



## Rapid Fire Current Affairs

### Kendra Sahitya Akademi Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2023

Recently, Priya A S has been awarded the prestigious **Kendra Sahitya Akademi Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2023** in the Malayalam language for her novel **Perumazhayathe Kunjithalukal**. The novel Perumazhayathe Kunjithalukal, set against the backdrop of the **2018 Kerala floods**, captures the resilience and unity displayed by children from diverse backgrounds during the calamity.

The Kendra Sahitya Akademi Bal Sahitya Puraskar is a prestigious literary award for children's literature in India. It is presented by the [Sahitya Akademi](#) and recognizes outstanding contributions in the field. The award carries a **cash prize and plaque**, encouraging authors and promoting the **growth of children's literature**.

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# SAHITYA AKADEMI AWARDS

The 2<sup>nd</sup>-highest literary honour by the Govt of India, after the Jnanpith Award Estd. - 1954

## CONFERRED BY

- Sahitya Akademi - India's National Academy of letters

## AWARDS

- 24 awards for literary works in recognised languages (22 from 8th Schedule + English and Rajasthani)
- 24 awards for literary translations from and into the languages of India.

## CRITERIA FOR AWARDS

- Author must be of Indian Nationality
- Book/work must be an outstanding contribution to the corresponding language/literature



## SAHITYA AKADEMI AWARDS 2022

### BHASHA SAMMAN

- Given for considerable contribution to the propagation, modernization or enrichment of the languages concerned
- Awarded to **Udaya Nath Jha** (valuable contribution in classical and mediaeval literature in the eastern region)

### BOOKS SELECTED FOR TRANSLATION

- Yaad Vashem** (N. Nallathambi), **Akupacha Kavithalu** (Varala Anand) +15 more

### IMP AWARDEES

- Anuradha Roy
- Badri Narayan
- Mr. Rajendran
- Praveen Bandekar
- Anis Ashfaq
- Manoj Kumar Goswami

### WORK

- All the Lives We Never Lived (Eng novel)
- Tumadi Ke Shabd (Hindi poetry book)
- Kala Pani (Tamil Novel)
- Ujavya Sondechya Bahulya (Marathi Novel)
- Khwab Sarab (Urdu novel)
- Bhool Satya (Assamese)



Anuradha Roy



Badri Narayan

## OTHER SAHITYA AKADEMI AWARDS

- Sahitya Akademi Bal Sahitya Puraskar:** Based on author's total contribution to children literature.
  - 2022 Award - Ganesh Marandi for Hapan Mai (book in Santhali)
- Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar:** Books published by an author of age of 35 and below.
  - 2022 Award - Pawan Nalat for Mi Sandarbha Pokharatoy (Marathi Poetry)

Read more: [Sahitya Akademi Award](#)

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## Recovery of Stolen Chola-Era Idols

The **Tamil Nadu Police's Idol Wing CID (IW CID)** has made a significant breakthrough in recovering **16 antique idols that were stolen or went missing from Chola-era temples**. With assistance from U.S. authorities, the idols were traced to museums and art galleries in the United States. The idols, including exquisite **Chola-era bronzes**, were identified and are set to be returned to their respective temples in Tamil Nadu.

The **Cholas**, a powerful dynasty that ruled the **southern regions of India from the 9th to the 13<sup>th</sup> century**, left a lasting impact on the region's history and culture. Under monarchs like **Vijayalaya, Aditya I, and Rajendra Chola**, the Empire expanded its influence and established control over neighboring kingdoms, including the **Pallavas and Pandya Kings**. The Cholas implemented a well-organized administration, dividing their vast kingdom into **mandalams and nadus**, with separate governors overseeing each region. They were patrons of art and architecture, with **Chola temples like Brihadeshwara and Rajarajeshwara** exemplifying the grandeur of **Dravidian temple architecture**. The Cholas' artistic legacy also included iconic sculptures, such as the **Nataraja sculpture depicting Lord Shiva** in his cosmic dance and bronze images that are renowned for their exquisite craftsmanship. The Chola dynasty's reign marked a golden age of prosperity, art, and cultural advancement in southern India.

Read more: [Chola Dynasty](#)

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## International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

The **International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking**, or **World Drug Day**, is marked on **26 June every year** which was decided by the **United Nations General Assembly** in 1987, to strengthen action and cooperation in achieving a world free of drug abuse. **Theme for 2023: People first: stop stigma and discrimination, strengthen prevention**. The aim of this year's campaign is to **raise awareness about the importance of treating people who use drugs with respect and empathy**; providing evidence-based, voluntary services for all; offering alternatives to punishment; prioritising prevention; and leading with compassion. The campaign also aims to **combat stigma and discrimination against people who use drugs by promoting language and attitudes that are respectful and non-judgmental**.

Every year on 26th June, the **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)** also releases the **World Drug Report**.

Read more: [International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking](#), [United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime](#).

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## GEMCOVAC-OM: India's Indigenous mRNA Vaccine for Omicron Variant

India's first indigenously developed and only approved **mRNA vaccine**, **GEMCOVAC-OM developed by Genovax**, targeting the **Omicron variant of Covid-19**, will be priced at **₹2,292 per dose**. The vaccine will initially be **available only as a booster or precaution dose**, and **individuals who have already received three doses will be ineligible**. The key advantage of GEMCOVAC-OM lies in its **stability within a 2-8 degree Celsius range**, making it suitable for storage in ordinary refrigerators. The vaccine can be administered via the **needle-free Pharmajet system**, delivering it directly into the skin.

The **mRNA vaccine activates the immune system to produce antibodies** that help counter an infection. The vaccine introduces a portion of the spike protein, the key part of the coronavirus, to stimulate an immune response. **mRNA vaccines are fragile and must be wrapped in a layer of oily lipids**. DNA is more stable and flexible in vaccines. **Both mRNA and DNA vaccines are expected to be effective, but mRNA vaccines require stringent freezer conditions that make them expensive**.

mRNA and DNA vaccines can be quickly updated to emerging variants and used for a variety of diseases.

**Read more:** [mRNA vaccine](#), [Omicron](#)

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