

## **Daily Economic News Summary: 26 January 2018**

### **1. India Shares ASEAN's Vision for Rule-Based Societies and Values of Peace:**

**Narendra Modi**

**Source: Financial Express ([Link](#))**

The India-ASEAN Commemorative Summit, with highest-level of participation from all the 10 member-countries of the grouping, began with Modi releasing commemorative stamps in the presence of ASEAN leaders to mark 25 years of Indo-ASEAN ties. The leaders also discussed ways to boost maritime security, connectivity and trade. Freedom of navigation will be a key focus of India-ASEAN in the maritime domain, he said. The highest-level of participation at the summit comes in the backdrop of increasing Chinese economic and military assertiveness in the region.

### **2. India, ASEAN to Step up Maritime Cooperation**

**Source: Livemint ([Link](#))**

India and the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) on Jan 25 agreed to step up maritime cooperation and outlined a road map for future partnership. While Prime Minister Narendra Modi said India shared the bloc's views on a rules-based order for the seas, Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong described India as playing a major positive role in regional stability. India's outreach to ASEAN comes as the world and countries in Asia in particular are looking warily at the rise of an aggressive China.

### **3. Railways to Invest Rs 48,000 Crores in Northeast India**

**Source: The Economic Times ([Link](#))**

The Railways ministry is investing close to Rs 48,000 crore in northeast India. The ministry has undertaken a final location survey for a strategic railway line that will go through Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh. The Chairman of the Indian Railway Board, Ashwani Lohani, who was in Guwahati on Jan 24 to review the railway projects, said, "Railways is investing Rs 48,000 crore in various projects. There is scope for improvement in several areas."

#### **4. Commemorative Postal Stamps Released to Mark 25 Yrs of India-ASEAN Ties**

**Source: Financial Express ([Link](#))**

Leaders from India and ASEAN today released commemorative postal stamps on Ramayana to mark the 25 years of relations between New Delhi and the regional grouping. “PM @narendramodi with ASEAN Heads of State/Governments and ASEAN Secretary General on the occasion of the release of postal stamps to commemorate silver jubilee of India and ASEAN partnership. #aseanindia,” Raveesh Kumar, spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs, tweeted. Addressing the India-ASEAN Commemorative Summit’s Plenary Session, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the friendship between India and has been nurtured by our shared cultural and civilisational linkages.

#### **5. Padma Shri for 10 ASEAN Achievers as India Seeks to Enhance Ties with Bloc**

**Source: Financial Express ([Link](#))**

The decision to confer the Padma Shri, India's fourth highest civilian award, on one achiever from each ASEAN country was taken as India-ASEAN Commemorative Summit started in New Delhi on Jan 25. Achievers from ASEAN nations chosen for the Padma Sri are — Haji Abdullah Bin MalaiHaji Othman of Brunei for medicine; Hun Many of Cambodia for public affairs; Nyoman Nuarta of Indonesia for art; Bounlap Keokangna of Laos for art and Thant Myint-U of Myanmar for public affairs. Others include Jose Ma Joey Concepcion of the Philippines for trade and industry; Tommy Koh of Singapore for public affairs; Somdet Phra Ariya Wongsakhottayan of Thailand who is the Supreme Patriarch of Thailand; and Nguyen Tien Thien of Vietnam who is the Secretary General of the National Vietnam Buddhist Sangha.

#### **6. Full Text of Delhi Declaration of ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit to Mark 25th Anniversary of ASEAN-India Relations**

**Source: Financial Express ([Link](#))**

The Summit this year marks the 25 years of Indo-ASEAN ties. The ASEAN leaders will also be chief guests at the Republic Day Parade in Delhi today, which PM Modi termed as “historic and unprecedented”. Here is the declaration of full text of Delhi Declaration of ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit to mark 25th Anniversary of ASEAN-India Relations...

### **7. Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana Set to Become Gender Neutral Soon**

**Source: Business Standard ([Link](#))**

After reaching out to 33.1 million families covering 712 districts across the country, the Narendra Modi's flagship programme Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) is finally becoming gender neutral. The scheme that offers free cooking gas connections to only women in the below poverty line (bpl) families is now set to factor in men as well. "we are now planning to include men in the socio-economic caste census (secc) list too under PMUY. there are bpl families where there are no women or women are not in a movable state due to health reasons. In such cases, we are looking to extend PMUY to the men folks as well," said an official close to the development.