



Jnanpith Award

Why in News

Renowned **Malayalam poet Akkitham Achuthan Namboothiri** was conferred the **55th edition of the Jnanpith Award**.

Key Points

▪ About the Award:

- It has achieved the recognition of the **highest literary award of the country**.
- **English along with other Indian languages** is considered for the Award.
- The Award is **open for only Indian citizens** and is **given annually**.
- 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**.
- In 2019, author **Amitav Ghosh was felicitated with 54th Jnanpith Award**. He became the **first English language writer** to become a Jnanpith laureate.

▪ About Poet Akkitham:

- Akkitham is the **sixth writer** to bag the Jnanpith Award for **Malayalam literature**. In 1965, famous **Malayalam writer G Sankara Kurup** became the **first winner** of the Jnanpith Award.
- He is instrumental in heralding **modernism in Malayalam poetry**.
- He is the only living poet being called **Mahakavi (great poet)** in Malayalam.
- He has contributed seminal works such as *Pathalathinte Muzhakkam*, **Irupatham Noottandinte Ithihasam**, and *Balidarshanam*.
- His work **Balidarshanam** won the **State and Central Sahitya Akademi Awards** in 1972-73.
- He was awarded **Padmashri** in **2017**.
- He has also been bestowed with **Ezhuthachan Award** (the highest literary honour of the Kerala government), **Odakkuzhal Award** (given to literary works in Malayalam), and several other honours.

Source: TH