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A Crucial Piece of Advice!

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

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

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

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

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

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National & States Affairs

401. On January 19, Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited both Karnataka and Maharashtra to inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of various development projects. PM Modi started from Kalaburagi and Yadgir districts of Karnataka. The foundation stone of Yadgir multi-village drinking water supply scheme was laid by PM Modi under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) with an outlay of more than Rs 2050 Crore. A Water Treatment Plant of 117 MLD will be built under the scheme. Prime Minister also inaugurated 'Narayanpur Left Bank Canal - Extension Renovation and Modernisation Project (NLBC-ERM)'. In Malkhed village of Kalaburagi district, PM Modi distributed "Title deeds" (hakku patra) to the eligible beneficiaries of these newly declared revenue villages. Prime Minister also laid the foundation stone of the 71 km section of NH-150C. This six-lane Greenfield road project is also part of Surat-Chennai Expressway. While in Mumbai, PM Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of projects worth around ₹38,800 Crore. To provide seamless urban mobility, he also dedicated to the nation Mumbai Metro Rail Lines 2A and 7, worth around ₹12,600 crore. During the visit, Mr. Modi launched MUMBAI 1 Mobile App and National Common Mobility Card (Mumbai 1). The app will facilitate ease of travel, can be shown at the entry gates of metro stations and supports digital payment to buy tickets through UPI. He further laid the foundation stone of 7 sewage treatment plants, which will be built at a cost of around ₹17,200 Crore. PM also laid the foundation stone for the redevelopment of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus. PM Narendra Modi inaugurated 20 Hinduhridaysamrat Balasaheb Thackeray Aapla Dawakhana in Mumbai. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- PM Narendra Modi's visit to Karnataka:
 - laid foundation stone of 'Yadgir Multi-village Drinking Water Supply Scheme' under JJM (with Rs 2050 Cr outlay)
 - A Water Treatment Plant of 117 MLD will be built under the scheme
 - inaugurated 'Narayanpur Left Bank Canal - Extension Renovation and Modernisation Project (NLBC-ERM)'
 - distributed "Title deeds" (hakku patra) to the eligible beneficiaries in Malkhed village of Kalaburagi
 - laid the foundation stone of the 71 km section of NH-150C
- PM Narendra Modi's visit to Maharashtra:
 - laid the foundation stone of projects worth around ₹38,800 Cr
 - dedicated to the nation Mumbai Metro Rail Lines 2A and 7, worth around ₹12,600 Cr
 - launched 'MUMBAI 1 Mobile App' and 'National Common Mobility Card' (Mumbai 1)
 - laid the foundation stone of 7 sewage treatment plants, worth around ₹17,200 Cr
 - laid the foundation stone for the redevelopment of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus
 - inaugurated 20 Hinduhridaysamrat Balasaheb Thackeray Aapla Dawakhana in Mumbai

402. On January 21, Pune Metro is all set to complete work on India's deepest underground metro station, the Civil Court Interchange Station, in the city by February and make it operational by the end of March. The station is 33.1 metre (108.59 feet) deep. In the first phase, the interchange station for Vanaz to Ramwadi Line 1 and Pimpri Chinchwad to Swargate Line 2 will meet. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- India's deepest underground metro station, the Civil Court Interchange Station, is being built in Pune
- Maharashtra: CM – Eknath Shinde | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari



403. Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri announced that the phased roll-out of E20 (20% ethanol blending in gasoline) will begin on April 1, 2023. The proposed roll-out will give further impetus to the government's plans of achieving the level of 20% ethanol blending in the overall petrol supply in the country by ethanol supply year (ESY) 2025-2026. India is on track to contribute 25% of global ethanol demand by 2040. India has increased the ethanol blending in petrol from 1.53% in 2013-14 to 10.17% in 2022. To achieve 20% blending by 2025, the country needs 10.2-11 billion litres of ethanol. This would require a production capacity of around 14.5 billion litres because some production has to be kept aside for starch and chemical industry. Moreover, the centre has increased the rate for CBG plants under the SATAT scheme from Rs 46 per kg to Rs 54 per kg. The government is also investing Rs 19,744 Cr into the National Green Hydrogen Mission for developing green hydrogen production capacity of at least 5 MMT (million metric tonnes) per annum. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- The phased roll-out of E20 (20% ethanol blending in gasoline) will begin on April 1, 2023
- Target – 20% ethanol blending in the overall petrol supply by 2025-2026
- India has increased the ethanol blending in petrol from 1.53% in 2013-14 to 10.17% in 2022
- [Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas: Hardeep Singh Puri | Constituency – Uttar Pradesh](#)
- [MoS in the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas: Rameswar Teli](#)

404. On January 20, Higher Education Minister in Kerala R. Bindu announced that girl students above the age of 18 years would get maternity leave of 60 days. The required attendance percentage for female students will be 73%, including the menstrual leave, as against 75% earlier. The state government is also considering granting menstrual leaves in all the state varsities. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Kerala – announced maternity leave of 60 days for female students above 18 years
- The required attendance percentage for female students will be 73%
- [Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan](#)

