



# Sahitya Akademi Award

## Why in News

Recently, Marathi writer Nanda Khare **refused to accept the [Sahitya Akademi award](#)** for his novel **“Udya”**, published in 2014.

## Key Points

### ▪ About Sahitya Akademi Award:

- 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 award.

### ▪ About the Marathi Novel ‘Udya’:

- It is a futuristic account of the possible **scenarios emerging** as consequences of the current **capitalistic and machine-driven human life**.
- It nuances how humans have been enslaved by machines, particularly by the ones that are susceptible to surveillance of one’s personal life.

## 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 \(8<sup>th</sup> Schedule\)](#)** 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**.
- For 2018, author **Amitav Ghosh** became the **first English language writer** to become a Jnanpith laureate.
- Akkitham Achuthan Namboothiri in Malayalam language is the latest recipient of the award for the

year 2019.

### 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.**

[Source:IE](#)

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