

Headlines at a Glance - 31st December 2021

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Sahitya Akademi announces awards in 20 languages

The Sahitya Akademi on Thursday announced its awards for 2021 for literary works in 20 languages, including novels in Assamese and English by Anuradha Sarma Pujari and Namita Gokhale respectively. In a statement, the national academy of letters said seven books of poetry, five of short stories, two plays, one each of biography, autobiography, criticism and epic poetry had won the Sahitya Akademi Awards 2021. The awards for works in Gujarati, Maithili, Manipuri and Urdu would be announced at a later date, it said. The award ceremony would also be held later.

SOURCE: The Hindu

Atal Ranking of Institutes released

The Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievement 2021 award list was released on Wednesday by the government. The top position has been achieved by IIT Madras as the most innovative educational institute of India in the technical category. IIT Madras has won this recognition for the third time in a row. Moreover, IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi, IIT Kanpur, IIT Roorkee, Indian Institute of Science (IISc), IIT Hyderabad and IIT Kharagpur are among the top 10 institutions in the list. Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievement 2021 award list was released by the Minister of State for Education Dr Subhas Sarkar.

SOURCE: India Today

AFSPA extended in Nagaland for 6 months, declared 'disturbed area'

Days after forming a committee to review the Armed Forces Special Power Act (AFSPA) in Nagaland, the Centre on Thursday extended it in the entire state till June 30 next year, declaring the entire state as 'disturbed area'. According to the Gazette notification issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA): "Whereas the Central Government is of the opinion that the entire area comprising the whole of the state of Nagaland is in such a disturbed and dangerous condition that use of armed forces in aid of Civil is necessary. The AFSPA empowers the security forces to conduct operations and arrest anyone without any prior warrant. It also gives immunity to the forces if they shoot someone dead.

SOURCE: *The Indian Express*

Anupam Ray to be India's new permanent representative at 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, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Wednesday. Ray, a 1994-batch Indian Foreign Service officer, is currently serving as a joint secretary in the MEA's headquarters in Delhi. Mr. Ray will succeed Pankaj Sharma. Mr. Sharma, a 1991-batch Indian Foreign Service officer, has been appointed as India's next ambassador to Mexico.

SOURCE: *The Hindu*