405. On January 17, NHPC submitted the pre-feasibility report (PFR) for India's largest hydro power project, the 'Upper Siang Multipurpose Storage Project' (11 GW) in Arunachal Pradesh. The project that is central to counter China's ambitious water diversion scheme of the Siang River that feeds downstream into the Brahmaputra is expected to be constructed as a joint venture with state-run NEEPCO or the government of Arunachal Pradesh. The PFR was submitted to the government on 30 December, 2022. The storage project will be able to store 9-10 billion cubic metres (BCM) of water. China plans to construct a 60 GW Dam on the Yarlung Tsangpo river amid the push to achieve its net zero target of 2060, as also to utilize the fresh water available in Southern China. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- NHPC – submitted the PFR for 'Upper Siang Multipurpose Storage Project'
- It is India's largest hydro power project, planned to be constructed in Arunachal Pradesh with capacity of 11 GW
- This project is central to counter China's ambitious water diversion scheme of the Siang River

406. The India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline (IBFPL) will start supplying diesel to Bangladesh on an experimental basis from June, 2023. About 131.5 Km long pipeline has been constructed for exporting diesel from India to Bangladesh. Out of this, 126.5 Km pipeline is in Bangladesh and 5 Km is in India. The international pipeline will carry diesel from the Siliguri based marketing terminal of the Numaligarh Refinery Limited to Parbatipur depot of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC). The pipeline has a capacity of 1 million metric tonne per annum (MMTPA). [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline – to start supplying diesel to Bangladesh on an experimental basis from June, 2023
- Length of IBFPL is 131.5 Km long (126.5 Km in Bangladesh + 5 Km in India) | Pipeline's capacity – 1 MMTPA
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid

407. On January 18, Bharti Airtel Group in association with the government of Telangana announced an investment to the tune of Rs 2,000 crore to set up a large hyperscale data center in Hyderabad. Through its Data Center arm, Nxtra Data Centers, the group will invest an amount of Rs 2000 Cr as capital investment for the infrastructure which will further attract investments from their customers. The facility will be a hyperscale data center with a capacity of 60 megawatts (MW) of IT load for the first phase. It will incorporate the latest technologies in cooling and security. The project is estimated to be established in the next 5-7 years. The announcement was made at the Telangana Lounge at Davos. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Bharti Airtel Group + Telangana = to set up a large Hyperscale Data Center in Hyderabad at an investment of Rs 2,000 Cr
- The amount will be invested through – Nxtra Data Centers, an arm of Bharati Airtel Group
- The facility will be a hyperscale data center with a capacity of 60 megawatts (MW) of IT load for the first phase
- HQs of Bharti Airtel – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Gopal Vittal | Chairman – Sunil Bharti Mittal
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan

408. The 8th India International Science Festival-2022 (IISF) was held from January 21 to 24 at the Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology (MANIT) in Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh. It was inaugurated by Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and organised by the Union Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space and MP government in association with Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA). "Marching towards Amrit Kaal with Science, Technology and Innovation" was the theme of the event. As part of the event, 'Vigyanika-Science Literature Festival' was also organised on January 22-23 by CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (CSIR-NIScPR) along with the Department of Biotechnology and VIBHA. There were 15 programmes, including a mega science and technology exhibition based on the festival theme. Over 8,000 delegates from different parts of India took part in the event. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- 8th India International Science Festival-2022 (IISF) – held at Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology, Bhopal
- Theme of IISF 2022 – "Marching towards Amrit Kaal with Science, Technology and Innovation"
- 'Vigyanika-Science Literature Festival' – held at Bhopal (organised by CSIR-NIScPR + DoB + VIBHA)
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel

409. On January 20, Ladakh Lieutenant Governor R K Mathur launched the Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN) in the Union Territory. The 14-digit ULPIN would help in the digitisation of land records and also reaching a conclusive land titling. The ULPIN scheme will prove beneficial in numerous ways, including settling and expediting land-related disputes in court and addressing legacy issues such as putting a check on any unwanted change in land revenue records. Terming ULPIN as a "game changer" and the next step in 'SVAMITVA' for digitisation and computerisation of land revenue records, Mathur stressed the importance of 100% coverage of land revenue records in Ladakh and completion of the exercise at the earliest. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Ladakh – launched the ‘Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN)’
- ULPIN – is a 14 digit Number and it would help in the digitisation of land records
- ‘SVAMITVA’ scheme will also be implemented for digitisation and computerisation of land revenue records
- [Ladakh: Capital – Leh | Lt. Governor – R. K. Mathur](#)

410. On January 20, Wayanad became India’s first district to provide basic documents and facilities (such as Aadhaar cards, ration cards, birth/death certificates, election ID cards, bank accounts and health insurance) to all tribal people. The Wayanad district administration has attained the meritorious achievement by providing 1,42,563 services to as many as 64,670 tribal beneficiaries as part of the ‘Akshaya Big Campaign for Document Digitization (ABCD)’. The campaign is aimed at ensuring basic documents to all citizens belonging to the Scheduled Tribes communities and these documents are digitalized and saved in DigiLocker accounts opened for them. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Wayanad (Kerala) – became India’s first district to provide & digitize basic documents of all tribal people
- 64,670 tribal people benefited as part of ‘Akshaya Big Campaign for Document Digitization (ABCD)’
- [Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan](#)

