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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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National & States Affairs

551. On January 27, the Secretary of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Alkesh Kumar Sharma, inaugurated 1Ton/day PCB Recycling facility at the Centre for Materials for Electronics Technology (C-MET), in Hyderabad. C-MET is an autonomous scientific society under MeitY. The MeitY has also introduced “Scheme for Promotion of Manufacturing of Electronic Components and Semiconductors (SPECS)” for helping e-waste recycling industries to set up their plant in India instead of sending the e-waste materials outside for recycling. C-MET has established Center of Excellence (CoE) on E-waste Management first of its kind in the country under PPP model. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Alkesh Kumar Sharma – inaugurated ‘1Ton/day PCB Recycling Facility’ at C-MET, Hyderabad
- MeitY – also introduced “Scheme for Promotion of Manufacturing of Electronic Components & Semiconductors (SPECS)”
- Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology: Ashwini Vaishnav | Constituency – Odisha
- MoS in Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology: Rajeev Chandrasekhar

552. On January 27, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways launched the national logistics portal–marine (NLP-M), which is a single-window platform aimed at bringing all trade stakeholders together and reducing the cost of logistics through real-time mapping and provisioning. The platform aims to minimise regulatory complexities by centralising all necessary documentation, compliance certifications, and formal procedures necessary for the EXIM trade. The NLP-M is based on four core tenets - carrier, cargo, banking and finance, and regulatory bodies and Participating Government Agencies (PGAs). The portal will now replace the port community system (PCS) being used by ports for logistics mapping. NLP-M has been developed by Portall Infosystems, with Ernst & Young as the project management consulting firm. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways – launched the “National Logistics Portal - Marine (NLP-M)”
- The platform aims to minimise regulatory complexities for EXIM Trade
- The portal will replace the Port Community System (PCS) which is used by ports for logistics mapping
- The NLP-M is developed by – Portall Infosystems | Project management consulting firm – Ernst & Young
- Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways: Sarbananda Sonowal | Constituency – Majuli, Assam
- MoS in Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways: Shripad Yesso Naik & Shantanu Thakur

553. On January 28, Suzuki Motor Corporation announced its growth strategy for FY2030. As part of the strategy, Maruti Suzuki will use cow dung to produce biogas that will be utilised to power its CNG cars in the future. Maruti Suzuki signed an MoU with the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) in 2022 to start a biogas demonstration project. The company also signed MoUs with SMC and Banas Dairy to produce biogas commercially by mid-2024. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Suzuki Motor Corporation – will use cow dung to produce biogas that will be utilised to power its CNG cars
- Maruti Suzuki – signed an MoU with NDDB, SMC & Banas Dairy to produce biogas commercially by mid-2024
- HQs of Suzuki Motor Corporation – Hamamatsu, Shizuoka, Japan | CEO – Osamu Suzuki

554. Asia's second and country's first cable suspension bridge "Bajrang Setu" is being constructed at Rishikesh, Uttarakhand. This bridge is coming up next to the famous 90-year-old Laxman Jhula. Laxman Jhula is closed since 2022 when it was found that it wasn't safe for pedestrians anymore. However, it will not be removed and will be preserved as a heritage. The new bridge would cost Rs 67 Cr and will be completed by July 2023. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Bajrang Setu – India's first & Asia's 2nd cable suspension bridge will be built in Rishikesh, Uttarakhand
- It will be built next to the famous 90-year-old Laxman Jhula
- [Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Pushkar Singh Dhami | Governor – Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh](#)

555. On January 29, the Union government formed 3 Grievance Appellate Committees (GACs) that will address user complaints against social media and other internet-based platforms. These panels will also be empowered to oversee and revoke content moderation-related decisions taken by these platforms. Each GAC will have a Chairperson and 2 whole time members. The first panel will be chaired by the CEO of the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre, under the Ministry of Home Affairs. The second panel will be chaired by the Joint Secretary in charge of the Policy and Administration Division, in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The third panel will be chaired by Kavita Bhatia, a Senior Scientist at the Ministry of Electronics and IT. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Government formed 3 Grievance Appellate Committees (GACs) to address user complaints against social media
- Each GAC will have a Chairperson & 2 Whole-time members

