

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – DECEMBER 31, 2021

TAMIL NADU

- Noted Tamil writer C S Lakshmi, known by her pseudonym Ambai - has won the Sahitya Akademi award this year for her short story collection 'Sivappu kazhuthudan oru pachai paravai' (A greenbird with red neck).



- ✓ Born in Coimbatore, the 77-year-old author lives in Mumbai and writes for newspapers including The Hindu and magazines such as Economic and Political Weekly
- ✓ An academican and researcher, Ambai has been writing since 1962 when she was 19 year-old.
- ✓ Ambai is the fourth woman writer from Tamil Nadu to get the award after Rajam Krishnan (Verukku Neer in 1973), Lakshmi (Oru Kaveriyai Pola in 1984) and G. Thilakavathi (Kalmaram in 2005)
- ✓ The award winning book of Ambai was translated into English by GJV Prasad
- ✓ Her other story collections Sirakukal Muriyum, Veetin Moolaiyil Oru Samayalarai, Kaatil Oru Maan, Vattrum Eriyin Meenkal, Oru Karuppu Silanthiyudan Or Iravu and Andheri Membalathil Oru Santhippu are published by Kalachuvadu.
- ✓ Many of her stories were published in Tamil magazine 'Ananda Vikatan' as star stories.

- ✓ She has won several awards, including the lifetime achievement award instituted by the Canada-based Tamil literary forum.
- ✓ Ambai also founded the Sound and Picture Archives for Research on Women (Sparrow), a forum for promoting works of women writers.
- ✓ Sparrow has published a number of books on women artists and writers.
- ✓ In his congratulatory message, Chief Minister M K Stalin said a woman writer has won the award after a long time.
- ✓ The CM also congratulated poet M Murugesh as well for winning the Bala Sahitya Puraskar award from Sahitya Akademi for his work 'Ammavukku magal sonna ulagin muthal kathai.'
- ✓ Last year, noted writer Imaiyam bagged the Sahitya Akademi award for his creation 'Sellatha Panam'

➤ **Tamil Nadu government - has released the draft 'Tamil Nadu State New Policy for Women 2021' on December 29**

- ✓ The draft policy, the first of its kind in India, seeks to provide a safe, secure, healthy and aspirational environment to empower 3.2 crore women population in the State
- ✓ The draft has been released after multiple meetings with women from various fields
- ✓ The policy would be implemented over five years.
- ✓ The provisions of the draft includes mandatory martial arts training for school and college girls, 50 more person-days for all single- and women-headed households under MGNREGS, 33.3% representation in registered parties and to ensure FIRs are filed within 24 hours in cases of crimes against women
- ✓ As per the draft, all forms of transport must be made women-friendly with the first half of the seats shall be earmarked for women, and the front exit/entrance shall be used only by women, especially in case of buses
- ✓ The draft policy seeks the establishment of a system of "victim support" for all cases of abuse, and focuses on rehabilitation and identity protection at the first instance
- ✓ According to the draft policy, the State shall pay greater attention to getting all children from poor families and special focus groups, like girls and children from SC and ST communities who are not in school, back into school.
- ✓ As per the policy, the scope of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya shall be extended specifically in educationally backward blocks to cover adolescent girls up to 19 years of age, so that they will be able to complete their school education.
- ✓ The policy aims to support at least 1,000 women student researchers from disadvantaged sections of society every year, especially in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects
- ✓ Tamil Nadu shall provide free/subsidised coaching classes for exams like JEE, CAT, UPSC and TNPSC, and for higher management and technical courses to encourage women's participation, stated the policy

