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A Crucial Piece of Advice!

We find several students discussing the issue of lack of time and digging out content regarding how to use every second of your time efficiently. Some of you must be thinking, we have 86400 seconds each day, so why should we worry about just a single one? **Does a single second hold that much importance? YES!** When it comes to competition, each & every second is very crucial.

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

- On an average, a person spends 67 minutes per day eating and drinking beverages while watching their favorite TV series.
- Travelling is one of the most overlooked time drainers. CNBC claims that the average commute is a little over 50 minutes per day.
- 44% of people waste tons of time just sitting in the traffic, while others keep scrolling through their feeds.
- Digital Information World suggests that people spend 2 hours and 22 minutes on social media.
- More often unproductive chats on WhatsApp are the major time drainers where you waste your time on without even knowing how much time is spent.

Adding up all these, you spend nearly **4 hours** daily or 1/6th of your day doing a whole lot of **NOTHING!** Over the course of a week that amounts to over **28 hours** of wasted time, and more than **1460 hours** or **52,560,000 seconds** annually!! Scary! Isn't it?

But what if you could effectively utilize this time to validate the knowledge you just gained during your study sessions? How about competing with your friend in a live Current Affairs battle instead of just sitting and listening to the traffic horns? How about dominating the English language leaderboard instead of searching for a filter on Snapchat?

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

Folks! We feel thrilled to present you the **Qudoo App**, India's first Education-Gaming-Social platform (EGS) for all major competitive Exams, which has the unique capability of making your breaks extremely productive and refilling.

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

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

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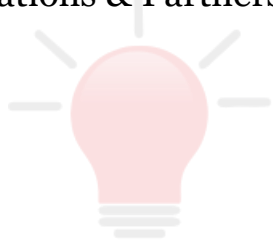
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National & States Affairs

501. On January 24, Chandigarh Administrator and Punjab Governor Banwarilal Purohit inaugurated north India's largest floating solar project of 2000kWp in Chandigarh. The 2000kWp floating solar power plant at Water Works in Sector 39 has been commissioned at a cost of Rs 11.70 crore. He also opened the 500kWp floating solar power plant installed over the Dhanas lake in Chandigarh. Both the projects have been designed and executed by CREST (Chandigarh Renewable Energy and Science and Technology Promotion Society) and will generate a minimum of 35 lakh units (kWh) per year with 20% module efficiency. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Banwarilal Purohit – inaugurated North India's largest floating solar project of 2000kWp in Chandigarh
- He also opened the 500kWp floating solar power plant installed over the Dhanas lake in Chandigarh
- Chandigarh: Capital – Chandigarh | Administrator – Banwarilal Purohit

502. On January 26, as part of its promotion strategy for agri exports, the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) proposed to use River names as tag line and branding for Indian agri products. APEDA is identifying agri products that can be sourced from the Gangetic, Brahmaputra, Cauvery and Godavari River basins, among others, across India. India, which is currently the 8th largest exporter of agri products, aims to be among the top five by 2030. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- APEDA – proposed to use River names as tag line & branding for Indian agri products
- India aims to be among the top 5 largest exporter of agri products by 2030 | Currently – 8th
- HQs of APEDA – New Delhi | Chairman – M. Angamuthu | Established in – 1986 (functions under Ministry of C&I)

503. On January 24, Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Housing and Urban Affairs, Hardeep Singh Puri, inaugurated the demo-run of Inland Water Vessel named "SB Gangadhar" powered by Methanol blended Diesel (MD15) in the Brahmaputra in Guwahati, in a run-up to India Energy Week 2023 (IEW 2023) to be held in Bengaluru from February 6 to 8, 2023. The marine vessel is equipped with two Ruston make diesel engines. The work is in progress to set up Coal-to-Methanol plants in India using indigenous technology, which is being developed by BHEL (Hyderabad and Trichy), Thermax, and IIT Delhi. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Hardeep Singh Puri – inaugurated the demo-run of Inland Water Vessel named "SB Gangadhar" in Guwahati, Assam
- It is powered by Methanol blended Diesel (MD15)
- India Energy Week 2023 – to be held in Bengaluru (in Feb)
- An indigenous technology to set up 'Coal-to-Methanol Plants' in India – is being developed by BHEL + IIT Delhi
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Gulab Chand Kataria

504. On January 25, NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and Intel India have collaborated to bring a change in the Education Sector by embedding future skills, such as artificial intelligence (AI), by launching AIoT Integration in School Curriculum. The main aim is to align the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020's guidance to increase the pace of tech integration for youth, the need to bridge the future skills gap in the country, and optimise the current infrastructure towards making India AI-ready. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- AIM + CBSE + Intel India = collaboration to launch AIoT Integration in School Curriculum
- HQs of AIM – New Delhi | Director – Chintan Vaishnav | Launched in – 2016 (a flagship initiative of NITI Aayog)
- HQs of CBSE – New Delhi | Chairperson – Nidhi Chibber | Formed in – 1962

505. On January 26, the Assam Cabinet has decided to book/prosecute men who marry minor girls under stringent laws prescribing imprisonment from two years to life. Men marrying girls between the age of 14 and 18 will be booked under the 'Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006' with a minimum sentence period of two years. While the men marrying girls below 14 years of age will be booked under the 'Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012', entailing life punishment. As per the National Family Health Survey-5 report, an average of 31.8% of girls in Assam get married at the prohibited age and 11.7% of them become mothers before adulthood compared to the national average of 23.3% and 6.8%, respectively. The legal age for marriage is 18 years for women and 21 for men. Dhubri in Western Assam tops the list of districts with 50% of girls getting married and 22% of them becoming mothers before they turn 18. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

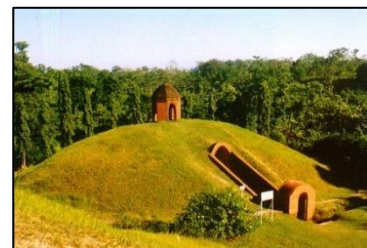
- Assam Cabinet – to prosecute men who marry minor girls under stringent laws prescribing imprisonment
 - Men marrying girls aged 14-18 will be booked under 'Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006' with jail of 2 years
 - Men marrying girls aged below 14 will be booked under 'POCSO Act, 2012' with life-time punishment
- National Family Health Survey-5 report: Average of 31.8% of girls in Assam get married at the prohibited age
- The legal age for marriage is 18 years for women & 21 for men
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Gulab Chand Kataria

