

From the Management



Pratham Books has woven thousands of stories over the past eight years. Stories of magic and adventure, tales that make you laugh, historical sagas, and narratives based on fact and fiction. All our stories, though, are bound by a single thread – they stimulate a child's imagination, kindle her curiosity, and nourish her mind.

Over the years, our books have found their way into the hands of millions of children and, time and time again, we hear about Pratham Books acting as change agents in their lives.

Leena, the headmistress of Vidya Prabhat School, Universal Academy, Bazpur – a school whose library is filled with Pratham Books – says, "Our biggest achievement has been that these children from the rural areas are developing the habit of reading. A lot of our kids come from families in which parents are not educated and these kids are first generation learners. Story books from Pratham Books have simple language – both in English and Hindi, so kids can understand what they are reading, independent of the teachers, and this gives them a great sense of achievement."

Neelesh, of the Shivganga Trust that runs libraries in rural Madhya Pradesh, told us, "We've bought a lot of books from Pratham Books because it creates padhne ki jigyasa (the desire to read)." Sharadaji of Sandhan in Rajasthan contextualizes the attraction of Pratham Books when she says, "Kids love the presentation - pictures, the colours, texture... gaal pe laga ke rakte hain (they put the glossy paper to their cheeks) and exclaim it's so smooth and shiny!"

These responses speak of igniting the immense love of reading amongst children, and of books being a stimulus in creating a different dimension in technicolour. For us, it is a validation of Pratham Books' vision and intent becoming reality on the ground. Equally, these responses define the challenge we must constantly rise to – how to remain relevant in an ever-changing world of shifting realities, how to continue to be catalysts,

how to fuel joyful learning, and tap the potential of every child.

This is what steered us through another eventful year at Pratham Books. Dozens of new books, several encouraging collaborations, and many exciting engagements and associations have filled our year with new experiences. Meanwhile, our core, of democratizing the joy of reading in as many ways as we can, to as many children as we can, continues to grow stronger and stronger.

It's been a whole 365 days of doing what we love, and what a wonderful journey it has been. We've been to schools, book fairs, and events across the length and breadth of the country. We made it a point to go to newer areas, and participate in book fairs from Kashmir to Gulbarga. Our team has made their presence felt at all the big literature festivals, advocating our concerns that more publishers must create more multilingual, affordable books, and reiterating the need to be innovative in order to improve access to every child and not just the privileged few.

While pushing the boundaries of retail pricing, we successfully launched our story card sachet – a set of 5 story cards priced at Rs. 20 only. The sachets

were retailed through kirana stores, bus and railway stations. Product innovation was at its peak this year, when we introduced a new product called the Library-in-a-Classroom which is a wall mounted bag with an array of books that can instantly create a print rich classroom environment for children at just Rs. 5000. The response has been heartening and we now dare to dream of a library in every classroom in India!

When it came to content, we dabbled with many new ideas. Original Marathi stories by Madhuri Purandare were translated and published in multiple languages for a pan-India audience. We brought out our first long book for young adults, *Bishnu, the Dhobi Singer* and created a new adventure series, *Kallu's World*, centred on mischievous little Kallu and his gang of friends in Khajuria. For the first time in India, one of our books, *The Seventh Sun* was uploaded for a free download immediately after its publication in six languages.

We've ridden the wave of technology and used the Internet to reach even more readers and collaborators. We've shared our ideas and stories whole-heartedly and received so much love, appreciation, and reach in return. With our

award-winning social media strategy, we have built a large, vibrant and active community. Our various digital media properties gather close to 20,000 visitors a month. Over 300 books under the Creative Commons licenses have been read and downloaded close to 5,00,000 times, and the illustrations and photographs from our books and events have been viewed close to 2,00,000 times. Our books have been translated to languages that we do not publish, including Assamese, Italian, and French. More are underway - Santali, Hebrew, Malayalam, and Konkani will come next. These are large numbers by any standards, and it is this strategy that allows us to build inclusion and scale in a multilingual and multicultural society like India.

