

Unseen Comprehension for Practice

Class: VIII

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

The Sahitya Akademi is India's premier institution of letters, with a stated commitment to "promoting Indian literature throughout the world." The Akademi was established by Jawaharlal Nehru, who was also its first Chairperson, and inaugurated on 12th March, 1954. Every year, the Akademi announces awards for authors of works of outstanding literary merit in Indian languages. Awards are currently given for 24 languages, the most recent additions being Bodo and Santhali in 2005. Awards in English began in 1960 – the first recipient was RK Narayan for his novel 'The Guide'. Over the years, the Akademi has introduced other awards such as the 'Bhasha Samman', 'Yuva Sahityakar' and 'Bal Sahitya Puraskar'. The first awards were given in 1955. The award amount was initially Rs. 5000 and has been gradually raised – it has been Rs. 1 lakh since 2009. The Akademi is under the Central Government's Ministry of Culture, but works as an autonomous institution. To be eligible, "the book must be an outstanding contribution to the language and literature to which it belongs". It may be "a creative or a critical work", but must not be a work of translation, an anthology, an abridgement, compilation or annotation, or university research paper. A committee of 3 writers, selected by the Akademi President, out of a panel of 7 names recommended by the Language Advisory Board, chooses the awardee in each language.

Despite occasional controversies in the Akademi's functioning, the main award remains, after the Jnanpith, the most prestigious and coveted literary honour in India. The Akademi gets the winning book translated into several Indian languages, which ensures a wide readership, and organises programmes for the winners in several parts of the country. As it enhances the prestige of the winner, the award also cements the credibility of the Akademi – the honour is, in effect, recognition for an outstanding original work that already has its readers.

A. Choose the correct alternative:

1. Sahitya Akademi was established by-

- i. Mahatma Ghandi
- ii. Jawaharlal Nehru
- iii. Rabindranath Tagore

2. Awards in English began in-

- i. 1955
- ii. 1957
- iii. 1960

3. Awards are currently given for-

- i. 24 languages
- ii. 25 languages
- iii. 26 languages

4. The Akademi was inaugurated on-

- i. 12th March 1955
- ii. 12th May 1960
- iii. 12th March 1954

5. The first awards were given in-

- i. 1954
- ii. 1955
- iii. 1960

B. Complete the following statements with information from the passage:

- 1. Every year, the Akademi announces_____
- 2. The Akademi is under the_____
- 3. The Sahitya Akademi has introduced_____
- 4. The Akademi gets the winning book_____
- 5. To be eligible for this award, the book_____

NOTE: A test will be conducted tomorrow(29.04.2020) on Macavity: The Mystery Cat and Sentence Reordering. All the Best!