411. On January 20, Himachal Pradesh government announced to make the state as the first Green Energy State by the end of 2025 by harnessing hydro, hydrogen and solar energy and switching to green products. To ease the norms, the Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu directed the officers to make necessary amendments to the existing power policy and open all the solar projects up to 5 MW capacity for allotment. The state government would also invest in solar plants and will install 500 MW solar projects during the year 2023-24, out of this, 200 MW would be installed by HPPCL. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Himachal Pradesh – targets to be the first ‘Green Energy State’ by the end of 2025
- The state would also invest in solar plants and will install 500 MW solar projects during the year 2023-24
- [HP: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu | Governor – Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar](#)

412. On January 20, the Central Government issued guidelines ‘Endorsements Know-hows!’ for social-media influencers, including celebrities and virtual avatars, for disclosing the promotional content of the products or services they endorse and their material connections with those. “Material connection” with a brand covers monetary benefits, hotel stay, awards, employment relationships, sweepstakes entries, and media barter. This is in accordance with the ‘Consumer Protection Act, 2019’. Non-compliance can lead to a jail term of up to 2 years and penalty of Rs 50 lakh. The size of the social-media influencer market in India last year was Rs 1,275 Crore and by 2025, it was likely to be Rs 2,800 Crore. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Central Govt – issued guidelines ‘Endorsements Know-hows!’ for social-media influencers
- This is in accordance with the ‘Consumer Protection Act, 2019’
- Non-compliance can lead to a jail term of up to 2 years and penalty of Rs 50 lakh



413. On January 22, American India Foundation (AIF) inaugurated India's first "STEM Innovation and Learning Center (SILC)" under the scheme of 'Vanavil Mandram' in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. AIF's award-winning flagship education program, Digital Equalizer (DE), has designed the center to be a one-stop solution for STEM among students and teachers. Consisting of Innovation Corner for students, the center will introduce students to a transdisciplinary learning approach through robotics, AI, Space technology, and the STEM incubation workstation. The center also consists of a Technology Corner for teachers. The Tech Corner will facilitate teachers to conduct techno-pedagogy-enabled classes for their students as well as receive training on the Digital Equalizer Way of Teaching (DEWoT) - a unique method developed by AIF to address all types of learners in the classroom. AIF's DE also launched 'Drone and Satellite Launch Vehicle (DSLVL) Mission' on the occasion. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- American India Foundation – inaugurated India's first "STEM Innovation and Learning Center (SILC)" in Chennai
- 'Digital Equalizer Way of Teaching (DEWoT)' – a unique method developed by AIF
- AIF's DE – launched 'Drone and Satellite Launch Vehicle (DSLVL) Mission' on the occasion
- HQs of AIF – New York, US | Chairman – Ajay Banga

414. On January 22, Jammu and Kashmir government launched an ambitious project, "UT Level Food Processing Programme for Development of Clusters for Specific Products of J&K", targeted to revolutionise the food processing sector and transform the lives of farmers in the UT. The government has allocated a budget of Rs 879.75 Cr for the project including a grant-in-aid of Rs 293.25 Cr (33.33%) and a debt-equity of Rs 586.50 Cr to be raised by entrepreneurs. The project will focus on developing 17 districts in J&K with establishment of processing and marketing infrastructure, providing growth and development opportunities to stakeholders, and facilitating suitable economies of scale in production and post-harvest activities. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- J & K – launched a project to revolutionise the food processing sector & transform the lives of farmers in the UT
- Budget – Rs 879.75 Cr (Grant-in-aid of Rs 293.25 Cr + debt-equity of Rs 586.50 Cr to be raised by entrepreneurs)
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

415. On January 21, Jharkhand launched a water conservation scheme with an outlay of Rs 467.32 crore to provide benefits to farmers in the state that experienced drought last year. Under the programme, 2,133 ponds will be renovated and 2,795 percolation tanks will be constructed in all the blocks of 24 districts of the state. The minister also laid the foundation for the renovation work of 71 ponds and 184 percolation tanks. The state government received 31.33 lakh applications from drought-hit farmers and 8.5 lakhs of them have so far been given financial aid. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Jharkhand – launched a water conservation scheme with an outlay of Rs 467.32 Cr
- 2,133 ponds will be renovated and 2,795 percolation tanks will be constructed in the state
- Jharkhand: Capital – Ranchi | CM – Hemant Soren | Governor – Ramesh Bais

416. On January 21, Delhi Lieutenant-Governor V.K. Saxena launched the '100 Days To Beat Plastic' campaign. The campaign is aimed at making the civic body's areas plastic-free through public participation. Under the campaign, the MCD will promote segregation of waste at source, doorstep pick-up of plastic, among others, in each municipal ward. Nivaran Dadi, the campaign's mascot was unveiled on the day of launch. Dadi gives solutions for plastic substitutes. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- Delhi – launched the ‘100 Days To Beat Plastic’ campaign
- Campaign Mascot – Nivaran Dadi
- Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Lt. Governor – Vinai Kumar Saxena | Chief Secretary – Naresh Kumar

International Affairs

417. On January 19, the US plans to launch the program called “Welcome Corps” to allow its citizens to sponsor refugees. The agency aims to line up 10,000 Americans who can help 5,000 refugees during the first year of the program. Under the first phase, private sponsors will be matched with refugees already approved for resettlement under the US Refugee Assistance Program. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- The US – plans to launch the program called “Welcome Corps” to allow its citizens to sponsor refugees
- It aims to line up 10,000 Americans who can help 5,000 refugees during the first year
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

