



## Emerging Readers Winner Citation

The Neev Book Award for distinguished children's literature recognises outstanding writing that leads to a fuller understanding of Indian lives and stories -- books that build empathy and resilience, explore conflict, negotiate identity, and inspire change. This annual award encourages and promotes Indian children's literature globally.

Publishers across India submit titles for consideration. An independent jury uses a rigorous process to establish a shortlist in four categories: Early Years, Emerging Readers, Junior Readers, and Young Adult. The criteria include the quality of writing, interpretation of theme, development of plot, portrayal of characters, crafting of setting, and the overall presentation of the book. After months of deliberation, the four books chosen for this award are those which best voice the evolution of Indian lives and stories.

**The 2021 Neev Book Award, in the category of Emerging Readers, is presented to *The Miracle on Sunderbaag Street*, written by Nandita da Cunha, illustrated by Priya Kuriyan, and published by Kalpavriksh.**

Relationships, like the environment, need a special nurturing that involves kindness and patience. The subtle parallel between a barren heart and barren land brings forth a deeply relevant theme of the miracle of community where both the young and elderly co-exist and also inspire each other. The stand out collage art work complements the story beautifully and rewards repeated examination.

