



IEM's Academia of Success (I.A.S)

PRESENTS

Monthly Current Affairs One Liner

March ' 2022

~Department of General Studies, UEM Kolkata~~





Banking & Financial Awareness

- 1. The Banks Board Bureau (BBB)** has launched a development programme for public sector bank management with the goal of boosting the quality of bank boards.
- 2. Reserve Bank of India** has launched two initiatives related to digital payments. One is **UPI123pay** which provides a UPI payment facility on feature phones and the second is **“Digi-Saathi”** which is a **24×7 Helpline for Digital Payments**.
- 3. Reserve Bank of India** has launched a booklet named **“BE(A)WARE”** which features common modus operandi used by fraudsters and precautions to be taken while carrying out various financial transactions. The booklet aims to enhance public awareness about various types of financial frauds perpetrated on gullible customers while carrying out digital payments and other financial transactions.
- 4. Mastercard and Zeta**, a financial tech startup that provides next-generation credit card processing to banks and fintechs, established a **5-year worldwide agreement today**.
- 5. Axis Bank** has launched the **‘House Work Is Work’** project, which provides possibilities for those who want to return to the workforce.
- 6. The digital payments network Mahila Money, Visa, and Transcorp Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPI)** have launched Mahila Money Prepaid Card to help women entrepreneurs easily collect payments, loans and get incentives for transactions.
- 7. HDFC Bank** has announced to launch the **“SmartHub Vyapar programme” & ‘AutoFirst’** app the following two initiatives/application to give a digital push to small business loans.



8. Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Private Limited (BRBNMPL) has set up an Ink Manufacturing Unit named “Varnika” at Mysuru, Karnataka, with an annual ink manufacturing capacity of **1,500 MT** to enhance the security of banknotes



Obituaries

- 1. Legendary Australia spinner, Shane Warne** has passed away at the age of 52. Shane Warne, one of the greatest-ever cricketers to have played the sport, picked up **708 wickets in 145 Tests**.
- 2. Stephen Wilhite**, the creator of the **Graphics Interchange Format (GIF)** format passed away at the age of 74 years due to Covid-19 related issues.
- 3.** The two-time WWE Hall of Famer, Scott Hall has passed away, due to heart attack. He was 63. His tenure with World Wrestling Federation (**WWF, now WWE**) began in May 1992. With WWE, he was famously known by his ring name as ‘**Razor Ramon**’.
- 4.** The Olympic triple jump 3-time gold medalist and former world record holder, **Viktor Danilovich Saneyev** passed away in Australia.
- 5. Film critic, writer Jaiprakash Chouksey** has passed away due to cardiac arrest at the age of 82 years. He has penned scripts and dialogues for several films including ‘Shayad’ (1979), ‘Qatl’ (1986) and ‘**Bodyguard**’ (2011), and was also involved in writing for television serials.



MoU's Signed

- 1. The Government of India** has signed the Host Country Agreement (HCA) with **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)** for the establishment of an Area Office & Innovation Centre of ITU in New Delhi.



- 2. IIT Madras Incubation Cell (IITMIC) and RBI Innovation Hub (RBIH),** a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Reserve Bank of India, inked a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to collaborate in establishing the ecosystem needed to support and expand fintech businesses in India
- 3. Border Roads Organisation (BRO) signs MoU with GRSE** for construction of 27 double-lane class 70 modular bridges in border areas
- 4. The Indian Institute of Technology Madras** has teamed up with **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** to offer a web-based, user-friendly programme on “Industrial AI,” aimed at upskilling employees and incorporating **AI applications to industrial concerns.**
- 5. The Indian Institute of Management (IIM)** in Ahmedabad’s Centre for Digital Transformation recently launched a retail tech consortium, with intentions to partner with a number of retail and technology companies in India. The consortium, according to the centre, will strive to improve collaboration among retail technology firms in the country.
- 6. Mobility firm Ola** has signed an agreement to acquire neo bank Avail Finance which provides financial services to the blue-collared workforce and has over 6 million users. The acquisition is a key step in Ola's broader push into the fintech space as it looks to build a mobility-focused financial services business under Ola Financial.
- 7. The World Health Organization (WHO) and the Government of India** signed a memorandum of understanding to create the Global Centre for Traditional Medicine in Gujarat.



