

## 18 January, 2022 Current Affairs

### 1. India Post Payments Bank crosses 5-crore customer's mark in 3 years



- India Post Payments Bank, IPPB, has crossed the five-crore customer mark in just 3 years of commencement of its operations to become one of the fastest growing digital payments bank in the country.
- Announcing this achievement on 18 January 2022, the bank said that it has opened up these five crore accounts in digital and paperless mode through its one lakh 36 thousand Post Offices.
- Out of these post offices, one lakh 20 thousand are in rural areas. About one lakh 47 thousand doorstep banking service providers helped in opening up of these accounts.
- IPPB has achieved the world's largest digital financial literacy programme by building a financially aware and empowered customer-base, leveraging the strength of two lakh 80 thousand Post Office employees.
- IPPB has further stated that it has taken digital banking to the grassroots levels through Interoperable Payments and Settlement Systems of NPCI, RBI and UIDAI offering services in over 13 languages.
- Out of the total account holders, around 48 per cent were women account holders that indicated the Bank's focus on bringing the women customers under the banking network.

## 2. PM Modi expresses grief over demise of noted cartoonist Narayan Debnath



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has expressed grief over the demise of noted cartoonist Narayan Debnath.
- In a tweet on 18 January 2022, Mr. Modi said, Narayan Debnath brightened several lives through his works, cartoons and illustrations and his works reflected his intellectual prowess.
- The Prime Minister said, the characters Narayan Debnath created will remain eternally popular.
- He paid condolences to the family and admirers of Narayan Debnath.

## 3. Dr Virendra Kumar has launched first bi-monthly E-Newsletter of Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities



- Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment Dr Virendra Kumar has launched the first bi-monthly E-Newsletter of Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities on 18 January 2022.

- The E-Newsletter has launched during the inauguration of the main building of Composite Regional Centre for Skill Development, Rehabilitation, and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities virtually.
- Social Justice and Empowerment Secretary Anjali Bhawara, Joint Secretary Dr. Prabodh Seth, Director NIEPMD Chennai Nachiketa Rout has also be present during the function.
- The function has organized at CRC Campus at Chevayur, Kozhikode in Kerala.
- According to Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry, the E-Newsletter has helpful in continuity of flow of information and to bridge the gap with the target audience and it has a gateway to know the department's activities.

#### **4. Narendra Kumar Goenka appointed as new chairman of AEPC**

- According to Textile Ministry, Narendra Kumar Goenka has been appointed as new chairman of Apparel Export Promotion Council, AEPC.
- Former chairman Padma Dr A Sakthivel handed over the charge to him on 17 January 2022. Mr. Goenka has been associated with the Council for more than two decades.
- He was the Vice Chairman of the apex body of Indian apparel exporters before taking charge as Chairman of AEPC.
- According to Mr. Goenka, country is witnessing a robust growth in apparel exports. Going by the export orders in hand, this positive trend will further accelerate in the last quarter.
- Apparel exports were 22 percent up at 1.46 billion dollar in December 2021 from 1.20 billion dollar in December 2020.
- The same in the first nine months of this fiscal stood at 11.13 billion dollar, 35 percent more than 8.22 billion dollar in April-December 2020. The trend is getting stronger.
- With global demand picking up gradually and industry reporting handsome orders in hand, apparel exports are likely to pick up in 2022.

- He emphasized the need to strongly focus on efforts for promoting Brand India taking suitable measures to ensure sustainability and other social compliances.

## 5. Minister of State Subhas Sarkar launches Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar



- Minister of State for Education, Subhas Sarkar has launched the Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar (SVP) 2021 – 2022 virtually.
- The Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar recognises, inspires and awards schools that have undertaken exemplary work in the field of water, sanitation and hygiene while also providing a benchmark and a roadmap for schools to make further improvements in future.
- The Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar was first distributed by the Department of School Education and Literacy, in 2016-17 to create self-motivation and awareness about sanitation.
- All categories of schools, that is, government, government-aided and private schools in both rural and urban areas can participate in the Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar 2021-22.
- The participating schools will be assessed via an online portal and mobile app in 6 subcategories where the system will generate their overall score and rating automatically.
- These sub-categories are Water, Sanitation, Hand Washing with soap, Operation and Maintenance, behaviour change and capacity building

and the newly added category on COVID-19 preparedness and response.

