



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

PRESENTS

Monthly Current Affairs One Liner

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**~Department of General Studies, UEM
Kolkata~~**





BANKING & FINANCIAL AWARENESS

- 1. Reserve Bank of India** has launched a Digital Payments Index (DPI) to capture the extent of digitization of digital/electronic payments across the country. This RBI Digital Payments Index (DPI) has 5 broad parameters that will be used for the measurement of deepening and penetration of digital payments.
- 2. IDBI Bank** announced the launch of video KYC account opening (VAO) facility for savings bank accounts.
- 3. ICICI Bank** has launched a new mobile application_ ‘Insta FX’ for authorised money changers to help customers of any bank get **ICICI Bank Forex Prepaid Card** swiftly.
- 4. IDBI Bank** announced the launch of video KYC account opening (VAO) facility for savings bank accounts. Through the facility, a customer can open a savings account with the lender from the convenience of his/her home or office as there are no physical forms to be filled or visits to be made to the branch.
- 5. India’s economic growth** is forecast to be 7.3 per cent in the Calendar Year 2021 by the UN. The Indian economy is estimated to contract by 9.6 per cent in the Calendar year 2020, as per the World Economic Situation and Prospects 2021, produced by the **United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)**.
- 6. Axis Bank** has unveiled a credit ‘**AURA**’ exclusively loaded with several health and wellness benefits for its users at an affordable price. Axis Bank has partnered with Poshvine to offer benefits and specialists such as Decathlon, Practo, Fitternity, IndushealthPlus, 1MG etc., to offer a complete and unique health & wellness solution to the cardholders.



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UNION BUDGET 2022-2023:KEY HIGHLIGHTS **OF UNION BUDGET :**

Union Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Union Budget 2022 for the 4th time in a row. She will be presenting the financial statements and tax proposals for the fiscal year 2022-23 (April 2022 to March 2023). A Made in India tablet has replaced the traditional 'Bahi Khata' as Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman leaves the Finance Ministry's office to go to the Parliament to present the Budget.

1. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, while presenting the Budget, said that the country is expected to grow at 9.27 per cent

2. 7 focus areas: PM Gati Shakti, Inclusive Development, Productivity Enhancement, Sunrise Opportunities, Energy Transition, Climate Action and Financing of investments.

✓ This Union Budget seeks to lay the foundation & give a blueprint of the economy over 'Amrit Kal' of next 25 years – from India at 75 to India at 100.

3. Production Linked Incentive schemes in 14 sectors with the potential to create 60 lakh new jobs, and the additional new production of Rs 30 lakh crore

4. Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme to be extended up to **March 2023**, guaranteed cover extended by another **Rs 50,000 crore**. The total cover under the scheme is now **Rs 5 lakh crore**. An additional amount has been earmarked for the hospitality sector.

5. Govt continuously encouraging digital banking. Taking forward, 75 digital banking units will be set up in 75 districts.

6. 5G spectrum auctions to be carried out in **calendar 2022** to enable the launch of services within FY22- 23.



7. Effective capital expenditure of the Central government is estimated at **Rs 10.68 lakh crore** in 2022-23, about **4.1% of GDP**.
8. To facilitate domestic manufacturing of **280 gigawatts of installed solar capacity by 2030**, an additional allocation of **Rs 19,500 crore** for PLI for manufacturing of high-efficiency modules with priority to fully integrate manufacturing units to solar PV modules will be made.
9. **Digital rupee** to be issued using blockchain and other technologies and will be issued by **RBI starting 2022-23**. This will give a big boost to the economy.
10. **Nirmala Sitharaman** announced a **new tax rule for taxpayers** where a taxpayer can file an updated return on payment of taxes within **two years** from the end of the relevant assessment year. Both Centre and States govt employees' tax deduction limit to be increased from **10% to 14%** to help the social security benefits of state government employees and bring them at par with the Central govt employees.



OBITUARIES

1. **Bollywood film producer Vijay Galani** has passed away. He was suffering from blood cancer and was in London for seeking treatment.
2. The Indian Navy's 1971 Indo-Pak war veteran **Vice Admiral S.H. Sarma** has passed away, at the age of 100.
3. The Olympic triple jump 3-time gold medalist and former world record holder, **Viktor Danilovich Saneyev** passed away in Australia.
4. European Parliament President, **David Sassoli** has passed away due to health issues. He had served as the President of the European Parliament from July 2019 until his death in January 2022.
5. **Former Union health secretary Keshav Desiraju** has passed away, due to "acute coronary syndrome". Desiraju was the grandson of former president **Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan**.



