



Godrej Literature Live! Announces Poet Laureate Award for Shri Sitanshu Yashaschandra

~ Shri Sitanshu Yashaschandra to be honoured Poet Laureate Award at upcoming Mumbai LitFest

Ahmedabad 3rd November 2025: One of India's most distinguished literary voices will be honoured at the 16th edition of Literature Live! The Mumbai Litfest this year. The Godrej Literature Live! Poet Laureate Award will be conferred upon the eminent Gujarati poet and playwright Sitanshu Yashaschandra, who shares a deep and enduring connection with Mumbai, having both studied and taught in the city.

A celebrated and prolific Gujarati poet and playwright, Sitanshu has received the Sahitya Akademi Award for his famed collection of poetry Jatayu. He has also been awarded the Padma Shri, a high Indian civilian honour. His style has been interpreted as surreal. He has long had an association with Mumbai, having studied at St. Xavier's College, received his Masters and Ph.D degrees from Mumbai University and taught at Mithibai College (as well as at several other Indian colleges and universities). He has also studied and written in the US and Europe where he was a visiting fellow at the Sorbonne.

On being appointed Poet Laureate of the Festival Mr Yashaschandra said: *"What brings joy along with the Godrej Literature Live! 2025 Poet Laureate to me is my understanding that it is not a "puraskar", it is a "paaritoshik": not an award declaring any power-related act of "puras-karan" or "placement in front of others", but an expression of "paritosh" or joy felt by some of my contemporary writers. I am glad and grateful that you have shared this feeling publicly with me".*

Nadir Godrej, Chairperson, Godrej Industries Group, said: *"We are privileged that Sitanshu Yashaschandra, one of the giants of the Indian literary stage, will be accepting the Poet Laureate award at this year's Literature Live! The Mumbai Litfest. He is one of the revered names in the world of Gujarati literature and having him at the festival is not only a matter of immense pride but also highlights the richness and variety of India's literary canvas."*

Previous Poet Laureates include: Arvind Krishna Mehrotra, Mamang Dai, Gieve Patel, Adil Jussawalla, Javed Akhtar, K. Satchidanandan, Jayanta Mahapatra, Gulzar, Keki Daruwalla, Vikram Seth, Joy Goswami