



*THE* JCB PRIZE *FOR*  
LITERATURE  
—2024—

2024 RULES FOR ENTRY



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CELEBRATING DISTINGUISHED  
FICTION BY INDIAN WRITERS



THE JCB PRIZE FOR  
LITERATURE

**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.**

Each year's jury is appointed by the Literary Director of the Prize, whose decisions are made in consultation with the JCB Literature Foundation, which administers the Prize. The JCB Literature Foundation is a non-profit company registered under Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013, whose objective is to promote the art of literature in India.

In order to ensure that the Prize always maintains the highest standards of integrity and transparency, its processes are managed by independent auditors. The Prize aims:

- To enhance the prestige and commercial success of contemporary Indian literature
- To create greater prominence for literary writers in Indian cultural and intellectual life
- To foster translation between Indian languages, and to introduce readers to Indian writing in languages other than their own

All decisions regarding the selection of eligible entries for the longlist, shortlist and winner are taken solely by the jury, whose decision is final and binding. Those selected for the award receive the following amounts (the Prize will not be divided or withheld):

- Each of the five shortlisted authors receive Rs 1 lakh
- If a shortlisted work is a translation, the translator receives Rs 50,000
- The winning author receives a further Rs 25 lakh
- If the winning work is a translation, the translator receives Rs 10 lakh

## KEY DATES





## PUBLISHERS' ENTRY QUOTA

Entries for the JCB Prize for Literature are made by publishers. Each publisher or, if a publisher has several imprints, each imprint – shall be permitted to enter up to four books, divided as follows:

1. Two entries- For works originally written in English
2. Two entire - For works translated into English

Quotas for works in translation may not be transferred to works written in English, nor vice versa. Only one prize is awarded, without regard for the language in which entries were originally written.

In addition to entries by publishers, the Literary Director may call in any eligible novel for the consideration of the Jury, at his/her discretion.

All entries, whether submitted by publishers or called in by the Literary Director, are made on a confidential basis. Publishers should not disclose their list of entries to any third parties, including authors themselves.

## ENTERING THE PRIZE

Publishers can complete the step-by-step entry process online on [www.thejcbprize.org](http://www.thejcbprize.org). Where this is impossible for technical reasons, entry forms may be obtained by writing to [enquiry@jcbliteraturefoundation.org](mailto:enquiry@jcbliteraturefoundation.org)

In order for an entry to be eligible, the publisher must complete each of the following steps:

### 1. By April 30, 2024:

- Submit the entry form (completed in English) and accompanying documentation, including an electronic copy of the work
- Send seven hard copies of the work, and physical copies of the entry form, to the independent auditors (the address is given at the end of this document), or
- (Where the work is not yet published) send seven advance/review copies of the work, and physical copies of the entry form to the independent auditors

### 2. By May 31, 2024:

- (For any entries called in by the Literary Director) complete the entry procedure as above

### 3. By August 1, 2024:

- (For any works published subsequent to entry) send proof of publication and ISBN to [entries@thejcbprize.org](mailto:entries@thejcbprize.org), and
- Send seven hard copies of the published work to the independent auditors

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

### The work

1. The JCB Prize for Literature is awarded to unified and substantial works of fiction not less than 25,000 words in length.

Collections of poetry or short stories, and plays are not eligible.

### Language

2. All entries must be in English, either:

- a. originally written in English, or
- b. translated into English from an original work written in any other language

### Year of publication

3. The work must be published in India between 1 August 2023 and 31 July 2024. If the work has been translated into English from another language and/or was previously published outside India, it will only be eligible if the date of publication of the original work is within the previous ten years, i.e. not earlier than 1 August 2013.

### Author nationality

4. Only works written by Indian citizens, as defined by the Citizenship Act, 1955, are eligible. Proof of nationality will be required with each entry. These restrictions apply only to authors; the nationality of translators, in the case of translated works, is not relevant. A Passport, or masked Aadhar, or Voter ID Card, or Birth Certificate must be submitted.

### Country of publication

6. The Prize is open only to works published in India by a publisher formally established in India. In order for an entry to be eligible, all the following must apply:

- a. The publisher must have its registered presence in India, and
- b. The publisher must be subject to Indian laws, including the primary liability to pay tax in India on all of its trading activities, and
- c. The work must have been allocated an International Standard Book Number (ISBN) in India, or, in the case of novels not yet published, must receive such an allocation by July 31st 2024

### Self-published works

7. Self-published works, defined as follows, are not eligible for the JCB Prize for Literature:

- a. works published by the author and/or his/her family, or
- b. works published by a publishing company/imprint set up expressly for this purpose, or
- c. works published by a publishing company/imprint in which the author and/or his/her family member is an employee, shareholder or decision-maker, either directly or indirectly, or
- d. works published by a publishing company/imprint which is paid by the author, under a commercial agreement, for this purpose

For publishers who operate on multiple models (traditional, self-publishing, hybrid, etc.), it is imperative that they furnish proof that they have a dedicated imprint for self-publishing and no book from that particular imprint has been entered into the Prize.

### **Posthumous works**

8. Posthumous works will not be considered eligible for the Prize. Any issues of doubt in this regard will be resolved by the Literary Director

### **Association with JCB Literature Foundation and other JCB entities**

9. An author is not eligible for the prize, if he/she and/or his/her family member is an employee, stakeholder or decision maker, either directly or indirectly in JCB Literature Foundation and/or other JCB entities in India/worldwide.

### **Notes**

- All entries will be checked for eligibility by the independent auditors. Any discrepancies observed during the eligibility check may lead to disqualification.
- In any dispute about the rules, results or any matter relating to the conduct of the Prize, the decision of the Literary Director is final
- The Literary Director, in consultation with the jury, has the right to eliminate any book whose final version differs substantially from the version first submitted.

## **TERMS & CONDITIONS**

One of the aims of the JCB Prize for Literature is to enhance the prestige and commercial success of contemporary Indian literature. With this objective, various marketing and publicity activities are undertaken throughout the year. Publishers and authors of books entered for the Prize may be required to participate in these activities. Publishers will be fully briefed about these activities before entries open. The entry form will also provide details.

## **QUERIES**

All queries about entries may be directed to [enquiry@jcbliteraturefoundation.org](mailto:enquiry@jcbliteraturefoundation.org) and [Akangkhi.Borthakur@in.gt.com](mailto:Akangkhi.Borthakur@in.gt.com)

## **ADDRESS FOR HARD COPIES**

**Hard copies of books must be sent, along with physical copies of the entry form, to the independent auditors, at the following address:**

Akangkhi Borthakur  
21st Floor, DLF Square  
Jacaranda Marg, DLF Phase II,  
Gurugram - 122 002  
Haryana, India  
[Akangkhi.Borthakur@in.gt.com](mailto:Akangkhi.Borthakur@in.gt.com)



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