

the fine print

A new literary award with a prize pot of \$100,000 (£82,000) puts the Baillie Gifford's £30,000 and the Man Booker's £50,000 in the shade. But the entry that takes the inaugural **Nine Dots prize** will differ from the season's other prizewinning books in one crucial respect: it won't exist. Drawing its name from a puzzle that can be solved only by lateral thinking, the Nine Dots prize is asking for responses to the question: "Are digital technologies making politics impossible?" Established writers and debut authors are invited to send 3,000-word



answers, along with an outline showing how they would develop their argument into a short book.

ILF Samanvay, India's only exclusive languages festival, will be on from November 5 to 7 from 10.30 am to 8.30 pm at the Amphitheatre, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. The theme of ILF 2016 is 'Language as Public Action', and it animates all the segments of the festival this year. The focal languages are Gujarati, Telugu, Urdu, Santhali and Khasi, and a special appearance of Tripuri. The inaugural speaker is Ela Bhatt, social activist and founder of SEWA.



Orient BlackSwan's new series called **'Strategic Studies'** will focus on contemporary trends in India and South Asia, using historical narrative if need be to provide the context. Comprising research monographs and edited volumes, theoretical and policy-oriented writings, this series is aimed at students, scholars and the lay reader interested in international relations. Three books — *Afghanistan's Regional Dilemmas* and *Indian Foreign Policy*, both edited by Harsh V. Pant, and *New South Asian Security* edited by Chris Ogden — are out under this series.



Jai Arjun Singh's book *The World of Hrishikesh Mukherjee* was awarded the cinema-writing prize at the Mumbai Film Festival recently. In the 13 chapters of the book, Jai covers just about every aspect of Mukherjee's cinema.

In February this year, **Amazon** bought a 26 per cent stake in Westland, the publishing unit of the Tata group retail company Trent Ltd, for about Rs. 9.5 crore. Amazon has now agreed to acquire the remaining 74 per cent stake, indicating its interest in expanding its presence in India books market. Amazon has said the acquisition would help Westland's authors to grow their physical and digital book businesses in India as well as expand their reach to customers globally.

Navneet Education Ltd has announced that it is acquiring Britannica's Indian curriculum business. **Britannica India's** Curriculum Division designs and develops educational products for the Indian region for students across India and Indian schools abroad. current Britannica business unit will become an independent company within Navneet. The company will market Britannica's existing India-specific curriculum titles 'Know for Sure' and 'The English Channel' as well as develop new titles under Britannica's brand, editorial supervision and guidelines for seven years.



Expressen, one of Sweden's oldest tabloid newspapers, is aiming to position itself as the 'home of breaking news' in the country using online video. The publisher has recently invested in two additional studios, that will use innovative technologies such as 3D and virtual graphics to produce more video for Expressen TV, its on-demand video platform. The news organisation's online strategy is to produce 100 video clips per day, featured on the website alongside written articles. This is not an easy task, especially as the team aims to go live within 180 seconds of any breaking news event.

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