418. On January 17, Afghanistan unveiled its first indigenously made supercar, ‘Mada 9’. It is developed by Entop, a Kabul-based manufacturer and Afghanistan Technical Vocational Institute. The prototype is based on a modified engine from a 2000 Toyota Corolla and took 30 Afghani engineers and over 5 years to build. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Afghanistan – unveiled its first indigenously made supercar, ‘Mada 9’
- It is manufactured by – Entop (Kabul, Afghanistan)
- Afghanistan – Kabul – Afghani | Care taker President – Amrullah Saleh | Interim PM – Mullah Hasan Akhund

Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

419. On January 19, Canara Bank entered into a share sale agreement in relation to sale of equity shares held by it in Commercial Indo Bank LLC (CIBL), Moscow, Russia with State Bank of India (SBI). The transaction is expected to be completed on or before 31 March 2023. The consideration of the stake sale is USD 14.67 million (Rs 114 Crore). CIBL, incorporated in the year 2003, is a Joint Venture in Russia between SBI (60%) and Canara Bank (40%). [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Canara Bank – to sell its entire stake in joint venture Commercial Indo Bank LLC, Moscow – to SBI
- CIBL in Russia is a JV between = SBI (60%) + Canara Bank (40%)
- HQs of Canara Bank – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Non-Executive Chairman – Vijay Srirangam
- HQs of SBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MDs – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Alok Kumar Choudhary | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman



420. Indians remitted \$1.99 billion in November 2022 under the Reserve Bank of India's Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS), according to the RBI's bulletin on "Outward Remittances Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) for Resident Individuals" released in January 2023. It is a jump of 29% compared to \$1.54 billion in the year-ago month. Sequentially, outward remittances under the scheme were up about 3.5%. International travel continued to remain over 50% of the entire outward remittance by Indians under the scheme. According to the scheme introduced in 2004, all resident individuals, including minors, are allowed to freely remit up to \$250,000 per financial year for any permissible current or capital account transaction or a combination of both. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- RBI's bulletin on "Outward Remittances Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) for Resident Individuals"
- Indians remitted \$1.99 billion in November 2022 (latest data) | LRS was introduced in 2004
- International travel continued to remain over 50% of the entire outward remittance by Indians under the scheme
- Under LRS, all resident individuals are allowed to freely remit up to \$250,000 per financial year
- 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

421. On January 19, the Reserve Bank of India's 2023 Monetary Policy objective is to hold inflation within the mandated tolerance band (2%-6%) and guide it towards the medium-term target of 4% by 2024. The first milestone of monetary policy (bringing inflation into the tolerance band) is achieved. Annual retail inflation slowed to 5.72% in December 2022, from 5.88% in November 2022, dipping below 6% for a second straight month. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- RBI's 2023 Monetary Policy objective: To hold inflation within the mandated tolerance band (2%-6%)
- It also aims to guide it towards the medium-term target of 4% by 2024
- Annual retail inflation slowed to 5.72% in December 2022
- 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

Defence Affairs

422. On January 20, Indian Coast Guard Ships ICGS Shaurya and ICGS Rajveer were on a six-day visit to Chattogram, Bangladesh from 13 to 19 January, 2023 to enhance the cooperative engagements and interoperability under the provisions of the MoU signed between Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and Bangladesh Coast Guard (BCG). During the visit, Pollution Response Team of Indian Coast Guard conducted a five-day "International Maritime Organisation Level I course on Pollution Response" for the first time in Bangladesh for 20 BCG personnel. ICGS Shaurya is an Advanced Offshore Patrol Vessel (AOPV) which is designed and built by Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL). While ICGS Rajveer is an Inshore Patrol Vessel (IPV) which is designed and built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata, West Bengal. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- ICGS Shaurya + ICGS Rajveer = were on a six-day visit to Chattogram, Bangladesh (in January, 2023)
- ICG conducted "International Maritime Organisation Level I course on Pollution Response" for the 1st time in Bangladesh
- ICGS Shaurya, an Advanced Offshore Patrol Vessel – designed & built by Goa Shipyard Ltd
- ICGS Rajveer, an Inshore Patrol Vessel – designed & built by GRSE (Kolkata)



423. On January 23, Indian Navy commissioned the fifth diesel-electric Scorpene named INS Vagir. Four of the Kalvari class of submarines have already been commissioned as INS Kalvari, INS Karanj and INS Vela. It is built in India by the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), Mumbai in collaboration with France-based M/s Naval Group. Vagir will boost the Indian Navy's capability to further India's maritime interests by undertaking diverse missions including anti-surface warfare, anti-submarine warfare, intelligence gathering, mine laying and surveillance missions. The sixth and the last Scorpene, Vagsheer, will be delivered by the end of 2023 under over Rs 23,000 crore project inked with French companies way back in 2005. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- Indian Navy – commissioned the 5th Scorpene class submarine named 'INS Vagir'
- It is built in India by the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders + Naval Group (France)
- The 6 submarines being commissioned under the Indian Navy's Project-75 are:
 - 1st – Kalvari | 2nd – Khanderi | 3rd – Karanj | 4th – Vela | 5th – Vagir | 6th – Vagsheer
- HQs of Indian Navy – Delhi | Chief – Admiral R. Hari Kumar | VC – S. N. Ghormade | Founded in – 26th Jan, 1950