556. On January 29, Hardeep Singh Puri rededicated Oil and Natural Gas Corporation's (ONGC) iconic drilling rig Sagar Samrat as a mobile offshore production unit (MOPU). The Sagar Samrat is located 140-145 km west of Mumbai. India's energy demand is expected to grow at about 3% per annum by 2040, compared to the global rate of 1%. Further, 25% of the global energy growth between 2020 and 2040 is going to come from India due to our fast-growing economy and demographic dividend. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Hardeep Singh Puri – rededicated ONGC's iconic drilling rig Sagar Samrat as a mobile offshore production unit (MOPU)
- India's energy demand is expected to grow at about 3% per annum by 2040 | Global rate of 1%
- [HQs of ONGC – New Delhi | CMD – Rajesh Kumar Srivastava \(interim\)](#)

557. On January 26, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel announced a monthly allowance for unemployed youth from the next financial year (FY24). He also announced setting up of an aerocity near the Swami Vivekananda Airport, Raipur, housing assistance scheme for labourers and a scheme to promote women entrepreneurship. Moreover, Construction workers registered with the Chhattisgarh Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board for a period of three years will be given a grant of Rs 50,000 for building houses. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Chhattisgarh – announced a monthly allowance for unemployed youth from FY24
- He also announced:
 - Setting up of an aerocity near the Swami Vivekananda Airport, Raipur
 - Housing assistance scheme for labourers
 - Construction workers will be given a grant of Rs 50,000 for building houses
 - A scheme to promote women entrepreneurship
- [Chhattisgarh: Capital – Raipur | CM – Bhupesh Baghel | Governor – Biswa Bhusan Harichandan](#)



558. On January 31, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal inaugurated the “Realtime Source Apportionment Supersite” along with an “Air Quality Monitoring Van” to gather realtime information on sources of pollution and help the government launch a targeted response. The real-time source apportionment study is a joint venture between Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC), IIT Delhi, IIT Kanpur and The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI). [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Delhi – inaugurated the “Realtime Source Apportionment Supersite” & “Air Quality Monitoring Van”
- “Realtime Source Apportionment Supersite” is a JV among = DPCC + IIT Delhi + IIT Kanpur + TERI
- Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Lt. Governor – Vinai Kumar Saxena | Chief Secretary – Naresh Kumar

559. On January 28, MeitY Startup Hub (MSH), an initiative of the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), and Meta announced the list of 120 startups and innovators for the ‘XR Startup Program’. As announced in September 2022, XR Startup Program is a collaboration between MSH and Meta to discover, nurture, and accelerate Extended Reality (XR) technology startups and innovators across India. More than 30% Startups in the Accelerator are from Tier II & III cities across India. Women led/co-led Startups and Innovators form over 20% of the cohort. The XR Startup Program includes an Accelerator and a Grand Challenge, aimed towards boosting the emerging tech ecosystem in the country. The Accelerator Program is supporting 40 early-stage start-ups working in XR technologies with a grant of Rs 20 lakhs each. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- MeitY Startup Hub + Meta = announced the list of 120 startups and innovators for the ‘XR Startup Program’
- Accelerator Program is supporting 40 early-stage start-ups working in XR technologies with a grant of Rs 20 lakhs each
- HQs of Meta – California, US | CEO – Mark Zuckerberg | Founded in – 2004

560. On January 27, Woxsen University, located in Hyderabad, has launched “Project Aspiration” to empower marginalised adolescent girls in Telangana. Woxsen’s Centre of Excellence - Diversity, Equity & Inclusion has conceptualized this project for the ambitious girls of Classes IX-XII, Telangana Model School & Junior College. Under Project Aspiration, few meritorious students are selected by the school principal to take part in ‘Train the Trainer’ workshop. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- Woxsen University (Hyderabad) – launched “Project Aspiration” to empower marginalised adolescent girls in Telangana
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan

561. From April 2023, all government vehicles that have completed 15 years will automatically lose their right to ply on roads as their certificate of registration will expire, according to a new rule of the central government. Nitin Gadkari-led Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has already rolled out the vehicle scrapping policy in an effort to weed out old, polluting and potentially less-safe vehicles from Indian roads. For commercial vehicles and private vehicles, the policy will be applicable from June 2024. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- All government vehicles older than 15 years will be scrapped from April, 2023
- For commercial vehicles and private vehicles, the policy will be applicable from June, 2024

562. On January 27, Luminous Power Technologies announced its plan to build India’s first Green Energy-based Solar Panel Manufacturing Facility in Uttarakhand. The new state-of-the-art facility located in Rudrapur is expected to be fully operational by the end of this year. The facility will help enable a solar production capacity of 500 MW per annum, expandable up to 1 GW. This solar panel facility is fully robotic and will use 100% energy from solar power. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Luminous Power Tech – to build India’s first Green Energy-based Solar Panel Manufacturing Facility in Uttarakhand
- HQs of Luminous Power Tech – Gurgaon, Haryana | MD & CEO – Preeti Bajaj