- A total of 40 schools will be selected under the overall category this year at the national level.
- The award money has been increased from Rs 50,000 to Rs. 60,000 per school under the Samagra Shiksha scheme.
- Additionally, 6 sub-category awards have been introduced for the first time and entail award money of Rs. 20,000/- per school.

## 6. Narendra Kumar Goenka named as new chairman of AEPC



- **Narendra Kumar Goenka** has been appointed as the new chairman of the **Apparel Export Promotion Council, AEPC**. Former chairman **Padma Dr A Sakthivel** handed over the charge to him.
- Mr. Goenka has been associated with the Council for more than two decades. He was the Vice Chairman of the apex body of Indian apparel exporters before taking charge as Chairman of AEPC.
- AEPC is the official body of apparel exporters in India, under the aegis of the Ministry of Textiles, that provides invaluable assistance to Indian exporters as well as importers/international buyers.

**Apparel Export Promotion Council Established: 1978**

**Apparel Export Promotion Council HQ: Gurugram**

## 7. India's Navdeep Kaur wins Best National Costume award at Mrs World 2022 pageant



- India's Navdeep Kaur has won the award for the Best National Costume at the prestigious Mrs World 2022 pageant in Nevada, Las Vegas. She is the winner of Mrs India World 2021, was representing the country at Mrs World 2022. Navdeep hails from a small town near Odisha's Steel City, Rourkela.
- The "avant garde" outfit was inspired by Kundalini Chakra, which "symbolises the movement of energy in chakras of the body from the base to the spine up through the crown".
- Cobra embellishments on the shoulder were added to represent the "mystical serpent native to India", while the golden colour was chosen as it represents novelty, power and glory.

## 8. Mrs World 2022: Mrs America Shaylyn Ford Takes The Crown



- 37 Years old **Shaylyn Ford** was crowned as the winner of **Mrs World 2022**. She was crowned by the outgoing queen **Kate Schneider** from Ireland. Mrs Jordan **Jaclyn Stapp** & Mrs UAE **Debanjali Kamstra** were the runner up.
- **Shaylyn Ford** represented America in the pageant and battled out 57 other contestants from across the globe to claim the title. This is the 8th time an American representative won the title of Mrs. World.
- Shaylyn Ford hails from Granville, Ohio, USA. She won the annual Mrs American pageant on November 19, 2021. She is a professional makeup artist, who has worked in every setting, from movie sets to make-a-wish projects.
- She has been married to her pastor husband for the past seven years and has three children. She also serves as a charitable director and does a lot of volunteer work to bring services to special needs families.

## 9. National Startup Awards 2021 announced



- **National Startup Awards 2021** is the **second edition** of the award ceremony, conceived by the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**.
- A total of 46 Startups have been recognized as winners of the National Startup Awards 2021 along with 1 incubator and 1 accelerator, by the Government of India. They have been felicitated for their contribution in their respective sectors.

### **Some winners in the list:**

- State-wise, **Karnataka** bagged the highest number of awards, which included 14 out of 46 national startup awards.

- In fintech category's financial inclusion sub-sector, Bengaluru-based **Naffa Innovations Private Limited (ToneTag)** was declared the winner.
- In fintech category's insurance sub-sector, **Umbo Idtech Private Limited** won the award.
- In **Robotics sub-sector**, **Sagar Defence** was declared the winner.
- In the **women-led start-up category**, Jaipur-headquartered **Frontier Markets** was honoured.

#### 10. Sumit Bhale won gold medal at the International Folk Art Festival



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- Lavni artist from Maharashtra, **Sumit Bhale** of Fulbari taluka has won a **gold medal** at the **International Folk Art Festival in Dubai**. With his splendid performance, Maharashtra's splendour has been widely appreciated at the international platform.
  - Lavani is a genre of music popular in Maharashtra and is a combination of traditional song and dance, which is particularly performed to the beats of Dholki, a percussion instrument.



