Last checked: 20 October 2026 · Sahitya Akademi

Sahitya Akademi Award

The Sahitya Akademi Award honours the most outstanding original book of literary merit in each language recognised by the Akademi. Authors do not apply, because the Akademi selects the book itself.

What you may get

A cash prize of Rs 1,00,000 together with a citation that explains the significance of the book and the author's contribution to the language and its literature.

Who it is for

Indian authors of an outstanding original book first published in India in a language recognised by the Akademi. Authors and publishers do not apply, so this is not an application scheme.

Main conditions

- The author must be an Indian national, and the book must be an outstanding original creative or critical work first published in India in a recognised language in the five-year period set by the rules.
- Translations, anthologies of many authors, abridgements, compilations, annotations and theses written for a university degree or exam are not eligible.
- Earlier winners of an Akademi award (not counting the Translation Prize, Bal Sahitya Puraskar or Yuva Puraskar), Bhasha Samman recipients, Fellows of the Akademi and members of its Executive Board are not eligible.
- Fresh collections of earlier published writings and revised editions are not eligible, unless at least 75% of a collection appears in book form for the first time.
- A book is disqualified if the Executive Board finds that the author canvassed for the award.

How to apply

1. There is nothing to apply for. The rules say books are not accepted directly from authors and publishers.
2. Each year experts prepare a list of eligible books in each language. Members of the Language Advisory Board and a preliminary panel of ten referees recommend titles.
3. A three-member jury recommends one book, and the Executive Board approves and announces the award. Watch the Akademi website for the yearly announcement.

Status

Active

Official source: https://sahitya-akademi.gov.in/awards/akademi_awards.jsp
Labh Lo page: https://labhlo.in/en/schemes/central/sahitya-akademi-award/

Labh Lo Summary. Not an official government document.
Labh Lo is an independent information platform. This PDF is a summary. It is not an official government document. Government authorities determine final eligibility and approval. Check the official source before applying.