PUBLISHING NEXT
INDUSTRY AWARDS 2024
NOW IN ITS ELEVENTH YEAR
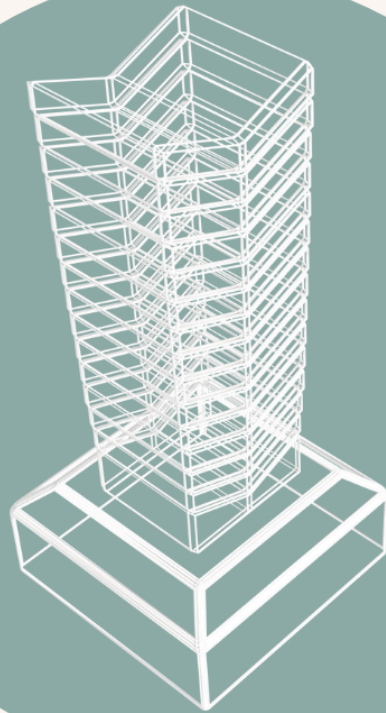
www.publishingnext.in

THE PUBLISHING NEXT INDUSTRY AWARDS 2024

The Publishing Next Industry Awards were instituted in 2014 to reward the talent, initiative, entrepreneurial zeal and untiring efforts of publishers – big, small, independent – that create books. Now in its eleventh year, the Awards are established under the aegis of the platform of the Publishing Next conference, and seek to recognize the innovation and leadership of publishing professionals and others in the book trade. These are the only awards of their kind presented in India.

Categories:

Applications for The Publishing Next Industry Awards 2024 are invited in the following 12 categories:

1. Book of the Year (English)   see page 4
2. Book of the Year (Indian Languages)
3. Children's Book of the Year (For ages up to 8 years)
4. Children's Book of the Year (For Ages 8+)
5. Illustrated Book of the Year (Art, Illustration and Photography)

6. Book Cover of the Year (English)   see page 8
7. Book Cover of the Year (Indian Languages)
8. Book Cover of the Year (Children's Books)

9. Book Illustrator of the Year   see page 11
10. Editor of the Year   see page 13
11. Bookstore of the Year   see page 15
12. Publisher of the Year   see page 17

Please note: If there are less than 5 valid submissions for any of the above categories, and not more than 3 different participating entities, the organisers reserve the right to either cancel that category, or combine the received submissions within another, related, category, without consulting any applicants.

Similarly, the organisers reserve the right to reassign submissions to the appropriate categories in case of the Printed Books and Book Cover categories.

Valid submissions are those submissions that meet all criteria for submission. Publishing houses can apply in more than one category.

> Open for submission of entries: 15th April 2024
> Last day for receipt of entries by email: 15th June 2024
> Last date for printed book copies to arrive: 15th June 2024

Judging Procedure:

A specialist jury, consisting of experienced industry professionals, will evaluate each application and assign a score from 0 to 10 to each of them. These evaluations will be made purely on the basis of the application. In some cases, one or more members of the jury may ask to speak to the applicant. The shortlists will be computed based on the average "scores" assigned to each application. The top 5 will make the shortlist.

The decision of the jury and Publishing Next Advisory Board as regards the evaluation in each category will be final and binding. Information related to evaluation (such as scoresheets, information exchanged between the organisers and members of the jury, etc.) will not be shared with the applicants.

Notifications:

The shortlisted entries and winners will be displayed on the Publishing Next website, and on its social media accounts. In addition, the person who submitted these (shortlisted, winning) entries will also be notified by email. The other applicants will not be informed separately.

Submission of Entries:

The final selection of shortlisted applicants will be based solely on information furnished by the applicant. Applicants are requested to be as clear and precise as possible, at the same providing all information relevant to the category.

