and Merchants", portraying evolution of language as the outcome of migrations, won the award that carries Rs two lakh as cash prize and a sculpture. Nobel Laureate Abdulrazak Gurnah presented the award to her. The Trinidad-born author migrated to India and worked as a professor of Language Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University and Jamia Millia University, New Delhi. {Read more}



Smart Points:

- Dr Peggy Mohan won "Mathrubhumi Book of The Year" award at 4th MBIFL 2023
- MBIFL also known as 'Ka' in Malayalam
- She was born in Trinidad & migrated to India & worked as a professor of Language Studies

140. On February 8, NTPC, India's largest power generation company, has been awarded the "ATD Best Award 2023" for the sixth consecutive year. The award recognizes NTPC's commitment to employee development and talent management. The Association for Talent Development (ATD) presented the award, which is highly regarded in the training and development field. The award showcases NTPC's focus on nurturing employee growth and upskilling, which will aid the company in achieving its goals. The Association for Talent Development, USA is the world's largest association in the field of talent development and ATD's BEST AWARD is most coveted recognition in Learning and Development. {Read more}

- NTPC has been awarded "ATD Best Award 2023" for the sixth consecutive year
- The award is presented by Association for Talent Development (ATD)
- HQs of NTPC New Delhi | CMD Gurdeep Singh | Founded in 1975



Meetings, Conferences & Summits

141. On February 7, India hosted the 9th Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable (AMER9) in association with the International Energy Forum (IEF) in Bengaluru. The theme for this roundtable was "Mapping new pathways for energy security, inclusive growth and energy transitions". The nation's hightech center, AMER9, was opened by Mr. Hardeep S. Puri and took place alongside India Energy Week. Moreover, as per the OPEC's report "World Oil Outlook 2045" that was released at the India Energy Week 2023, India and China alone will account for 37% of the global GDP by 2045. {Read more}

Smart Points:

- AMER9 hosted by India in Bengaluru in association with IEF
- Theme "Mapping new pathways for energy security, inclusive growth and energy transitions"
- "World Oil Outlook 2045" report released by OPEC at India Energy Week 2023
- As per the report, India & China alone will account for 37% of the global GDP by 2045
- HQs of OPEC Vienna, Austria | Secretary General Haitham al-Ghais

142. On February 6, Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), Bengaluru, hosted the 2nd edition of the "Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) - Young Scientist Conclave" from February 6 to 10, 2023. The conclave aims to bring together innovative young minds from SCO member-states on one platform to discuss scientific ideas under five themes. The umbrella themes are: Agriculture and food processing, environmental protection and natural resource management, artificial intelligence and big data research and application, sustainable energy and energy storage, disease biology and healthcare. {Read more}

Smart Points:

- JNCASR (Bengaluru) hosted 2nd edition of the "SCO Young Scientist Conclave"
- 5 umbrella themes of the colclave:
 - Agriculture & food processing
 - Environmental protection & natural resource management
 - Artificial intelligence & big data research & application
 - Sustainable energy & energy storage
 - Disease biology & healthcare
- HQs of SCO Beijing, China | SG Zhang Ming | Present Member Countries 8 | Current Presidency India

143. On February 6, over 150 delegates including G20 countries and 9 special invitee guest countries participated at the latest G20 meet. The first ever G20 Energy Transitions Working Group (ETWG) meeting was held in Bengaluru from February 5-7, 2023. The next G20 Energy Transitions Working Group (ETWG) Meting is scheduled in the first week of April in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. On the side-lines, India's Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) signed an MoU with Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle Joint Business Council (IMT-GT JBC), Malaysia, to further promote the adoption of energy efficiency and sustainable practices in the region. Moreover, the first "G20 Sustainable Finance Working Group (SFWG) Meeting" was held in Guwahati, Assam, on February 2-4, 2023. {Read more}

- 1st ever G20 ETWG meeting was held in Bengaluru
- The next G20 ETWG Meting will be held in first week of April in Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- EESL + IMT-GT JBC = an MoU to promote the adoption of energy efficiency & sustainable practices
- 1st "G20 SFWG Meeting" was held in Guwahati, Assam



Ranks, Reports & Serveys

144. India was the highest attacked country by hackers in Asia and the second-most attacked country globally (after the US) in 2022, according to the "Global Threat Landscape Report 2021-2022" by CloudSEK. The number of cyber attacks on India increased by 24.3% last year. Asia-Pacific remained the most targeted region globally, receiving 20.4% of all attacks in 2021 and 24.1% in 2022. The number of attacks targeting the Asia-Pacific region increased by 26.4%. Europe & North America remained the second & third most targeted region in 2022. {Read more}

Smart Points:

