

Goa University Students part of the jury panel for the prestigious French literary Award

Prix Goncourt; the most prestigious French literary award created in 1903 has continued having its international presence in 27 countries for 20 years. This year, with the title 'The Goncourt Choice', India proudly joined the list of countries during the ongoing *Bonjour India* festival.

The first edition of the prestigious Prix Goncourt Choice of India which concluded in April 2022 was supported by 10 institutes comprising the network of *Alliances Française* and nine universities across India, including Delhi University, Rajasthan University, University of Mumbai, Savitribai Phule University Pune, Goa University, Pondicherry University, and English and Foreign Languages University of Hyderabad. Forty-seven students from these 10 institutions formed 10 local juries of the Goncourt Choice of India.

In June 2021, Dr. Irene Silveira, Assistant Professor at the Department of French and Francophone Studies, Goa University had recommended and formed a student panel who would be part of this international literary exercise. Ms. Shourya Dalvi; PhD student, Ms. Vrinda Vaz and Ms. Jacqueline Dias; Students of MA Part 2 were the panelists from Goa University.

Over the next few months, the jury met, interacted and discussed to select their preferred title. Mohamed Mbougar Sarr won the first Goncourt Choice of India Award for his book *La plus secrète mémoire des hommes*. The Senegalese author's winning novel is about literature and writing, about Africa and the West. The other contenders included *Le Voyage dans l'Est* by Christine Angot, *Milwaukee Blues* by Louis-Philippe Dalembert, and *Enfant de Salaud* by journalist Sorj Chalandon.

The award concluded with the launch of an international Contest of Literary Criticism by the Académie Goncourt. The 47 jury members from India will have two months to write a 3,000-word critique on the winning literary work in French. The contest jury will be composed of a French publisher, a French literary critic, and an academic. The winner will win a trip to Paris to attend the prestigious Goncourt Prize ceremony in November 2022.



Student Jurists with Dr. Irene Silveira
(L-R Ms. Jacqueline Dias (1), Ms. Shourya Dalvi (3)
and Ms. Vrinda Vaz (4))



Ms. Vrinda Vaz who represented the local jury at The French Embassy in New Delhi.



Student Jurists discussing the novels.
(L-R Ms. Vrinda Vaz, Ms. Shourya Dalvi and Ms. Jacqueline Dias)



His Excellency Emmanuel Lenain; the Hon'ble Ambassador of France, M. Philippe Claudel; General Secretary of Académie Goncourt, M. Pascal Bruckner; Jury member of Académie Goncourt and M. Jean Claude Perrier; writer and journalist.