

Five translations, and four books by debut novelists make it to the Seventh Longlist of the JCB Prize for Literature

- Two translations from Bengali, two from Marathi, and one from Malayalam in the Longlist
- Four books by debut authors in the Longlist
- The Shortlist will be announced on 23rd October, 2024

New Delhi, 6th September, 2024: Now in its seventh year, the JCB Prize for Literature has unveiled its much-anticipated Longlist for 2024. The selection, consisting of ten compelling novels, was meticulously chosen by a distinguished jury. Chaired by acclaimed author, translator, and poet Jerry Pinto, the jury includes renowned scholar, writer, and translator Tridip Suvrud; esteemed art historian and curator Deepthi Sasidharan; award-winning filmmaker and writer Shaunak Sen; and celebrated artist Aqvi Thami.

Talking about the experience, Chair of the jury, Jerry Pinto said, *“Reading has always been a private pleasure for me but as chairman of the jury of the JCB Prize, I was given the opportunity to interact with some fine minds, each bringing a different perspective and a different reader’s biography to the task of selecting the best novel of the year. I believe that we listened to each other, we learned from each other and we came out on the other side with a deeper engagement with reading. Who could ask for more?”*

The Longlist for 2024 features five books originally written in English and five works translated into English from Bengali, Marathi, and Malayalam. Notably, translator Jayasree Kalathil makes her third appearance on the Longlist after *Moustache* (2020) and *Valli* (2022), and V. Ramaswamy marks his second inclusion after *The Nemesis* (2023). The list is also distinguished by the presence of four debut novels, two of which are translated works.

Talking about the 2024 Longlist, Literary Director, Mita Kapur said, *“The 2024 Longlist presents a diverse array of Indian fiction, showcasing ten books that offer an evocative portrayal of the varied and complex nature of life in India. This year’s Longlist explores a range of themes and experiences, capturing both the intricacies of daily life and the more profound, extraordinary moments. The JCB Prize is delighted to champion this rich collection of narratives that mirror contemporary society, encouraging readers to introspect, engage deeply with their emotions, and grow with every book they read.”*

The 2024 Longlist:

<i>Chronicle of an Hour and a Half</i> by Saharu Nusaiba Kannanari (Westland Books)
<i>Sanatan</i> by Sharankumar Limbale, translated from the Marathi by Paromita Sengupta (Penguin Books)
<i>The One Legged</i> by Sakyajit Bhattacharya, translated from the Bengali by Rituparna Mukherjee (Antonym Collections)
<i>Lorenzo Searches for the Meaning of Life</i> by Upamanyu Chatterjee (Speaking Tiger Books)
<i>Maria, Just Maria</i> by Sandhya Mary, translated from the Malayalam by Jayasree Kalathil (HarperCollins Publishers India)
<i>Hurda</i> by Atharva Pandit (Bloomsbury India)

<i>Leaf, Water and Flow</i> by Avadhoot Dongare, translated from the Marathi by Nadeem Khan (Ratna Books)
<i>Talashnama</i> by Ismail Darbesh, translated from the Bengali by V. Ramaswamy (HarperCollins Publishers India)
<i>Of Mothers and Other Perishables</i> by Radhika Oberoi (Simon & Schuster India)
<i>The Distaste of the Earth</i> by Kynpham Sing Nongkynrih (Penguin Books)

The Longlist for 2024 was selected from a range of submissions, representing writers from sixteen states and books translated from seven different languages. The much-awaited shortlist, of five books, is set to be revealed on 23rd October 2024, with the announcement of the winner scheduled for 23rd November 2024.

The winner of the JCB Prize for Literature will be awarded a substantial prize of Rs 25 lakh. In the event that a translated work is chosen as the winner, the translator will receive an additional Rs 10 lakh. Moreover, each of the five shortlisted authors will be awarded Rs 1 lakh, with an additional Rs 50,000 awarded to the translator if the shortlisted work is a translation.