424. In January 2023, the Indian Army and Air Force together participated in the Indian Navy's major maritime exercise "Tropex-23", conducted in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). The exercise was conducted in different phases, both in harbour and at sea. Moreover, it coincided with another biennial "AMPHEX 2023", the tri-service amphibious exercise between Indian Army, Indian Air Force (IAF), and Indian Navy. It was conducted at Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh from January 17. Aimed at increasing synergy, AMPHEX 23 was the largest ever exercise and held for the first time at Kakinada. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Indian Army + IAF = participated in the major maritime exercise "Tropex-23" of Indian Navy
- Indian Army + IAF + Indian Navy = conducted a tri-service exercise "AMPHEX 2023" in Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Lt. Gen. Manoj Pande | Vice Chief – Lt. General Baggavalli Somashekar Raju
- HQs of IAF – New Delhi | Chief – Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari | Vice Chief – Air Marshal Sandeep Singh
- HQs of Indian Navy – Delhi | Chief – Admiral R. Hari Kumar | Vice Chief – S. N. Ghormade

Sports & Games

425. The FIDE World Championship 2023 will take place in Astana, Kazakhstan, from April 7 to May 1, 2023. At Astana, the prize fund will be 2 million, with 60% going to the winner and 40% to the runner-up. A new World Champion will be crowned, as Ian Nepomniachtchi and Ding Liren will battle to seize the throne left vacant by Magnus Carlsen's withdrawal. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- FIDE World Championship 2023 – to take place in Astana, Kazakhstan (from April 7 to May 1, 2023)
- Kazakhstan – Astana – Tenge | President – Kassym-Jomart Tokayev | PM – Alikhan Smailov
- HQs of FIDE – Lausanne, Switzerland | President – Arkady Dvorkovich | Founded on – July 20, 1924



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Persons in News

426. On January 22, Maria Branyas Morera (USA/Spain) was confirmed to be the world's oldest woman living and oldest person living, according to Guinness World Records, following the death of 118-year-old Lucile Randon from France. Morera, born March 4, 1907 in San Francisco, California, returned to Spain and settled in Catalonia. Morera has survived both World Wars, the Spanish Civil War, and the Spanish Flu pandemic, also fought off Covid-19 in 2020. [{Read More}](#)



Smart Points:

- Maria Branyas Morera (USA/Spain) – confirmed as the world's oldest woman living & oldest person living (age - 115)
- 118-year-old Lucile Randon (France) who passed away in January 2023, was the oldest living person earlier
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris
- Spain – Madrid – Euro | PM – Pedro Sanchez

Arts & Cultural Affairs

427. Jammu & Kashmir will host its 1st SARAS Fair 2023 from February 4 to 14 wherein artisans and women self-help groups from across the country will showcase their crafts, handcrafts, handloom and foods. The fair would be organised at Bagh-e-Bahu, Jammu. The eleven-day exhibition is going to witness several cultural events, aids and plays on several government schemes and campaigns. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Jammu & Kashmir – will host its 1st SARAS Fair 2023 for Artisans & Women SHGs at Bagh-e-Bahu, Jammu (in Feb 2023)
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

Science & Technology

428. On January 19, a rare orange-coloured bat, also known as 'Painted Bat', was spotted at in Parali Bodal village of Chhattisgarh's Kanger Valley National Park. Its scientific name is 'Kerivoula Picta'. The national park is famous for its limestone caves, which also provide a suitable habitat for the bats. There are about 131 species of bats in the country, of which 31 are found in central India. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- 'Kerivoula Picta', a rare orange-coloured bat ('Painted Bat') – spotted in Kanger Valley National Park, Chhattisgarh
- Chhattisgarh: Capital – Raipur | CM – Bhupesh Baghel | Governor – Anusuiya Uikey

429. On January 19, a rare low-altitude basalt plateau, housing 76 species of plants and shrubs from 24 different families, has been discovered in Manjare village, Thane district in the Western Ghats, Maharashtra. This is the fourth type of plateau to be identified in the region. The Western Ghats is one of the four global biodiversity hotspots in India. This new plateau type could prove to be a repository of information to study climate change effects on species survival. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- A rare low-altitude basalt plateau – discovered in Manjare village, Thane district, Maharashtra (Western Ghats region)
- This is the 4th type of plateau to be identified in the region (with 76 species of plants & 24 different families of shrubs)
- Maharashtra: CM – Eknath Shinde | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

430. On January 20, IIT Madras-incubated firm, JandK Operations Private Limited (JandKops), has developed an indigenous mobile operating system called 'BharOS' that can benefit India's 100 Crore mobile phone users. This software can be installed on commercial off-the-shelf handsets and provides a secure environment for users. JandKops has been incubated by IIT Madras and Pravartak Technologies Foundation. BharOS Services are currently being provided to organisations that have stringent privacy and security requirements. BharOS offers 'Native Over The Air' (NOTA) updates that can help to keep the devices secure. BharOS provides access to trusted apps from organisation-specific Private App Store Services (PASS). [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- JandK Operations (IIT Madras) – developed an indigenous mobile operating system called 'BharOS'
- BharOS offers 'Native Over The Air' (NOTA) updates | BharOS provides access to trusted apps from 'PASS'
- Director of IIT Madras – V. Kamakoti