506. On January 25, the Government has approved a proposal for the sale of 30 Lakh Metric Tonnes of wheat under the 'Open Market Sale Scheme - Domestic (OMSS-D)' to control prices of wheat. Wheat will be offered to the flour millers, and bulk buyers through e-auction for a maximum quantity of 3,000 Metric Tonnes per buyer, per auction, from an FCI Region under e-auction. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Govt approved a proposal for the sale of 30 Lakh Metric Tonnes of wheat under 'Open Market Sale Scheme - Domestic'
- Wheat will be offered through e-auction for a maximum quantity of 3,000 Metric Tonnes per buyer per auction

507. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced that the central government has decided to put forth the name of Assam's Charaideo moidams (pyramids) burial sites for addition to United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) World Heritage Sites list. If selected, 90 royal burials at Charaideo will be the only cultural heritage site in the North East to get the coveted status. The Charaideo moidams are royal burial sites of the Ahom dynasty, which ruled over much of Assam and the North East from 1228 to 1826 AD. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- Govt decided to put forth Assam's 'Charaideo moidams' (pyramids) burial sites for UNESCO World Heritage Sites list
- The Charaideo moidams are royal burial sites of the 'Ahom dynasty'
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Gulab Chand Kataria

508. On January 24, Mahanadi Coalfield Limited (MCL), a subsidiary of Coal India, announced to invest Rs 12,000 Crore in Odisha to set up a coal-based power plant; and will set up Greenfield aluminum. Moreover, the company is in the process of mining aluminum ore, bauxite, and then converting it to alumina and then into aluminum. The tentative size of the mine would be 3 million tonnes (MT) per annum. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Mahanadi Coalfield Ltd – to invest Rs 12,000 Cr in Odisha to set up a Coal-based Power Plant & Greenfield aluminum
- [HQs of MCL – Sambalpur, Odisha](#) | [CMD – O. P. Singh](#)

509. Prime Minister Narendra Modi named 21 largest unnamed islands in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands after Param Vir Chakra awardees. The largest unnamed island was named after the first Param Vir Chakra awardee, Major Somnath Sharma. The second largest unnamed island was named after the second Param Vir Chakra awardee, and so on. At an online event on the occasion of Subhas Chandra Bose's birth anniversary, Modi also unveiled the model of a proposed memorial dedicated to Bose, to be set up in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The proposed memorial will be set up on Ross Island, which was renamed as Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Dweep in 2018. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Narendra Modi – named 21 largest unnamed islands in Andaman & Nicobar Islands after Param Vir Chakra awardees
- The largest unnamed island was named after – Major Somnath Sharma (The 1st Param Vir Chakra awardee)
- Ross Island – was renamed as Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Dweep (in 2018)
- PM Modi – unveiled the model of a proposed memorial to be set up in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands
- [Andaman & Nicobar Islands: Capital – Port Blair](#) | [Lt. Governor – Admiral Devendra Kumar Joshi](#)

510. On January 23, Kerala health department confirmed two cases of Norovirus, a highly-contagious gastrointestinal illness, in the Ernakulam district. Norovirus is a virus that leads to gastroenteritis or stomach flu. According to the health department, two Class 1 students have tested positive for norovirus. Norovirus is a zoonotic disease, which is mainly transmitted through close contact with people who have been infected, or by touching contaminated surfaces. It can also spread by eating food that has been prepared or handled by someone with a stomach bug. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Kerala – confirmed two cases of Norovirus, a highly-contagious gastrointestinal illness
- Norovirus – a virus that leads to gastroenteritis or stomach flu (similar to the diarrhea-inducing 'Rotavirus')
- [Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram](#) | [CM – Pinarayi Vijayan](#) | [Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan](#)

511. On January 25, Jal Shakti Ministry announced that the government has provided 11 Crore rural households with a tap water connection under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). Data from the Ministry's dashboard suggest that 56% (10.2 Crore) of the targeted 19.3 Crore households had been covered by September 2022. The Jal Jeevan Mission aims to provide safe and adequate drinking water through individual household tap connections by 2024 to all households in rural India. The scheme has a financial outlay of ₹3.60 lakh crore, with the Centre funding 50% of the cost with States and Union Territories. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- 11 Crore rural households have been provided with a tap water connection under the Jal Jeevan Mission (as of Jan 2023)
- JJM aims to provide safe & adequate drinking water through individual household tap connections by 2024
- The scheme has a financial outlay of ₹3.60 Lakh Crore (with Centre funding 50% of the cost)



512. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in Punjab launched its first major education project, 'Schools of Eminence'. Under the project, the AAP government will upgrade existing government schools into 'Schools of Eminence' for classes 9 to 12. The government plans to upgrade nearly 110 government schools as 'Schools of Eminence' in Phase 1. The AAP government in its first budget in June 2022 had set aside a fund of Rs 200 Cr for 'Schools of Eminence' and said that these schools will be equipped with superlative infrastructure and will be at par with international standards. The project is inspired by Delhi's 'Schools of Specialized Excellence', which also conduct admissions at the Class 9 level. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Punjab (AAP Govt) – launched 'Schools of Eminence', its first major education project
- 110 existing government schools will be upgraded into 'Schools of Eminence' for classes 9 to 12 in Phase 1
- The project is inspired by Delhi's 'Schools of Specialized Excellence', which also conduct admissions at the Class 9 level
- Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Bhagwant Mann | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

