

## Daily Current Affairs 03/01/2022

### Important News: India

#### 1. PM Modi releases 10th instalment of PM-KISAN



#### Why in News

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi released the **10th instalment** of financial benefit under **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme**.

#### Key Points

- This enabled the transfer of an amount of more than Rs. 20,000 crore to more than 10 crore beneficiary farmer families.
- During the programme, the Prime Minister also released an equity grant of more than Rs. 14 crore to about 351 **Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)**, which will benefit more than 1.24 lakh farmers.

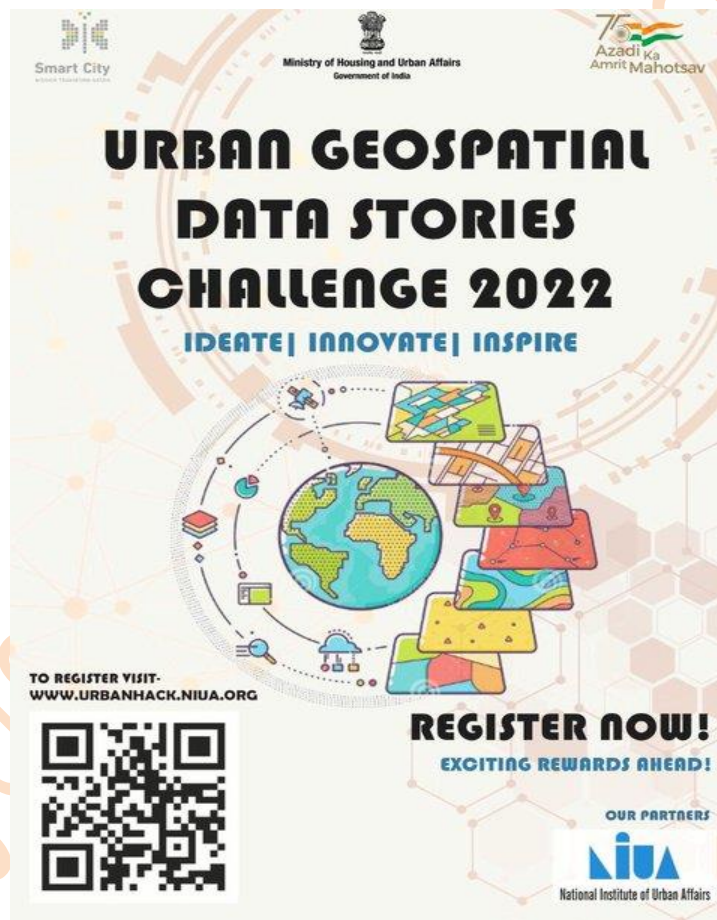
#### About Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme:

- Under the PM-KISAN scheme, a financial benefit of six thousand rupees per year is provided to the eligible family of farmers.
- The amount is being transferred in three installments of two thousand rupees.
- It was launched in February 2019.
- It is a Central Sector Scheme with 100% funding.

- It is being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- Note:**
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi also laid the foundation stone of **Major Dhyan Chand Sports University at Meerut, Uttar Pradesh.**
  - The University will be established at Salawa and Kaili villages of Sardhana town in Meerut at an estimated cost of about 700 Crore rupees.

Source: PIB

## 2. MoHUA launches 'Urban Geospatial Data Stories Challenge-2022'



### Why in News

- The **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** announced the opening of **Urban Geospatial Data Stories Challenge- 2022** to foster adoption of geospatial technologies & to promote innovation in India's urban ecosystem.