## 11. PM Narendra Modi virtually address WEF's Davos Agenda 2022 Summit



- India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi has addressed the World Economic Forum's (WEF's) Davos Agenda Summit 2022, through video-conferencing.
- The "Davos Agenda 2022" summit is being held digitally from January 17 to January 21, 2022, due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The theme of the event is "The State of the World."
- The week-long digital summit will begin with a special address by Chinese President Xi Jinping.
- The 'Davos Agenda 2022' will be the first global platform for Heads of state and government as well as CEOs and other leaders to share their visions for 2022 on critical collective challenges and how to address them. This is the second consecutive year that the event is being held virtually.

### **Important takeaways for all competitive exams:**

**World Economic Forum Founded:** January 1971

**World Economic Forum Founder & Executive Chairman:** Klaus Schwab

**World Economic Forum Headquarters:** Cologny, Switzerland

## 12. Oxfam India released 'Inequality Kills' Report



- According to Oxfam India, “**Inequality Kills**” report, the wealth of India’s richest families reached to a record high in 2021. In the report, India was described as a ‘**very unequal,**’ country, as the top 10 people in India holds **57 per cent** of the wealth.
- On the other hand, the share of the bottom half is 13 per cent. The report states that **84% of Indian** households witnessed an income decline amid the covid-19 pandemic.
- The richest 98 Indians own the same wealth as the bottom 552 million people. The number of Indian billionaires increased from 102 to 142, during 2021. The wealth of the top 100 families is Rs 57.3 trillion.

## 13. Russia’s Aslan Karatsev wins Sydney Tennis Classic



- In tennis, **Aslan Karatsev** defeated **Andy Murray** by 6-3, 6-3, to win men's single title at the Sydney Tennis Classic final, to claim his third ATP Tour title.
- The women's single title was claimed by Spanish world number nine **Paula Badosa**, who defeated **Barbora Krejčíková** 6-3 4-6 7-6(4), to capture her third career title.

### **The winner's list of Sydney Tennis Classic 2022**

**Men's Single:** Aslan Karatsev (Russia)

**Women's Single:** Paula Badosa (Spain)

**Men's Double:** John Peers (Australia and Filip Polášek (Slovakia)

**Women's Double:** Anna Danilina (Kazakhstan) and Beatriz Haddad Maia (Brazil)

### **14. Poet Maya Angelou becomes the first black woman to appear on US coin**



- The US Treasury has minted coins featuring poet **Maya Angelou** – the first black woman ever featured on the **US 25-cent coin** known as a quarter. Angelou, a poet and activist, was the first black woman to write and perform a poem at a presidential inauguration.
- In 2010, she was given a Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest US civilian award by President **Barack Obama**.
- The new coin still features George Washington's visage on the "heads" side, while the "tails" side honours Angelou by evoking one of her most famous works, the autobiography "**I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings.**"

## 15. 9th women National Ice Hockey Championship-2022 begins



- In **Himachal Pradesh**, the **9th women National Ice Hockey Championship-2022** was inaugurated at **Ice Skating Rink, Kaza** in Lahaul Spiti district. For the first time in the state, Ice Hockey competition & development camp is being organized at the national level.
- Teams from **Himachal Pradesh, Telengana, Ladakh, ITBP Ladakh, Chandigarh & Delhi** are participating in this mega event. The state Chief Minister, **Jai Ram Thakur** inaugurated the Championship.
- This is the first time that **National Level Ice Hockey Competition and Development Camp** was being held in the State. In 2019, the first Basic Ice Hockey ten days Coaching Camp was organized at Kaza by State Youth Services and Sports Department, in collaboration with the Ladakh Women Ice Hockey Foundation.
- The State Government has already announced the High-Altitude Sports Center at Kaza with an estimated cost of **Rs. 16 crore**.