513. On January 20, the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) in Odisha's Bhubaneswar formed the largest Human Red Ribbon Chain in the Kalinga stadium to raise awareness regarding the disease. The awareness programme was organised by the Odisha State AIDS Control Society, Health & Family Welfare Department of the Odisha government under the leadership of NACO in coordination with the Department of Sports & Youth Services & Hockey India. Besides the formation of 'largest human red ribbon chain' in the gallery, Audio Visual (AV) materials were scrolled to disseminate the messages related to HIV/AIDS and the National AIDS Toll-Free helpline - 1097. This event created a massive impact among 25,000 plus spectators inside the stadium and millions of virtual audiences around the globe through television and Over The Top (OTT) platforms. In order to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 3.3 of ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030, awareness generation activities are being strengthened among the general public as well as the High-Risk Groups in Odisha about the services offered under the umbrella of the National AIDS Control Programme. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- NACO – formed the largest Human Red Ribbon Chain to raise awareness regarding AIDS in the Kalinga Stadium, Odisha
- AV materials were scrolled to disseminate the messages related to HIV/AIDS & National AIDS Toll-Free helpline – 1097
- Sustainable Development Goal 3.3 – ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal
- HQs of NACO – New Delhi | Director General – V Hekali Zhimomi

514. On January 26, Chief Justice of India D. Y. Chandrachud announced that the Supreme Court will release 1,268 judgments in 13 Indian languages in a bid to make justice administration more accessible to the common man. The judgments would be made available in the court's e-SCR portal (electronic version of Supreme Court Reports). [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Supreme Court released 1,268 judgments in 13 Indian languages
- Present Chief of Justice of the Supreme Court of India – Justice Dhananjaya Y. Chandrachud (50th)



International Affairs

515. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) announced to dedicate the “International Day of Education 2023” to Afghan girls and women. International Day of Education is observed on January 24. According to UNESCO, currently, around 80% of school-aged Afghan girls and young women are out of school under the Taliban rule, as they denied them access to secondary schools and universities. According to a UNICEF report released in August, the fact that girls in Afghanistan are deprived of secondary education has cost the country’s economy at least \$500 million over the past 12 months, which amounts to 2.5% of GDP. The fifth International Day of Education was celebrated on 24 January 2023 under the theme “To Invest in People, Prioritize Education”. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- January 24 – 5th International Day of Education
- Theme – “To Invest in People, Prioritize Education”
- UNESCO – dedicated the “International Day of Education 2023” to Afghan girls and women
- Around 80% of school-aged Afghan girls and young women are out of school under the Taliban rule
- [Afghanistan – Kabul – Afghani](#) | [Care taker President – Amrullah Saleh](#) | [Interim PM – Mullah Hasan Akhund](#)

516. On January 24, the UNESCO and Solvay, Belgium-based chemicals company, launched a “STEM Education Program”. Developed by two leading science-based organizations, this three-year partnership aims at engaging high schoolers and graduate students from India, Indonesia and South Korea to find solutions to national and regional environmental issues through science. Focused on the theme “Sustainable Living for One Planet”, the program will explore our mutual impact on the environment and the environment on us through mentorship activities with university students and teachers from those countries. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- UNESCO + Solvay (Belgium) = launched a “STEM Education Program”
- The program will engage high schoolers & graduate students from India, Indonesia & South Korea to find solutions
- Theme of the program – “Sustainable Living for One Planet”
- [HQs of UNESCO – Paris, France](#) | [Director-General – Audrey Azoulay](#) | [Founded in – 1945](#) | [Members – 193 Countries](#)

517. On January 24, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced a new federal investment to build and commercialise the world’s first photonic-based, fault-tolerant quantum computer. The investment of 40 million Canadian dollars (\$32 million) will enable Xanadu Quantum Technologies Inc., a Toronto-based Canadian quantum computing company, to develop the quantum computer which will have the potential to provide world leading capabilities to help solve complex data problems and could be used in a variety of sectors such as finance, transportation, environmental modelling, and health. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Canada – announced investment to build & commercialise world’s 1st photonic-based, fault-tolerant quantum computer
- Xanadu Quantum Technologies Inc (Toronto) – will develop this Quantum Computer
- [Canada – Ottawa – Canadian Dollar](#) | [PM – Justin Trudeau](#)



518. On January 26, the UNESCO designated the historic “Odesa”, a strategic port city on Ukraine’s Black Sea coast, as a World Heritage in Danger site. The status, awarded by a UNESCO panel meeting in Paris, is designed to help protect Odesa’s cultural heritage, which has been under threat since Russia’s invasion, and enable access to financial and technical international aid. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- UNESCO designated the historic “Odesa” (a strategic port city in Ukraine) – as a World Heritage in Danger site
- HQs of UNESCO – Paris, France | Director-General – Audrey Azoulay | Founded in – 1945 | Members – 193 Countries
- Ukraine – Kyiv – Ukrainian Hryvnia | President – Volodymyr Zelensky

Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

519. On January 26, Punjab National Bank (PNB) and Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd (AHFL) have entered into a co-lending agreement to offer home loans at competitive interest rates. Through this partnership, the aim is to reach out to a large section of society viz. economically weaker, lower, and middle-income groups for providing easy, convenient, and efficient home finance solutions to customers. The co-lending framework of the Reserve Bank of India provides a tool for the Banks and NBFCs/HFCs to collaborate, leverage on their respective strengths to provide affordable solution to the unserved and underserved sections of the society. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- PNB + AHFL = a co-lending agreement to offer home loans at competitive interest rates
- HQs of PNB – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Atul Kumar Goel | Tagline – “The Name You Can Bank Upon”

520. On January 27, after China, India will become the second country in the world to start the ‘trade-plus-one’ (T+1) settlement cycle in top listed securities in the stock markets. It will bring operational efficiency, faster fund remittances, share delivery, and ease for stock market participants. The T+1 settlement cycle means that trade-related settlements must be done within a day, or 24 hours, of the completion of a transaction. Until 2001, stock markets had a weekly settlement system. The markets then moved to a rolling settlement system of T+3, and then to T+2 in 2003. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- India – to become the second country in the world to start the ‘T+1’ settlement cycle in stock markets (after China)
- Currently, ‘T+2’ settlement cycle is being used in India since 2003