Important Days & Themes

- 1. 3rd March : World Wildlife Day**



✓ Theme : “Recovering key species for ecosystem restoration”.

2. 4th March: National Safety Day(NSD)

3. 4th March : World Obesity Day.

4. 12th March : World Consumer Rights Day

5. 18th March: World Sleep Day

✓ Theme ‘Quality Sleep, Sound Mind, Happy World’

6. 20th March : International Day of Happiness .

✓ Theme ‘Keep Calm, Stay Wise and Be Kind.’

7. 23rd March : World Meteorological Day.

8. 24th March : World Tuberculosis Day

✓ Theme: ‘Invest to End TB. Save Lives’



Appointments

1. **Madhabi Puri Buch** has been appointed as the new **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** chairman, replacing Ajay Tyagi. She is the first woman chief of SEBI and also the first non-IAS to head the regulatory body.
2. **The University Grants Commission (UGC)** has appointed educationist and research scientist Professor Bhushan Patwardhan as chairman, of the executive committee of **the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC)**, Bengaluru.
3. The Central Government has appointed **Justice Dhirubhai Naranbhai Patel, Chief Justice of Delhi High Court**, as the Chairperson of Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal(TDSAT).
4. United Nations (UN) **Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres** has announced the appointment of Indian development economist



Jayati Ghosh as a member of the UN's newly established Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism.

5. The world's largest express transportation company **FedEx** has announced that its new Chief Executive Officer will be **Indian American Raj Subramaniam**.



National News

1. **The Ministry of Education** has launched a campaign titled '**Bhasha Certificate Selfie**'. The aim of this campaign is to promote the Bhasha Sangam mobile app, launched by the Ministry under the aegis of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat to encourage cultural diversity and promote multilingualism.
2. The President of India, **Shri Ram Nath Kovind** has inaugurated a newly developed '**Arogya Vanam**' at the **President's Estate, (Rashtrapati Bhavan)** in New Delhi.
3. **The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) and NIMHANS Bengaluru** launched the '**Stree Manoraksha Project**' on Wednesday with the goal of improving women's mental health in India.
4. **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** has unveiled a tall statue of great Maratha warrior **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj** in Pune, Maharashtra. The Statue is made up of 1,850 kg of gunmetal and is about 9.5-feet tall.
5. The country's first **Artificial Intelligence & Robotics Technology Park (ARTPARK)** was launched in Bengaluru, Karnataka. It is promoted by a not-for-profit foundation set up by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru, with a seed capital of Rs. 230 crore from the State and Central governments.
6. **Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari** has inaugurated the world's most advanced technology-



developed **Green Hydrogen Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle (FCEV) Toyota Mirai** at New Delhi. Toyota Mirai is India's first Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle (FCEV), which is completely powered by Hydrogen.

7. Union Minister of Women and Child Development, Smriti

Irani has inaugurated the ten-day mega Red Fort Festival, '**Bharat Bhagya Vidhata**' at Red Fort in Delhi.

8. Chief Minister of Sikkim, Prem Singh Tamang has announced that the State Government will soon implement '**Aama Yojana**, a scheme for helping non-working mothers & '**Bahini Scheme**' benefitting girl students of the state.

9. The Union minister for power has inaugurated the **Virtual Smart Grid Knowledge Center (Virtual SGKC) and Innovation Park** in yet another digitisation effort aimed at advancing smart grid technologies and building capacity in the power distribution sector.

10. India's First Digital Water Bank, 'AQVERIUM' has been launched in Bengaluru, Karnataka which is an innovative initiative aimed at better water management. It is formed by AquaKraft Group Ventures.

11. Nagaland has created history by becoming the first State Assembly in the country to implement the **National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA)** programme to become completely paperless.



