



# Nobel Prize for Literature, 2021

## Why in News

The **2021 Nobel Prize in Literature** has been awarded to **novelist Abdulrazak Gurnah** "for his uncompromising and compassionate penetration of the effects of colonialism and the fate of the refugee in the gulf between cultures and continents".

- **Last year**, the award was given to [Louise Glück](#) "for her unmistakable poetic voice that with austere beauty makes individual existence universal."
- The **Nobel Prizes in [Physics](#), [Chemistry](#) and [Medicine](#) for 2021** have **already been awarded**.

## Key Points

- **About:**
  - **Abdulrazak Gurnah** was born in 1948 and **grew up on the island of Zanzibar in the Indian Ocean**. He was forced to flee to the UK, the former colonial power, at the end of the 1960s after a revolution occurred in Zanzibar.
  - **Zanzibar is part of East Africa**, a region known as the Swahili coast, stretching from present-day Somalia to Mozambique on the western shores of the Indian Ocean.



- He has **published ten novels and a number of short stories**. The **theme of the refugee's disruption** runs throughout his work.
- He **began writing as a 21-year-old in English exile**, and although Swahili was his first language, English became his literary tool.
- Gurnah's **fourth novel 'Paradise' (1994)**, his breakthrough as a writer, evolved from a research trip to East Africa around 1990.

▪ **Significance:**

- At a time when the **global refugee crisis** is exponentially on the rise, Gurnah's work **draws attention to how racism and prejudice** against targeted communities and religions perpetuate cultures of oppression.

**Source: IE**