521. On January 23, BOB Financial Solutions Limited (BFSL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Bank of Baroda, launched ‘Vikram Credit Card’ dedicated to the Indian defence, paramilitary, and police personnel. The Vikram Credit Card reinforces its commitment to address the credit needs of personnel who are selflessly guarding us and serving our country. BFSL already has exclusive cobranded credit cards with the Indian Army (Yoddha), Indian Navy (Varunah), Indian Coast Guard (Rakshamah) and Assam Rifles (The Sentinel). [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- BFSL – launched ‘Vikram Credit Card’ dedicated to the Indian defence, paramilitary & police personnel
- Other cards by BFSL for – Indian Army (Yoddha), Indian Navy (Varunah), ICG (Rakshamah) & Assam Rifles (Sentinel)
- HQs of BOB Financial Solutions – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Shailendra Singh



522. On January 25, HDFC Life and National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) have collaborated to offer a first - UPI 123PAY. This is a unique voice-based premium payment service that further simplifies the premium payment process for HDFC Life policyholders. UPI 123PAY is a payment facility through a pre-defined IVR (Interactive Voice Response). This platform will enable customers to make financial transactions with or without an internet connection. Customers can avail this service in various regional languages such as Hindi, Marathi, Gujarati, Punjabi, Kannada, Tamil, etc. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- HDFC Life + NPCI = collaborated to enable HDFC Life policyholders pay premiums offline via NPCI's 'UPI 123PAY'
- HQs of HDFC Life Insurance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Vibha Padalkar
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD & CEO – Dilip Asbe | Established in – 2008

523. In January 2023, the National Statistical Office (NSO), under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, released the First Advance Estimates (FAE) of National Income at both Constant (2011-12) and Current Prices, for the financial year 2022-23. The First Advance Estimates of GDP, introduced in 2016-17 to serve as essential inputs to the Budget exercise, is based on limited data and compiled using the Benchmark-Indicator Method. Real GDP or GDP at Constant (2011-12) Prices in the year 2022-23 is estimated at ₹157.60 lakh crore. The growth in real GDP during 2022-23 is estimated at 7%. Nominal GDP or GDP at Current Prices in the year 2022-23 is estimated at ₹273.08 lakh crore. The growth in nominal GDP during 2022-23 is estimated at 15.4%. The Gross/Net National Income (NNI) of India is estimated to rise by 6.6 % in FY23. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- NSO (MoSPI) – released the First Advance Estimates (FAE) of National Income at Constant (2011-12) & Current Prices
- Estimations:
 - Real GDP or GDP at Constant (2011-12) Prices in FY23 – Rs 157.60 Lakh Cr
 - Growth in real GDP during 2022-23 is estimated – at 7%
 - Nominal GDP or GDP at Current Prices in FY23 – Rs 273.08 Lakh Cr
 - Growth in nominal GDP during 2022-23 is estimated – at 15.4%
 - Gross/Net National Income (NNI) of India in FY23 is estimated to rise – by 6.6 %
- HQs of NSO – New Delhi | Chairperson – Bimal Kumar Roy

Sports & Games

524. On January 26, for the first time a white card was shown in a football match in Portugal. Most football fans must be aware of the red and yellow cards in football. But history was scripted in Portugal on a white card was shown for the first time in a women's cup quarter-final match between Benfica and Sporting Lisbon. The card was initiated by Portugal to try and improve ethical value in the sport. It is in contrast with yellow and red cards which are used to discipline players for misconduct. The exact purpose and consequence of the card are yet to be announced. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- For the first time a 'White Card' was shown in a football match in Portugal
- Yellow & red cards are already being used to discipline players for misconduct
- Portugal – Lisbon – Euro | President – Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa



525. On January 24, the International Cricket Council (ICC) announced the Test team, where star batsman Rishabh Pant is the only Indian player to appear on the list of “ICC’s Men’s Test Team of the Year 2022”. Among batsmen, those who have also been included are Pakistan skipper Babar Azam, Australian batsmen Usman Khawaja, Marnus Labuschagne, England’s Jonny Bairstow, Ben Stokes and West Indies’ Kraigg Brathwaite. Former India captain Virat Kohli, all-rounder Hardik Pandya and shortest format’s number one batter Suryakumar Yadav were picked in the “ICC’s Men’s T20I Team of the Year 2022”. While India’s Shreyas Iyer & Mohammed Siraj were picked in the “ICC’s Men’s ODI Team of the Year 2022”. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Indian players included in the Test, ODI & T20I teams of the year 2022 by the ICC:
 - ICC’s Men’s Test Team of the Year 2022: Rishabh Pant
 - ICC’s Men’s T20I Team of the Year 2022: Virat Kohli, Hardik Pandya & Suryakumar Yadav
 - ICC’s Men’s ODI Team of the Year 2022: Shreyas Iyer & Mohammed Siraj
- [HQs of ICC – Dubai, UAE](#) | [Chairman – Greg Barclay](#) | [CEO – Geoff Allardice](#) | [Members – 108 countries](#)

526. On January 26, New Zealand announced to honour the country’s outstanding female cricketer with the inaugural Debbie Hockley Medal at the 2023 Annual Cricket Awards Ceremony. It will be afforded equal status to the Sir Richard Hadlee Medal which is given to the outstanding male cricketers of the year. Debbie Hockley, the former cricketer, is the only woman to have won the supreme New Zealand Cricketer of the Year Award. She was the first woman to become President of New Zealand Cricket. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- New Zealand – to honour the country’s outstanding female cricketer with the inaugural “Debbie Hockley Medal”
- Debbie Hockley – Former Cricketer & the first woman President of New Zealand Cricket
- [New Zealand – Wellington – Dollar \(NZD\)](#) | [PM – Chris Hipkins](#)



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इस खेल में कोई वित्तीय जोखिम नहीं है और इसकी आदत लग जाए तो अच्छा है।

Persons in News

527. On January 24, President of Egypt Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, who was the Chief Guest for the 74th Republic Day parade, arrived in New Delhi. On January 25, El-Sisi was accorded a ceremonial reception at the Rashtrapati Bhawan. This is for the first time that the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt has been invited as Chief Guest on our Republic Day. In the fiscal year 2021-22, the bilateral trade between India and Egypt reached \$7.26 billion, with almost equal imports and exports. During his visit, India and Egypt signed an MoU to facilitate content exchange, capacity building, and co-productions between Prasar Bharati and National Media Authority of Egypt. The agreement was signed by Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Singh Thakur. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Chief Guest for the 74th Republic Day parade (on January 26, 2023) – Abdel Fattah El-Sisi (President of Egypt)
- Prasar Bharati (India) + Egypt = an MoU to facilitate content exchange, capacity building & co-productions
- [Egypt – Cairo – Egyptian Pound](#) | [President – Abdel Fattah el-Sisi](#)