International News

1. Russia successfully test-fired around 10 new Tsirkon (Zircon) hypersonic cruise missiles from a frigate and other two missiles from a submarine. The Zircon missile would be capable of flying at nine times the speed of sound and have a range of **1,000 kilometres (620 miles)**.



- ✓ The Tsirkon Cruise Missile will join Avangard glide vehicles and the air-launched Kinzhal (Dagger) missiles in Russia's hypersonic arsenal.

2. China's second Long March 8 rocket launched carrying a domestic record **22 satellites** for a range of commercial Chinese space companies. The Long March 8 lifted off from Wenchang Satellite Launch Center at 10:06 p.m. Eastern Feb. 26, with the **China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation (CASC)** later confirming launch success.

3. Canada, U.S.A. and their European allies have come to a conclusion to remove the key Russian banks from the **Interbank messaging system (IMS) of SWIFT**. This is a very big step that will cut off the country from much of the worldwide financial system.

4. The United Nations Environment Assembly was hosted by the **UN Environment Programme**. It brings together representatives from the UN's 193 member countries, corporations, civil society, and other stakeholders to agree on policies to address the world's most serious environmental concerns.

5. Canada has become the first country to approve the world's first plant-based COVID-19 vaccine for adults aged 18 to 64 named '**Covifenz**'.

- ✓ It is jointly developed by Medicago Inc. and GlaxoSmithKline Plc.
- ✓ It is 71% effective at preventing COVID-19 (before the emergence of the Omicron variant)



Defence News

1. The 19th edition of the India-US Military Cooperation Group (MCG) meeting was conducted in **Agra, Uttar Pradesh**. The discussion was co-chaired by Air Marshal BR Krishna, Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee (CISC), and Lieutenant General Stephen D Sklenka, Deputy Commander, US Indo- Pacific Command, represented the US side.



2. **Indian Air Force (IAF)** has conducted the Exercise **Vayu Shakti** that took place at Pokharan range in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan on March 7. A total of 148 aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF) participated in this exercise.
3. The 9th edition of **India – Sri Lanka Bilateral Maritime Exercise** named **SLINEX (Sri Lanka– India Naval Exercise)** was held at Visakhapatnam from 07 Mar to 10 Mar 2022. The aim of the exercise was to enhance interoperability and improve mutual understanding between the navies of the two neighbouring countries in the strategically significant Indian Ocean Region.
4. The **MV Ram Prasad Bismil** has become the longest vessel ever to sail from Ganga to the Brahmaputra. The 90 meters long and 26 meters wide flotilla, loaded with a draft of 2.1 meters, achieved the feat on March 15, 2022, when it successfully completed the pilot run of heavy cargo movement from **Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port in Haldia, to Pandu port in Guwahati.**
5. **Defence Secretary of India, Dr Ajay Kumar** has commissioned the **Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Saksham**. The fifth in the series of 105- metre Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs) class, at Goa.
6. **Indian Army’s “Agnibaaz Division”** organized a joint exercise “Suraksha Kavach 2” with Maharashtra Police at Lullanagar, Pune. The exercise aimed to counter any terrorist actions in Pune.
7. The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has conducted two successful flight tests of the Indian Army version of **Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM)** against high-speed aerial targets at Integrated Test Range, Chandipur off the coast of Odisha.
8. The first edition of the **Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS)** Maritime Exercise 2022 (**IMEX-22**) was held from March 26 to 30, 2022, in Goa and in the Arabian Sea.
 - ✓ The objective of the exercise was to enhance the interoperability of the navies of member nations in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations



Honours & Awards

1. Prof Deepak Dhar from the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune (IISER Pune) has been awarded the **Boltzmann Medal for the year 2022** for his contribution in the field of ‘Statistical Physics’.

- ✓ He has shared the award with American scientist John J Hopfield of Princeton University. With this, he has become the first Indian to be awarded the **Boltzmann Medal 2022**.

2. Hindi novelist Geetanjali Shree’s translated Hindi novel ‘Tomb of Sand’ has been nominated for the International Booker prize, making it the first Hindi language work of fiction to be selected for the literary award.