431. On January 19, Geotail, the first joint mission between NASA and Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), retired after the failure of the spacecraft's remaining data recorder. Launched in 1992, the spacecraft spent 30 years in orbit studying the dynamics of the Earth's magnetotail over a wide range of distances. Geotail was initially planned to last four years, yet it was extended several times because of the vast amount of valuable data it provided, which contributed to over a thousand scientific publications. The mission achieved a number of scientific advances, such as determining the speed at which material from the Sun enters the magnetosphere, exploring the physical processes occurring at the magnetosphere's edge, and detecting oxygen, silicon, sodium, and aluminum in the lunar atmosphere. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- NASA – retired a 30-year-old Geotail spacecraft after data recorder's failure (Launched in - 1992)
- It was the first joint mission between NASA & JAXA
- HQs of NASA – Washington D.C., US | Administrator – Bill Nelson | Founded in – 1958
- HQs of JAXA – Tokyo, Japan | President – Yamakawa Hiroshi

Appointments & Resignations

432. On January 20, New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern announced to step down from her position. Her decision was taken on completing two terms as prime minister. She joined the New Zealand Labour Party at the age of 18 and entered Parliament in 2008. One of the youngest world leaders, Jacinda Ardern was often seen as a star proponent of the centre-left ideology. The country is set to go to polls on October 14, 2023. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- Jacinda Ardern – Prime Minister of New Zealand – resigned from her post
- New Zealand – Wellington – Dollar (NZD)

433. On January 19, the Union government approved the appointment of Praveen Sharma, a 2005 batch officer from Indian Defence Service of Engineers (IDSE), as Director in the National Health Authority (Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission). The government has cleared the appointment of Sharma under the 'Central Staffing Scheme' for a period of 5 years. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Praveen Sharma – appointed as Director in the National Health Authority (Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission)

434. On January 16, Ministry of External Affairs announced that Sibi George has been named as the next Indian ambassador to the Republic of Marshall Islands, with residence in Tokyo, on a concurrent basis. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Sibi George – named as the next Indian ambassador to the Republic of Marshall Islands
- Marshall Islands – Majuro, Delap-Uliga-Djarrit – US Dollar | President – David Kabua

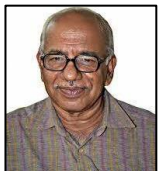
435. On January 25, after the unexpected resignation of ex-PM, Jacinda Ardern, Education Minister Chris Hipkins of Labour Party was officially appointed as the 41st Prime Minister of New Zealand. Chris Hipkins was sworn in by New Zealand's Governor-General, Cindy Kiro. New Zealand's head-of-state is Britain's King Charles III. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Chris Hipkins – appointed as the 41st Prime Minister of New Zealand
- New Zealand – Wellington – Dollar (NZD) | PM – Chris Hipkins

Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

436. On January 15, noted writer K Venu bagged the first-ever 'Federal Bank Literary Award 2022' for his autobiography 'Oranweshananthinte Katha'. He received the award from Balagopal Chandrasekhar, chairman and independent director of Federal Bank. Judging panel member P K Rajashekar commented that the essence of the book brought back the memory of the most-intense political timeline in the modern history of Kerala. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- K Venu – bagged the first-ever 'Federal Bank Literary Award 2022' for his autobiography "Oranweshananthinte Katha"
- HQs of Federal Bank – Aluva, Kerala | MD & CEO – Shyam Srinivasan | Tagline – "Your Perfect Banking Partner"

437. On January 20, R. Vishnu Prasad, a scientist with 69 patents, has been honored with the "Most Distinguished Scientist of the Year 2022" award at the Indian Achievers Awards at Vigyan Bhawan, Delhi by Anurag Thakur, Minister of Information & Broadcasting. The award recognizes individuals for their outstanding contributions in various fields, including culture, science, sports, and innovation. Some of his fellow awardees were Param Vir Chakra Subedar Major Sanjay Kumar, Indian field hockey player late Major Dhyan Chand, film actress Shruti Haasan, Padma Shri Alok Mehta, Indian professional boxer Vijendar Singh, Indian Olympic athlete & Padma Shri Sudha Singh, national paralympic coach Satyanarayana, IPS Yashasvi Yadav, Chairman & MD of T-Series Bhushan Kumar and The Kashmir Files Actor Darshan Kumar. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- R. Vishnu Prasad – honored with the “Most Distinguished Scientist of the Year 2022” at the Indian Achievers Awards
- Other awardees of Indian Achievers Awards 2023:
 - Param Vir Chakra Subedar Major Sanjay Kumar
 - Indian field hockey player late Major Dhyhan Chand
 - Film actress Shruti Haasan
 - Padma Shri Alok Mehta
 - Indian professional boxer Vijendar Singh
 - Indian Olympic athlete & Padma Shri Sudha Singh
 - National paralympic coach Satyanarayana
 - IPS Yashasvi Yadav
 - Chairman & MD of T-Series Bhushan Kumar
 - The Kashmir Files Actor Darshan Kumar

438. The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Film Festival was organised from January 27 to 31 in Mumbai by the SCO Council of Head of States in association with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting through National Film Development Corporation (NFDC). National Award-winning movie “Toolsidas Junior”, starring Rajiv Kapoor and Sanjay Dutt, was showcased at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Film Festival. Directed by Mridul Toolsidass and produced by filmmaker Ashutosh Gowariker, the movie was screened as part of the Children Focus Section of the festival. At the 68th National Film Awards last year, “Toolsidas Junior” bagged the National Film Award for best feature film in Hindi, while child actor Buddhadev received a special mention. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