528. On January 26, Lieutenant Chetana Sharma led the ‘Made in India’ Akash surface-to-air missile system at the 74th Republic Day parade 2023. Lieutenant Chetana is from an Army Air Defence regiment unit, which protects the air space from enemy aircraft and drones. She belongs to Rajasthan’s Khatu Shyam village. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Lt. Chetana Sharma – led the ‘Made in India’ Akash surface-to-air missile system at the 74th Republic Day parade
- Lt. Chetana Sharma (Rajasthan’s) – is from an Army Air Defence regiment unit



Arts & Cultural Affairs

529. On January 26, Union Minister for Culture, Tourism and DoNER, G. K. Reddy, inaugurated a mega event “Bharat Parv” at Red Fort in New Delhi. Reddy unveiled the ‘Incredible India Digital Calendar’ of the Ministry of Tourism at the event. The theme of the Calendar for 2023 is “The Incredible Festivals of India”. Government of India organized the six-day mega event from January 26-31, 2023, as part of the Republic Day celebrations. Ministry of Tourism was designated as the nodal ministry for the event. Bharat Parv fulfils the spirit of Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat as artists, handicrafts, food stalls from all over India remain present there. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- G. K. Reddy – inaugurated a mega event “Bharat Parv” at Red Fort in New Delhi
- G. K. Reddy – unveiled the ‘Incredible India Digital Calendar’ of the Ministry of Tourism
- Theme of the Calendar for 2023 – “The Incredible Festivals of India”
- [Ministry of Tourism: G. Kishan Reddy](#) | [Constituency – Secunderabad, Telangana](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Tourism: Shripad Yesso Naik & Ajay Bhatt](#)



Science & Technology

530. On January 26, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare, unveiled the 'iNNOVACC', the world's first intranasal COVID19 vaccine. It is developed by Bharat Biotech International Limited (BBIL) in collaboration with Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance (BIRAC), a PSU under the Dept of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology. Over 65% of vaccines supplied in the world are from India. ZyCoV-D, the world's first and India's indigenously developed DNA based vaccine for Covid-19 to be administered in humans including children and adults 12 years and above, was also developed in partnership with the Department of Biotechnology under 'Mission Covid Suraksha' through BIRAC. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- Mansukh Mandaviya – unveiled the 'iNNOVACC', the world's first intranasal COVID19 vaccine
- It is developed by = Bharat Biotech + BIRAC
- 'ZyCoV-D' – the world's first and India's indigenously developed DNA based vaccine for Covid-19
- 'ZyCoV-D' is developed by = Zydus Lifesciences Ltd + DBT-BIRAC

531. On January 28, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) announced its plan to launch the 'Aditya-L1' mission by June or July this year. Aditya-L1 is the first Indian space mission to observe the Sun and the solar corona. Aditya-L1 mission will be launched by ISRO to the L1 orbit (the first Lagrangian point of the Sun-Earth system). In total Aditya-L1 has 7 payloads, of which the primary payload is the Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC), designed & fabricated by the Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bengaluru. The other 6 payloads are being developed by ISRO and other scientific institutions. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- ISRO – to launch the 'Aditya-L1' mission by June or July, 2023
- Aditya-L1 is the first Indian space mission to observe the Sun and the solar corona (Aditya-L1 has total 7 payloads)
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – S. Somanath | Formed on – August 15, 1969

532. On January 25, NASA and the United States Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) announced a collaboration for the "DRACO (Demonstration Rocket for Agile Cislunar Operations) Project". They aim to develop and demonstrate a working thermonuclear rocket engine by 2027. With the help of this new technology, astronauts could journey to and from deep space faster than ever. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- NASA + DARPA = collaboration for the "DRACO (Demonstration Rocket for Agile Cislunar Operations) Project"
- HQs of NASA – Washington D.C., US | Administrator – Bill Nelson | Founded in – 1958

533. On January 24, Microsoft announced to invest \$10 billion in OpenAI, a San Francisco-based artificial intelligence lab behind an AI-powered chatbot, ChatGPT. ChatGPT (Chat Generative Pre-trained Transformer) is a chatbot developed by OpenAI and launched in November 2022. Microsoft had already invested more than \$3 billion in OpenAI. OpenAI was created in 2015. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Microsoft – announced to invest \$10 billion in OpenAI
- ChatGPT (Chat **G**enerative **P**re-trained **T**ransformer) – developed by OpenAI
- HQs of OpenAI – San Francisco, US | CEO – Sam Altman | Created in – 2015

Appointments & Resignations

534. On January 25, Professor Bharat Bhasker was appointed as the Director of the Indian Institute of Ahmedabad (IIMA). Professor Bhasker, who currently holds the position of Professor of Information Technology and Systems at IIM Lucknow, will take charge as IIMA director on March 1, 2023. In the interim, the Board of Governors has appointed Prof Arindam Banerjee as the director-in-charge from February 1 to 28, 2023. The term of the incumbent director, Prof Errol D'Souza, ends on January 31, 2023. Professor Bhasker had served as the Director of IIM Raipur from March 2017 to March 2022. Pankaj R Patel is the Chairperson of IIM Ahmedabad Board of Governors. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- Professor Bharat Bhasker – appointed as the Director of IIM Ahmedabad (effective from March 1, 2023)
- Mr. Bhasker replaces incumbent director – Prof Errol D'Souza
- Director of IIM Ahmedabad – Professor Bharat Bhasker

535. On January 26, Naresh Lalwani has taken over as the new General Manager of Central Railway. He is a senior officer of the Indian Railway Engineering Service of 1985 batch. Before taking over as General Manager, Central Railway, he was working as Senior Deputy General Manager and Chief Vigilance Officer of Western Railway. He succeeds Ashok Kumar Misra. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- Naresh Lalwani – took over as the new General Manager of Central Railway
- HQs of Central Railway – Mumbai, Maharashtra | GM – Naresh Lalwani