- ✓ The book was originally published as ‘Ret Samadhi’ and Daisy Rockwell, a US-based writer and translator has translated it into English.
- ✓ It is selected among 13 books long-listed for the International Booker Prize.

3. Karolina Bielawska from Poland has won the 70th edition of the Miss World 2021 title held at **San Juan, Puerto Rico**. She has been crowned by Miss World 2019 Toni-Ann Singh of Jamaica.

4. Diébédo Francis Kéré from Burkina Faso has won the 51st Pritzker Architecture Prize 2022. She has become the first African architect to win this prize.

- ✓ Balkrishna Doshi was the first Indian to win Pritzker Prize in 2018.

5. Professor Narayan Pradhan, a member of the faculty at the School of Material Sciences, Indian Association for the **Cultivation of Science, Jadavpur**, has been selected for the 31st GD Birla Award for Scientific Research for his outstanding contribution in the field of material sciences.

- ✓ His research work focused on understanding the chemistry and physics of light emitting semiconductor Nano crystal.



Books and Authors

- 1. Bhajan Samrat Anup Jalota** has released the book titled **"Udaan Ek Majdoor Bachhe Ki"** by **Captain AD Manek**. The author of this book is **Mithilesh Tiwari**.
- 2.** A new book titled **"The Millennial Yogi: A modern-day parable about reclaiming one's life"** has been authored by former Indian Army Captain **Deepam Chatterjee**. The book is published by **Ebury Press**.
- 3.** A new book titled **'The Blue Book: A Writer's Journal'** has been authored by **Amitava Kumar**. The book has been published by **HarperCollins India**. The book is the outcome of the diary-keeping by the author during the time of lockdown due to pandemics.
- 4. "The Queen of Indian Pop: The Authorised Biography of Usha Uthup"** is the English translation of the book **"Ullas Ki Naav"**. It is translated by **Srishti Jha**. The book is published by **Penguin Random House India (PRHI)**.
 - ✓ The book contains the thoughts and opinions of **Subhas Chandra Bose** about the development of independent India, communalism, geopolitics and political ideology. It also marked the untold and unknown stories of **Netaji (Subhas Chandra Bose)**.
- 5. Sahitya Akademi, India's National Academy of Letters**, has published a book-length poem titled **'Monsoon'** by Indian poet-diplomat **Abhay Kumar**.
- 6. Padma Awardee Dr Tehemton Erach Udwardia** has authored a book titled **"More Than Just Surgery: Life Lessons Beyond the OT"**



Sports News

- 1. Indian shooter, Saurabh Chaudhary** has won the gold medal in Men's 10m Air Pistol event at the ongoing 2022 **International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF)** World Cup in Cairo, Egypt. The silver medal has been won by Germany's Michael Schwald while Artem Chernousov of Russia claimed the bronze medal.
- 2. Indian boxers Nikhat Zareen (52kg) and Nitu (48kg)** has won gold medals at the **73rd Strandja Memorial Boxing Tournament**, held in **Sofia, Bulgaria**. The Indian contingent ended their campaign at the tournament with three medals including two golds and one bronze.
- 3. Indian women cricket captain, Mithali Raj** has become the first woman to appear in **six World Cups**. She is the only third cricketer overall to play six world cup after **Sachin Tendulkar and Javed Miandad**. She has played in the ICC women's cricket world cup events in **2000, 2005, 2009, 2013, 2017 and now in 2022**.
- 4. The 11th edition of the Khel Mahakumbh** was started on Saturday at **Sardar Patel Stadium in Ahmedabad by Prime Minister Narendra Modi**.
- 5. India's P.V. Sindhu** has defeated Busanan Ongbamrungphan of Thailand to win the women's singles title at the **Swiss Open Super 300 badminton tournament**.
- 6. India** has been declared the winner of the **3rd edition of the SAFF U-18 Women's Football Championship**. The 2022 edition of the international football competition for women's under-18 national teams was held in Jharkhand at JRD Tata Sports Complex, Jamshedpur.