- ✓ At least 3% interest subvention for education loans could be given to girl students pursuing higher education, and an additional 0.5% interest subvention could be provided to those who studied in Tamil medium.
- ✓ One of the policy draft's core objectives is to decrease the secondary school dropout rate among girls by 10% and increase the tertiary enrolment rate by 5% every year.
- ✓ Another of the policy's objectives is to reach out to 10,000 women and offer them technology training to allow for lateral entry at the midcareer level for those who quit their jobs to raise children.
- ✓ A direct phone-in programme with the chief minister is also to be held once in six months.
- ✓ The policy also says media productions that undermine women's empowerment concept should carry a disclaimer that it is not promoted or prescribed by the State
- ✓ All women employees shall be given leave during their menopause, which can be clubbed with their maternity leave and may not extend beyond the maximum combined limit of one year, it states.
- ✓ It also looks to cover all women-headed households under social security schemes based on their requirement
- ✓ The draft policy also seeks to bring additional 1 crore women into the SHG (Self Help Groups) fold and encourage women to participate in political space
- ✓ It also aims to bridge digital gender gap and enhance institutional credit access and availability to women in need through establishment of Women's Bank
- ✓ The policy encourages private, public sector listed companies, quasi govt organisations, boards to provide 50% women in leadership positions and to increase women's participation in workforce leading to 40% share of GSDP
- ✓ The Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Department shall act as nodal department monitoring the implementation of the policy.

➤ **Tamil Nadu government – has launched a new system to link all the public libraries in the state**

- ✓ In this regard, the Anna Centenary Library (ACL) along with Roja Muthiah Research Library, is preparing a union catalogue for all 35 lakh books in the 4,640 public libraries across Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ This catalogue could act as a single tool for searching all books available in all public libraries in Tamil Nadu
- ✓ Located in Taramani, Chennai, Roja Muthiah Research Library is curating the catalogue of all books in public libraries to the international standard like Anglo American Cataloguing Rules (AACR2) and Machine-Readable Cataloguing (MARC 21).
- ✓ In the first phase, school education minister Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozi released the union catalogue for more than 7 lakh books in Anna Centenary Library,

Connemara Public Library, Roja Muthiah Research Library and 32 district libraries this week.

- ✓ Under the system, a reader will get the details like which libraries have the book, availability, literary form, publisher, edition and material type by typing the title or author
- ✓ The project is being implemented under the Tamil Nadu Innovation Initiatives (TANII) scheme by the State Planning Commission.
- **Tamil Nadu Startup and Innovation Mission (Tansim) - has appointed Madurai-based social entrepreneur Sivarajah Ramanathan as its first CEO**
- ✓ He is expected to take charge in the first week of January 2022.
- ✓ Ramanathan is a social entrepreneur with more than 25 years experience.
- ✓ He is the founder and CEO of Nativelead Foundation, which has mentored hundreds of start-ups from tier-2 and tier-3 towns of Tamil Nadu



- ✓ The Foundation has also provided funding to innovative start-ups through its Native Angels Network
- ✓ In September this year, The Chennai Angels (TCA) struck a deal with Native Angels Network to co-invest in start-ups across Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ The Tansim, also known as Start-up TN, is a body created for promoting startups in Tamil Nadu
- ✓ Recently, through its Tamil Nadu Startup Seed Grant Fund (TANSEED), the TansiM released a grant of ₹5 lakh each for 19 start-ups across the State
- **Tirupur South police station - has been named the best police station in the state for the year 2020.**
- ✓ The police stations were assessed for their performance in arresting the accused in Pocso (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) Act and murder cases, timely filing of chargesheets, detention of habitual offenders under the Goondas Act and execution of peace bonds under Section 110 of the Criminal Procedure Code to prevent crimes
- ✓ Further, the stations' performance in conviction rates, speedy disposal of cases, properly maintaining records and booking more number of cases under the

special and local laws, particularly in cases related to sale of drugs and banned lottery tickets are also taken into account in presenting the awards.



- ✓ Thiruvannamalai Taluk police station bagged the second position, while E3 Anna Nagar station in Madurai city was placed third in the category.
- ✓ Chief Minister M K Stalin would hand over the CM's trophy to the station house officers of these police stations during the Republic Day celebrations to be held in Chennai.

