

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The British in India Book Prize

An annual prize of £1000 for an original work that makes a significant contribution to advancing knowledge or understanding of the history of the British in South Asia.

Since the prize was not held in 2025, books published in 2025 and 2026 are eligible for the 2027 British in India Book Prize.

DETAILS

The British in India Book Prize 2027

The British in India Book Prize 2027 rewards excellence in writing about the history of the British in South Asia by authors of books published in 2025 and 2026. The winner will receive £1000. The winning entry will be decided by a panel of three judges.

Time frame

Submissions for the 2027 Prize open on 10 September 2026. Entries close on 31 December 2026. The winner will be announced in May 2027.

Organisation

The British in India Historical Trust invites publishers, including university presses, commercial publishers and non-UK publishers, to submit a list of books they would like the Trust to call in for consideration. The Trust may also call in any other eligible book. A shortlist will be selected from which the winner will be chosen.

Entry of books

1. Publishers should submit one copy of called-in titles, or a PDF if a finished book is unavailable, by 31 December 2026.

2. Called-in copies should be sent to:

The British in India
PO Box 148
Liphook
GU30 9DE

Contact info@britishinindia.org.uk for the street address and phone number **if copies are being delivered by courier.**

3. If books are short-listed, publishers should submit two additional copies and complete a submission form.
4. Books should be submitted by publishers. The submission of a book by a publisher will be taken as agreement that the author is willing for the book to be considered and will abide by the rules of the prize. It is the publisher's responsibility to obtain the author's consent before entering the work.
5. Authors should encourage publishers to propose their book for consideration. No submissions will be accepted from authors unless requested by the Trust.
6. No books will be returned.
7. The selection of the shortlist and the judges' decision are final. No discussion or correspondence will be entered into.
8. The Trust reserves the right to make no award in a particular year.

Eligibility

1. Books must be original works of research that make a significant contribution to advancing knowledge or understanding of the history of the British in South Asia.
2. Books must be first published in English between 1 January 2025 and 31 December 2026.
3. Books must be made available for sale or distribution in their country of publication between 1 January 2025 and 31 December 2026. Publishers must advise the Trust if a book's publication is postponed to the following year.
4. Authors of any age and nationality are eligible.
5. Books must not be written by more than one author.
6. Books may cover any aspect of the history of the British in South Asia, including historical biography.
7. Books may be published in hardback or paperback (provided the latter is the book's first publication).
8. The following are not eligible:
 - books with any fictional content

- reprints, revised, expanded or adapted editions or paperback editions of previously published books
- books previously published under a different title or in a different format
- posthumously published books
- self-published books, including those produced by a company set up by the author and those whose publication is subsidised by the author in whole or in part or by anyone on behalf of the author
- essay collections by more than one author
- textbooks
- eBooks
- anonymous books

9. Publishers should ensure submissions comply with the entry and eligibility requirements. Any enquiries about eligibility should be addressed to info@britishinindia.org.uk.

10. The decision of the Trust as to whether a work is eligible shall be final.

Judging criteria

The winner of The British in India Book Prize shall:

- make a significant contribution to advancing knowledge or understanding of the history of the British in South Asia; significance will be assessed on the basis of originality and excellence of content, presentation and literary style
- be accurate, thoroughly researched and include references and bibliography that demonstrate appropriate sourcework
- be written in a style that is engaging, accessible to the general reader and free from jargon.

Enquiries

Email: info@britishinindia.org.uk