### Key Points

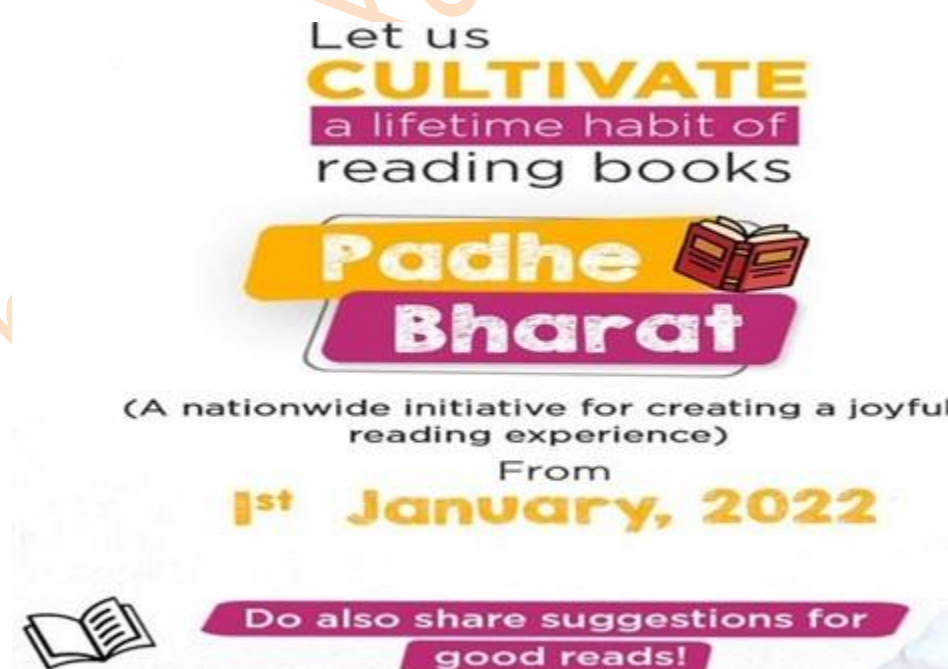
- The challenge has been organized with select Smart Cities that will be publishing high quality GIS datasets.
- More than 1000 geospatial datasets have been made available to the registered participants from national geospatial agencies, private sector enterprises, scientific and academic institutions, businesses, consumer services & start-ups to analyse this data and create insightful data stories.
- Leading up to the **'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav- Smart Cities: Smart Urbanization' conference** scheduled to be held in Surat, during February 2022, the Urban Geospatial Data Stories Challenge is part of a series of pre-event initiatives being undertaken by MoHUA to foster adoption of geospatial technologies & to promote innovation in India's urban ecosystem.
- The challenge will commence for the registered participants on 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2022 and conclude by the end of January 2022.

**Note:**

- As part of 'Azaadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations, Smart Cities Mission of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs is launching two unique national level challenges **between 1st to 26th January 2022**, viz. **"Freedom 2 Walk & Cycle Challenge for City Leaders"**, and **"Inter-City Freedom 2 Walk & Cycle Challenge for Citizens"**.

Source: PIB

### 3. Union Education Minister launched 'Padhe Bharat' Campaign



### Why in News

- Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched a **100 days Reading Campaign 'Padhe Bharat'**.

### Key Points

- The launch of the 100 Days Reading Campaign is in alignment with the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**.

### About Padhe Bharat Campaign:

- Padhe Bharat campaign will focus on children studying in Balvatika to Grade 8.
- The reading campaign will be organised for 100 days (14 weeks) starting from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022 to 10<sup>th</sup> April 2022.
- This campaign has also been aligned with the vision and goals of foundational Literacy and Numeracy mission.
- The 100 days reading campaign will also focus on Indian languages including mother tongue/local/regional languages.
- It is in this regard, **21st February** which is celebrated as **International Mother Tongue Day**, has also been integrated with this campaign.

### Other Related Initiatives:

- Indian Sign Language Dictionary
- Talking Books
- School Quality Assessment and Accreditation Framework (SQAA)
- NISHTHA Teachers' Training programme for NIPUN Bharat
- Vidya Pravesh
- Vidyanjali 2.0 Portal
- Samagra Shiksha Scheme 2.0
- SAFAL (Structured Assessment For Analyzing Learning Levels)
- National Digital Education Architecture (NDEAR) and National Education Technology Forum (NETF)

Source: PIB

## Important News: Economy

### 4. Government approves 19th tranche of electoral bonds



#### Why in News

- Ahead of assembly elections in five states, the government approved issuance of the 19th tranche of **electoral bonds** which will be open for sale from January 1 to 10, 2022.
- Assembly elections for 5 states-- Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Goa-- are expected to be announced soon.