Completing the application form:

a. You can apply by filling out the requested details for each category and emailing them to us at **contactus@publishingnext.in**. Applications must be completed in English alone and must be submitted electronically. We will not accept hard copies of the application.

b. There is no "application form". However, all information requested for each category must be provided. A separate application must be provided for each entry, in PDF format. Combined applications will not be accepted. Hard copies of the applications, or applications submitted in other (e,g, .docx) formats will not be accepted.

c. Applications in the Printed Book categories must be accompanied by the logo of the publishing house. Bookstore applications must be accompanied by the logo of the bookstore. An application without a logo will be considered incomplete. Logos must be attached separately in the email, and not embedded in the submission.

d. Applications which are incomplete and refer to non-eligible works shall not be considered. There will be no communication with the applicant in this regard.

e. In the case of the Printed Book categories (Categories 1-5), 3 (three) physical copies of each title must be sent to the address given below:

Publishing Next
Attn: Leonard Fernandes
S-2, II Floor, Adolfo Mansion,
Near Dr. Menezes Hospital (Above Asian Paints Store),
Rua Bernardo da Costa,
Margao GOA 403601
Tel: 98503 98530 / 98531

Publishing Next reserves the right to retain all materials that accompany or form part of an entry. No submissions (including printed book copies) will be returned to the applicants. Publishing Next will ensure that these materials are retained safely.

Communication:

All communication will be provided by email to the email address provided in the application form. Applicants must ensure that the appropriate email address is submitted. In addition a phone number must be provided.

All applications must be submitted via email at contactus@publishingnext.in. For queries, you may use this same email address, or call +91 98503 98530 / 98531

Application Fees:

There are no application fees, *except in the case of the Printed Books categories (Categories 1-5)*, where a fee of Rs. 300 per entry is charged. This amount is used to cover the costs related to shipping the books to the judges. There are no other charges.

Please Note: Submissions without the aforementioned application fees will not be considered even if other criteria are met. These application fees are applicable in the case of the Printed Books categories (Categories 1-5) alone.

Winning Trophy:

Each winner will receive:

- The Publishing Next Industry Award trophy.
- A certificate of merit
- The right to use the Publishing Next Industry Award logo

The runner-up in each category will be presented with a certificate of merit.

There is no monetary component to the Awards.

By virtue of applying, the applicants agree that a representative of their company or they themselves will personally attend, or attend online, the Awards presentation ceremony, if one is held, and if their entries are shortlisted. The dates of the presentation ceremony will be announced sufficiently in advance.

The winners and runners up are requested to receive their awards during the Awards ceremony. Those unable to do so are requested to collect the trophy/certificate from the Publishing Next office in Goa. Owing to the fragile nature of the trophy, we are unable to send them by courier or post.

For more details, email us at contactus@publishingnext.in

Book of the Year

This award seeks to recognize the efforts of publishers to develop a book that pushes the boundaries of editorial, design and technical excellence within the domain of printed books, by using available technology to create a book that enriches its genre.

Please note: This Award does not focus on the literary merit of the book alone. It also evaluates the books for other, technical, and production-related aspects. Publishers are therefore advised to choose the books they submit for this category, and provide all relevant information, keeping this caveat in mind. Please see the evaluation criteria for a better understanding of this category.

Categories:

This award will be presented in 5 categories:

- Printed Book of the Year (English): Most books will fall under this category, including trade and academic books.

- Printed Book of the Year (Indian Languages): You may choose to submit books published in any Indian language except in English (see previous category).

- Printed Children's Book of the Year: Appropriate for ages up to 8 years, in English and other Indian languages.

- Printed Children's Book of the Year: Appropriate for ages 8 and above, in English and other Indian languages.

- Printed Book of the Year (Art, Illustration and Photography), for books that are commonly referred to as Illustrated, or Coffee Table books, in English and other Indian languages.

Criteria for Evaluation:

- First impression: Is it a book that captures one's attention, especially when it is placed on a bookshelf? Is the cover attractive, and does it make one want to look inside the book?

- Quality of production: The applied craftsmanship, and experimentation, with respect to design and production values keeping in mind the nature of the book and its intended audience (including choices made with respect to layout and typesetting, illustrations employed if any, especially in the case of children's books, choice of paper, binding and finish, and the quality of the overall design)

- Editorial aspects: The style of language employed considering the target readership (the plot of the book, in case of fiction books, will not be evaluated).