563. In January 2023, the Indian Railways introduced “Ideal Train Profile” to maximise the capacity utilisation and revenue generation in reserved mail express trains by regularly analysing the demand pattern of every single train. Ideal Train Profile, a seat capacity optimisation decision support, is done due to the fact that the number of ticket-class combinations on a single train journey date can exceed 5,000. The pilot project was started on seven zonal railways - Eastern, Central, Northern, Southern, South Central, Western, and West Central Railway. The modules have been developed by an in-house team, led by R Gopalakrishnan of the Centre of Railway Information Systems. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

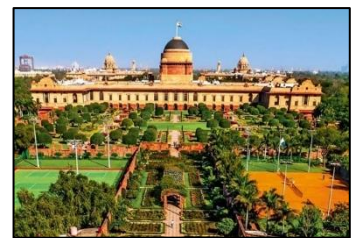
- Indian Railways – introduced “Ideal Train Profile” to maximise capacity utilisation & revenue generation in reserved mail express trains
- The modules have been developed by – Centre of Railway Information Systems
- HQs of Indian Railways – New Delhi | Chairman & CEO – Anil Kumar Lahoti
- Ministry of Railways: Ashwini Vaishnaw | Constituency – Odisha
- MoS in Ministry of Railways: Danve Raosaheb Dadarao & Darshana Vikram Jardosh

564. On January 26, PepsiCo Foundation, the philanthropic arm of PepsiCo and CARE, launched “She Feeds the World” program in India to strengthen the role of small-scale women producers through sustainable training and economic support. The program, which will be implemented in the Alipurduar and Cooch Behar districts of West Bengal, aims to reach out to more than 48,000 women, men and children and indirectly benefit 1,50,000 individuals. ‘She Feeds the World’ will drive impact for women farmers and their families across the three dimensions of a sustainable food system - Economic, Social and Environmental. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- PepsiCo Foundation – launched “She Feeds the World” program in India
- The program will be implemented in Alipurduar & Cooch Behar districts of West Bengal
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – CV Ananda Bose

565. On January 30, the iconic Mughal Gardens at the Rashtrapati Bhavan (President’s House) in Delhi have been renamed as ‘Amrit Udyan’. The gardens opened to the public on January 31, 2023. Defined by its rectilinear layouts, divided in four equal sections, these gardens can be found across lands previously ruled by the Mughals. This style was influenced by the Persian gardens particularly the Charbagh structure. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- ‘Mughal Gardens’ in Delhi – renamed as ‘Amrit Udyan’
- Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Lt. Governor – Vinai Kumar Saxena | Chief Secretary – Naresh Kumar

International Affairs

566. On January 25, Swedish government announced an “International Information Campaign” to discourage refugees entering country. The main objective is to inform about the Swedish migration policy. Among other things, this includes distributing an information package to foreign authorities and other authorities with contact points abroad. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Sweden – announced an “International Information Campaign” to discourage refugees entering country
- Sweden – Stockholm – Krona | PM – Ulf Kristersson

567. On January 26, the United States formally designated Russian private military company the Wagner Group as a transnational criminal organization. In December 2022, the Wagner Group had taken delivery of an arms shipment from North Korea to help bolster Russian forces in Ukraine, in a sign of the group's expanding role in that conflict. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- US – formally designated Russian private military company ‘Wagner Group’ as a Transnational Criminal Organization
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

568. In January 2023, Aviva Life Insurance launched “Aviva Signature Investment Plan”. It is a Unit Linked Non-Participating Individual Life Insurance Plan addressing the needs of Millennial and GenX customers. Signature Millennial comes with an inbuilt premium waiver to create a guaranteed corpus for a dependent parent, spouse, or child, even after the death of the Life Insured. Signature GenX will allow customers to grow their wealth through disciplined monthly savings for up to 60 years and build generational wealth. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Aviva Life Insurance – launched “Aviva Signature Investment Plan”
- HQs of Aviva Life Insurance – Gurugram, Haryana | MD & CEO – Asit Rath

569. On January 27, Star Health and Allied Insurance renewed its corporate agency tie-up with Punjab National Bank (PNB) for a long-term period. Under this agreement, Star Health’s health insurance products will be available through the bank’s extensive distribution network of about 10,000 branches across India. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Star Health & Allied + PNB = renewed its corporate agency tie-up for a long-term period
- HQs of Star Health Insurance – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | Chairman & CEO – Venkatasamy Jagannathan
- HQs of PNB – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Atul Kumar Goel | Tagline – “The Name You Can Bank Upon”

