



Sahitya Akademi Award

Why in News

Recently, the Sahitya Akademi announced the [Sahitya Akademi Award 2021 in 20 languages](#). The Akademi **also announced Yuva Puraskar and Bal Sahitya Puraskar for 2021**.

Key Points

▪ About: [//](#)



- Sahitya Akademi award **established in 1954**, is a literary honour that is conferred **annually by Sahitya Akademi**, India's National Academy of letters.
- Akademi gives **24 awards annually to literary works** in the languages it has recognized and an equal number of awards to literary translations from and into the languages of India.
 - **Besides the 22 languages** enumerated in the Constitution of India, the Sahitya Akademi has **recognised English and Rajasthani** as languages in which its programme may be implemented.
- The Sahitya Akademi award is the second-highest literary honour by the Government of India, **after the Jnanpith award**.

▪ Criteria for Choosing Awardee:

- The author must be of **Indian Nationality**.
- Book/work eligible for the award must be **an outstanding contribution to the language and literature** to which it belongs.
- When equal merit for books of two or more are found, certain criteria like total literary contribution and standing of authors shall be taken into consideration for declaring the award.

▪ Other Sahitya Akademi Awards:

- **Sahitya Akademi Bal Sahitya Puraskar** is given to an author based on his/her total

contribution to **children literature and** relates to books first published during the five years immediately preceding the year of Award.

- **Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar** relates to books published by an **author of the age of 35 and below**.

Jnanpith Award

- The Jnanpith award is the **highest literary award** in India and can only be conferred **annually upon an Indian citizen**.
- **English** along with other languages mentioned in [Indian Constitution \(8th Schedule\)](#) is considered for the Award.
- The prize carries a cash award of Rs. 11 lakhs, a citation, and a bronze replica of Vagdevi (Saraswati), the goddess of learning.
- It is sponsored by the **cultural organization Bharatiya Jnanpith**.
- Assamese poet Nilmani Phookan Jr has won the 56th Jnanpith Award (2021), and Konkani novelist Damodar Mauzo has won the 57th Jnanpith Award (2022).

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