- Relevance of the book in the present context: Rationale behind the author/publisher to invest in the book. Is it a "fresh" book or is it one that has been overdone?

- Contribution of the book towards the enrichment of its genre: Is the topic of the book or any of its features worth emulating? Has a standard been set?

Who Can Apply:

Publishing companies based in India (or branches of foreign publishers based in India) or self-published authors. Indian reprints or licensed editions of titles originating outside India are not eligible for this category. However, translations of foreign-language or Indian-language titles into (other) Indian languages including English, and published in India, are eligible. Anthologies can also be submitted.

Only books published in India, on 1st January 2023 or anytime thereafter, will be considered. Books previously submitted for this category should not be submitted again this year. Such books will be automatically considered ineligible.

Each publisher can submit only 3 (three) titles in each category. Submissions for the Printed Book (Indian Languages) can be in any Indian language. However, the application must be submitted in English alone.

Submission Guidelines:

In a PDF file of not more than 3 pages, and not exceeding 1500 words:

1. Indicate the category for which you are applying. A publisher can submit only 3 (three) titles in each category.

2. Tell us about the book - why you chose to publish it, how it came to be acquired (commissioned), what were the design considerations, how it was marketed and sold. Tell us about the book itself, if there were any significant decisions made with regard to its production, the story behind its cover, and any illustrations that were used. Tell us the story behind the book, and why you think it should be awarded the best book in the category. You could also comment on its critical and commercial success, or if there was something special in the way it was marketed. Tell us everything about the book. Don't hold back.

In addition, please include within your application:
3. Information about the book:
   a. Title,
   b. ISBN,
   c. Publishing Imprint / Publishing House
4. Language of publication
5. Names of authors and other contributors (e.g. translators, illustrators, editors)
6. Date of publication of the book (Month and Year). Only books published in India, on 1st January 2023 or anytime thereafter, will be considered.
7. Contact details of the applicant: Name, telephone number and email address

8. The front cover image, in jpg format, not exceeding 100KB (ideally 400px x 600px). Please do not embed this within your PDF file, rather paste it separately in your email.

9. A high resolution image of your publishing house logo, not exceeding 100KB. Include this too separately in your email.

Combine all the requested information (points 1-7, as listed above) into a single pdf file for each title that you are submitting. Remember - one pdf per title. Do not include information related to more than 1 title in a single pdf file (so 3 pdf files for 3 titles, not one for all three). All applications for each category can, however, be sent together in one email. In addition the email will have requirements 8, 9, and 10.

Separately, please send 3 physical copies of each title by post.

Application Process:

a. Please email your application to contactus@publishingnext.in with "Submission - Printed Book of the Year - [Category Type]" in the subject line. Applications must be sent in English alone. We will not accept hard copies of the application.

b. Please do not combine applications for different books. Please send one application (in a single PDF file) per title. All applications for each category can, however, be sent together in one email.

c. The postal address to send the books is:
Publishing Next
Attn: Leonard Fernandes
S-2, II Floor, Adolfo Mansion,
Near Dr. Menezes Hospital (Above Asian Paints Store),
Rua Bernardo da Costa,
Margao GOA 403601
Tel: 98503 98530

Combine all books (for all entries, if more than one title is being submitted) in one shipment.

Application Fees:

An application fee of **Rs. 300 per title submitted** must be paid. This must be paid electronically and a proof of the payment sent separately by email. You can combine payments for all categories, and all submissions within each category, into one payment. Note that this fee is only for categories 1-5, i.e. for the Printed Books

categories. After payment is made, **please send an email with details of the transaction**.

Note:The application fees are Rs. 300 per submission, not Rs 300 per copy submitted. **Please do not pay by cheque.**

For electronic transfer of the application fees, the following are the bank details:
A/c name: Publishing Next
A/c number: 11860200091803
A/c Type: Current Account
Bank Name and Branch: Federal Bank, Margao (Goa) Branch
IFSC: FDRL0001186

Please Note: Submissions without the aforementioned application fees will not be considered even if other criteria are met.