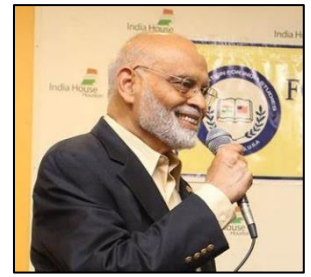
- “Toolsidas Junior” film – was showcased at the SCO Film Festival organised in Mumbai
- “Toolsidas Junior” film – bagged the National Film Award for best feature film in Hindi in 2022
- Toolsidas Junior Film: Director – Mridul Toolsidass | Producer – Ashutosh Gowariker

439. On January 21, Manish Tiwari, an India-born founder of a multi-cultural marketing agency, has been conferred with ‘The Freedom of the City of London’ title for leaving a mark on the financial hub of the British capital. The award is given by the City of London Corporation. A previous Indian recipient of the honour is Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India, and other prominent recipients include South African leader Nelson Mandela and Microsoft founder Bill Gates. The ‘Freedom of the City of London’ is believed to have begun in 1237. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Manish Tiwari – conferred with ‘The Freedom of the City of London’ title
- Previous Indian recipient of the honour – Jawaharlal Nehru

440. On January 17, Indian-American Krishna Vavilala was honoured with ‘MLK Grande Parade Special Award’ for contributions towards connecting the Indian community with mainstream America as the US celebrated the legacy of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., a champion of civil rights for Blacks, was born on January 15, 1929, in Atlanta, Georgia, US. Vavilala, a longtime Houstonian and the founder and chairman of the Foundation of India Studies (FIS), has in the past led several MLK Grande Parades, dressed as Mahatma Gandhi with the sole purpose of bringing the Indian community closer to the Black community, based on the principles of non-violence, which both Gandhi and MLK Jr. had followed. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- Krishna Vavilala (Indian-American) – honoured with ‘MLK Grande Parade Special Award’
- Martin Luther King Jr., a champion of civil rights for Blacks, was born on January 15, 1929 in Atlanta, Georgia, US
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

Schemes & Initiatives

441. On January 16, Forest officials of the Katarniaghat division announced that NABARD would fund the skill-development initiative for Tharu people that live near the Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh. While some people from the ethnic group will be employed by the department, others will be given skill-development training, and products made by them will be sold at local souvenir shops. The department aims to achieve three objectives: to stop people from going to the jungle to collect firewood, reduce human-wildlife conflicts (HWC) and get locals’ support to promote eco-tourism. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- NABARD – would fund the skill-development initiative for Tharu people
- Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary – located in Uttar Pradesh
- HQs of NABARD – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Shaji K V | Founded in – 1982
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

442. On January 18, Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao formally launched the second phase of “Kanti Velugu” eye screening programme of people across the state. Around 15 lakh spectacles were dispatched to all the Primary Health centres and urban centres so far and 1,500 special teams have been formed for smooth conduct of the programme. The first round of “Kanti Velugu” programme held in 2018.



[{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Telangana – launched the second phase of “Kanti Velugu” eye screening programme
- The first round of “Kanti Velugu” programme held in 2018
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan



Obituaries

443. On January 20, renowned Bharatanatyam dancer and guru, writer and research scholar Lakshmi Vishwanathan died. She was 78. Among the many awards she received are the 'Kalaimamani' from the Tamil Nadu government, the 'Sangeet Natak Akademi Award' from the President of India and titles like 'Nritya Chudamani' (Sri Krishna Gana Sabha) and 'Nritya Kalanidhi' (The Music Academy, Madras), as well as the 'Kalidas Samman'. A gold medallist in English literature from Madras University, she authored four books - 'Kunjamma-Ode to a Nightingale' (a biography of M.S. Subbulakshmi); 'Women of Pride-the Devadasi Heritage'; 'Kapaliswara Temple'; and 'Bharatanatyam: The Tamil Heritage'. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- Lakshmi Vishwanathan (Tamil Nadu) – Bharatanatyam Dancer & Guru, Writer, Research Scholar – passed away
- Awards: 'Kalaimamani', 'Sangeet Natak Akademi Award', 'Nritya Chudamani', 'Nritya Kalanidhi', 'Kalidas Samman'
- Her Books:
 - 'Kunjamma-Ode to a Nightingale'
 - 'Women of Pride-the Devadasi Heritage'
 - 'Kapaliswara Temple'
 - 'Bharatanatyam: The Tamil Heritage'