On paper, our statistics are heartening. 245 titles. 1,529 books. 11 languages. 1,00,000 schools across 21 states. The context, however, presents a very different reality with 300 million children in the age group of 3-14 years. We would like to see an India where little Chulbuli is reading her well-thumbed copy of *Bheema Gadha*, curled up in a corner of her home in Bihar. Young Akash and Aditi are engaged in their weekend squabble of who gets to read *Ambili* first. A smiling Sandhya is returning her newly finished book, *Gulli Vastugala Dabbi* to the library, and deliberating which one to pick next. Bespectacled little Kuldeep is watching *The Seventh Sun* being downloaded onto his computer. Rehana, with her dancing eyes, is clutching her newly-purchased stash of story cards close to her chest, to enjoy over the next few weeks.

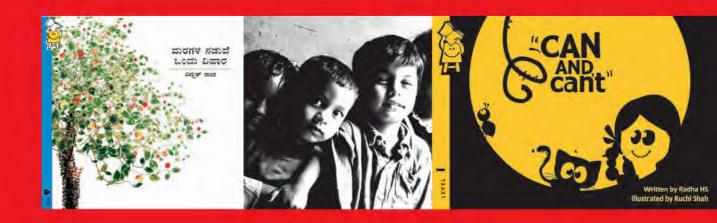
There are many little hearts that Pratham Books has touched in the last one year. Yet, there are so many more children out there who need to have access to joyful books that fill their minds with ideas and words and images. And these children – full of knowledge and optimism and confidence – will be the India of tomorrow. The journey to reach these children continues.

Rohini Nilekani

Chairperson

Suzanne Singh Managing Trustee

A road called innovation.





One day, every child in India will have a book in his or her hands. Will experience the joy of reading. Will warm up to the idea of stories, and words, and language. That is the point we want to reach. However to get there, Pratham Books faces challenges of all kinds: language, familiarity, geography, apathy and, price. We have a single response to this ever-multiplying series of challenges: we innovate to take these stories to their readers.

We help the stories change shape and form, according to their audiences, so that they become stories in Orissa, or Assam, or Tamil Nadu. Their heroes become as true-blue Indian as their readers, and speak languages the children understand. Some become richly illustrated picture books for little readers. Some become classroom libraries. Others become short little story cards, or simply-coloured books. Still others become neat and orderly bits and bytes and live on as PDF files,

downloaded hundreds of times, all over the world.

Just as reading will light the way into the future for these little minds, our chosen path will lead us - and our stories - into their hearts.



A boulevard called accessibility.





To reach their readers across languages and geographies, Pratham Books published over 200 books last year, some penned originally in Hindi and Marathi. Some are being written in Kannada. Still others are awaiting translation from languages like Norwegian, to find their readers halfway across the world.

To discover and create new stories, Pratham Books conducted a workshop for authors and illustrators in Delhi. To bring them alive through vivid art and original images, we worked with illustrators across the country.

We set a very special story a sail on the worldwide web last year. *The Seventh Sun* is freely available

under a Creative Commons license, and was uploaded for free download immediately after its publication in

six languages.

Our stories are now actively making themselves noticed at literary events like Bookaroo, the Jaipur Literature Festival, and Kahani Fest. Not only have they found themselves new readers, but, in November 2011, the stories also kindled the joy of reading in 86 Delhi schools, where our authors, illustrators, and champions hosted interesting literary sessions in which Pratham Books partnered with the Bookaroo Trust.

The stories are adept at finding new form and shape to reach their readers – Pratham Books has helped invent and reinvent them as books, story cards, picture books for the very young, inexpensive two-colour books, and the like.