Note that we cannot provide an invoice for this amount. We can, upon request, provide an acknowledgement of receipt.

d. The last date for submission of entries is 15th June 2024.
e. The last date for printed copies to arrive is 15th June 2024. The books must be delivered to the address mentioned above. We take no responsibility for books misplaced during transit. We will also not pick up the books from the courier warehouse. Kindly ensure that books are delivered to the address.
f. Only the application (in PDF format) will be considered for evaluation. Besides the copies of the book and the application, no other material will be considered.

Book Cover of the Year

This award seeks to reward good cover design and the ability of the designer to adequately exploit the visual medium to convey the "soul of the book" and push the boundaries on book cover design. It will take into account not just the illustrations and typography employed on the front cover, but will consider the entire cover including its spine and back (and flaps, if any).

Categories:
This award will be awarded in 3 categories:
● Book Cover of the Year (for books in English)
● Book Cover of the Year (for books in other Indian Languages)

- Book Cover of the Year (for children's books in English and other Indian Languages)

Criteria For Evaluation:

- Appropriateness for the subject/plot of the book: Does the cover adequately represent / point to the book's contents? Is it genre-appropriate?

- Aesthetic appeal of the cover: Relates to the choice of images and typography, layout and design. Does the cover engage the reader enough? Is the cover too cluttered in a way that confuses the reader? In the case of children's books, is the cover adequately representative of the content, and age-appropriate?

- Design of spine, back cover, and flaps (if present)

- Degree of experimentation with art, typography and quality of design: This criteria seeks to establish the degree to which the envelope is pushed in matters relating to the elements of the cover. Is a standard being set?

The cover design should stand on its own. We deliberately do not ask for copies of the book because we intend to have the cover evaluated mainly for its design.

Who Can Apply:

Book cover designers, or publishing houses or self-published authors, on their behalf. The publishing houses must be based in India (or can be branches of foreign publishers based in India).

Indian reprints or licensed editions of titles originating outside India are not eligible. Entries should pertain only to those books published on 1st January 2023 or thereafter. Covers previously submitted should not be submitted again.

There must be separate applications for each cover that is submitted (e,g, 3 pdf applications for 3 covers, not one for all three).

The books for which the covers are submitted in the Indian Language category can be in any Indian language. However, the application must be submitted in English alone.

Please note that each cover designer, or publisher, can submit only 3 (three) entries in each category. The entire cover (including the spine and the back cover) must be submitted to qualify for evaluation. Partial covers will not be considered.

Cover Image Details:

- The entire book cover, in PDF or JPG format, must be provided via a link to a server from which it can be downloaded (preferably Google Docs or Dropbox).

- The size of the cover file should be not more than 1 MB.

- The entire cover should be provided i.e. the front, back and spine (along with flaps, if any). Partial cover images (e.g. only the front cover image) will not be considered.
- The link must be accessible indefinitely (at least till the results are declared). Kindly ensure that the link does not "expire" after a finite period of time. Links not accessible will not be pursued further. Google Docs and Dropbox are good options. WeTransfer is not. Ensure that the files can be easily accessed and that permissions to access need not be sought.

- Please do not paste the cover within the application. Covers must be submitted separately, as mentioned in point a) above.

Submission Guidelines:

In a PDF file, of not more than 3 pages, mention:

1. A link from which the entire cover file can be downloaded. We will not accept covers dispatched by email or on a CD. Also please ensure that the link is provided for each cover, not for a set of covers zipped together.

2. An explanation for the choice of the elements you have used for the cover. If there was something unique in the way the cover was conceptualised, designed and produced, mention it. Tell us something about the book too, so we can understand your choices for the cover design. Anything that can help your application.

In addition, please include, within your application:
3. Information about the book:
   - i. Title,
   - ii. ISBN,
   - iii. Publishing Imprint / Publishing House
4. Language of publication
5. Name of the designer(s): This is absolutely necessary as this award is presented to the designer of the cover, not to the publisher of the book
6. Contact details of the applicant: Name, telephone number and email address
7. Date of publication of the book (month and year)

8. A photograph of the cover designer. We need this in case the submission is shortlisted for the Award. It should be attached within the email separately, and not included in the aforementioned PDF.

