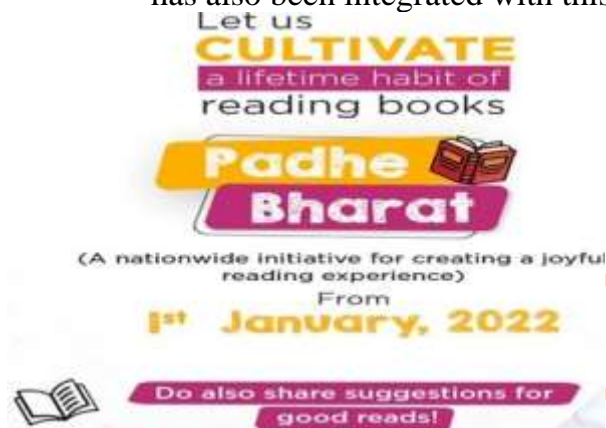


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'Padhe Bharat' Campaign

- Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched a **100 days Reading Campaign 'Padhe Bharat'**.
- The launch of the 100 Days Reading Campaign is in alignment with the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**.
- 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 1st January 2022 to 10th 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.



Source: PIB

Electoral Bonds

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



Source: ET

Sahitya Akademi Awards 2021

- **Sahitya Akademi**, announced its annual **Sahitya Akademi Awards 2021** in 20 languages.
- The Sahitya Akademi announced a list of 22 winners each of the **Yuva Puraskar** and the **Bal Sahitya Puraskar for 2021**.
- **Megha Majumdar** won the **Yuva 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*.
- 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.
- Kiran Gurav, Pranav Sakhdev and Sanjay Wagh have been honored for writing in Marathi while Sanjeev Vernekar, Shraddha Garad and Sumedha Desai have been honored for writing in Konkani.
- Kiran Gurwan has been honored with the Sahitya Akademi Award for his collection of short stories 'Baluchya Avasthantarachi Diary' and Sanjeev Vernekar for his collection of poems 'Raktachandan'.
- The award is in the form of Rs 1 lakh and a badge of honor.



Source: The Hindu

Urban Geospatial Data Stories Challenge-2022

- 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.
- 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 1st January, 2022 and conclude by the end of January 2022.



Source: PIB

Veerangana Laxmibai Railway Station

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



Source: India Today

Bollard Pull Tug “Balraj”

- 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.
- 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

UN Conference on Disarmament

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

Uttar Pradesh Chief Secretary

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



Source: HT