

Celebrated Works at GALF

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The 7th edition of Goa Arts & Literature Festival (GALF), organised by International Centre Goa (ICG) in association with Goa Writers Group and Directorate of Art & Culture, will be held from 8th to 11th December 2016. Eminent artists and writers will be under the spotlight during the festival. Over the years, many books that were launched at the festival went on to win literary awards in both India and abroad. The festival has become a talisman for visiting writers and the current edition promises to be even more exciting. Some notable works presented during previous editions which won awards are as follows:

1. **'The Scatter Here is Too Great' by Bilal Tanweer**

Bilal Tanweer is a Pakistani writer and translator.

A vivid and intricate novel-in-stories, *The Scatter Here Is Too Great* explores the complicated lives of ordinary people whose fates unexpectedly converge after a deadly bomb blast at the Karachi train station: an old communist poet; his wealthy, middle-aged son; a young man caught in an unpleasant, dead-end job; a girl who spins engaging tales to conceal her heartbreak; and a grief-stricken writer, who struggles to make sense of this devastating tragedy.

The book won the 2014 Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize and was one of the eleven recipients of the 2010 PEN Translation Fund Grant.

2. **'Em and the Big Hoom' by Jerry Pinto**

Jerry Pinto is a Mumbai-based journalist and a writer of poetry, prose and fiction.

Set in Bombay during the last decades of the twentieth century, *Em and The Big Hoom* tells the compelling story of the Mendeses mother, father, daughter and son. Between Em, the beedi - smoking, hyperactive mother, driven frequently to hospital by her mania and failed suicide attempts, and The Big Hoom, the rock-solid, dependable father, trying to hold things together as best he can, they are an extraordinary family. Filled with endearing and eccentric characters, and marked by sparkling dialogue and restrained emotion, this is one of the most powerful and moving novels to be published in India in a long time.

The book won many awards including the 2012 The Hindu Literary Prize, the 2013 Crossword Book Award (fiction) and the 2016 Windham–Campbell Literature Prize (Fiction).

3. **'The Adivasi Will Not Dance' by Hansda Sowvendra Shekhar**

Hansda Sowvendra Shekhar is a medical officer with the government of Jharkhand.

In this collection of stories, set in the fecund, mineral-rich hinterland and the ever-expanding, squalid towns of Jharkhand, troupe master Mangal Murmu refuses to perform for the President of India and is beaten down; Suren and Gita, a love-blind couple, wait with quiet desperation outside a neonatal ward, hoping, for different reasons, that their blue baby will turn pink. Panmuni and Biram Soren move to Vadodara in the autumn of their lives, only to find that they must stop eating meat to be accepted as citizens; and Talamai Kisku of the Santhal Pargana, migrating to West Bengal in search of work, must sleep with a policeman for fifty rupees and two cold bread pakoras.

He won the 'Muse India Young Writer Award' for his writing.

4. **'Ghachar Ghochar' by Vivek Shanbhag**

Vivek Shanbhag is the author and translator. He is an engineer by training and lives in Bengaluru.

A young man's close-knit family is nearly destitute when his uncle founds a successful spice company, changing their fortunes overnight. As they move from a cramped, ant-infested shack to a larger house and try to adjust to a new way of life, allegiances realign, marriages are arranged and begin to falter, and conflict brews ominously in the background. Things become ghachar ghochar, a nonsense phrase uttered by one of the characters that comes to mean something tangled beyond repair or a knot that can't be eased.

The book received the BHS Literary Award for 2012.

5. **'Tsunami Simon' by Damodar Mauzo**

Damodar Mauzo is a much-loved Konkani author who was awarded the prestigious Sahitya Akademi Award for his novel Karmelin.

Thirteen-year-old Simon lives in a coastal village in South Goa. He juggles school, dancing and karate classes and thoroughly loves the sea, especially going on fishing trips with his father, Gabru. Despite growing up in modern times, Simon nurtures a deep love for their traditional fisher-folk life. One winter Simon goes to Tamil Nadu to spend his Christmas vacation with his aunt. But the holiday comes to a disastrous end. One morning, when out fishing with his uncle, the gigantic waves of the tsunami strike the coast of South India sparing little that lay in its path.

Tsunami Simon was awarded the Vimla Pai Vishwa Konkani Puraskar in 2011.

6. **‘Open City’ by Teju Cole**

Teju Cole is a Nigerian/American author, art historian, and photographer.