Combine all the requested information (point 1-7, as listed above) into a single pdf file for each cover that is submitted. Remember - one pdf per cover. Kindly do not include information related to more than 1 cover in a single pdf file (so 3 pdf files for 3 titles, not 1 for all 3). All applications within a single category can, however, be sent together in one email.

Application Process:

a. Email your application to contactus@publishingnext.in with "Submission - Book Cover of the Year - [Category Type]" in the subject line. Applications must be completed in English alone. Please do not send hard copies of the application.

b. Kindly do not combine applications for different book covers. Send one application (i.e. one PDF file) per cover. All applications (for all covers) in a single category can be sent together in one email.

c. The last date for submission is 15th June 2024.

d. Only the application (in PDF format) will be considered for evaluation. Besides the cover image (provided via a link), and the application, no other material will be considered.

Application Fees:
There are no application fees for this category.

Book Illustrator of the Year

This award seeks to acknowledge the role of an illustrator in the publishing industry, especially as publishers endeavour to improve the quality and acceptance of their books through the use of engaging and captivating illustrations.

Who Can Apply:
Book illustrators, who have worked with publishing companies based in India (or with branches of foreign publishers based in India). Publishing houses can also nominate an illustrator/ illustrators they have worked with. In the case of a nomination, the nominating publishing house may itself provide the endorsement letter.

Please note that this award will be presented to an illustrator for a body of work that may span more than one book. While this body of work may include book covers, the illustrator's work developed for the books' interiors, or for marketing campaigns related to the book, can also be submitted. The books cited within the application can be in any Indian language, including English, but must have been published in India. The application must be submitted in English alone.

Kindly note: Members of the jury have the option to contact the illustrator during the evaluation process. For this purpose, kindly ensure that a)the illustrator knows and approves of the nomination (in case he or she has not nominated him/herself) and b) the illustrator is willing to speak to a jury member at a time of mutual convenience.

Criteria For Evaluation:

- Enhancement of written content: Do the illustrations further enhance the textual presentation of ideas and facts? Do they help better understand the narrative?

- Appropriateness for the subject/genre: Do the illustrations / design adequately represent (or point to) the page's contents? Are they genre- and age-appropriate?

- Aesthetic appeal of illustrations: This criteria addresses the choice of images / typography, layout and design. Are design norms adhered to? Is there a degree of experimentation with these norms in a manner that is pleasing to the eye? Does the illustrator have a unique style that sets her/his body of work apart?

- Commercial acceptance: Evidence of acceptance of the illustrator's style, whether in its role in the commercial success of the book, or of the illustrator's engagement with various book types/publishers.

Submission Guidelines:

In a PDF document of not more than 10 pages (including the letter of recommendation detailed later), submit the following requirements. Any supporting visuals should be included in the PDF:

1. A brief bio of the illustrator

2. Provide instances of illustrations explaining the illustrator's work in each case. These instances should ideally span work done for more than one book. Ensure that the images used are of sufficiently low resolution so that the total size of your application does not exceed 4 MB, at the same ensuring clarity of detail. In each

case, include the whole spread, not just the illustration, so that the jury gets an idea of the context of the illustration (or, if book covers are being submitted, submit the full cover, including the spine and back cover). It is better that a diverse body of work is submitted. In each instance, you can provide a small explanatory note.

Please focus on work done since January 2023, although work done previously can also be included.

In addition, the submission must include

3. a letter of endorsement from a publisher, or any author, with whom you have worked, must be submitted. This letter will speak to the level of comfort and the quality of professional relationship both publisher/author and illustrator had while working together. The letter forms an important part of the application because it conveys the illustrator's ability to work in a team towards completion of a project. This letter must be submitted in PDF format and appended to the application.

4. A photograph of the illustrator. In case this illustrator is shortlisted for the Award, we will use this photograph while announcing the shortlist. The image must be sent separately within the application email- **do not embed it within the pdf file**.