536. On January 24, Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF) that markets milk and dairy products under the Amul brand announced the appointment of Shamalbhai B Patel as its chairman and Valamjibhai Humbal as vice chairman. GCMMF is made up of 18 member unions covering 33 districts. GCMMF is India's largest food products organization with annual sales turnover of ₹46,481 crores during last financial year. It markets a wide range of milk and milk products under the brand name Amul. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- Shamalbhai B. Patel – appointed as the Chairman of GCMMF (Amul)
- Valamjibhai Humbal – appointed as Vice Chairman of GCMMF (Amul)
- GCMMF is India's largest food products organization with annual sales turnover of ₹46,481 Cr in FY22
- HQs of AMUL/GCMMF – Anand, Gujarat | MD – Jayen Mehta (interim) | Chairman – Shamalbhai B. Patel

537. On January 20, India was elected as Vice-Chair in the 12th Session of the FAO's Intergovernmental Technical Working Group (ITWG) on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, held at FAO headquarters in Rome during 18-20 January 2023. Dr B. N. Tripathi, the National Coordinator from India, was elected as Vice-Chair and also as Rapporteur of the 12th Session of ITWG and represented Asia & Pacific region. The US was the Chair of the 12th session. ITWG of Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has been established by the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) at its 7th Session in May 1997. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- India – elected as Vice-Chair in the 12th Session of the FAO's Intergovernmental Technical Working Group (ITWG) on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture – held in Rome, Italy
- Dr B. N. Tripathi, the National Coordinator from India – was elected as Vice-Chair | Chair – USA
- HQs of FAO – Rome, Italy | DG – QU Dongyu | Formation – 16th October, 1945

538. On January 24, Tata Trusts, one of the country's oldest public charitable foundations, appointed Siddharth Sharma as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Trusts and Aparna Uppaluri as the Chief Operating Officer (COO). Their appointment will come into effect from 1 April, 2023. Tata Trusts, which holds 66% stake in Tata Sons. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Siddharth Sharma – appointed as the CEO of Tata Trusts (effective from 1 April, 2023)

Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

539. In January 2023, 'All that Breathes', directed by Shaunak Sen has been nominated in the 'Best Documentary Feature Film' category for the 95th Academy Awards (Oscars) 2023. 'The Elephant Whisperers' directed by Kartiki Gonsalves has been nominated in the category of 'Best Documentary Short Film'. While, 'Naatu Naatu' song of SS Rajamouli's RRR film has been nominated in the category of 'Best Original Song'. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- Three Indian nominations for the Oscars 2023:
 - Shaunak Sen's 'All that Breathes' film – nominated in the 'Best Documentary Feature Film' category
 - Kartiki Gonsalves' 'The Elephant Whisperers' film – nominated in the 'Best Documentary Short Film' category
 - 'Naatu Naatu' song of SS Rajamouli's RRR film – nominated in the 'Best Original Song' category

540. On January 26, Ministry of Home Affairs announced that the President of India has approved 106 Padma awards. The list comprises 6 Padma Vibhushan, 9 Padma Bhushan and 91 Padma Shri awards. 19 of the awardees are women and the list includes 7 honoured posthumously. Some well-known Padma Shri awardees include - Ramkuiwangbe Newme, a Naga social worker from Assam, Composer M. M. Keeravani, who recently won the Golden Globe, Siddi tribal social worker from Gujarat Hirabai Lobi, war veteran Munishwar Chander Dawar, 'Kannur ke Gandhi' V.P. Appukkuttan Poduval, Master artisan Dilshad Hussain, etc. These awards are conferred by the President at ceremonial functions which are held at the Rashtrapati Bhawan usually around March or April every year. [Click here for Full List of Padma Awards 2023](#)



Smart Points:

- Total 106 Padma Awards in 2023 = 6 Padma Vibhushan + 9 Padma Bhushan + 91 Padma Shri

Padma Vibhushan

| | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Balkrishna Doshi (Posthumous) | Others - Architecture | Gujarat |
| Zakir Hussain | Art | Maharashtra |
| S M Krishna | Public Affairs | Karnataka |
| Dilip Mahalanabis (Posthumous) | Medicine | West Bengal |
| Srinivas Varadhan | Science & Engineering | USA |
| Mulayam Singh Yadav (Posthumous) | Public Affairs | Uttar Pradesh |

Padma Bhushan

| | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|-------------|
| S L Bhyrappa | Literature & Education | Karnataka |
| Kumar Mangalam Birla | Trade & Industry | Maharashtra |
| Shri Deepak Dhar | Science & Engineering | Maharashtra |
| Vani Jairam | Art | Tamil Nadu |
| Swami Chinna Jeeyar | Others - Spiritualism | Telangana |
| Suman Kalyanpur | Art | Maharashtra |
| Kapil Kapoor | Literature & Education | Delhi |
| Sudha Murty | Social Work | Karnataka |
| Kamlesh D Patel | Others - Spiritualism | Telangana |

541. On 26th January 2023, the 74th Republic Day of India was celebrated across India. President Droupadi Murmu led her first Republic Day celebrations at Kartavya Path (earlier Rajpath). On this occasion, President Droupadi Murmu awarded the President's Tatrakshak Medal and Tatrakshak Medal to 6 Indian Coast Guard (ICG) personnel for their act of conspicuous gallantry, exceptional devotion to duty and distinguished/meritorious service. Besides, a total of 43 persons were selected for Jeevan Raksha Padak Series of Awards 2022. Of them, 4 awardees are posthumous. President Droupadi Murmu has approved the conferment of Jeevan Raksha Padak Series of Awards-2022 which includes Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak to 7, Uttam Jeevan Raksha Padak to 8 and Jeevan Raksha Padak to 28 persons. Total 47 personnel were awarded Fire Service Medals. Out of these, Fire Service Medal for Gallantry was awarded to 2 personnel, Fire Service Medal for Distinguished Service to 7 personnel, and Fire Service Medal for Meritorious Service to 38 personnel. In addition, 55 personnel were also awarded Home Guard & Civil Defence Medals on the occasion. 17 from States and Union Territories & 6 from Central Ministries and Departments, total 23 tableaux participated at Kartavya Path for the Republic Day parade. In a first, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) displayed a tableau during the Republic Day parade, with the theme 'Nasha Mukta Bharat'. Moreover, India's biggest drone show, comprising 3,500 indigenous drones, was scheduled to be held during Beating the Retreat ceremony on January 29, 2023. Garud Special Forces of the IAF, led by Squadron Leader Pritam Singh Jaitawat, participated for the first time in the Republic Day parade. Moreover, the iconic 21-Gun Salute to the President during the parade used 105 mm Indian Field Guns for the first time. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- President Droupadi Murmu awarded:
 - President's Tatrakshak Medal & Tatrakshak Medal – to 6 ICG personnel
 - Jeevan Raksha Padak Series of Awards – to 43 persons (4 posthumous)
 - Fire Service Medals – to 47 personnel
 - Home Guard & Civil Defence Medals – to 55 personnel
- Total 23 tableaux (17 states/UTs + 6 Ministries/Depts) – participated at Kartavya Path for the Republic Day parade



