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## Inside the capital's celebration of India's richest literary prize

Benyamin's *Jasmine Days* wins the inaugural JCB Prize for Literature

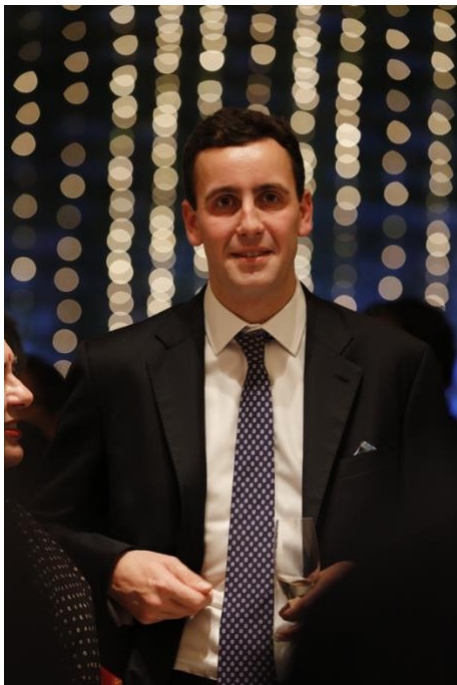
The recent event for the [2018 JCB Prize for Literature](#) saw [New Delhi](#)'s finest gathered at the recently renovated Oberoi Hotel, clinking flutes and signing books beside calla lilies and Sooni Taraporevala's portraits of the five stars of the evening. Author and Literary Director of the prize, Rana Dasgupta set the tone for the night with his opening [speech](#), gently reminding the room that there was something larger at play here. "We live in fractured times and [translation](#) is one of the things that can bring us together," he said. And Benyamin's *Jasmine Days*, translated by Shahnaz Habib and published by Juggernaut Books, turned out to be the big winner of the night. Here's a peek at the highlights from 2018's JCB Prize for Literature event.



Representing translator Shahnaz Habib, R Sivapriya poses with Benyamin, winner of the 2018 JCB Prize for Literature, Vivek Shanbhag, chairperson of jury, and Lord Bamford, chairman, JCB



Benjamin, winner of the 2018 JCB Prize for Literature, with Lord Bamford, chairman, JCB



Alfred Chambers,  
JCB Literature Foundation



Portraits of the shortlisted authors by  
Sooni Taraporevala for *VogueIndia*



Shubhangi Swarup,  
shortlisted author for the  
2018 JCB Prize for Literature



David Abraham and Jiten Thukral  
with Benjamin



Amitabha Bagchi, shortlisted author for the 2018 JCB Prize for Literature





Author Pheroza Godrej



(From left) 2018 Jury of The JCB Prize for Literature: Arshita Sattar, Vivek Shanbhag (chairperson), Rana Dasgupta (literary director), Priyamvada Natarajan and Rohan Murty