NATIONAL

- **On December 30, the Ministry of Home Affairs - has extended the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) in whole of Nagaland for another six months until June 30, 2022.**
- ✓ This is an extension of the ongoing AFSPA and does not bring any new areas under its jurisdiction
- ✓ The centre has declared that the entire state is in 'a disturbed and dangerous condition'
- ✓ Declaring a place "disturbed area" is the first requirement for imposing AFSPA, a law that dates back to the colonial-era and which was used to crush protests.
- ✓ The AFSPA gives the Indian Army sweeping powers to search, arrest, and open fire to maintain public order in the state
- ✓ Earlier on June 30, the Centre has extended the AFSPA in Nagaland till December 31, 2021 in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 3 of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 (No.28 of 1958)
- ✓ On December 26, the Centre constituted a high-level committee, headed by a secretary-rank officer Vivek Joshi, to examine the possibility of lifting the controversial Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act in Nagaland
- ✓ The committee was set up three days after Union Home Minister Amit Shah held a meeting with Chief Ministers of Nagaland and Assam Neiphiu Rio and Himanta Biswa Sarma respectively.
- ✓ The panel was to submit its report within 45 days

- ✓ Protests have been going on in several districts of Nagaland for the withdrawal of the AFSPA, ever since an army unit killed the 14 civilians in Mon mistaking them as insurgents on December 4
 - ✓ On December 20, the Nagaland assembly unanimously resolved to demand a repeal of AFSPA from the northeast, especially the state.
 - ✓ AFSPA was not withdrawn from Nagaland even after a framework agreement was signed by Naga insurgent groups and government interlocutor RN Ravi in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2015.
 - ✓ AFSPA has been in force in Nagaland, Manipur, Assam, parts of Arunachal Pradesh, and Jammu and Kashmir for decades.
- **On December 30, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - inaugurated 23 development projects worth ₹17,500 crore for Uttarakhand.**
- ✓ Of these, road projects alone constituted around ₹9,000 crore of budget
 - ✓ The PM also inaugurated three different stretches of the Char Dham all-weather road, which have been recently widened.



- ✓ During his speech, the Prime Minister emphasised on the importance of the development projects initiated by the central government in Uttarakhand, including the ambitious all-weather road project
 - ✓ The project aims to connect the four Himalayan shrines of Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri and Yamunotri through an almost 900-km road widening exercise estimated to cost over ₹12,000 crore.
 - ✓ This project had been launched by the Prime Minister in 2016
- **State-owned CESL - has achieved a milestone of 50 lakh LED bulb distribution under the flagship Gram Ujala programme.**
- ✓ Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL) is a wholly owned subsidiary of Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL)

- ✓ It has distributed 50 lakh LED bulbs under 'Project Crore' of their Gram Ujala programme
 - ✓ The Gram Ujala scheme is being implemented in rural households in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Telangana.
 - ✓ The distribution has resulted in energy savings of 71,99,68,373.28 units per year, with cost savings of 250 crore per year in the rural areas of the aforementioned states
 - ✓ Led by Union Power Minister R K Singh, CESL began its initiative to illuminate villages in March this year.
 - ✓ This month, on National Energy Conservation Day 2021, CESL reportedly distributed 10 lakh bulbs in a single day.
 - ✓ CESL is providing high-quality 7-Watt and 12-Watt LED bulbs with 3 years guarantee at a cost of Rs.10 per bulb in exchange of working incandescent bulbs.
 - ✓ Every household can exchange a maximum of 5 bulbs under the programme
 - ✓ The programme is active till March 31, 2022.
 - ✓ CESL is being supported by C-Quest Capital in its entire distribution journey under the SHINE programme
- **The Fifth Generation or 5G telecom services - are set to be rolled out in selected cities in India in 2022**
- ✓ The cities which are set to get the 5G telecom services in 2022 include Gurugram, Bangalore, Kolkata, Mumbai, Chandigarh, Delhi, Jamnagar, Ahmadabad, Chennai, Hyderabad, Lucknow, Pune, and Gandhinagar.
 - ✓ Leading telecom service providers Bharti Airtel, Reliance Jio and Vodafone Idea, have established 5G trials sites in these cities
 - ✓ The fifth-generation is the latest upgrade in the long-term evolution (LTE) mobile broadband networks
 - ✓ The 5G technology aims to connect many more types of devices than smartphones (as in 4G) and offers far higher speed and capacity.
 - ✓ The Department of Telecom has roped in leading research institutions for development and testing of 5G technology.
 - ✓ Eight agencies - Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay, IIT Delhi, IIT Hyderabad, IIT Madras, IIT Kanpur, Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore, Society for Applied Microwave Electronics Engineering & Research (SAMEER) and Centre of Excellence in Wireless Technology (CEWiT) - are involved in the research project called 'Indigenous 5G Test bed project'.
 - ✓ The Indigenous 5G Test bed project started in 2018 and is set to be completed by December 31, 2021.
 - ✓ The project has been funded by the Department of Telecom and the department has spent Rs.224 crore on this project.
 - ✓ The indigenous 5G test bed is a visionary technology development project initiated in telecom space

