



# Kuvempu Award 2020

## Why in News

Recently, **Odia poet Dr. Rajendra Kishore Panda** has been selected for the **Kuvempu Rashtriya Puraskar (award) 2020**.

- Dr. Panda, born in 1944, is a **poet and novelist from Odisha**. He has published 16 poetry collections and a novel.
- He was presented the **Gangadhar National Award in 2010**, and the [Sahitya Akademi Award in 1985](#).

## Key Points

- **About:**
  - It is a **national award** instituted in memory of the late poet laureate **Kuvempu**.
  - The award is given **annually** to a writer who has **contributed** in any of the **languages recognised by the Constitution of India**.
  - The award carries a **cash award of Rs. 5 lakh**, a **silver medal** and a **citation**.
- **Kuvempu:**
  - **Kuppali Venkatappa Puttappa**, popularly known by his pen name **Kuvempu**, was an Indian poet, playwright, novelist and critic.
  - He is widely regarded as **the greatest Kannada poet of the 20<sup>th</sup> century**.
  - He was the first Kannada writer to be decorated with the [Jnanpith Award](#) for his version of the Ramayana titled '**Sri Ramayana Darshanam**.'

## 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**.

## Sahitya Akademi Awards

- 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**.

## Gangadhar National Award

- Gangadhar National Award For Poetry is a **literary award given in the field of literature for poetry by Sambalpur University**. It is named after Gangadhar Meher.
- The award carries a **cash prize of Rs 50,000, a shawl and citation**.

[Source: TH](#)

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