Meet some of the stories that are travelling the length and breadth of India, in search of their readers. A King Cobra's Summer is a wildlife tale brought alive with fine, realistically-inked illustrations by a wildlife artist. Our first long book is a novella called Bishnu, the Dhobi Singer. Set in







historic times, it features an unusual protagonist and a wonderful world of music. *Kallu's World* is a family of stories featuring a charming, endearing set of characters from rural India. *'Babachya Mishya'* (Daddy's Mo) and *'Kakuche Bal'* (Aunty Jui's Baby) are just two examples of brilliantly-penned Marathi stories.

It isn't just the stories that are ready – all across India, so are their readers. Pratham Books is innovating hard to help the two meet. Like shampoo, we've created books in sachet form. For the past couple of years, our 4-page story cards have grown in popularity as well as in number – each story card is just Rs. 2.

Bilingual books are another source of delight – telling the same story in two languages, at the price of one book. These books accomplish so much: some help kids learn a second language. Many help non-English speakers learn English.

Each of our stories knows exactly what to do. We're just helping them find a child to work their magic upon.





An avenue called reach.





The idea of taking different routes into children's lives has met with great success in the past year. To put it in perspective, Pratham Books sold close to a million books in 2011-2012. How did we do it? Well, we didn't – we just took the books as far and wide as we could, and they did the rest themselves.

Every single book fair across the length and breadth of India, kirana stores, newspaper stalls, and other small shops was fair game for our books. You may have met them at the Ghummakkad Narain festival, the Kala Ghoda festival, as well as the Bangalore, Delhi, Jaipur, Kolkata, Chennai, Ahmedabad, Jalandhar, and Jorhat book fairs. They have been sighted at the CII North East Career and Skills expo, Aizawl expo, the All India Urdu Kitab Mela, the Singhania school exhibition, the Akshardhara book fair, the World book fair, and the Essar book fair. All told, our books reached many book fairs, most of them in smaller towns.

The books enjoyed being at unusual places, like Jalandhar, Kashmir, Davangere, Gulbarga, Jalgaon, Latur, Nashik, Karad, and Kolhapur. Participation in the All India Urdu Kitab Mela saw our Urdu and English books take off to Pakistan, as well – to be part of the Children's Literature Festival in Lahore with the Foundation Open Society Institute (FOSI).

It isn't just the book fairs who were great hosts, our books were given a warm welcome wherever they went, especially in bookstores in Guwahati, Kolkata, Gangtok, Kanpur, Chandigarh, Jaipur, Coimbatore, Hyderabad, Kochi, Suratkal, Vijaywada and Faizabad.

Our books have made firm friends with many new NGOs. Friends of Likir, an NGO with access to 16 libraries, reaching 500 kids in Leh and Ladakh, took in some of our Urdu, Hindi and English titles. Asha Ka Jhama took our Hindi books to Nawalgarh, in the heart of Rajasthan. DIET Dungarpur took us further into Rajasthan through its DIET teacher

training sessions. Deep Foundation rehomed our Urdu and English books in newly-opened libraries in Kashmir. An educational project run by BILT and Tata Power took our books to Jalandhar. And Lokadrusti worked with the American India Foundation to help our books

reach Orissa.

Libraries across India have provided our books with a comfortable place to call home. Some of these are the Bread Society, Belaku Trust, Akshar Bharati, Shaurya Schools, Mahatma Montessori School, as well as UNICEF, and the Rural Development Foundation of Hyderabad.

Local organisations helped us reach their kids – Eureka books in Chennai, Kothapalli Trust in Hyderabad and Vijaywada, and DC Books in Kerala. Teach For India' helped us reach a few budget private schools and MCD schools in Delhi and Mumbai. 'Can Support' in Delhi helped our books cheer up cancer-affected children. Our Hindi books have been taken to schools in Delhi's slums by 'Deepalay'. Nari Gunjan enabled us to reach 1,500 girls in Bihar, and help them read. In Uttar Pradesh, Pitara Faizabad introduced our books to the lovely city of Faizabad.

Beyond Indian shores, some of our books have found their way to Glotten Bookstore, in Australia. Others have been admitted into international school chains, like the Al Khor International in Doha, Qatar, and Ajman International in the Middle East.