570. On January 27, Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) governor Godwin Emefiele launched a domestic card scheme, “AfriGo”, to rival foreign cards like Mastercard and Visa, hoping to enhance its drive to make Africa's biggest economy a cashless society and save the country foreign transaction fees. AfriGo is owned by CBN and Nigerian banks. Nigeria is Africa's most populous nation. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) – launched a domestic card scheme, “AfriGo” to rival foreign cards like Mastercard & Visa
- Nigeria – Abuja – Naira | President – Muhammadu Buhari

571. On January 25, RBI sold its first sovereign green bonds worth a total of 80 billion rupees (\$979.61 million) at yields below comparable government bonds. The RBI auctioned 40 billion rupees of five-year bonds at a coupon rate of 7.10%, five basis points below the five-year sovereign yield. Another 40 billion rupees in 10-year bonds were sold at a 7.29%, six basis points below comparable government securities. The five-year 7.38% 2027 bond yield was at 7.15%, while the benchmark 7.26% 2032 bond yield was at 7.35% during the time of bidding. The proceeds would be used for ‘green’ projects such as solar power, wind and small hydro projects and other public sector projects that help reduce the economy’s carbon footprint. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- RBI – sold its first sovereign green bonds worth a total of Rs 80 billion (\$979.61 million)
- Rs 40 billion of 5-year bonds at 7.10% & another Rs 40 billion in 10-year bonds at 7.29%
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established on – 1st April, 1935
- Total Deputy Governors (4) – Mahesh Kumar Jain | T. Rabi Sankar | Michael D. Patra | M. Rajeshwar Rao

572. On January 27, Network People Services Technologies Ltd (NPST), a leading fintech solution provider, unveiled “Timepay Evok”, a UPI (Unified Payments Interface) API (Application Programming Interface) engine for PAPGs (Payment Aggregators & Payment Gateways), to articulate its mission and relationship in digital payment landscape. With unique API services, UPI as a payment gateway can be integrated for both websites and App driven solutions for large-scale merchants. UPI, launched in 2016, has been identified as a revolutionary product in the payment ecosystem. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- Network People Services Technologies Ltd (NPST) – unveiled “Timepay Evok”, a UPI API engine for PAPGs
- HQs of NPST – Thane, Maharashtra

Defence Affairs

573. Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd has signed an MoU with Rolls Royce Solutions of Germany for manufacturing high-quality marine diesel engines. Under the agreement, GRSE and Rolls Royce Solutions will cooperate in the licence production and localisation of the technologically advanced MTU S4000 governmental marine engines. So far, these engines are imported, bringing down the indigenous content of these classes of vessels built at Indian shipyards. The move would help bolster the ‘Make in India’ initiative. This partnership between GRSE & Rolls Royce Solutions is a step towards indigenisation of marine engines. This alliance will create a robust ecosystem of self-reliance in the naval shipbuilding domain and is a fillip for AatmaNirbhar Bharat. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- GRSE + Rolls Royce Solutions (Germany) = an MoU for manufacturing high-quality marine diesel engines
- They will cooperate in production & localisation of technologically advanced MTU S4000 governmental marine engines
- HQs of GRSE – Kolkata, India | Chairman & MD – P. R. Hari | Founded in – 1884



Sports & Games

574. In January 2023, World Cup winner and Captain of France national football team, Hugo Lloris retired after a record 145 appearances. Lloris won the 2018 World Cup and was captain of the squad that lost to Argentina in the final in Qatar in December 2022. He will focus on his Tottenham club career in the English Premier League. Lloris made his national debut in 2008 in a friendly against Uruguay.

[{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- Hugo Lloris – Captain of France national football team – retired after a record 145 appearances
- France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | PM – Elisabeth Borne

575. On January 29, India won the inaugural U-19 World Cup with an emphatic seven-wicket victory over England. The world cup was hosted in South Africa. India first bundled out England for 68 in 17.1 overs and then returned to knock off the paltry target in 14 overs to lift the coveted trophy. The win on Sunday also reaffirms India's dominance at the U-19 level with the boys winning the world title in the Caribbean last year. The team was led by Shafali Verma. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- India – won the inaugural U-19 World Cup with a victory over England | Host – South Africa
- South Africa – Cape Town – South African Rand | President – Cyril Ramaphosa