#### Key Points

- State Bank of India (SBI) has been authorised to issue and encash Electoral Bonds through its 29 Authorized Branches with effect from January 1 to January 10, 2022.

#### About Electoral Bond:

- Electoral Bond is a financial instrument for making donations to political parties.
- The bonds are issued in multiples of Rs. 1,000, Rs. 10,000, Rs. 1 lakh, Rs. 10 lakh and Rs. 1 crore without any maximum limit.
- SBI is authorised to issue and encash these bonds, which are valid for fifteen days from the date of issuance.
- These bonds are redeemable in the designated account of a registered political party.
- The bonds are available for purchase by any person (who is a citizen of India or incorporated or established in India) for a period of ten days each in the months of January, April, July and October as may be specified by the Central Government.

- Donor's name is not mentioned on the bond.

**Note:**

- The sale of the first batch of electoral bonds took place from March 1-10, 2018.
- The 18th tranche of bond sale took place from September 1 to September 10, 2021.

Source: ET

### Important News: State

#### 5. UP's Jhansi Railway Station renamed as 'Veerangana Laxmibai Railway Station'



#### Why in News

- The Uttar Pradesh government has renamed Jhansi Railway Station as '**Veerangana Laxmibai Railway Station**'.

#### Key Points

- The state government changed the name of the railway station after approval from the Central Government.
- Earlier, the Mughalsarai Railway Station was renamed Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Railway Station and the Faizabad Railway station as Ayodhya Cantt.

- Since coming to power, Mr Adityanath government has changed names of several establishments including those of Faizabad and Allahabad districts, which were renamed as Ayodhya and Prayagraj, respectively.

**Note:** A second road linking Tsomgo Lake and Nathula border pass with Gangtok -- christened as '**Narendra Modi Marg**' -- was officially inaugurated by Sikkim Governor Ganga Prasad. The older route is called Jawaharlal Nehru Road.

**Source: India Today**

### Important News: Defence

#### 6. Delivery of 50Ton Bollard Pull Tug “Balraj”



#### Why in News

- Contract for construction of **50Ton Bollard Pull Tugs** was concluded with **M/s Hindustan Shipyard Ltd**, Visakhapatnam on 14 Feb 2019 at a cost of Rs. 260.70 Crores.
- Third tug in the series, “**Balraj**” has been delivered to Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam on **31 Dec 2021**.
- Tugs “**Veeran**” and “**Balram**” were inducted on 22 Oct 2021 and 30 Oct 2021 at Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam and Naval Dockyard, Mumbai respectively.

### Key Points

- These tugs have been designed and built under the classification rules of Indian Register for Shipping (IRS) with a service life of 20 years and are capable of assisting large naval ships, including Aircraft Carrier and Submarines in berthing, un-berthing, turning and manoeuvring.

Source: PIB

## 7. Russia test-fires new hypersonic Tsirkon missiles from frigate, submarine



### Why in News

- **Russia** test-fired around 10 new **Tsirkon (Zircon)** hypersonic cruise missiles from a frigate and two more from a submarine.

### Key Points

- **Russian President Vladimir Putin** announced an array of new hypersonic weapons in 2018 in one of his most bellicose speeches in years, saying they could hit almost any point in the world and evade a U.S.-built missile shield.

### Development of Hypersonic Technology in India:

- As far as space assets are concerned, India has already proved its capabilities through the test of ASAT under Mission Shakti.
- Hypersonic technology has been developed and tested by both DRDO (Defence research and Development Organisation) and ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation).



- Recently, DRDO has successfully flight-tested the Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle (HSTDV), with a capability to travel at 6 times the speed of sound.