- ✓ It will enable development, testing and proliferation of 5G technology system components
 - ✓ The Department of Telecom has allocated spectrum to Bharti Airtel, Reliance Jio, Vodafone Idea and MTNL for 5G trials.
 - ✓ Ericsson, Nokia, Samsung and Mavenir also engaged in the trials.
 - ✓ The 5G technology mainly works in 3 bands, low, mid, and high-frequency spectrum.
 - ✓ In the low band spectrum, the speed is limited to 100 Mbps (Megabits per second), while in the high band spectrum, the speed goes up to 20 Gbps (giga bits per second)
 - ✓ The highest internet speed in 4G has been recorded at 1 Gbps.
 - ✓ The government has recognised spectrum bands of frequency 526-698 MHz, 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz, 2500 MHz, 3300-3670 MHz and 24.25-28.5 GHz for public as well as private 5G networks
 - ✓ While public 5G networks will serve telecom users, private 5G networks will be used for captive applications in the Industry 4.0 concept
- **India – has recorded a total of 124 tiger deaths in 2021, the highest in a decade.**
- ✓ This was revealed in a data sourced from the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) till December 29, 2021 based on the deaths reported
 - ✓ Out of 124 tiger deaths, 60 tigers died due to poaching, accidents and man-animal conflict outside protected areas.
 - ✓ According to a 2018 census, India was home to 2,967 tigers.
 - ✓ NTCA has maintained a record of tiger deaths publicly since 2012.
 - ✓ The number in 2016 was almost as high, at 121.
 - ✓ Statewise, Madhya Pradesh, with 526 tigers, had the highest loss at 41, followed by Maharashtra, which has 312 tigers, at 25, and Karnataka, which hosts 524 tigers, at 15.
 - ✓ Uttar Pradesh, having roughly 173 tigers, recorded nine deaths.
- **On December 29, Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) of NITI Aayog - released the second edition of compendium of innovations titled 'Innovations for You'**
- ✓ It focuses on agriculture featuring 70 startups supported by Atal incubation Centers (AICs) of AIM
 - ✓ The compendium also includes 'The Ingenious Tinkerers' – a compendium on the innovations on Technology featuring 41 innovations from Atal Tinkering Lab (ATL) of India.
 - ✓ The digi-books were unveiled virtually in the presence of Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog
 - ✓ The first edition of this book was focused on innovations in Health Care, which was launched in October, this year

- ✓ The subsequent editions of the series will focus on other emerging sectors like EduTech, Mobility, EV among others

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **On December 29, the BRICS New Development Bank (NDB) - announced that it will add Egypt as its new member**
- ✓ Egypt is the fourth new member admitted into NDB, after Bangladesh, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Uruguay, further expanding the bank's global outreach.
- ✓ Since its establishment six years ago, the NDB has approved about 80 projects for its members, with a total portfolio of \$30 billion.
- ✓ The projects cover sectors including transport, water and sanitation, clean energy, digital infrastructure, social infrastructure and urban development.
- ✓ Headquartered in Shanghai, the NDB was established by BRICS nations, namely Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.
- ✓ It was jointly founded by the BRICS countries in 2014, at the 6th BRICS Summit in Fortaleza, Brazil
- ✓ The bank formally opened in July 2015
- ✓ NDB had received observer status in the United Nations General Assembly, in 2018

DEFENCE

- **On December 28, Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh - inaugurated 27 roads and bridge projects, most of them along the Indo-Tibetan border, through a virtual event in New Delhi**



- ✓ These projects and roads were built by Border Roads Organisation (BRO) in four States and two Union Territories (UTs)
- ✓ Of the 24 bridges, nine are in Jammu and Kashmir, five each in Ladakh and Himachal Pradesh, three in Uttarakhand and one each in Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh.