The novel focuses on "Nigerian immigrant Julius, a young graduate student studying psychiatry in New York City, has recently broken up with his girlfriend and spends most of his time dreamily walking around Manhattan. The majority of *Open City* centers on Julius' inner thoughts as he rambles throughout the city, painting scenes of both what occurs around him and past events that he can't help but dwell on. Ostensibly in search of his grandmother, Julius spends a number of weeks in Belgium, where he makes some interesting friends. Along the way, he meets many people and often has long discussions with them about philosophy and politics. He seems to welcome these conversations. Upon returning to New York, he meets a young Nigerian woman who profoundly changes the way he sees himself.

Open City, featured on numerous book of the year lists, won the PEN/Hemingway Award, New York City Book Award for Fiction, Rosenthal Award of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and the Internationaler Literaturpreis.

7. **‘Taj Mahal Foxtrot’ by Naresh Fernandes**

Naresh Fernandes is a journalist and art historian living in Mumbai.

This book tells a story of India—and especially of the city of Bombay—through the lives of a menagerie of geniuses, strivers, and eccentrics, both Indian and American, who helped jazz find a home in the sweaty subcontinent. They include the burly African-American pianist Teddy Weatherford; the Goan trumpet player Frank Fernand, whose epiphanic encounter with Mahatma Gandhi drove him to try to give jazz an Indian voice; Chic Chocolate, who was known as the Louis Armstrong of India; and Anthony Gonsalves, who lent his name to one of the most popular Bollywood tunes ever; and many more. *Taj Mahal Foxtrot*, at its heart, is a history of Bombay in swing time.

Taj Mahal Foxtrot is the winner of the Dr Ashok Ranade Memorial Award and the Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize.

8. **‘I Lalla: Poems of Lal Ded’ - translation by Ranjit Hoskote**

Ranjit Hoskote is a contemporary Indian poet, art critic, cultural theorist and independent curator.

Lalleshwari (born; 1320, died; 1392), was a mystic of the Kashmiri Shaivite sect. She was a creator of the mystic poetry called vatsun or vakhs, literally "speech" (Voice). Known as Lal Vakhs, her verses are the earliest compositions in the Kashmiri language and are an important part in Kashmiri literature. Lalla's poetry is fortified by a palpable, first-hand experience of illumination. It conveys a freedom from the mortal freight of fear and vacillation. She cherishes these, while attacking the parasitic forms of organised religion that have attached themselves to the spiritual quest and choked it: arid scholarship, soulless ritualism, fetishised austerity and animal sacrifice.

I, Lalla: The Poems of Lal Ded, Hoskote won the first Muse India Translation Award (2012).

9. 'Coolie Woman' by Gaiutra Bahadur

Gaiutra Bahadur is an award-winning American journalist who writes frequently about migration, literature and gender.

In 1903, a young woman sailed from India to Guiana as a "coolie". Pregnant and traveling alone, this woman, like so many coolies, disappeared into history. Her great-granddaughter Gaiutra Bahadur embarks on a journey into the past to find her. Traversing three continents and trawling through countless colonial archives, Bahadur excavates not only her great-grandmother's story but also the repressed history of some quarter of a million other coolie women, shining a light on their complex lives. As Bahadur explains, however, it is precisely their sexuality that makes coolie women stand out as figures in history.

Coolie Woman won the 2014 Gordon K. and Sybil Lewis Prize. The book was published in 2013 to critical acclaim in the U.S., U.K., India, the Caribbean and South Africa. It was shortlisted for the UK's Orwell Book Prize, for political writing that is artful, and won the 2014 Gordon K. and Sybil Lewis prize, awarded by scholars of the Caribbean to the best book about the Caribbean published in the previous three years.

10. 'The Gypsy Goddess' by Meena Kandasamy

Meena Kandasamy is an Indian poet, fiction writer, translator and activist based in Chennai.

Tamil Nadu: 1968. Landlords rule over a feudal system that forces peasants to break their backs in the fields or be punished. As a small spark of defiance begins to spread among communities, the landlords vow to break them; party organizers suffer grisly deaths and the flow of food into the marketplaces dries up. But it only strengthens the villagers' resistance. Finally, the landlords descend on one village to set an example for the others. An exciting new release from this Chennai-based poet, writer and activist.

She was awarded the Mayilamma award for her feminist writing and work towards anti-caste annihilation movement of contemporary India.