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Press Release

Winners for Clint memorial online international painting competition announced

Thiruvananthapuram, June 11: The winners of the International Children's Online Painting Competition in memory of prodigious child artist Edmund Clint were declared today after the jury went through close to 39,000 works it received from the stipulated 4-16 age group across as many as 96 countries.

State Minister Shri Kadakampally Surendran, who holds the portfolio of Kerala Tourism that organised the event, announced a list of 110 winners of whom 15 are eligible for attractive tour packages with family. Ten of the 15 are from foreign countries.

The first prize went to Parth Joshi, 12, of Vadodara in Gujarat. He, along with four other top winners from India, become eligible for a five-night Kerala travel accompanied by two members of the family, the minister told a press conference here.

Fourteen-year-old Nafisa Tabassum Authay of Bangladesh won the second prize. She, along with nine other children from abroad who won the top prizes, will be eligible for a five-night Kerala tour with two members from the family.

Aaradhya P.G, a six-year-old Malayali girl, fetched the third prize. She figures among 40 prize winners from the host state who will receive a cash award of Rs 10,000 each.

The first three prize-winners will get a certificate and a memento. Twenty other winners, too, will receive mementoes. The artists whose works were shortlisted and all the participants will receive certificates.

Clint (1976-83) was a Kochiite who drew more than 25,000 pictures in 2,522 days of his life before a prolonged illness cut short his life. Born to Mr M T Joseph (who died earlier this year) and Mrs Chinnamma Joseph, the boy's life and works went on to earn increasing global acclaim. Clint's life has found portrayal in seven books and two documentaries besides in a 2017 Malayalam feature film.

Clint was aged four when he topped a painting competition where a 16-year-old emerged second. That led the organisers to fix the age bracket for this online event.

"Nowhere in the world have we heard of a painting competition inviting attention to a place (Kerala)," Shri Kadakampally Surendran said.

The 2018 edition of the competition received larger and more widespread response than the first (2017), the minister noted, adding the number of entries this time was 38,995,



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against 5,000 in the debut edition. This edition of the competition stands out as it was conducted on a larger global scale, he added.

The time for applying for the online event was September 1, 2018 to January 31 this year. The website saw 48,397 registrations from 133 countries during the period. Of the 38,995 paintings that vied for prizes, 6,542 were from abroad. Among the rest from India, 5,713 paintings were from Kerala.

The event was globally publicised by carrying out a campaign in 23 languages (11 Indian and 12 foreign), Kerala Tourism Secretary Mrs Rani George said. "We estimate the information about the competition to have reached 50 lakh people," she added.

The online competition boosted the number of visitors at the Kerala Tourism website, according to Kerala Tourism Director Mr P Bala Kiran. "While the portal got 40 lakh hits in 2017-18, the figure surged to one crore hits, from around 200 countries, so far this year," he pointed out.

The competition jury comprised experts comprising Bihar Museum Director Mr Mohammed Yusuf, artists Mr Vrindavan Solanki (Gujarat), Ms Vipta Kapadia (Mumbai) and Prof Suresh K Nair (Varanasi), besides Kerala Lalithakala Akademi chairman Mr Nemom Pushparaj and art critic Mr M L Johnny.

Out of the total applications, the judges chose 3,000 pictures in the first phase. These were then thoroughly scrutinised, leading the jury to arrive at its list of winners.

The prizes are not just for the participants. Those who encouraged children to take part in the competition in a big way win awards as 'promoters'. They total ten—five from India and the rest abroad. These promoters, too, are eligible for Kerala Tourism's five-night package tour in the state.

In all, 55 people have become eligible for the tour packages. They will be given a reception at the Kannur airport upstate, taken for the travel and given away the prizes at the capital city of Thiruvananthapuram.

Ends