576. On January 27, Formula E and Ace Nxt Gen, the promoter of the first ABB FIA Formula E World Championship race in India, announced that Greenko will be the title partner of the '2023 Greenko Hyderabad E-Prix'. Greenko Group, founded in 2006, is one of the world's leading energy transition and decarbonization companies. Greenko will fully power the event with renewable energy, in line with Formula E's net zero carbon strategy. The 11 teams and 22 drivers will be competing in the all-new GEN3 race car. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- 1st 'ABB FIA Formula E World Championship Race' – to be held in Hyderabad, Telangana
- Title Partner – Greenko | Promoter of '2023 Greenko Hyderabad E-Prix' – Formula E and Ace Nxt Gen

577. On January 30, Tamil Nadu batter Murali Vijay announced his retirement from all forms of international cricket. Vijay represented India in 61 Tests, 16 ODIs and 9 T20Is, scoring over 4,000 runs across formats. His most successful stint was with the Indian red ball team as he notched 3982 runs that included 12 centuries and 15 half-centuries. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Murali Vijay (Tamil Nadu) – announced his retirement from all forms of International Cricket

578. On January 28, National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with World Boxing Champion and gold medal winner of Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, Nikhat Zareen, to represent NMDC as its brand ambassador. Nikhat Zareen represents the strength, courage, agility and national pride that goes with the brand of the NMDC. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- Nikhat Zareen (Indian Boxer) – appointed as brand ambassador of NMDC Ltd
- HQs of NMDC – Hyderabad, Telangana | CMD – Sumit Deb | Founded on – November 15, 1958

579. On January 29, Novak Djokovic won the Australian Open for the 10th time to equal Rafael Nadal’s record of 22 men’s Grand Slams singles titles. Novak defeated Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece. Aryna Sabalenka won the Women’s Singles title by defeating Elena Rybakina of Kazakhstan. Australia’s Rinky Hijikata & Jason Kubler won the Men’s Doubles title. While Czech’s Barbora Krejčíková & Katerina Siniakova won the Women’s Doubles title. Brazil’s Luisa Stefani & Rafael Matos won the Mixed Doubles title. The Australian Open is a tennis tournament played on cushion acrylic hard courts prepared by Greenset Worldwide. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Australian Open 2023:
- Men’s Singles title – Novak Djokovic (Serbia) | Total Men’s Grand Slams Singles titles won by him – 22
- Women’s Singles title – Aryna Sabalenka (Belarus)
- Men’s Doubles title – Rinky Hijikata & Jason Kubler (Australia)
- Women’s Doubles title – Barbora Krejčíková & Katerina Siniakova (Czech Republic)
- Mixed Doubles title – Luisa Stefani & Rafael Matos (Brazil)

580. On January 30, Dutch player Anish Giri, five times the runner-up in Wijk aan Zee, has won the 85th edition of Tata Steel Chess that took place from January 14-29, 2023 in Wijk aan Zee, the Netherlands. Nodirbek Abdusattorov took second place, followed by Magnus Carlsen. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Anish Giri (Russian-born Dutch Chess GM) – won the 85th edition of “Tata Steel Chess Tournament” in Netherlands
- 2nd – Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzbekistan) | 3rd – Magnus Carlsen (Norway)

581. On January 30, Germany beat Belgium to win the FIH Men’s Hockey World Cup 2023 at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. India finished on 9th position. “Olly” was the mascot of the World Cup. Niklas Wellen, a German field hockey player, was named Best Player. While Vincent Vanasch of Belgium was named Best Goalkeeper. Germany’s Christopher Ruhr won the Fan’s Choice Award. Belgium won the Fair Play Award. Total 16 teams participated in the World Cup.

[{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Germany – beat Belgium to win the FIH Men’s Hockey World Cup 2023 in Bhubaneswar, Odisha
- Total 16 teams participated in the World Cup | Mascot – “Olly”
- Awards:
 - Best Player – Niklas Wellen (Germany)
 - Best Goalkeeper – Vincent Vanasch (Belgium)
 - Fan’s Choice Award – Christopher Ruhr (Germany)
 - Fair Play Award – Belgium