- "Global Threat Landscape Report 2021-2022" report was released by CloudSEK
- India is highest attacked country in Asia by hackers
- India is 2nd most attacked country globally in 2022 | 1st USA
- Cyber attacks on India increased by 24.3% last year
- Asia-Pacific is the most targeted region in 2022 (attacks increased by 26.4%) | 2nd Europe | 3rd North America

145. The "Asian Economic Integration Report (AEIR) 2023", released by Asian Development Bank (ADB) said Asia is one of the most vulnerable regions to climate change risks, yet it emits the largest volume of carbon dioxide. The AEIR reviews Asia and the Pacific's progress on regional cooperation and integration and the states of trade, cross-border investment, financial integration, and the movement of people. Annual temperatures have risen faster in the last 30 years than in any other region, and are now 0.86°C above the 1981-2010 average. The Asia Pacific region's international trade share was high at 58.2% in 2021, with strong regional value chain. Greener trade and investment play a major role in tackling climate change in Asia and the Pacific. {Read more}

Smart Points:

- As per "Asian Economic Integration Report (AEIR) 2023", released by ADB:
 - Asia is one of the most vulnerable regions to climate change risks, yet it emits the largest volume of carbon dioxide
 - Annual temperatures are now 0.86°C above the 1981-2010 average
 - Asia Pacific region's international trade share was high at 58.2% in 2021
- HQs of ADB Mandaluyong, Philippines | President Masatsugu Asakawa | Members 68 | Established in 1966

MoUs, Collaborations & Partnership

146. On February 6, Former US secretary of state Hillary Clinton announced a Global Climate Resilience Fund of \$50 million for women to fight climate change in association with the Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA) founded by late activist Ela Bhatt. The fund will empower women and communities to fight climate change and help provide new livelihood resources and education. During the event, she had said heat caused by climate change poses an additional challenge to women workers in informal sectors and the Global Climate Resilience Fund will help tackle this challenge. {Read more}



- Hillary Clinton + SEWA = announced 'Global Climate Resilience Fund' of \$50 million for women to fight climate change
- SEWA founded by late activist Ela Bhatt



147. On February 8, the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) and Samsung Semiconductor India Research (SSIR) have joined hands to enhance research and development in the Semiconductor sector or on-chip Electrostatic Discharge (ESD) protection in India. The collaboration aims to bolster the country's capabilities in the sector, promoting indigenization, and decreasing reliance on foreign sources. This alliance will pave the way for SSIR to utilize the expertise and facilities provided by IISc to enhance their R&D capabilities. The collaboration will also work towards building a semiconductor talent pool in India by providing training, research, and employment opportunities in the sector. {Read more}

• IISc + SSIR = partnered to enhance R&D in Semiconductor sector or on-chip ESD protection in India

148. On February 6, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoAFW) signed an MoU with Digital Green, under public private partnership (PPP) framework, to build a national level digital extension platform. The platform will host a digital library of curated multi-format multi-lingual content, help extension workers access and deliver curated content to farmers on time and upskill the vast network of extension workers for agriculture, horticulture, fisheries, livestock and rural livelihood missions through certified online courses. Founded by Rikin Gandhi, Digital Green has been working with governments in Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. {Read more}

Smart Points:

Smart Points:

- MoAFW + Digital Green = an MoU under PPP framework to build a digital extension platform
- Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare: Narendra Singh Tomar | Constituency Morena, Madhya Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare: Shobha Karandlaje & Kailash Choudhary

149. On February 8, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has announced an expansion of its long-standing partnership with Phoenix Group, UK's largest long-term savings and retirement provider, through a contract valued at over £600 million. As part of the deal, TCS will digitally transform Phoenix's ReAssure business, including its administration services, using the BaNCS-based platform. Under the agreement, TCS's Diligenta will manage customer administration and servicing of ReAssure's 3 million policies. {Read more}

Smart Points:

- TCS announced an expansion of its long-standing partnership with Phoenix Group
- Phoenix Group UK's largest long-term savings and retirement provider
- TCS will digitally transform Phoenix's ReAssure business using the BaNCS-based platform
- HQs of TCS Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO Rajesh Gopinathan | Founded in 1968
- UK London Pound Sterling | PM Rishi Sunak (57th) | New King King Charles III

150. On February 8, India Health Link signed an MoU with the Uttar Pradesh government under their 'InvestUP' programme to set up health ATMs providing screening of various health parameters at more than 4,600 community and primary health care centres in the state. The health ATM, "hPod", offers a non-invasive digitally-integrated ecosystem that enables Primary, Preventive and Predictive Healthcare. {Read more}



- India Health Link + UP = an MoU under 'InvestUP' programme to set up health ATMs "hPod"
- UP: Capital Lucknow | CM Yogi Adityanath | Governor Anandiben Patel





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