- ✓ The main highlight was the inauguration of India's first indigenous Class 70 140-foot Double-Lane Modular Bridge, built at the height of 11,000 feet at Flag Hill Dokala, Sikkim
 - ✓ Another noteworthy road project is the Chisumle-Demchok road at Umling La Pass at over 19,000 feet in Ladakh which also holds the Guinness World Record of world's highest motorable road.
 - ✓ With the inauguration of these bridges and roads, the tally of infrastructure projects executed by BRO in a single working season has gone to a record 102
 - ✓ Earlier in June this year, the Union Defence Minister had dedicated to the nation 12 roads and 63 bridges – totalling 75 projects - in the 75th year of Independence under the aegis of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.
- **The Ministry of Defence – notifies imports of import ban of 351 defence sub-systems and components for the armed forces**
- ✓ Issued by the department of defence production, the list also contains 2,500 items that have already been indigenised
 - ✓ This Atma-nirbhar (self-reliance) initiative will save foreign exchange approximately equivalent to ₹3,000 crore every year
 - ✓ The identified sub-systems, assemblies and components will only be procured from Indian industry after the timelines indicated in the list
 - ✓ As per the notification, import restrictions on 172 subsystems and components will come into force by December 2022, followed by another 89 by December 2023 and 90 by December 2024.
 - ✓ The first “positive indigenisation list” in August last year progressively banned imports of 101 items in the 2020-2025 timeframe in a bid to boost domestic defence production and exports.
 - ✓ The second in May this year similarly identified 108 items for the December 2021-December 2025 time-frame.
 - ✓ The two lists identified only some fully-formed major weapon systems and platforms
 - ✓ It ranges from missile destroyers, transport aircraft, light combat helicopters, wheeled armoured fighting vehicles and conventional diesel-electric submarines to next-generation corvettes, single-engine light helicopters and AEW&C (airborne early warning and control) systems
 - ✓ These are already being produced domestically or are in the R&D or trials phase in the country.

ECONOMY

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) - has extended by three months until March 2022 its restriction on banks and finance companies freezing accounts of customers for want of KYC (know your customer)-compliant norms.**

- ✓ According to the RBI, the extension of this relaxation is due to the prevailing uncertainty on account of the Omicron variant.

NO EXTENSION FOR TAX RETURNS YET

<p>Banks Accountholders get till March to become KYC-compliant, failing which their a/cs would be mandatorily frozen</p> <p>Impact There won't be a rush to fulfil KYC norms at banks & financial cos</p> <p>GST Two months more for filing GSTR-9 & self-certified reconciliation statement in GSTR-9C for FY21</p> <p>Impact Former is for those with over ₹2cr annual turnover & latter for over ₹5cr – both get till Feb 28</p>		<p>EPFO Dec 31 deadline extended to file nominations but new date not announced</p> <p>Impact Members get more time to file online and ensure their next of kin get their PF, pension (EPS) & insurance (EDLI) benefits easily</p> <p>Tax returns Last date for filing remains Dec 31</p> <p>Impact None, since no deadline extension yet despite several demands</p>
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- ✓ In May 2021, the RBI had informed banks and other regulated entities that the customer accounts where periodic updation of KYC is due and pending as on date shall be freezed after December 31, 2021.
- ✓ The exception was for an action warranted under instructions of any regulator/enforcement agency/court of law.
- ✓ The requirement of updating KYC norms is applied by regulators globally and is part of anti-money laundering initiatives.
- ✓ Entities that have to follow KYC norms include finance companies, mutual funds, broking houses and depositories.
- ✓ The regularity with which customers have to update their records depends on how their accounts are classified by their banks.
- ✓ For customers in low-risk accounts, KYC needs to be updated once every 10 years.
- ✓ However, those classified as high-risk will need to update their account once every two years.
- ✓ Besides this, dormant and inactive accounts also require fresh KYC updates to unfreeze or reactivate them.
- ✓ Among the other relaxations announced by Centre, the due date for furnishing annual return by the businesses in form GSTR-9 & self-certified reconciliation statement in form GSTR-9C for the financial year 2020-21 has been extended from December 31, 2021 to February 28, 2022
- ✓ In another relief for subscribers, retirement fund body Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has said that members can now fill their nominations beyond the deadline of December 31.
- ✓ EPFO has not announced a new deadline but has urged members to file their nominations.