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

Science & Technology

582. On January 26, a first-of-its kind unique 13th-century unpublished hero stone inscription and sculpture of the Hoysala period was discovered in Mysuru, Karnataka by a team from the Centre of Excellence for Studies in Classical Kannada (CESCK) of Central Institute of Indian Languages. The hero stone, said to be of the time of Veeraballala II of the Hoysalas, has sculptural panels in three tiers and two panels in the middle containing inscriptions. The hero stone's estampages were taken and after studying, it was found that Daasara Shettihalli (current day Chakashettyhalli) was an important administrative centre during the Hoysala period. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- A first-of-its kind unique 13th-century unpublished hero stone inscription & sculpture of the Hoysala period – discovered in Mysuru, Karnataka
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – Basavaraj Bommai | Governor – Thawarchand Gehlot

583. On January 25, a swallowtail butterfly, 'Noble's Helen' (Papilio noblei), disappearing from its previously known ranges from Myanmar and southern China to Vietnam, has been recorded for the first time in India. Three butterfly enthusiasts - Atanu Bose, Loren Sonowal and Monsoon Jyoti Gogoi, recorded this rare butterfly from 3 locations in the Namdapha National Park of Arunachal Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- 'Noble's Helen' (Papilio noblei), a rare swallowtail butterfly – recorded in Namdapha National Park, Arunachal Pradesh
- Arunachal Pradesh: Capital – Itanagar | CM – Pema Khandu | Governor – Lt. Gen. Kaiwalya Trivikram Parnaik

584. On January 30, Society for Applied Microwave Electronics Engineering & Research (SAMEER), India's premier R&D Institute of Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY), signed an MoU with Siemens Healthineers to contribute towards the development of new, improved and innovative technologies for advancing healthcare and diagnostic access in India. It will make available low-cost Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Technology as part of the Prime Minister's vision of providing quality, and affordable healthcare and diagnostic access for every Indian. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- SAMEER + Siemens Healthineers = an MoU for advancing healthcare & diagnostic access and to develop low-cost MRIs
- HQs of SAMEER – Mumbai, Maharashtra | DG – P. Hanumantha Rao (India's R&D Institute of MeitY)
- HQs of Siemens Healthineers – Erlangen, Germany | CEO – Bernd Montag

Appointments & Resignations

585. On January 24, American Express Banking Corp (AEB) announced the appointment of Anurag Gupta as the Vice President (VP) and Head of Global Merchant & Network Services in India, bringing both the acquiring and the network cards issuance teams under one leader. In his new role, Anurag will be responsible for expanding the Amex merchant coverage and the network that issues American Express Cards via bank partnerships in India. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- Anurag Gupta – appointed as Vice President (VP) & India Head of American Express Banking Corp (AEB)
- HQs of American Express – New York, US | CEO – Stephen Squeri

586. On January 26, Petr Pavel, a former Chairman of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) military committee, has become the new President of the Czech Republic. Pavel, 61, defeated billionaire Andrej Babis in a run-off vote to replace controversial President Milos Zeman. A former military general, Pavel got more than 58% of the vote, according to the Czech Statistics Office. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- Petr Pavel – elected as the new President of the Czech Republic
- [Czech Republic – Prague – Koruna](#) | [President – Petr Pavel](#)

587. On January 27, Indian-American astronaut Raja J. Chari has been nominated by President Joe Biden for the appointment to the grade of Air Force brigadier general. Mr. Chari is currently serving as the Crew-3 commander and astronaut, the NASA, Johnson Space Center, Texas. In 2020, Mr. Chari was selected as the Commander of the SpaceX Crew-3 mission to the International Space Station (ISS) by NASA and the ESA. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- Raja J. Chari (Indian-American) – nominated by US President for the appointment as Air Force Brigadier General, US
- [US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar](#) | [46th President – Joe Biden](#) | [49th VP – Kamala Harris](#)

588. On January 26, the Academy of Letters of Brazil (ALB) in a Plenary Session held on January 19, 2023, ratified the election of poet-diplomat Abhay Kumar as a foreign corresponding member of the Academy. During his diplomatic mission in Brazil as India's Deputy Ambassador (2016-2019), he organized the monthly literary event Chai com Letras (Tea with Letters). Abhay K also edited and translated "New Brazilian poems - A bilingual anthology after Elizabeth Bishop" (Ibis Libris 2019), which presents the work of 60 Brazilian poets in English translation. His edited volume 100 Great Indian Poems was translated into Portuguese and was published by the University of Sao Paulo as 100 Grandes Poemas da India. Abhay K received SAARC Literary Award in 2013 for his contributions to South Asian Poetry. [{Read more}](#)

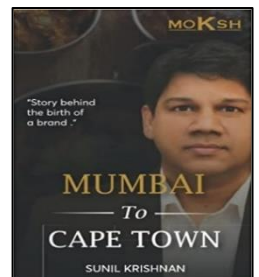


Smart Points:

- Abhay Kumar (Indian Poet Diplomat) – elected as corresponding member of Academy of Letters of Brazil
- [Brazil – Brasilia – Brazilian Real](#) | [President – Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva](#)

Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

589. On January 26, Global Entrepreneur Sunil Krishnan was awarded the coveted Dr Ambedkar Award for Spreading Indian Cuisine Globally with Moksh. Sunil Krishnan is one of the most revered entrepreneurs and restaurateurs in South Africa, known for his tantalising cuisine that appeals to global taste buds. In 2003, He flew to South Africa during the Cricket World Cup and decided to explore business opportunities. What interested him was food, nightlife and art. Sunil Krishnan decided to settle in Cape Town. The serial entrepreneur Sunil Krishnan boasts of eight Moksh branches owns an Art Galley Cocktail bar lounge with live DJs named Artezian. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- Sunil Krishnan – awarded the coveted Dr Ambedkar Award for Spreading Indian Cuisine Globally
- He owns 8 branches of Moksh and DJ Artezian in South Africa
- [South Africa – Cape Town – South African Rand](#) | [President – Cyril Ramaphosa](#)



590. On January 27, a British Sikh engineer Navjot Sawhney, who set up his Washing Machine Project around 4 years ago, won “Prime Minister Rishi Sunak’s Points of Light Award”. He was honoured for his hand-cranked machine invention which can be operated in regions without electricity. He named his first machines after his neighbour “Divya”. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- Navjot Sawhney (British Sikh Engineer) – won the “Prime Minister Rishi Sunak’s Points of Light Award”
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM – Rishi Sunak (57th) | New King – King Charles III

591. On January 26, the ‘Everything Everywhere All at Once’ film’s actor, Michelle Yeoh, received her first Oscar nomination for Best Actress at the 95th Academy Awards. She is the first actress of Asian descent to achieve this feat. This year marks the highest number of Asian acting nominees recognized by the academy in its history. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- Michelle Yeoh (Malaysia) – first actress of Asian descent to receive Oscar nomination for Best Actress at the Oscars 2023

592. On January 30, On the eve of the Republic Day 2023, Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh felicitated the 25 winners of “Veer Gatha 2.0” at an event organised in New Delhi. Veer Gatha project, last year, was jointly initiated by the Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Education as a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. Shri Rajnath Singh gave away the winners a cash prize of Rs 10,000, a medal and a certificate, in the presence of Minister of Education Shri Dharmendra Pradhan and Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Ajay Bhatt. Last year there were 8 lakhs participation, whereas this time the number of these entries crossed 19 lakhs. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Rajnath Singh – felicitated the 25 winners of “Veer Gatha 2.0” in New Delhi
- Veer Gatha project was jointly initiated by = Ministry of Defence + Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Defence: Rajnath Singh | Constituency – Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Defence: Ajay Bhatt
- Ministry of Education: Dharmendra Pradhan | Constituency – Madhya Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Education: Subhas Sarkar

Schemes & Initiatives

593. On January 27, Employees’ Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) launched a massive district outreach programme called “Nidhi Aapke Nikat 2.0” in all the districts of the country. This programme was e-launched by Secretary of Ministry of Labour and Employment, Arti Ahuja. The aim of the programme is to reach out to all the districts in the country on the same day every month. The Nidhi Aapke Nikat 2.0 will be conducted on the 27th of every month. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- EPFO – launched a massive district outreach programme called “Nidhi Aapke Nikat 2.0”
- The programme will be conducted on the 27th of every month
- HQs of EPFO – New Delhi | CEO – Neelam Shami Rao | Established in – 1952



594. On January 26, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced the implementation of “Ladli Bahna Yojana” for women. Ladli Laxmi Yojana is also implemented by Madhya Pradesh government. Under this scheme, financial assistance of Rs 12,000 per year (Rs 1,000/month) will be provided by the government to the lower middle class and poor women (sisters) of the state. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Madhya Pradesh – launched “Ladli Bahna Yojana” for women
- ‘Ladli Laxmi Yojana’ – is also implemented by MP Govt
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel

Meetings, Conferences & Summits

595. The 3rd edition of the “Interpol Young Global Police Leaders Programme (YGPLP)” was held in Delhi from January 25 to February 2, 2023 with the theme “Trust”. It aimed at building trust between public-police as well as trust factors between international police forces in the era of technology. There were 60 participants from 44 countries. The Central Bureau of Investigation, which acts as a nodal agency with Interpol, is coordinating with the participating nations. Young Global Police Leaders Programme was set up in 2019 to prepare the next generation of global police leaders to effectively combat international crime, now and in the future. The second edition of global police leaders programme was held in March, 2022 in UAE. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- 3rd edition of the “Interpol Young Global Police Leaders Programme (YGPLP)” – held in Delhi, India
- Theme – “Trust” | CBI acts as a nodal agency with Interpol | YGPLP was set up in 2019