5. The illustrator's contact details, should a jury member wish to contact her/him.

Application Process:
a. Email your application to contactus@publishingnext.in with "Submission - Book Illustrator of the Year" in the subject line. Applications must be completed in English alone. Do not send hard copies of the application.
b. The last date for submission is 15th June 2024.
c. Only the PDF submission (application + endorsement) will be considered for evaluation. No other material will be considered.

Application Fees:
There are no application fees for this category.

Editor of the Year

This Award will be presented to an editor (managing editors, commissioning editors, book editors) who goes that extra mile for her/his authors, the lists she/he manages and her/his contribution to the overall publishing business. It seeks to reward excellence in all-round publishing, irrespective of the genre or format, allied to sales

and awards success. We are looking for editors who will take chances on authors, on the kinds of books chosen for publication, and one who is able to dig in and find creative solutions to help their books succeed in a competitive marketplace.

Who Can Apply:

Anyone working as an editor in an India-based publishing house (including Indian branches of foreign publishing businesses) that publishes in any Indian language, including English. Freelance editors can also apply. Editors can apply themselves, or publishing houses / authors, can apply on their behalf.

Kindly note: Members of the jury have the option to contact the editor during the evaluation process. For this purpose, kindly ensure that a)the editor knows and approves of the nomination (in case he or she has not nominated him/herself) and b) the editor is willing to speak to a jury member at a time of mutual convenience.

Criteria For Evaluation:

- Author management, development and support: This criteria judges how closely the editor has worked with the author, especially new authors, to shape the manuscript into a good book. Has the editor presented the author with new ways to develop a plot, or an argument, or provided sufficient ideas that the author could use to make a more compelling statement of the work?

- List development and curation: Evidence of the editor's involvement in the development and curation of a coherent, consistent and successful list

- Ability to work with other departments in the publishing house: Evaluates the editor's ability and interest in working with other departments towards the development of the book. Does the editor, for instance, offer suggestions on the cover design? Or does she work with the marketing department/ personnel to ensure that the main aspects of the books are adequately marketed?

Submission Guidelines:

In a PDF document of not more than 6 pages (including the letter of recommendation mentioned below in point 5), submit the following information. Any supporting visuals should be included in the PDF:

1. A brief bio
2. Information related to author – particularly new – management and support, and of authors being developed creatively and/or commercially

3. Information related to development and curation of a coherent, consistent and successful list. If the editor has bucked the trend and taken a call on a "different" kind of book, we'd like to hear about that.

4. Instances of working with other departments beyond the boundaries of acquisition and editing, towards development of a successful book. Again, if the editor has brought his/her experience to bear on an innovative marketing campaign, or an unconventional presentation style for the book, include evidence of that in the application.

Please focus on work done since January 2023, although work done previously may also be quoted.

In addition, please submit:

5. One or more letters of endorsement from a publisher, or an author, that the editor has worked with. This letter will speak to the level of comfort and the quality of professional relationship both publisher/author and editor had while working together, and is therefore an important part of the application. This letter must be in PDF format and added to the aforementioned application.

6. A photograph of the editor. In case this editor is shortlisted for the Award, we will use this photograph while announcing the shortlist. Please send this photograph separately in the email - do not include it within the pdf file.

7. The editor's contact details, should a member of the jury wish to contact her/him.

Application Process:

a. Please email your application to contactus@publishingnext.in with "Submission - Editor of the Year" in the subject line. Applications must be completed in English alone. Please do not send hard copies of the application.

b. The last date for submission is 15th June 2024.

c. Only the PDF submission (application + endorsement) will be considered for evaluation. No other material will be considered.

Application Fees:

There are no application fees for this category.

Bookshop of the Year

This Award seeks to recognize bookshops that have become an indispensable hub of their local communities, those that have thrived through great service, an in-depth knowledge of their readers' tastes, commitment towards developing a unique experience, and their energy and imagination, while providing a great reader experience.

Criteria For Evaluation:

- Customer Service: Steps taken to provide customers with the best possible service and attract more readers

- Sustainability: Proof that the enterprise is "growing". Steps that the bookstore has taken to market itself to ensure that customers keep coming in.

