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Sahitya Akademi Bal Sahitya Puraskar

The Bal Sahitya Puraskar is a yearly award for the best children's book by an Indian author in each language the Sahitya Akademi recognises. Books can be sent in by authors, publishers and well-wishers.

What you may get

A cash prize in an amount the Akademi fixes from time to time, along with a citation describing the book's importance and the author's contribution to the language and its literature.

Who it is for

Indian authors of an outstanding children's book, written for readers aged 9 to 16, first published in a language recognised by the Akademi within the five-year period set by the rules.

Main conditions

- The author must be an Indian national. Dual citizens, Non-Resident Indians and Persons of Indian Origin are not considered.
- The book must be written for readers aged 9 to 16, have at least 49 pages, and be first published in the five-year period set by the rules. For the 2025 award, that period was 2019 to 2023.
- Translations, anthologies, abridgements, criticism, readers, textbooks, theses and books by several authors are not eligible. A retelling of a myth or story for children is eligible.
- A book first published from 1 January 2025 needs an ISBN. Self-published books with an ISBN can be considered, but e-books cannot.
- An author can win only once in a lifetime in one language in this category. Books by Executive Board members, Fellows, former Presidents and staff of the Akademi, and by Bhasha Samman winners, are not eligible, and canvassing for the award disqualifies a book.

Documents

- A self-declaration from the author, needed only if the book was written under a pen name

How to apply

1. Watch for the Akademi's yearly advertisement in newspapers and literary magazines, which invites the best books in each of the 24 languages.
2. Authors, publishers and well-wishers can send books for consideration, and a publisher can send as many titles as it likes. Books sent in are not returned.
3. A writer using a pen name must send a self-declaration with the book.
4. Language Advisory Board members and a panel of ten referees recommend titles, a three-member jury picks one, and the Executive Board approves it and announces the award.

Status

Active

Official source: https://sahitya-akademi.gov.in/awards/rulesBSP.pdf
Labh Lo page: https://labhlo.in/en/schemes/central/sahitya-akademi-bal-sahitya-puraskar/

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