NOTES TO THE EDITOR

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. For updates, look for @thejcbprize on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

KEY 2024 DATES

Announcement of Longlist: 6th September 2024

Announcement of Shortlist: 23rd October 2024

Awards ceremony: 23rd November 2024

2023 WINNER

Fire Bird by Perumal Murugan, translated from the Tamil by Janani Kannan

2022 WINNER

The Paradise of Food by Khalid Jawed, translated from the Urdu by Baran Farooqi

2021 WINNER

Delhi: A Soliloquy by M. Mukundan, translated from the Malayalam by Fathima E.V. and Nandakumar K.

2020 WINNER

Moustache by S. Hareesh, translated from the Malayalam by Jayasree Kalathil

2019 WINNER

The Far Field by Madhuri Vijay

2018 WINNER

Jasmine Days by Benyamin, translated from the Malayalam by Shahnaz Habib

ABOUT JCB LITERATURE FOUNDATION

The JCB Literature Foundation, a not-for-profit company registered under Section 8 of the Indian Companies Act, is single-handedly responsible for running the Prize.

In 2018, JCB India established the JCB Literature Foundation, whose purpose is to promote the art of literature in India, and whose principal activity is to administer The JCB Prize for Literature. A leading global manufacturer of earthmoving and construction equipment, the company has been active in India since 1979. JCB's desire to create an enduring cultural legacy in India is based on this substantial and long-standing involvement in the country's social and economic life.

ABOUT THE JURY

Jerry Pinto (Chair)

Writer, Translator and Poet



Jerry Pinto is a well-known poet, writer, editor and translator. He is the author of *Em and the Big Hoom*, a novel that won him The Crossword Prize, the Hindu Lit for Life Award and the Sahitya Akademi Award. In 2016, he was awarded the Windham-Campbell Award for Fiction from Yale, USA. His next novel *Murder in Mahim* won the Valley of Words Award for Fiction. His third novel *The Education of Yuri* has been published to near universal acclaim.

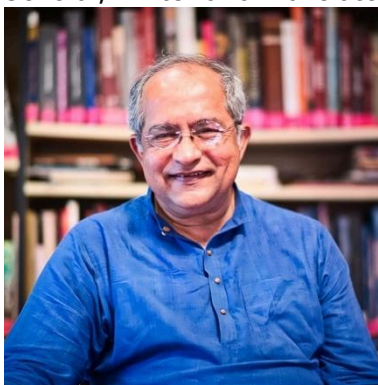
He has edited several anthologies including: *Bombay Meri Jaan: Writings on Mumbai*; *Reflected in Water: Writings on Goa*; *The Greatest Show on Earth: Writing on Bollywood* and with Shanta Gokhale, a collection of stories on *Bombay-Mumbai, Maya Nagari*.

He has translated Daya Pawar's path-breaking autobiography *Baluta*, Sachin Kundalkar's debut novel *Cobalt Blue*, Mallika Amar Sheikh's *I Want To Destroy Myself* among others.

He has also written books for children. *Anya and Her Baby Brother* and *My Daddy and the Well* were on the Parag Honours List. Jerry has two books of poetry, *Asylum* and *I Want a Poem and Other Poems*. He sits on the boards of MelJol which works in the sphere of child rights and the People's Free Reading Room and Library. He has taught journalism at the postgraduate Social Communications Media course of the Sophia Polytechnic, Mumbai for more than thirty years.