Two of the most exciting adventures of the year, though, lit the path for many of our stories to leap into the lives of their readers. The first of these happened in Chennai, in partnership with New Horizon Media.

Pratham Books has pioneered the idea of story cards, simple, colourful stories printed on sturdy A4-sized card, and sold at an unheard-of price point of Rs. 2. Our story cards are published in Hindi, Bengali, Gujarati, Assamese, Bodo, Tamil, Urdu, English and Punjabi. While these cards are extremely effective, we still struggled with helping them reach the many children who could enjoy them. In a perfect world, they would be as easily accessible as a



sachet of shampoo or a tube of toothpaste – and that's exactly what we attempted.

Taking a leaf from the FMCG industry, we distributed 800 story cards – with 5 story cards in each shampoo-sized sachet – for just Rs. 10. The surprise factor was huge, and the response in Chennai, most encouraging. We hope to learn from this pilot project, and set our story sachets aflight across the length and breadth of India, through kirana stores, newspaper stalls, and other small shops.

The second adventure was just as invigorating – we set out to fit a whole library into a single classroom, so that the students could actually read, browse through, and learn from the books in the library, rather than have to wait for permission to access the common library, which was usually under lock and key.

With a library in their own classroom, kids could dip into the books as often as they wished – in a free class, during lunch breaks, or even between classes. This 'open library' would also inculcate a sense of responsibility, and respect for books.

The Library-in-a-classroom kit includes 300 pre-selected books, 120 story cards, and 120 activity booklets for classes 2, 3, 4, and 5. It also features four modular units to store the books, so that each class has its own library cupboard. For teachers, the kit carries a training manual, a set of guidelines, and an answer key. The kit also contains certificates for children and teachers alike.

Over 30 schools have already experienced the joy of classroom libraries, and we are greatly enthused by their response.

We know that, soon, all our stories will find their readers – with a little encouragement from schools and libraries and NGOs and all the other lovely people we're proud to call our friends.



A route called engagement









We launched a new website with a very special idea - a live write-a-thon with women authors and illustrators on International Girl Child Day. The Pratham Books' Champions initiative saw 17 people introducing this newborn story to children in their neighbourhoods.

It's a story that made no less than 3,613 friends with 700 downloads, 2,896 page views, and 17 offline book reading sessions.

Pratham Books was also the official bookstore partner for the Aviva Great Wall of Education, an initiative that donated books to under-served children across India. Pratham Books drummed up support for over 4,000 books through our website.

Last year, 'Pearson Education' inked a Memorandum of Understanding with us to promote reading among children who had low access to books. We sent out 65,000 books to 1,000 libraries across India.

Pratham Books' Champions initative invited anyone with a love for books, and children, to read to them - in metros, towns, and smaller cities. When a Champion signs up, we send them a simple banner, and four or five of our books, along with some ideas and activities linked to the books. Once the activity is completed, the Champion posts the experience on our blog. Some Champion events are commissioned by us, but the vast majority happen on their own - our Champions have read in schools, NGOs, orphanages, and apartment buildings.

The idea has snowballed into a simple but powerful means of reaching out to children all





over India, with many Champions taking their own initiative to share the joy of reading with kids. There were nearly a hundred Champions events last year – at a cost of barely Rs. 250 per event.

All of the year's events were reflected in contests and offers and exciting introductions to our stories. 'World Environment Day' saw us photographing trees, while 'International Literacy Day' was celebrated with free downloads of 20 of our books in 15 different languages. 1,230 downloads in English, Urdu, Bengali, Tamil, Hindi, Gujarati, Assamese, Punjabi, Spanish, German and French – all to celebrate literacy. Children's Day came alive with four storytelling sessions across Bangalore.

