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## **Sahitya Akademi Award**

- Recently Sahitya Akademi announced Sahitya Akademi Awards 2021 in 20 languages. Sahitya Akademi has also announced Yuva Puraskar and Bal Sahitya Puraskar for the year 2021.

### **Introduction:**

- The Sahitya Akademi Award, instituted in the year 1954, is a literary honour. The award is presented annually by the Sahitya Akademi (National Academy of Letters).
- Awards are given every year by the Academy for literary works in 24 languages recognized by it, as well as for mutual literary translation in these languages.
- Apart from the 22 languages included in the Constitution of India, the Sahitya Akademi has also recognized English and Rajasthani as the languages in which the program of the Academy can be implemented.
- The Sahitya Akademi Award is the second highest literary honor conferred by the Government of India after the Jnanpith Award.

### **Criteria for selection of award winners:**

- The author must have an Indian nationality.
- The book / composition eligible for the award should have outstanding contribution in the field of language and literature.
- When the same merit is found for two or more books, then certain criteria such as total contribution in the field of literature and position/reputation of the authors etc. are taken into consideration for the announcement of the award.

### **Other Sahitya Akademi Awards:**

- The Sahitya Akademi BAL Sahitya Puraskar is given by authors on the basis of their contribution to children's literature and relates to books published for the first time during the five years immediately preceding the award year.
- Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar deals with books published by an author who is 35 years of age and below.

### **Jnanpith Award:**

- The Jnanpith Award is the highest literary award in India and can be awarded annually to only one Indian citizen.
- This award is given in English along with other languages mentioned in the Constitution of India (8th Schedule).
- The award carries a cash amount of Rs 11 lakh, a citation and a bronze replica of Vagdevi (Saraswati), the goddess of knowledge.
- This cultural organization is sponsored by Bharatiya Jnanpith.
- In the year 2018, writer Amitav Ghosh became the first English language writer to become the Jnanpith Award winner.
- Akkitham Achuthan Namboodiri of Malayalam language was awarded the Jnanpith Award in the year 2019.

## **Indian pangolin**

- Recently a radio tagged Indian pangolin was released at Nandan Kanan Zoological Park (Odisha) following the soft release protocol and provision for post-release monitoring.
- In radio-tagging the movements of a wildlife are tracked by a transmitter. In the past, many wildlife such as tigers, leopards and migratory birds have also been tagged.

### **Introduction:**

- Pangolins are scaly anteater mammals and have large protective keratin scales covering their skin. These are the only known mammals to have this characteristic.
- It uses these keratin scales as armor to shield itself from threats by rolling like a ball against predators.
- Insectivorous – Pangolins are nocturnal and their diet consists mainly of ants and termites, which they catch using their long tongues.
- Of the eight species of pangolin, the Indian pangolin (*Manis crassicaudata*) and the Chinese pangolin (*Manis pentadactyla*) are found in India.

### **Difference:**

- The Indian pangolin is a large anteater covered with 11-13 rows of stripes on the back.
- The Indian pangolin also has a terminal scale on the underside of its tail, which is absent in the Chinese pangolin.

## **Natural habitat:**

### **Indian Pangolin:**

- The Indian pangolin is widely found in the rest of India except the arid regions, the high Himalayas and the Northeast. This species is also found in Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

### **Chinese pangolin**

- The Chinese pangolin is found in the Himalayan foothills in eastern Nepal, Bhutan, northern India, north-eastern Bangladesh and southern China.

## **Pangolin threatened in India**

- Its meat trade in East and Southeast Asian countries, especially China and Vietnam, and poaching for local consumption (such as as a protein source and traditional medicine) are the main reasons for its extinction.
- It is believed that these are the mammals of the world that are trafficked in large quantities.

## **Conservation status**

- In the Red List of International Union for Conservation of Nature-IUCN, the Indian Pangolin is listed as Endangered, while the Chinese Pangolin is classified as Critically Endangered.
- Listed under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 Schedule-I.
- CITES: All pangolin species are listed in Appendix-I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

## **Nandan Kanan Zoological Park**

- It is located 15 km away from Bhubaneswar, the capital of Odisha. It was inaugurated in the year 1960.
- It is the first zoo in the country to become a member of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA).

- The 'World Association of Zoos and Aquariums' is a global alliance of regional associations, national associations, zoos and aquariums dedicated to the care and conservation of animals and their habitats around the world.
- It is recognized as a major zoo for breeding Indian pangolin and white tiger.
- Leopards, mouse deer, lions, rats and vultures are also found here.
- It was also the world's first captive crocodile breeding center where alligators were kept in the year 1980.
- The State Botanic Garden of Nandan Kanan is one of Odisha's leading plant conservation and nature education centers.

**-SWADEEP KUMAR**

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