Tridip Suhrud

Scholar, Writer and Translator



Tridip Suhrud is a scholar, writer, translator who works on the Gandhian intellectual tradition. He was the director and chief editor of the Sabarmati Ashram Preservation and Memorial Trust (2012-2017), where he curated the world's largest digital archives on the life and works of M K Gandhi, the Gandhi Heritage Portal. He is the author, editor, translator of

thirty-eight books in three languages, Gujarati, English, Hindi. They include the bilingual critical edition of *Hind Swaraj* (co-editor and co-translator Suresh Sharma, 2010), English translation of Narayan Desai's four volume biography of Gandhi, *My Life is My Message* (2009), English translation of the four -volume epic Gujarati novel *Sarasvatichandra* (2015) and critical edition of Gandhi's autobiography *An Autobiography or The Story of My Experiments with Truth* (2018) in two languages: English and Gujarati. His most recent work is *Scorching Love* (2022) with Gopalkrishna Gandhi. He has received the Katha Award (1999) Sahitya Akademi Award for translation (English, 2010) and the inaugural Niranjana Bhagat Memorial Award for his work in Gujarati (2019).

Tridip Suhrud is currently working on the testimonies of the peasants of Champaran, three volumes of the possible eight volume project *Thumb Printed* have been published. He is Professor and Provost, CEPT University, Director of Lalbhai Dalpatbhai Institute of Indology, Ahmedabad and serves as Chairman of the Governing Council of MICA.

Deepthi Sasidharan Art Historian and Curator



Deepthi Sasidharan is an art historian, curator, and the Founder Director of Eka Archiving, a prominent cultural advisory firm specializing in heritage and museum projects throughout India. With a comprehensive background in the field, she collaborates with government bodies, private entities, and corporate clients to deliver tailored solutions for a diverse range of projects and works in heading teams that include architects, designers, planners, conservators and project managers.

Deepthi's expertise extends to the conceptualization and execution of seminal exhibitions and the establishment of archives. Notable among her projects are the archival initiatives for Kalakshetra in Chennai, City Palace in Udaipur, Mumbai Police, and Tata Trusts in Mumbai. Notable installations include the Chowmahalla Palace exhibitions, the historic Bastion Bungalow museum in Fort Kochi, the Museum of Indian Paper Money in Bengaluru and the Arya Kanya Gurukul Museums, Porbandar. Her commitment to academic excellence is underscored by scholarship stints at Portugal's Fundacao Oriente and a Fulbright Fellowship at the MET in New York.

A prolific writer, Deepthi has co-authored two significant books, including *Treasures of the Deccan* (2018). Her passion for the field and dedication to preserving India's rich cultural heritage make her a sought-after professional in the realm of art history and museum curation.

Shaunak Sen Filmmaker and Writer



Shaunak Sen is an Academy award nominated filmmaker and writer based between Delhi and Berlin. His film *All That Breathes*, received nominations at the 2023 Academy and BAFTA awards. The film won awards at Cannes, Sundance, BFI London, IDA and Cinema Eye, and 24 other film festivals.

Cities of Sleep (2016), his first feature-length documentary, was shown at various major international film festivals and won 6 international awards. Shaunak has received grants from Sundance, Tribeca, IDFA - Amsterdam amongst others. He has received the Pro Helvetia residency in Switzerland, the Sarai-CSDS grant, the Charles Wallace grant as visiting scholar at Cambridge University. Shaunak holds a PhD and has published in journals including Bioscope and Widescreen. He is currently a visiting Fellow in the Max Planck Institute, Berlin.

Aqui Thami
Artist and Academic



Aqui Thami is a Thangmi woman of the Kiratimma first peoples of the Himalayas, she uses social exchanges and develops safe spaces to position art as a medium of healing in community. Aqui's interdisciplinary practice ranges across ceremonial interventions, performances, drawings, zine-making, fly posting, and public intervention, brought together by participant involvement; most of her work is self-funded and realised in collaboration. Sister Library (@sister.library) founded by Aqui is an evolving art work that engages in the in-depth reflection on the visual and reading

culture of our times. It is also the first traveling, community owned and community run feminist library of South Asia. Aqui also collaboratively runs Bombay Underground, an artist collective that hosted South Asia's first Zine Fest, Bombay Zine Fest, and is central to the underground publishing scene, and Dharavi Art Room, a space for children and women in Dharavi to explore creatively.