To commemorate the 'International Year of the Forest', we launched a special campaign, 'Awareness Today for a Greener Tomorrow'. From drawing contests, to a walk among the trees at Lalbagh Gardens with author and naturalist Roopa Pai. From an intriguing book about snakes,

that was read by 28 champions, to a pledge wall that collected over 2 lakh pledges in 11 different languages. The last item on the list was a green calendar! Printed on eco-friendly paper and designed by Priya Kuriyan, it is a calendar that positively begs to be filled with green landmarks and accomplishments. Featuring little-known facts about animals, and conservation tips, all proceeds from the sales went towards furthering the Pratham Books Champions programme,

All our attempts to reach new readers have been exciting and rewarding. But none of it can match the sheer delight of our books meeting their readers for the very first time.





A path called collaboration



French Translation: Parul Dubé | CC-BY



Earlier this year, Creative Commons released a compilation of case studies about 'The Power of Open', and Pratham Books featured as a case study. The magic of the Creative Commons license frees our books to discover new identities and speak new languages like Assamese, German, French, and Spanish fluently. Some of them have also learned to communicate with people with print disabilities.

Gadget-friendly, and technology-friendly, our books have leaped onto a variety of platforms, including iPhone, iPad, and Android. They now reach out to people from Memetales, Storytruck, Attano, and the Wink store. You can even dial one of our books, thanks to 'Spicelabs'. Pratham Books' annual 'Retell, Remix and Rejoice' contest resulted in no less than 34 brand new remixes of the book, **Usten to my Body'.

Twitter has brought our books closer to even more NGOs, parents, teachers, and authors, while

the Pratham Books blog has become a voice for everyone who strikes up a friendship with our books. Teachers, librarians, parents, and other publishers contribute with their experiences and further enrich the knowledge pool.

As part of International Book Giving Day, the blog featured a list of organisations that required books, and encouraged readers and supporters to help.

The year has also seen Pratham Books kick off a truly ambitious project – the collaborative book! Illustrators have begun sending in their samples, and the rest of the community will soon be equally involved. And then off goes the book, to find its place in the hearts of readers.



Read her lips! Knowledge is king

Rohini Nilekani's Pratham Books grants underpriviledged children access to books, so that they can reap the fruit of knowledge. Madhumitha B. reports



has published over 170 titles in 14 languages with stories written by authors like the late Dr Zakir Hussain, Olivia Fraser and Manorama Jafa

Suzanne Singh draws up her wishlist for changes she wants in the children's publishing

Sharing worldwide with

Gender bender

ISSUE Do story books for children display a gender bias? NITHY

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CHILDREN Pratham Books launches the 'Awareness Today for a Gre asi, promises book launches, drawing contests and 'green rewards'. NITH,



A King Cobra's Summer

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Women authors take on a live write-a-thon challenge

our women authors were asked to write a book in two days as part of an interactive, collaborative process. The only mandate given

to them was that the story should, recolve around a gift protagenist. Bangalore-based children's sublishing bouse, the not-for-prof-ie Pratham Books, organized this on the occasion of International Gift Child Day, Saturday. The process was kick-started by Pratham Books, furnities and

by Pratham Books founder and chairperson Robin) Nilekani, who has previously written two popular Pratham titles. She started off with a short, lively enippet about a little girl who sees her mother doing a head stand during yoga and how her tary turns 'ulta-pulta' after that. whacky story forward and subsequently by authors Anita Vacin-or Roopa Pai, who extried the harajani and Mala Kumar.

GIRL CHILD DAY The Upside

girl child. Mony girls in our coun

ries into an online collaborative document which had been shared among the participating authors. story has already been translat fleshing it out. Since the trunsla ters could also see the story on-line they could start working on translations as soon as the story came up, said Purvi Shah of Pra-





afraid to ask questions, and excited about learning. As the International Year of the Forest draws to a close, Pratham Books-launched its "Awareness Today For A Greener

Tomorrow" campaign.
Throughout the month of December the onja nisation had conducted a series of competitions and events to spread awareness for a greener world. The grand finale of the campaign was the launch of the new title "A King Cobra's Summer' by conservation writer and filmmaker Janaki Lenin and illowtrated by wildlife artist Maya

Present at the launch was herpetologist Gerry Martin from The Gerry Martin Project and Su-zanne Singh, Managing Trustee, Pratham books. They also unveiled the "Conservation Pledge Mall', which carried samples of the 2,04,049 pledges received by the organisation in over 10 languages from children across the country.