- NCB displayed a tableau during the Republic Day parade with the theme 'Nasha Mukh Bharat'
- Garud Special Forces of the IAF participated for the first time (led by Squadron Leader Pritam Singh Jaitawat)
- 21-Gun Salute to the President during the parade used '105 mm Indian Field Guns' for the first time

542. On January 26, East Coast Railways' Visakhapatnam railway station received the prestigious 'Green Railway Station Certification' with the highest Platinum rating. The certificate has been awarded by the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) for adopting green concepts. It secured 82 out of 100 points in six environmental categories (sustainable facilities, health, hygiene, energy and water efficiency, smart green initiatives, innovation, and development). The Environment Directorate of Indian Railways (IR) with the support of IGBC has developed the 'Green Railway Stations Rating System' to reduce the adverse environmental impacts due to station operation, and maintenance and enhance the overall experience of the passengers. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Visakhapatnam railway station – received 'Green Railway Station Certification' with the highest Platinum rating
- The certificate is awarded by – Indian Green Building Council (IGBC)
- Green Railway Stations Rating System is developed by = Environment Directorate of Indian Railways (IR) + IGBC
- HQs of Indian Railways – New Delhi | Chairman & CEO – Anil Kumar Lahoti

Schemes & Initiatives

543. On January 27, Mumbai-based Godrej Agrovet Ltd introduced a ground-breaking initiative called "Samadhan", a one stop solution centre for oil palm farmers. Providing a comprehensive package of knowledge, tools, services and solutions to farmers, "Samadhan" aims to be a critical enabler in Palm Oil industry and assist oil palm farmers in optimising their yields by adopting latest agricultural techniques and boosting their productivity. As a part of the Samadhan initiative, Godrej Agrovet will establish 50 Samadhan centers across the India by 2027. Also, the company has become the first in India to be awarded a verification Certification under the Indian Palm Oil Sustainability (IPOS) Framework which is established by the Solvent Extractors Association of India. The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare (MoAFW) has set a goal to cultivate 10,00,000 hectares of oil palm by 2027 under the 'National Mission on Edible Oil - Oil Palm (NMEO-OP)'. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Godrej Agrovet (Mumbai) – introduced an initiative called "Samadhan", a one stop solution centre for palm oil farmers
- Godrej Agrovet – aims to establish 50 Samadhan centers across the India by 2027
- Godrej Agrovet – became India's first company to be awarded a verification Certification under the IPOS Framework
- MoAFW – aims to cultivate 10,00,000 hectares of oil palm by 2027 under the "National Mission on Edible Oil - Oil Palm"

544. The Atal Pension Yojana (APY) saw the highest-ever enrolments in 2022 with enrolments rising 36%. The figure crossed 10 million for the first time in a calendar year, reaching a total 12.5 million enrolments in 2022, from 9.2 million in 2021. Overall, the APY has crossed the landmark of 50 million enrolments in January 2023. Pension Fund Regulatory & Development Authority (PFRDA) regularly holds consultations with public sector banks (PSBs), department of financial services, state-level bankers committee and lead district managers to review and improve the implementation of APY across India. The highest number of enrolments age-wise was from 21-25 years (28%), accounting for 13.7 million subscribers. The Centre launched the APY in 2015 to ensure minimum social security for unorganized sector workers. The minimum age of joining the scheme is 18 years and maximum age is 40 years. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- APY saw the highest-ever enrolments in 2022 with enrolments rising 36%
- The figure crossed 10 million for the first time in a calendar year, reaching a total 12.5 million enrolments in 2022
- Total enrolments under APY till date crossed the landmark of 50 million in January 2023
- Nodal agency for the 'APY' – PFRDA
- APY: Launched in June 2015 | Age group – 18-40 years | Minimum guaranteed pension – Rs 1,000-5,000/m after 60
- HQs of PFRDA – New Delhi | Chairperson – Supratim Bandyopadhyay | Founded in – 2003

Meetings, Conferences & Summits

545. On January 25, Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology, Rajeev Chandrasekhar, inaugurated the first-ever India Stack Developer Conference in New Delhi. According to the MeitY, the event saw participation from more than 100 different startups, industry associations and other organisations/group of countries like G20 countries. India Stack refers to the Indian government's ambitious project to create a unified software platform aimed at bringing the country's population into the digital age. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Rajeev Chandrasekhar – inaugurated the first-ever India Stack Developer Conference in New Delhi
- Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology: Ashwini Vaishnaw | Constituency – Odisha
- MoS in Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology: Rajeev Chandrasekhar

546. In January 2023, the 3rd Meeting of Steering Committee of Ken-Betwa Link Project (SC-KBLP) was held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Secretary of Ministry of Jal Shakti, Pankaj Kumar. The meeting was attended by representatives of both the states of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh and officials of various Central Ministries and NITI Aayog. During the meeting, deliberations were held on various agenda items. Besides, two wildlife sanctuaries namely Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary and Rani Durgawati Wildlife Sanctuary of Madhya Pradesh and Ranipur Wildlife Sanctuary of U.P. have been approved by state government for bringing them under the 'Project Tiger'. Ken and Betwa are the tributaries of Yamuna River. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Pankaj Kumar – chaired the 3rd Meeting of Steering Committee of Ken-Betwa Link Project – held in New Delhi
- Ken-Betwa Link Project – between MP & UP (the first river interlinking project)
- Ken & Betwa are the tributaries of – Yamuna River