6. Former Governor of Arunachal Pradesh and Commissioner of Delhi Police, **Yudhvir Singh Dadwal**, has passed away.
7. **Iqbal Singh Kingra**, who was an Indian socio-spiritual leader of the Sikh community and an educationalist passed away at the age of 95 years. He was conferred with the Padma Shri in 2022 for his contributions in the field of social work



MoU's SIGNED

1. **The Asian Development Bank (ADB)** and the **Government of India** have signed a \$10 million project readiness financing (PRF). This agreement aims to help finance piloting activities and design and capacity building for an ensuing project that aims to expand horticulture production and farm household income in the hill state of Himachal Pradesh.
2. **United Nations' World Food Programme (WFP)** in India, has partnered with **The Akshaya Patra Foundation (TAPF)**, a not-for-profit organization, to enhance the effectiveness of the **Pradhan Mantri – Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN)** scheme (earlier known as National Programme for Mid-Day Meal in Schools).
3. **AIC STPINEXT Initiatives (STPINEXT)**, a special purpose vehicle of **Software Technology Parks of India (STPI)**, has signed two memorandums of understanding (MoUs), one with HDFC Bank and another with Excel point Systems India Pvt Ltd, a niche technology player, for fostering entrepreneurship and nurturing tech startups in the country.
4. **Airtel Payments Bank and Park+** have collaborated to offer **FASTag-based smart parking** solutions to marquee commercial and residential properties across India.



- 5. Bharti Airtel and Google** have announced a long-term partnership agreement, to accelerate the growth of India's digital ecosystem.
- 6. TerraPay** has signed MoU with NPCI **International Payments Limited (NIPL)** to allow Indian customers with an active UPI ID to receive realtime, international payments into their bank accounts via TerraPay's secure payments technology.
- 7. Social media giant Meta** has partnered with industry body the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) to support five lakh women-led small businesses across India.
- 8. ICICI Bank** partnered with **Amazon India** to offer an overdraft (OD) facility up to Rs 25 lakh to individual sellers and small businesses registered on the e-commerce marketplace amazon.in
- 9. Jio Platforms (JPL)** has signed a pact with the **University of Oulu, Finland**, to accelerate research and standardization in 6G technology.



IMPORTANT DAYS & THEMES

- 1. 1st Jan : Foundation day of DRDO**
✓ **64th Foundation Day of DRDO.**
- 2. 4th Jan : World Braille Day**
- 3. 10th Jan : World Hindi Day.**
- 4. 12th Jan : National Youth Day.**
- 5. 14th Jan : Armed Forces Veterans Day**
2022 marked the 6th Armed Forces Veterans Day.
- 6. 15th Jan : Army Day .**
This year marks the 74th Indian Army Day.



7. 23rd Jan : Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's, 126th birth anniversary on 23 January 2022 is observed as Parakram Diwas.

8. 24th Jan : International day of Education.

9. 25th Jan : National Tourism Day.

10. 25th Jan : National Voters' Day

✓ **Theme: "Making Elections Inclusive, Accessible and Participative".**

11. 30th Jan : Martyr's Day or Shaheed Diwas.

✓ **Shaheed-Diwas is observed every year on January 30 in the memory of Mahatma Gandhi, who was assassinated at Gandhi Smriti in the Birla House by Nathuram Godse in 1948.**

12. 30th Jan : World Leprosy Day.

✓ **Theme : "United for Dignity"**



APPOINTMENTS

- 1. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed Deepak Kumar and Ajay Kumar Choudhary as new executive directors (ED) with effect from 03 January.**
- 2. French-born economist Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas has been named as the next chief economist of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). He will succeed Gita Gopinath, the first woman to serve as the Fund's chief economist.**
- 3. Former managing director of Mahindra & Mahindra Pawan Kumar Goenka has been appointed as the chairperson of the Indian National Space Promotion Authorization Centre (In-SPACe).**



4. The Centre has re-appointed **Vijay Paul Sharma** as the chairman of the Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP) after he relinquished the post in May last year following completion of the five-year tenure.
5. **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has announced the appointment of the eminent rocket scientist **Dr S Somanath** as its new chairman and Space Secretary.
6. The Government of India has appointed **Dr V Anantha Nageswaran** as the new **Chief Economic Adviser**.