- Operational efficiency: Steps taken to make the store an exciting place to shop in.

- Events and activities organised in-store: Activities planned for customers, including visits "outside", such as those to schools, during the year so that the bookstore becomes known for activities related to literature and culture.

- Promotion of the reading culture: This criteria concerns steps taken to promote literature of different types, steps, if any, taken to promote the local literature and language, and measures taken to understand readers' tastes and fulfil them.

Who Can Apply:

Any bookshop can apply. If you are part of a chain of bookstores, you can apply for just one location. In case the bookshop is selling items other than books, more than 75% of the revenue should come from sale of books. In case the bookshop also has an attached library, your application should focus on the operations related to the bookshop alone.

Submission Guidelines:

In a PDF document of not more than 10 pages, submit:

a. Details of initiatives that have enhanced the public experience of your bookshop, such as author visits, book club meetings, children's events, interactions with schools, or other services that reach out to the community around you. These initiatives should have been undertaken after 1st January 2023.

b. Evidence of book stocking practices that reflect community tastes, and/or introduces new genres and authors to readers.

c. Details of marketing programmes you have undertaken to get more people to walk into your shop. How did you reach out to your clientele, especially during the lockdown?

d. Details of year-on-year performance measures such as financial performance (if not confidential), number of books sold, additions to customer loyalty schemes you may have introduced, or to your email newsletter/Whatsapp list. We are looking for measures that indicate the growth of your bookshop within your locality.

Your application can include visuals such as photographs of the interiors and of bookstore events, media clippings, etc. However, take care to ensure that the size of the PDF file does not exceed 4MB.

Your email, containing the application, should also include a high resolution image of the logo of your bookshop.

In addition, let us know:
 a. The name of your bookshop (indicate if it is part of a chain)
 b. The postal address of your bookshop
 c. The year of establishment of your bookshop
 d. An email address and telephone number that allows us to contact you
 e. Your name and designation (indicate if you are owner or manager of the bookshop)

Kindly note: Members of the jury have the option to contact the bookseller during the evaluation process. We will contact the primary bookseller (whose contact details are provided above, in d.) to schedule an online meeting, should a member of the jury wish to speak to them.

Application Process:
 a. Please email your application to contactus@publishingnext.in with "Submission - Bookshop of the Year" in the subject line. Applications must be completed in English alone. Please do not send hard copies of the application.
 b. The last date for submission is 15th June 2024.
 c. Only the PDF submission will be considered for evaluation. No other material will be considered. Photographs and/or media clippings of events at your bookshop, if any, must be included in the PDF file you submit.

Application Fees:
There are no application fees for this category.

Publisher of the Year:

This award will recognise an outstanding publishing house that has set a benchmark for excellence in publishing. Entries for this award must demonstrate a high level of publishing excellence (whether in content curated for publishing, quality of editing, or quality of design), and innovation and marketing success *commensurate with the size of the publishing company*, based on instances that have primarily occurred during the period under consideration i.e. after 1st January 2023. An appetite for risk and commercial acumen must also be suitably demonstrated.

Criteria for Evaluation:

- Strength of list (s): This criteria examines the books the publisher has chosen to publish. Are they different from the books that are otherwise published? Does their choice of books demonstrate a willingness to experiment with subjects, themes or concepts? Are their books engaging? Are they books readers should be excited about? Is the publisher one who experiments with new and bold concepts, who will defy market dictates, and challenge the status quo?

- Marketing measures adopted and success thereof: This criteria looks at measures the publisher has adopted for itself and how close it is to achieving success by that measure. Has the publisher taken steps to sustain its business? Will it grow?

- Appetite for risk and innovation: The publisher's appetite for risk in engaging with, and developing, new authors, will be evaluated here.

  Any innovative steps the publisher has taken - whether in the design and development of their books, or in their promotion and marketing, or even in the printing technologies they have adopted (we are looking for things the publisher did differently, not necessarily bigger), will be considered under this criteria. So also, any steps the publisher may have taken to encourage inclusivity and diversity in its list will be considered.

- Industry recognition/awards: Awards and other industry recognition granted to it during the period under consideration. Awards granted to its publications will also be considered.