Meetings, Conferences & Summits

444. Ministry of Tourism, Government of India participated in FITUR from January 18-22 in Madrid which is one of the world's largest international travel exhibitions. The India Pavilion was graced by the presence the King and Queen of Spain, and was formally inaugurated by His Excellency. The Indian Delegation was led by Mr. Rakesh Kumar Verma, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Tourism who participated in key business meetings facilitated by the dedicated Industry Development & Investment Promotion (IDIP) Division at the Ministry of Tourism managed by Invest India. The meetings had discussions around investment opportunities in the Indian tourism & hospitality sector. The leadership from these organizations were also formally invited to participate in the 1st Global Tourism Investors' Summit being organized by the Ministry of Tourism between 10th - 12th April, 2023 in New Delhi on lines of India's G20 Presidency. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Ministry of Tourism – participated in FITUR from January 18-22 in Madrid, Spain
- FITUR – one of the world's largest international travel exhibitions
- Indian Delegation was led by – Mr. Rakesh Kumar Verma
- 1st Global Tourism Investors' Summit – to be held in New Delhi (in April 2023)
- **Ministry of Tourism: G. Kishan Reddy | Constituency – Secunderabad, Telangana**
- **MoS in Ministry of Tourism: Shripad Yesso Naik & Ajay Bhatt**



445. On January 19, India participated in the 'First Movers Coalition (FMC) Leadership Meeting' of the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, Switzerland. DPIIT Secretary, Anurag Jain, highlighted India's role in democratizing the digital ecosystem at the CII-EY Session. At the Building Unicorns panel, Secretary underscored India's push for the Startup 20 (S-20) agenda as the G20 President. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- India – participated in the 'First Movers Coalition (FMC) Leadership Meeting' of the WEF in Davos, Switzerland
- HQs of WEF – Cologne, Switzerland | Exe Chairman – Klaus Schwab | President – Borge Brende | Founded in – 1971

446. On January 17, more than 300 intellectuals from India and abroad released the "Bhopal Declaration" after discussing the G-20 agenda in the two-day meeting of Think-20 (T20) under G20 in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. Director General of Research and Information System for Developing Countries-RIS and Chief organizer of Think-20, Sachin Chaturvedi said that the Bhopal Declaration has also emphasized promoting traditional medicine systems like AYUSH and encouraging value-oriented development in infrastructure development. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- 'Meeting of Think-20 (T20)' under G20 – held in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
- More than 300 intellectuals from India and abroad released the "Bhopal Declaration" at T20 Meeting
- Presidency of G20 Summit: 2023 – India (Dec 1, 2022 to Nov 30, 2023) | 2024 – Brazil
- India's G20 motto – 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' | Theme – 'One Earth One Family One Future' | Sherpa – Amitabh Kant

Ranks, Reports & Surveys

447. According to Global Firepower Index 2023, India is ranked 4 of 145 out of the countries considered for the annual GFP review. India holds a PwrIndx score of 0.1025. A score of 0.0000 is considered 'perfect'. The GFP index denotes India as a Top 5 world power. The US topped the index with PwrIndx score of 0.0721, followed by Russia & China. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Global Firepower Index 2023: India – 4th | Top – US, 2nd – China, 3rd – Russia
- India holds a PwrIndx score of 0.1025

448. Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Bihar and West Bengal have emerged as the top five states with the highest number of mobile gamers, according to a report titled "India Mobile Gaming Report (IMGR) 2022" released by Mobile Premier League (MPL), a mobile esports and digital gaming platform. This is the second year in a row that Lucknow has earned recognition for its gaming prowess. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- "India Mobile Gaming Report (IMGR) 2022" – released by Mobile Premier League
- Uttar Pradesh – has the highest number of mobile gamers
- HQs of MPL – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Co-Founder & CEO – Sai Srinivas Kiran G



Amount & Agreements

449. In January 2023, S. Jaishankar visited Maldives and Sri Lanka during his 3-day visit to further expand bilateral engagement with the two key maritime neighbours of India. India extended a concessional \$40 million Line of Credit (LoC) for developing sporting infrastructure in the Maldives, as part of India's efforts to bring flagship projects such as "Fit India" and "Khelo India" into the ambit of the Neighbourhood First Policy. Fit India and Khelo India were introduced by the Modi government to revive sporting and fitness culture at the grass root level in the country. Jaishankar inaugurated the community centre with his Maldivian counterpart Abdulla Shahid. Foakaidhoo is one of the inhabited islands in the Maldives. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- India – extended a concessional \$40 million Line of Credit (LoC) for developing sporting infrastructure in Maldives
- It is part of India's efforts to bring flagship projects like "Fit India" & "Khelo India"
- He also inaugurated a community centre in Shaviyani Foakaidhoo
- Maldives – Male – Maldivian rufiyaa | President – Ibrahim Mohamed Solih
- Ministry of External Affairs: S. Jaishankar | Constituency – Gujarat
- MoS in Ministry of External Affairs: Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, V. Muraleedharan & Meenakshi Lekhi

MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

450. On January 20, the International Hockey Federation (FIH) partners with JSP Foundation for Hockey Development and Men's World Cup Lausanne, Switzerland. This partnership will also see the JSP Foundation coming onboard the ongoing FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023 Bhubaneswar-Rourkela as a Global Partner. The 15th edition of FIH's flagship event for men was played from 13 to 29 January in Odisha, India. The International Hockey Federation (FIH) is the world governing body for the sport of hockey, recognised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC). Founded in 1924, FIH today has 140-member National Associations. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- FIH + JSP Foundation = partnered for Hockey Development and Men's World Cup Lausanne, Switzerland
- JSP Foundation – Global Partner of 'FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023'
- HQs of FIH – Lausanne, Switzerland | President – Mohammad Tayyab Ikram | CEO – Thierry Weil | Founded in – 1924
- HQs of JSP Foundation – Bhubaneswar, Odisha | Chairperson – Shallu Jindal





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