NATIONAL NEWS

1. The government of India has merged the flame of the **Amar Jawan Jyoti** at **Delhi's India Gate** with the flame at the adjoining **National War Memorial on January 21, 2022**, ahead of Republic Day. The ceremony was led by the Integrated Defence Staff chief, **Air Marshal Balabadhra Radha Krishna**.
2. **Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan** has launched a 100-day reading campaign '**Padhe Bharat**'. The launch of the 100 Days Reading Campaign is in alignment with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 which lays emphasis on the promotion of joyful reading culture for children by ensuring the availability of age-appropriate reading books for children in local/mother tongue/regional/tribal language.
3. **Information Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw** has launched the **India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)** to attract large investments for setting up semiconductor wafer fabrication facilities in India.
4. **Union Minister of Education, Dharmendra Pradhan** has launched **National Educational Alliance for Technology (NEAT 3.0)**, and regional language textbooks prescribed by the **All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)**.



5. **The government of India** officially handed over India's flag carrier, Air India to the Tata Group on January 27, 2022, almost 69 years after acquiring the conglomerate. The total value of the deal is Rs 18,000 crore (US\$2.4 billion).
6. A teen-focused **Fintech startup** based in India, **Pencilton** has recently launched PencilCard, a debit card that is compliant with National Common Mobility Card standards. It has been launched in partnership with Transcorp.
7. **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** and Reliance Jio have announced that UPI AUTOPAY has now been introduced for the telecom industry with Jio. Jio's integration with UPI AUTOPAY has made it the first player in the telecom industry to go live with the unique mandate feature that was launched by NPCI.
8. **NPCI Bharat Bill-Pay Ltd. (NBBL)**, the wholly owned subsidiary of National Payments Corporation of India has introduced a functionality called '**Unified Presentment Management System**' (UPMS).
9. **The Union Cabinet** approved infusion of 1500 crore rupees in **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited**. It will help generate 10,200 jobs a year and reduce carbon emissions equivalent to approximately 7.49 million tonnes per year.
10. **Insurance regulator, Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai)** has stated that LIC, GIC Re and New India continue to be identified as Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (D-SIIs) for 2021-22.
 - ✓ **D-SIIs** refer to insurers of such size, market importance and domestic and global interconnectedness, whose distress or failure would cause significant dislocation in the domestic financial system.
11. **Tata Group** has chosen State Bank of India, Bank of Baroda and HDFC Bank as preferred bankers for Air India. Recently Tata Group has taken over Air India from the government.



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 senior diplomat Zhang Ming** has taken charge as the new Secretary-General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in which India is a member.
- 3. Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)** has appointed Kuwaiti oil executive Haitham Al Ghais as its new secretary general, as demand for oil continues to improve amid a mild recovery from the coronavirus pandemic.
- 4. The leaders of Japan and Australia** signed a “landmark” defence agreement that allows closer cooperation between their militaries and stands as a rebuke to China's growing assertiveness in the Indo-Pacific region.
- 5. The parliament of Kazakhstan** has unanimously approved the appointment of **Alikhan Smailov** as the new Prime Minister of the country.
- 6. The NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization)** member countries conducted a 12-day maritime exercise in the Mediterranean Sea from January 24, 2022. the move will give many citizens of the country access to bank services for the first time.
- 7. Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley** was sworn in for a second term in office on 20 January 2022, following a landslide victory by her party in the 2022 election.
- 8. Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)**, a multilateral development bank has committed USD 150 million to invest in the development of data centres that mostly serve emerging Asia



DEFENCE NEWS

- 1. India** has invited a total of 46 friendly foreign countries to participate in the multinational naval **exercise Milan in Visakhapatnam**, scheduled from February 25, 2022. The theme of this 11th edition of exercise Milan is camaraderie, cohesion and collaboration.
- 2. India** and its partners in the **Quadrilateral Security Dialogue or Quad** along with Canada and South Korea are participating in the multinational exercise Sea Dragon 2022 at Guam in the Western Pacific. The six nations that are participating in the exercise are the **United States, Australia, Canada, India, Japan and South Korea**.
- 3. Indian Navy and Russian Navy undertook PASSEX** exercises at the port of Cochin, in the Arabian Sea. The Indian Navy's indigenously designed and built guided-missile destroyer, INS Kochi, took part in the exercise. Russian Federation Navy was represented by RFS Admiral Tributs.
- 4. A Maritime Partnership Exercise** was held between the **Indian Navy and Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force (JMSDF)** in the Bay of Bengal in a noncontact mode amid COVID-19. The Indian side was represented by **Indian Naval Ships (INS) Shivalik and INS Kadmatt** while JMSDF Ships Uruga and Hirado participated from the Japanese side.
- 5. Western Naval Command of the Indian Navy** conducted a joint maritime exercise **Paschim Lehar (XPL-2022)** off the West Coast which concluded.
 - ✓ The exercise continued for 20 days and was conducted with an aim to enhance Inter-Service synergy among the Indian Navy, IAF, Indian Army and Coast Guard.
- 6. India's first nuclear-missile tracking ship**, named INS Dhruv, has been commissioned from Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh.
 - ✓ The 10,00 tonnes satellite and ballistic missile tracking ship has been built by the Hindustan Shipyard Limited in collaboration with the DRDO



and National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO).

