



THE JCB PRIZE FOR  
LITERATURE

## PRESS RELEASE

**The 2019 JCB Prize for Literature : jury announcement**  
*Second edition of India's richest literary prize continues to celebrate  
the best of Indian fiction*

### INTRODUCING THE 2019 JURY



Anjum Hasan  
Author & critic



Pradip Krishen (Chair)  
Filmmaker & environmentalist



K R Meera  
Author



Parvati Sharma  
Author



Arvind Subramanian  
Economist



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**New Delhi, March 27, 2019:** The JCB Prize for Literature announced today the jury for this year's prize. The jury comprises **Anjum Hasan**, author and critic; **Pradip Krishen**, filmmaker and environmentalist (Chair); **K R Meera**, author; **Parvati Sharma**, author; and **Arvind Subramanian**, economist and former Chief Economic Adviser to the Government of India.

*"Each year, the JCB Prize for Literature jury is conceived in such a way as to reflect a wide variety of backgrounds and experiences. This is how we ensure the verdicts are fresh and interesting to a large number of readers. The members of the 2019 jury are all passionate readers, very eminent within their respective fields, and I think they will have fascinating debates about the books we send in their direction."* – **Rana Dasgupta, Literary Director**

For additional information and interview request please contact Amrita Kapoor or Shriya Pant at Flint Culture [amrita.kapoor@flint-culture.com](mailto:amrita.kapoor@flint-culture.com) | +91 - 9818058964 and Shriya Pant [shriya.pant@flint-culture.com](mailto:shriya.pant@flint-culture.com) | +91 8433039712



Entries will close on 30<sup>th</sup> April. The jury will announce the longlist of ten titles on September 4th, followed by the shortlist of five titles on October 4th. The winner of the Rs 25-lakh prize will be announced at the awards dinner on November 2nd. If the winning work is a translation, the translator will be awarded an additional Rs 10 lakh. Each of the five shortlisted authors will receive Rs 1 lakh; if a shortlisted work is a translation, the translator will receive Rs 50,000.

*“I’m honoured and immensely pleased at this extraordinary opportunity to peer deeply into a year’s worth of Indian fiction. It is especially gratifying that the JCB Prize for Literature goes out of its way to include Indian fiction in languages other than English and bringing it to the attention of a wider audience. It’s going to be intense and together with a set of wonderful colleagues on the jury, I’m looking forward to playing my part in this year’s selection.”* **Pradip Krishen, Jury Chairman**

The 2018 Prize was awarded to *Jasmine Days* by Benyamin, translated from the Malayalam by Shahnaz Habib and published by Juggernaut Books. Through the life of radio jockey Sameera Parvin, it describes the lives of foreign workers caught up in the turmoil of the Arab Spring, a subject that few Indian writers have previously approached. Since it appeared on the JCB Prize for Literature longlist, *Jasmine Days* has reached new audiences in India and abroad, and has seen a dramatic rise in sales.

## NOTES TO EDITORS

### ABOUT THE JCB PRIZE FOR LITERATURE

The JCB Prize for Literature was set up in 2018 to enhance the prestige of literary achievement in India and create greater visibility for contemporary Indian writing. The prize encourages translations and aims to introduce new audiences to works of Indian literature written in languages other than their own. It is funded by JCB and administered by the JCB Literature Foundation.

### ABOUT JCB

JCB is a leading global manufacturer of earthmoving and construction equipment, the JCB Group has been active in India since 1979. Through its subsidiary, JCB India Ltd, the UK company today employs 5,000 people in India, and operates five state-of-the-art factories: in Ballabgarh (near New Delhi), in Pune, and in Jaipur. Products made in these factories have been exported to more than 93 countries around the world. Over its journey of close to four decades in India, JCB, through its products has contributed significantly towards the development of Infrastructure in the country. JCB is committed to CSR with a focus on communities around its factories in India and today its outreach extends to 54 Government schools and nine vocational training centres through which it reaches out to 16,000 students and trainees.

For information about the Prize, please visit: [www.thejcbprize.org](http://www.thejcbprize.org). For updates, look for [@thejcbprize](https://www.facebook.com/thejcbprize) on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.



## ABOUT THE JURY

**ANJUM HASAN** is the author of the novels *The Cosmopolitans*, *Neti, Neti* and *Lunatic in my Head*, the short story collections *A Day in the Life* and *Difficult Pleasures*, and the poetry collection *Street on the Hill*. Anjum was, until recently, Books Editor at *The Caravan*. She has been Charles Wallace Writer-in-Residence at the University of Canterbury and visiting professor of creative writing at Ashoka University. She is currently a Homi Bhabha Fellow. Her short stories, essays and poems have been published in *Granta*, *Baffler*, *Five Dials*, *Wasafiri*, *Drawbridge*, *The Los Angeles Review of Books*, *The Asia Literary Review*, *Caravan*, and several anthologies.

**PRADIP KRISHEN (CHAIR)** is a filmmaker who taught himself botany and became an ‘ecological gardener’, restoring degraded habitats with native plants, mostly in the desert regions of western India. He is currently Project Director of the Rao Jodha Desert Rock Park, Jodhpur, the Abha Mahal garden, Nagaur and Kishan Bagh, Jaipur, and he curates the garden of the Calico Museum, Ahmedabad. He has written *The Trees of Delhi: A Field Guide* and *The Jungle Trees of Central India: A Field Guide For Tree-Spotter*s. His films include *Massey Sahib* (1986), *In Which Annie Gives It Those Ones* (1988) and *Electric Moon* (1991).

**K R MEERA** writes fiction in Malayalam and essays in English, and has published four novels, five novellas, six collections of short fiction, two children’s novels and two collections of essays. She has won all the major Malayalam literary awards, including the Kendra Sahitya Akademi Award, Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award (for best novel and for best short fiction), the Vayalar Award and the Odakuzhal Award. Her works in translation include *Hangwoman*, *The Poison of Love*, *The Unseeing Idol of Light*, *Yellow is the Colour of Longing* and *The Gospel of Yudas*.

**PARVATI SHARMA** began her writing career with *The Dead Camel and Other Stories of Love*, which earned her praise for its depictions of love and sexuality in urban India. Her novella, *Close to Home*, was acclaimed as ‘tender, acute and pulsing with real Indian life’. She has also written a book for children, *The Story of Babur*, and, most recently, a historical biography, *Jahangir: An Intimate Portrait of a Great Mughal*. Sharma lives in New Delhi, where she has worked as a travel writer, editor and journalist.

**ARVIND SUBRAMANIAN** was Chief Economic Adviser to the Government of India and is now a Visiting Lecturer at Harvard University. His award-winning book *Eclipse: Living in the Shadow of China's Economic Dominance* was published in September 2011. In 2011 *Foreign Policy* named him one of the world’s top 100 global thinkers. He has written on India, growth, trade, development, institutions, aid, climate change, oil, intellectual property, the WTO, China, and Africa. He has published widely in academic and other journals.