- Other Information: Additional information that may convince the jury that this publisher is the one to beat. This information could include, for example, any leadership role the publisher has adopted within the publishing industry, or its initiatives to represent the industry, shape its future, whether in policy matters or other key issues affecting it. Or, for example, if the publisher has taken steps towards an environmentally responsible publishing programme, here is where it would score points for such a step.

Who Can Apply:

Any publishing house based in India (or a branch of a foreign publisher, that is based in India). Companies that offer self-publishing services cannot apply for this award.

Submission Guidelines:

In a PDF document of not more than 10 pages, submit the following information:

a. Information about the publishing house - official name, year of establishment, name of a contact person, postal address, email address and phone number.

b. Information about your list during the evaluation period. Let us know why you published the books you published, the rationale behind choosing the titles you decided to publish. You could give examples about certain books, even let us know how they fared in the market (you could quote sales figures, testimonials, book reviews here).

c. Author Development: Show us if you have discovered creative and commercially significant debut authors. Similarly, tell us about your investments in retaining the authors you have had, and in developing your back list.

d. Innovation in Publishing: Show us if you have taken unusual steps - whether in the design and development of your books in all formats, or in their promotion and marketing, or even in the technologies you have adopted. Here, you can also mention if you have contributed to initiatives to improve publishing and distribution in India, or to grow the market, or encourage reading, improve literacy levels, etc.

e. Inclusivity and Diversity: Here we look to reward publishers who have made tangible efforts towards encouraging "different kinds of literature", and have published authors from different backgrounds. Tell us about your efforts and the results they have yielded. Tell us what you did differently, rather than just following a trend.

f. Evidence of sales and awards success. You can include testimonials and media clippings here.

All additional material must be appended to the main application file so that a single PDF is submitted.

Kindly note: Members of the jury have the option to contact the publisher during the evaluation process. We will contact the person whose contact details are provided above, in a, to schedule an online meeting, should a member of the jury wish to speak to them. For this purpose, mention someone who is conversant with the policies of the company, as also is familiar with your application.

Application Process:

a. Evaluations will be judged mainly on performance after 1st January 2023. If it is important to refer to information that occurred prior to this date, you may include such information.

b. Please email your application to contactus@publishingnext.in with "Submission - Publisher of the Year" in the subject line. Applications must be completed in English

alone, irrespective of the language(s) you publish in. Please do not send hard copies of the application.

c. The last date for submission is 15th June 2024.

d. Only the PDF submission will be considered for evaluation. No other material will be considered.

Summary of Requirements

Here's a summary of all requirements in each category:

Category	Application	Application Fees	Hard Copies Required?	Other Requirements
Printed Books	Application PDF (sent by email, one for each title)	Rs. 300 per title	Yes, 3 copies per title must be sent.	Book Cover image, publishing house logo
Covers	Application PDF, that includes a link to the cover image	No application fees	Not required	Cover designer photograph, contact information
Editor, Illustrator	Application PDF	No application fees	Not applicable	Applicant photograph, contact information
Bookstore	Application PDF	No application fees	Not applicable	Bookstore logo, contact information
Publisher	Application PDF	No application fees	Not applicable	Publishing house logo, contact info.

Finally....

One final note on things to keep in mind with applying:

a. Make sure your application adheres to all requirements. Similarly ensure that all "questions" are answered, and that the evaluation criteria are addressed.

b. Each entry should be submitted in a separate PDF file. You can send multiple entries (multiple PDF files) within the same email. However, we prefer to receive one email per category.

c. Since we acknowledge every email, please contact us if you have not received an acknowledgement by 30th June 2024.

d. Choose your submissions carefully, especially for the printed book and cover categories. The evaluation criteria should guide you on this. We are looking for production values in addition to editorial content, so choose a book, or cover, that are good candidates for the Award.

e. Ensure that previously submitted entries are not submitted again.

f. Also make sure all contact details provided are correct.

g. The last date for submissions is 15th June 2024.

For more details, email contactus@publishingnext.in or call +91 98503 98530