- 7. Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** successfully flight tested the **Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM)**, in its final “deliverable configuration”. MPATGM will be manufactured by Bharat Dynamics Limited at its facility in Bhanoor, Telangana.
- 8. The Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh** has set up an **online Raksha Pension Shikayat Nivaran Portal** to resolve pension-related grievances of ex-servicemen (ESM) and their dependents.
 - ✓ The portal will allow them to lodge grievances directly with the Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare (DESW), he stated on the occasion of **Armed Forces Veterans Day**.



HONOURS & AWARDS

- 1.** The Indian Express Group has announced the Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Awards (RNG Awards) for journalists across the country, for their work done in 2019. RNG awards are one the most prestigious awards in India in the field of journalism, held annually since 2006.
- 2. Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat** has declared the winners of the third National Water Awards for the year 2020. Uttar Pradesh has been adjudged as the Best State in water conservation efforts in the National Water Awards 2020. It is followed by Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu respectively. The award comes with a citation, trophy and cash prize. Muzaffarnagar in Uttar Pradesh received the best district award in the northern zone followed by **Shahid Bhagat Singh Nagar in Punjab**.
- 3. The International Monetary Fund (IMF)** has cut India’s economic growth forecast for the current fiscal **2021-22 (FY22)** to 9 per cent, in its latest world economic outlook report.
- 4. Dr Rukmini Banerji, Chief Executive Officer(CEO)** of Pratham Education Foundation, India and Eric A. Hanushek, professor at Stanford University, has been awarded the 2021 Yidan Prize, the world’s highest education accolade, recognising their work on



improving the quality of education and outcomes for learners at scale.



BOOKS AND AUTHORS

1. Tata Sons emeritus Chairman, veteran industrialist and philanthropist **Ratan Tata's** authorized biography titled '**Ratan N. Tata: The Authorized Biography**' is set to hit the stands in November 2022.
 - ✓ The biography is penned by a former senior bureaucrat and retired IAS officer **Dr Thomas Matthew**. It will be published by HarperCollins.
2. Union Minister of State for Culture, **Meenakashi Lekhi** has released a pictorial comic book titled '**India's Women Unsung Heroes**', as a tribute to the forgotten women freedom fighters of the country.
3. The former finance secretary of India, **Subhash Chandra Garg** has announced his debut book named "**The \$10 Trillion Dream**".
4. HarperCollins is set to publish "**Indomitable: A Working Woman's Notes on Life, Work and Leadership**" the autobiography of **Arundhati Bhattacharya**, retired Indian banker and former first-ever woman Chairperson of the State Bank of India.
5. A new biography titled "**Bose: The Untold Story of An Inconvenient Nationalist**" authored by **Chandrachur Ghose** will be released in **February 2022**.
 - ✓ 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)**.
6. A new book titled "**A Little Book of India: Celebrating 75 years of Independence**" authored by **Ruskin Bond** was released, marking 75 years of India's Independence.



SPORTS NEWS

- 1. Sports Ministry's Mission Olympic Cell (MOC)** of India has approved the inclusion of Alpine Skiing athlete Md Arif Khan in the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) Core group.
- 2. Legends League Cricket (LLC)** has appointed **Jhulan Goswami** as an ambassador to its All Women Match Official Team to promote Women's Empowerment initiatives of the LLC and to increase participation of women in cricket.
- 3. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** has informed that **Tata group has replaced Chinese mobile phone manufacturer Vivo** as the title sponsor of the Indian Premier League (IPL) for the 2022 and 2023 seasons.
- 4. India's first para-badminton academy** has been set up in **Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh**. It has all the advanced equipment and facilities. The set-up will improve India's medal prospects at the 2024 Paralympics to be held in Paris, France at Stade de France stadium.
- 5. India** has lifted the **under-19 Asia cricket Cup** by defeating Sri Lanka by nine wickets in a rain interrupted One-Day International final in Dubai through the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern method.
- 6. World number six Rafael Nadal** won the men's singles tennis title at 2022 Melbourne Summer Set 1. Nadal beat American qualifier Maxime Cressy 7- 6(6), 6-3 to earn his 89th career ATP title.
- 7. Tamil Nadu's Bharath Subramaniam** became India's 73rd chess Grandmaster. He secured the third and final Grandmaster norm at an event at Cattolica in Italy.