596. On January 26, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov announced that the 15th BRICS Summit will take place in South Africa’s Durban in August 2023. Earlier in 2013, the fifth annual BRICS summit was held in Durban, South Africa. While the 14th BRICS Summit was held in Beijing, China. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- 15th BRICS Summit – to take place in Durban, South Africa in August 2023
- BRICS Member Countries = 5 – Brazil, Russia, India, China & South Africa | BRICS Chairmanship in 2022 – China

597. On January 27, Meghalaya Governor BD Mishra announced that the state will host the Space-20 programme of the G20 nations in Shillong in April, 2023 to discuss how space partnerships can contribute to the economy of the countries. India has decided to host around 200 G20 meetings across the country during its yearlong Presidency of the influential group. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Meghalaya – will host the Space-20 programme of the G20 nations in Shillong in April, 2023
- Meghalaya: Capital – Shillong | CM – Conrad Kongkal Sangma | Governor – Phagu Chauhan

598. On January 27, the 30th National Child Science Congress began in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. Secretary of Gujarat Science and Technology department, Vijay Nahera, inaugurated the Congress. Gujarat Council on Science and Technology (GUJCOST), Gujarat Council of Science City, and SAL Education hosted the five-day congress which concluded on January 31. More than 1400 delegates including child scientists, escort teachers, evaluators, and government officials attended the congress. The theme of the congress was “Understanding Eco System for Health and Wellbeing”. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- 30th National Child Science Congress – held in Ahmedabad, Gujarat
- It was hosted by = GUJCOST + Gujarat Council of Science City + SAL Education
- Theme – “Understanding Eco System for Health and Wellbeing”
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Bhupendra Patel | Governor – Acharya Dev Vrat

Ranks, Reports & Surveys

599. On January 29, Ministry of Education released the “All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2020-2021”. The Ministry has been conducting All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) since 2011, covering all higher educational institutions located in Indian Territory and imparting higher education in the country. The survey collects detailed information on different parameters such as student enrollment, teacher’s data, infrastructural information, financial information etc. For the first time, in AISHE 2020-21, HEIs have filled data using entirely online data collection platform through the Web Data Capture Format (DCF) developed by Department of Higher Education through the National Informatics Centre (NIC). The total enrollment in Higher Education has increased to nearly 4.14 Crore in 2020-21 from 3.85 crore in 2019-20. The total number of Universities/University like institutions registered is 1,113, Colleges 43,796 and Standalone Institutions 11,296. The Institutes of National Importance (INIs) have almost doubled from 75 in 2014-15 to 149 in 2020-21. The total number of faculty/teachers are 15,51,070 of which about 57.1% are male and 42.9% are female. The female per 100 male faculty has improved to 75 in 2020-21. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Ministry of Education – released the “All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2020-2021”
- The data was collected through ‘Web Data Capture Format (DCF)’ – developed by NIC
- Total enrollment in Higher Education has increased to nearly 4.14 Cr in 2020-21
- Total number of Universities/Institutions registered is 1,113, Colleges 43,796 & Standalone Institutions 11,296
- Institutes of National Importance (INIs) have almost doubled to 149 in 2020-21
- Total number of faculty/teachers are 15,51,070 (57.1% male + 42.9% female)
- The female per 100 male faculty has improved to 75 in 2020-21

600. According to the “World Economic Situation and Prospects 2023” report released by the United Nations (UN), India’s gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate is projected to moderate to 5.8% in calendar year 2023 from an estimated 6.4% in 2022 as higher interest rates and a global economic slowdown weigh on investment and export performance. As per the UN, India’s annual inflation is estimated at 7.1% in 2022, exceeding the 2-6% target band set by the central bank but is expected to decelerate to 5.5% in 2023. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- “World Economic Situation and Prospects 2023” report – released by the UN
- India’s GDP growth rate is projected to moderate to 5.8% in calendar year 2023
- India’s annual inflation is estimated at 7.1% in 2022 (exceeding the 2-6% target band set by the central bank)
- HQs of UN – New York, US | Secretary-General – Antonio Guterres | Established in – October 24, 1945





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