Jnanpith Award

Syllabus

Prelims – *Current events of national importance*

Mains – *GS Paper 1 – Various facets of Indian art and culture*

Why in News?

A storyteller and eminent Hindi writer, Vinod Kumar Shukla won the Jnanpith award, 1st from Chhattisgarh to win the prize.

- It is **India's highest literary honour**, given annually to Indian writers for their outstanding contribution to literature.
- **Instituted in** – 1961.
- **Instituted by** – Sahu Shanti Prasad Jain, founder of **Bharatiya Jnanpith**, the oldest and most prestigious literary accolade in India.
- It honors authors for their exceptional contributions to literature in Indian languages **listed in the 8th Schedule** (22 languages) of the Constitution.
  - English being included from the 49th award (2013) onwards.
- Once a language gets the award, it is **not eligible** for the award for the next 2 years.
- **Selection Procedure** – Recommendations made by various Language Advisory Committees are placed before the Selection Board it then chooses the awardee for the year.
- The award is not given posthumously, ensuring that it **recognizes living writers** for their literary excellence.
- **Rewards** – The Jnanpith award carries with it a cash of Rs 11 lakh, a bronze statue of the Hindu Goddess Vagdevi and a citation.

The first recipient of the Jnanpith Award was Malayalam poet G. Sankara Kurup in 1965; the first woman to receive the award was Ashapurna Devi in 1976.

Contributions of Vinod Kumar Shukla

- Jnanpith Award is being conferred upon him for his outstanding contribution to Hindi literature, creativity and distinctive writing style.
- He won the Sahitya Akademi award in 1999 for his novel Deewar Mein Ek Khirkee Rahati Thi.
- **Notable works** – Naukar Ki Kameez (1979), which was adapted into a film by director Mani Kaul, and the poetry collection Sab Kuch Hona Bacha Rahega (1992).

- His books have been translated to English, Italian and German languages.

Reference

[Times of India | 59th Jnanpith Awar](#)