547. On January 23, Chief Minister of Goa, Dr. Pramod Sawant inaugurated the "Smart Cities CEOs Conference on Data and Technology" in Panaji, Goa. The two-day conference was organized by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) in coordination with Imagine Panaji Smart City Development Ltd (IPSCDL). Hosted by IPSCDL, the conference witnessed the participation of CEOs/Municipal Commissioners of 100 Smart Cities along with officials from the Central, State government, Industry and knowledge partners. Since its inception, IPSCDL, under the Smart Cities Mission, has taken up 47 projects in Panaji city worth Rs. 950.34 Crore, out of which 15 projects worth Rs. 58.15 Crore have been completed. Smart Cities Mission was launched by PM Narendra Modi on June 25, 2015. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- Pramod Sawant – inaugurated the “Smart Cities CEOs Conference on Data and Technology” in Panaji, Goa
- The conference was organised by = MoHUA + IPSCDL | SCM was launched by PM Modi in June, 2015
- Goa: Capital – Panaji | CM – Pramod Sawant | Governor – P. S. Sreedharan Pillai

Ranks, Reports & Surveys

548. 5 billion people globally remain unprotected from harmful trans-fat, according to the report titled “Countdown to 2023 - WHO Report on Global Trans Fat Elimination 2022”. The report is an annual status report published by the World Health Organization (WHO) in collaboration with Resolve to Save Lives, to track progress towards the goal of trans fat elimination in 2023. The WHO first called for the global elimination of industrially produced trans-fat in 2018, with an elimination target set for 2023. 43 countries have now implemented best-practice policies for tackling trans-fat in food, with 2.8 billion people protected globally. Industrially produced trans-fat (also called industrially produced trans-fatty acids) is commonly found in packaged foods, baked goods, cooking oils and spreads. Trans fat intake is responsible for up to 5,00,000 premature deaths from coronary heart disease each year around the world. There are two best-practice policy alternatives: A mandatory national limit of 2 grams of industrially produced trans-fat per 100 grams of total fat in all foods; and a mandatory national ban on the production or use of partially hydrogenated oils (a major source of trans fat) as an ingredient in all foods. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- “Countdown to 2023 - WHO Report on Global Trans Fat Elimination 2022” published by = WHO + Resolve to Save Lives
- 5 billion people globally remain unprotected from harmful trans-fat
- WHO first called for global elimination of industrially produced trans-fat in 2018, with an elimination target set for 2023
- 43 countries have now implemented best-practice policies for tackling trans-fat in food
- Trans fat intake is responsible for up to 5 Lakh premature deaths globally from coronary heart disease each year
- Two Best-Practice Policy:
 - A mandatory national limit of 2 grams of industrially produced trans-fat per 100 grams of total fat in all foods
 - A mandatory national ban on the production or use of partially hydrogenated oils
- HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194 | Founded in – 1948

MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

549. On January 23, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in partnership with Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL) launched an ‘Inclusive Circular Economy’ project to promote sustainability. The initiative focuses on end-to-end management of plastic waste by promoting the segregation of waste at source, collection of the segregated waste, and setting up Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) for recycling all kinds of plastic waste along the value chain. Further, to ensure better waste management and recycling of plastic waste, the project will also reach out to 1,00,000 households for segregation at source. The project is a scale-up of existing partnership under UNDP’s flagship Plastic Waste Management Programme. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- UNDP + HUL = launched an 'Inclusive Circular Economy' project to promote sustainability
- The initiative focuses on end-to-end management of Plastic Waste
- HQs of UNDP – New York, US | Administrator – Achim Steiner | Founded in – 1965
- HQs of HUL – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Sanjiv Mehta | Chairman – Nitin Paranjpe

550. A second batch of 12 cheetahs, 7 male and 5 female, will be brought from South Africa to Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh in February 2023. The central government confirmed that an MoU on cooperation in reintroduction of cheetahs has been signed between the two countries. The cats will join 8 cheetahs introduced to India from Namibia during 2022. The South African cheetahs range from 18 months to 4 years in age. Under the 'Action Plan for Reintroduction of Cheetah in India', 50 cheetahs will be brought from African countries to various national parks over 5 years. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- India + South Africa = an MoU to introduce 2nd batch of 12 Cheetahs (7 male + 5 female) in Kuno National Park, MP
- First batch of 8 Cheetahs was brought from Namibia in 2022
- Under 'Action Plan for Reintroduction of Cheetah in India', 50 cheetahs will be brought from African countries in 5 years
- South Africa – Cape Town – South African Rand | President – Cyril Ramaphosa

| Important Days | |
|----------------|--|
| January 19 | 18 th NDRF Raising Day (since 2006) |
| January 21 | Statehood Day of Manipur, Meghalaya & Tripura |
| January 23 | Parakram Diwas (since 2021) (126 th birth anniversary of Subhas Chandra Bose) |
| January 23 | Foundation Day of Uttar Pradesh (Theme – "Investment and Employment") |
| January 24 | 5 th International Day of Education (dedicated to Afghan girls) (Theme – "To Invest in People, Prioritise Education") |
| January 24 | National Girl Child Day (since 2008) |
| January 24 | 5 th International Day of Education (Theme – "To Invest in People, Prioritize Education") |
| January 25 | 53 rd Statehood Day of Himachal Pradesh |
| January 25 | National Tourism Day |
| January 25 | 13 th National Voters' Day (since 2011) (Theme – "Nothing Like Voting, I Vote for Sure") |
| January 26 | International Customs Day (Theme – "Nurturing the Next Generation: Promoting a Culture of Knowledge-sharing and Professional Pride in Customs") |
| January 26 | 74 th Republic Day of India |
| January 27 | International Holocaust Remembrance Day (Theme – "Home and Belonging") |
| January 27 | National Geographic Day |



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