Source: ET

### Important News: Appointment

#### 8. Anupam Ray to be India's new permanent representative at UN Conference on Disarmament



#### Why in News

- Senior diplomat **Anupam Ray** has been appointed as India's next permanent representative to the **UN Conference on Disarmament** in Geneva.

#### Key Points

- Mr. Ray, a 1994-batch Indian Foreign Service officer, is currently serving as a joint secretary in the MEA's headquarters in Delhi.
- Dr Pankaj Sharma, who is presently the Permanent Representative of India to the UN Conference on the Disarmament, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Mexico.

#### About UN Conference on Disarmament:

- It is a multilateral disarmament forum established by the international community to negotiate arms control and disarmament agreements.

- **Membership:** 65 Countries
- **Headquarters:** Geneva

Source: The Hindu

## 9. Durga Shankar Mishra to be new Uttar Pradesh Chief Secretary



### Why in News

- **Housing and Urban Affairs Secretary Durga Shanker Mishra** has been proposed to be appointed as the **Chief Secretary of Uttar Pradesh**.

### Key Points

- Durga Shankar Mishra is 1984- batch IAS officer of the Uttar Pradesh cadre.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved repatriation of Durga Shankar Mishra to his cadre for his proposed appointment as Chief Secretary, Uttar Pradesh, by the state government.
- Rajendra Kumar Tiwari, a 1985-batch IAS officer, is currently serving as the state's Chief Secretary.

**Note:** **Amir Subhani**, the 1987 batch IAS topper, was appointed the new Chief Secretary of Bihar.

Source: HT

## Important News: Award and Honors

### 10. Sahitya Akademi Awards 2021



### Why in News

- **Sahitya Akademi**, announced its annual **Sahitya Akademi Awards 2021** in 20 languages.
- The Sahitya Akademi announced a list of 22 winners each of the **Youva Puraskar** and the **Bal Sahitya Puraskar for 2021**.
- **Megha Majumdar** won the **Youva Puraskar** for her debut novel *A Burning* and Himanshu Vajpai won it for his collection of short stories titled *Kissa Kissa Lucknowa — Lucknow Ke Awami Kisse*.

### Key Points

- 07 books of poetry, 02 of novel, 05 of short stories, 02 Plays, one each of Biography, Autobiography, Criticism and Epic Poetry have won the **Sahitya Akademi Awards 2021**. Awards in Gujarati, Maithili, Manipuri and Urdu languages will be announced at a later date.
- Sahitya Akademi presents the award to literary works in 24 languages including English. It was established in 1954 and the award comprises a copper-plaque, a shawl and a cash prize of ₹ 1,00,000.

### Sahitya Akademi Awards 2021:

- 1) Anuradha Sarma Pujari (Assamese)
- 2) Bratya Basu (Bengali)
- 3) Mwdai Gahai (Bodo)
- 4) Raj Rahi (Dogri)
- 5) Namita Gokhale (English)
- 6) Daya Prakash Sinha (Hindi)
- 7) DS Nagabhushana (Kannada)
- 8) Wali Mohd Aseer Kashtawari (Kashmiri)

- 9) Sanjiv Verenkar (Konkani)
- 10) George Onakkoor (Malayalam)
- 11) Kiran Gurav (Marathi)
- 12) Chhabilal Upadhyaya (Nepali)
- 13) Hrushikesh Mallick (Odia)
- 14) Khalid Hussain (Punjabi)
- 15) Meethesh Nirmohi (Rajasthani)
- 16) Vindeshwariprasad Mishr "Vinay" (Sanskrit)
- 17) Niranjana Hansda (Santali)
- 18) Arjun Chawla (Sindhi)
- 19) Ambai (Tamil)
- 20) Gorati Venkanna (Telugu)

**Note:** The Sahitya Akademi award is the second-highest literary honour by the Government of India, after the Jnanpith award.

**Source: The Hindu**

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