- **State Bank of India (SBI) - has adopted a new benchmark in place of the London Inter-Bank Offered Rate (Libor), which has been used to price foreign currency loans for decades.**
- ✓ The global benchmark will be discarded for new contracts from December 2021 following the request of international regulators because of its susceptibility to manipulation and the risks its overuse poses during a crisis.
- ✓ According to SBI, it has already started offering ARR (alternate reference rates) based products to customers.
- ✓ The country's largest bank has also started knowledge sharing sessions to increase awareness of the new product among corporate customers.
- ✓ Under the Libor transition process, from January 1, all new transactions will be referenced to the new benchmark rates as directed by the RBI and global banking regulators.

AWARDS

- **The Sahitya Akademi awards for 2021 - were announced on December 30, 2021**
- ✓ The annual awards, given in 20 Indian languages, included seven books of poetry, two novels, five short stories, two plays, one book each of biography, autobiography, criticism and epic poetry.
- ✓ The award will include a casket containing an engraved copper plaque, a shawl and an amount of Rs 1,00,000
- ✓ It will be presented at the award presentation function which will be held at a later date
- ✓ The awards relate to books first published during the five years immediately preceding the year of Award (between January 1, 2015 and December 31, 2019)
- ✓ **Tamil feminist writer Ambai**, Kannada biographer DS Nagabhushan, Telugu poet Goreti Venkanna, and English author Namita Gokhale for her novel titled 'Things to Leave Behind' were named among the winners
- ✓ The other winners are Mwdai Gahai (Bodo), Sanjiv Verenkar (Konkani), Hrushikesl Mallick (Odia), Meethesh Nirmohi (Rajasthani), Vindeshwariprasad Nishr (Sanskrit), Arjun Chawla (Sindhi), Raj Rahi (Dogri), Kiran Gurav (Marathi), Khalid Hussain (Punjabi), Niranjan Hansda (Santali), Anuradha Sarma Pujari (Assamese), George Onakkoor (Malayalam), Bratya Basu (Bengali), Daya Prakash Sinha (Hindi), Wali Muhammad Aseer Kishtwari (Kashmiri), Chhabilal Upadhyaya (Nepali).
- ✓ Awards in Gujarati, Maithili, Manipuri, and Urdu languages will be announced at a later date
- ✓ The Sahitya Akademi Award is conferred on writers of most outstanding books of literary merit, which are published in any of 24 major Indian languages and 22 languages listed in the Eighth Schedule of Indian Constitution



- **The Sahitya Akademi - announced a list of 22 winners each of the Yuva Puraskar and the Bal Sahitya Puraskar for 2021 on December 30**
- ✓ The Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar 2021 will be given for nine books of poetry, five novels, six short stories and one each of essays and play
- ✓ 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"
 - ✓ Megha Majumdar was born in India, but now lives in New York and works as an Editor in chief- Books at Catapult Story
 - ✓ The book, published in 2020, deals about the struggles of life in India
- ✓ The winners of the Yuva Puraskar for poetry collection are Gourob Chakraborty (Bengali), Gautom Daimary (Bodo), Arun Akash Dev (Dogri), H Lakshmi Narayan Swamy (Kannada), Shraddha Garad (Konkani), Lenin Khumancha (Manipuri), Amit Mishra (Maithili), Thagulla Gopal (Telugu) and Umar Farhat (Urdu).
- ✓ Drashti Soni (Gujarati), Mobin Mohan (Malayalam), Pranav Sakhadeo (Marathi) and Kuna Hansdah (Santali) are among the winners for novels.
- ✓ Other winners are Abhijit Bora (Assamese), Razi Tahir Bhagat (Kashmiri), Mahesh Dahal (Nepali), Swetapadma Satapathy (Sanskrit), Rakesh Shewani (Sindhi), Veerdavinder Singh (Punjabi) and Debabrata Das (Odia).
- ✓ The Yuva Puraskar for Tamil will be declared at a later date, and there will be no award in Rajasthani this year
- ✓ Anita Vachharajani has been named as the recipient of the Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2021 for the biography "Amrita Sher-Gil: Rebel with a Paintbrush".
- ✓ Hindi writer Devendra Mewari won the award for his play titled "Natak Natak me Vigyan".
- ✓ Anmol Jha (Maithili), Sudarshan Ambatey (Nepali), Digaraj Brahma (Odia), Sova Hansda (Santali), Kishin Khubchandani 'Ranjayal' (Sindhi) and Kausar Siddiqui (Urdu) were named winners of poetry.
- ✓ The other recipients of the Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2021 are Mrinal Chandra Kalita (Assamese), Sunirmal Chakraborty (Bengali), Ratneswar Narzary (Bodo),

