

The JCB Prize for Literature presents its 2018 winner and other stars at the ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival

Readers can discover books from the 2018 Prize at the JCB Prize for Literature Festival Bookstore

National, January 23, 2019: India's richest literary award, the **JCB Prize for Literature**, presents a special discussion series at the ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival, offering audiences a deeper insight into the winner of the 2018 Prize, the shortlisted books, and the jury. The greatest books of the year will also be available in the JCB Prize for Literature Festival Bookstore, managed by Full Circle, where authors will be interacting with the attendees and signing books.

The **JCB Prize for Literature Series** comprises four sessions with an exciting line-up of speakers, including the winner of the 2018 JCB Prize for Literature, **Benyamin**, and his translator **Shahnaz Habib**; shortlisted authors **Amitabha Bagchi**, **Anuradha Roy**, and **Perumal Murugan**; jury member **Priyamvada Natarajan** and **Harish Trivedi** from the advisory council.

The list of sessions is as follows:

- On **January 24th**, we have '**One Indian Literature**' where jury member **Priyamvada Natarajan**, advisory council member **Harish Trivedi**, and founder of Seagull Books, **Naveen Kishore**, discuss how Indian literature is cosmopolitan with many languages, cultures, and histories, but is rarely seen together. In these times of political and cultural fragmentation, how do we see it as one?
- The session on **25th January**, '**Jasmine Days: Winner of the 2018 JCB Prize for Literature**', will have **Benyamin** talk about his writing process, the political duty of writers as well as the literary and stylistic choices he made while writing his novel that won him 25 lakhs. He will be in conversation with his translator **Shahnaz Habib**, writer **N.S. Madhavan**, and executive editor of Mathrubhumi **Rajeev Punnoli**.
- On the same day, shortlisted authors **Amitabha Bagchi** (*Half the Night is Gone*) and **Anuradha Roy** (*All the Lives we Never Lived*) will be in conversation with author **Malashri Lal** in the session '**The Craft of Fiction**'. They will read from their novels, explore the craft of fiction, and share the techniques they have employed in their celebrated works.
- On **27th January**, there is '**Poonachi: A Story of Our Times**'. Shortlisted author **Perumal Murugan** along with his translator **N. Kalyan Raman** and publisher **Kannan Sundaram** will chat with author **Anita Nair** about *Poonachi: The Story of a Black Goat*, of the choices before us as a society and as a nation, and the increasing vulnerability of artists and writers.

"The 2018 JCB Prize for Literature culminates at the ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival 2019. It is truly exciting to bring the greatest books from the country to a large audience of readers and lovers of literature from different parts of the world." – Rana Dasgupta, Literary Director

To know more about The JCB Prize for Literature, please visit: www.thejcbprize.org

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ABOUT THE JCB PRIZE FOR LITERATURE

Founded in 2018, the JCB Prize for Literature celebrates distinguished fiction by Indian writers. It is India's richest literary award. The Prize aims to enhance the prestige of literary fiction in India, and to create greater visibility for contemporary Indian writing. With a special focus on translation, it also aims to introduce readers to works of Indian literature in languages other than their own.

The **Literary Director** of the JCB Prize for Literature is the novelist and essayist, **Rana Dasgupta**. One of the responsibilities of the Literary Director is to appoint, each year, a Prize jury of distinguished individuals from a variety of backgrounds. All members of the jury read all novels entered for the Prize after which they jointly select a longlist (of ten books), a shortlist (of five), and a winner.

The 2018 jury consisted of: novelist **Vivek Shanbhag**, filmmaker **Deepa Mehta**, Yale University astrophysicist and writer **Priyamvada Natarajan**, entrepreneur and scholar **Rohan Murty**, and author and translator, **Arshia Sattar**. The inaugural Prize was won by **Benyamin** for the novel *Jasmine Days*, translated from the Malayalam to English by **Shahnaz Habib**.

Each of the five shortlisted authors receive Rs 1 lakh. If the shortlisted work is a translation, the translator receives Rs 50 thousand. The winning author receives a further Rs 25 lakhs. If the winning work is a translation, the translator receives Rs 10 lakhs.

Registrations for 2019 entries will open on the 1st of March through our website.

NOTES TO MEDIA PERSONS

Information on **Registration** for the ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival can be found here:

<https://jaipurliteraturefestival.org/registration/>

For **media enquiries** on the ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival, please contact Edelman India:

IndiaJLF@edelman.com

About the ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival 2019

Described as the ‘greatest literary show on Earth’, the ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival is a sumptuous feast of ideas.

The past decade has seen it transform into a global literary phenomenon having hosted nearly 2000 speakers and welcoming over a million book lovers from across India and the globe.

The Festival’s core values remain unchanged: to serve as a democratic, non-aligned platform offering free and fair access.

Every year, the Festival brings together a diverse mix of the world’s greatest writers, thinkers, humanitarians, politicians, business leaders, sports people and entertainers on one stage to champion the freedom to express and engage in thoughtful debate and dialogue.

Writers and Festival Directors Namita Gokhale and William Dalrymple, alongside producers Teamwork Arts, invite speakers to take part in the five-day programme set against the backdrop of Rajasthan’s stunning cultural heritage and the Diggi Palace in the state capital Jaipur.

Past speakers have ranged from Nobel Laureates J.M. Coetzee, Orhan Pamuk and Muhammad Yunus, Man Booker Prize winners Ian McEwan, Margaret Atwood and Paul Beatty, Sahitya Akademi winners Girish Karnad, Gulzar, Javed Akhtar, M.T. Vasudevan Nair as well as the late Mahasweta Devi and U.R. Ananthamurthy along with literary superstars including Amish Tripathi, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie and Vikram Seth. An annual event that goes beyond literature, the Festival has also hosted Amartya Sen, Amitabh Bachchan, the late A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, Oprah Winfrey, Stephen Fry, Thomas Piketty and former president of Afghanistan, Hamid Karzai.

The ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival is a flagship event of Teamwork Arts, which produces it along with over 25 highly acclaimed performing arts, visual arts and literary festivals across more than 40 cities globally.

Over the years, Teamwork Arts has produced ZEE JLF at The British Library, ZEE JLF at Boulder, JLF at Houston, JLF at New York and JLF in Adelaide.

Website: www.jaipurliteraturefestival.org