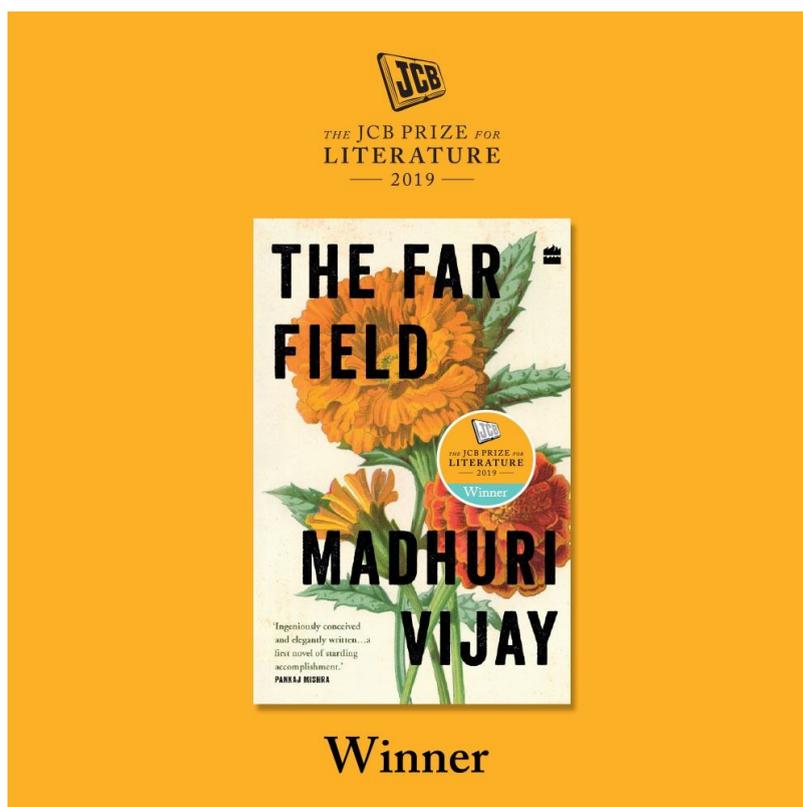


## ***The Far Field* by Madhuri Vijay wins the 2019 JCB Prize for Literature**



Jaipur, 2nd November 2019: *The Far Field* by Madhuri Vijay was announced the winner of the Rs 25-lakh JCB Prize for Literature. Vijay's debut novel, which sets a complex personal story against the backdrop of the conflict in the 1990s Kashmir, was the unanimous choice of the jury.

Vijay also received the Prize trophy, which is a sculpture by Delhi artist duo Thukral & Tagra entitled *Mirror Melting*.

*The Far Field* was selected by a panel of five judges: Pradip Krishen, filmmaker and environmentalist (Chair); Anjum Hasan, author and critic; K.R. Meera, author; Parvati Sharma, author; and Arvind Subramanian, economist and former Chief Economic Adviser to the Government of India.

The jury citation read:

*"The Far Field* is an impressively ambitious novel of stunning emotional and psychological acuity. This deeply introspective story, located in troubled Kashmir, is also a panoramic exploration of our ideas and assumptions about nationhood. Rendered in visually evocative, lucid prose, and driven by a fragile but compelling narrator-protagonist, this tragic novel teems with unforgettable characters. We are proud to celebrate the arrival of a luminous new talent in Indian literature."



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The JCB Prize for Literature celebrates the very finest achievements in Indian writing. It is presented each year to a distinguished work of fiction by an Indian writer, as selected by the jury. The prize encourages translations and aims to introduce new audiences to works of Indian literature written in languages other than their own.

### **About Madhuri Vijay**

**Madhuri Vijay** is a graduate of the Iowa Writers' Workshop and the recipient of a Pushcart Prize. Her writing has appeared in *Best American Nonrequired Reading*, *Narrative Magazine* and *Salon*, among other publications.

Madhuri was born and raised in Bengaluru and now lives in Hawaii where she teaches children at a school. *The Far Field* is her first book.

## 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.

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

### **KEY 2019 DATES**

Longlist announcement: 4th September 2019

Shortlist announcement: 4th October 2019

Winner announcement: 2nd November 2019

### **2018 WINNER**

*Jasmine Days* by *Benyamin*, translated from the Malayalam by *Shahnaz Habib* and published by *Juggernaut Books*.

### **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 being a socially and ethically responsible company at both a global and local level. For the past 20 years, JCB India has been working across India with vulnerable communities with the aim of providing them access to a better quality of life through education,



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enhanced income, business and skill development, and supporting traditional arts, culture and heritage.

## ABOUT THE JURY

**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-Spotters*. His films include *Massey Sahib* (1986), *In Which Annie Gives It Those Ones* (1988) and *Electric Moon* (1991).

**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.

**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.