Narsingh Dev Jamwal (Dogri), Basu Bevinagida (Kannada), Majeed Majazi (Kashmiri), Sumedha Kamat Desai (Konkani), Raghunath Paleri (Malayalam), Ningombam Jadumani Singh (Manipuri), Sanjay Wagh (Marathi), Kirti Sharma (Rajasthani), Asha Agarwal (Sanskrit), **Mu. Murugesh (Tamil)** and Devaraju Maharaju (Telugu). There are no awards in Gujarati and Punjabi this year.

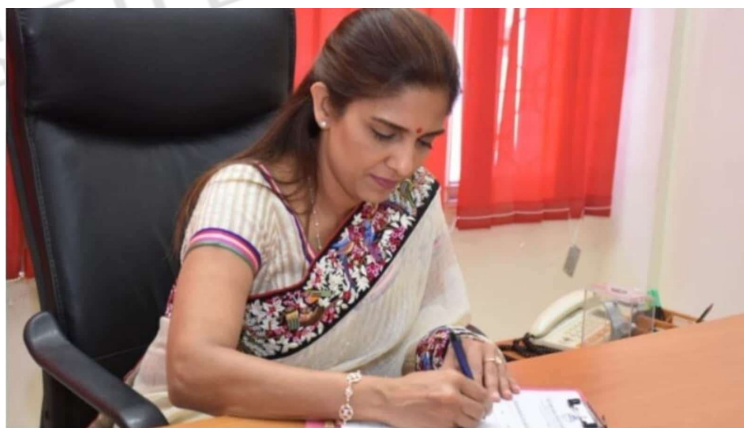
- ✓ The recipients of both the awards will be given a casket containing an engraved copper plaque and a cheque of Rs 50,000 at a special function to be held at a later date.

➤ **Kerala Veterinary and Animal Science University (KVASU) – bagged the prestigious national breed conservation award for 2021 at the Kisan Divas celebrations organized recently by ICAR-NBAGR**

- ✓ The varsity received the award for its All India Co-ordinated Research Project (AICRP) on poultry breeding, Mannuthy
- ✓ The centre received the award for the conservation and research activities on the Tellicherry breed, the only registered native chicken breed from the State.
- ✓ The award was established by ICAR - The National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (NBAGR) for their contribution towards conservation and improvement of registered Indian breeds of domestic livestock and poultry.
- ✓ The award carries a citation and a purse of ₹10,000.
- ✓ The centre started conservation of the Tellicherry breed in 2014

SPORTS

➤ **Rupa Gurunath - has decided to step down from the post of president of Tamil Nadu Cricket Association**



- ✓ Rupa became the first woman to take over as president of a state association when she took charge of Tamil Nadu Cricket Association in September 2019.
- ✓ The decision to leave the post is attributed to her decision to concentrate on “business and personal commitments” and she is expected to assume some “operational role” in Chennai Super Kings.
- ✓ CSK is run by India Cements, where Rupa is a whole-time director, and to take up any post in the franchise, she has to quit TNCA to avoid conflict of interest.

- ✓ In June, the then BCCI ethics officer Justice (Retd) DK Jain found her guilty of “conflict of interest” following a plea by Sanjeev Gupta, a former life member of Madhya Pradesh Cricket Association.
- ✓ As per the order, Rupa had “indirect conflict” because of her role in TNCA and ICL.
- ✓ As per Jain, Chennai Super Kings Cricket Limited (CSKCL) has been formed under the umbrella of ICL and that has led to the conflict of Rupa.