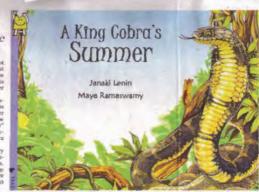
The Joy of reading

TREES

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"Pratham Books believes in spreading the joy of reading to every child. The "Pratham Books Awareness Today for a Greener Tomorrow" campoign is an apt way of using storytelling as a needium to make our children more aware about their immediate environment, the flora and found. We hope that parents and teachers talk to their children about these insues," said Suzanne Singh. Kaala, the king cobra in the fish forests of the

Western Ghats is lost and blinded. How does he survive? How does this magnificent snake deal with life in the verdant forest that has animals and humans battling for survival? Written by Janaki Lenin, the book has stunningly evocative illustrations by Maya Ramasawamy. The 36-page book



COLOURFUL WAY To get a serious haue across to children

priced at Rs. 45 is available in English, Hindi. Marathi and Kannada. Gerry had an interactive session where children

were amazed to hear about Gerry's field experi-ences with the King Cobra. They could also not contain their awe as they heard fascinating facts about this 14 foot long reptile! Excitement and energy were at a peak as the session ended with a dramatic puppet storytelling revolving around 'Kaela' the King Cobra.

At the same time, 27 storytelling sessions from the book were conducted across the country in 13 states by Prutham Books Champions making it the first ever 13-city simultaneous book Jaunch.

In today's day and age when most children are

not connected with our environment and its in habitants, initiatives such as these bring them closer to nature. And when the content is presented in a story through beautiful illustrations, chil-dren are attracted towards reading the story again

and again.

Prathum Books is a not-for-profit organization Praedam issoula in a not-reprotit organization that quelishes affordable children's books in mul-tiple Indian languages. Its mission is "to ensure a hook in every child's hand" and create a Beading India. In the last seven years, Pratham Books has reached 14 million children. For more details about Pratham Books and their books please visit www.pratfiambooks.org

CATHERING BHICA SOY

Income & Expenditure for the year ended March 31, 2012

Particulars	As at March 31, 2012 (Amount in Rupees)	As at March 31, 201 (Amount in Rupees
Income		
Sale of Books	15,953,038	16,594,810
Donations received	18,169,501	13,597,100
Increase/(Decrease) in value of Stock of Books	1,542,421	1,448,181
Other Income	613,494	652,684
Excess of expenditure over income/(Income over expenditure)	(6,128,517)	(1,624,507)
Total	30,149,936	30,668,268
Expenditure		
Book Development Expenses	14,907,053	17,361,015
Selling & Administrative Expenses	14,593,425	12,632,935
Promotional Expenses	268,342	304,331
Depreciation	381,117	369,987
Total	30,149,936	30,668,268

for Pratham Books

Rohini Nilokani Chairperson Suzanne Singh Maraging Trustee As per our report of even date for Singhvi, Dev & Unni

> Chartered Accountants Firm Reg No 003867S

> > S Ranganath Partner

Membership No.201191

Bangalore, 6th December, 2012

Balance sheet as at March 31, 2012

Particulars	As at March 31, 2012 (Amount In Rupees)	As at March 31, 201 (Amount in Rupees)
Liabilities		
Corpus Fund	21,115,801	14,987,285
Current Liabilities	6,483,260	11,915,709
Other advances	150,540	25,628
Total	27,749,601	26,928,621
Assets		
Fixed Assets	1,405,395	1,194,543
Deposits	6,741,679	406,000
Debtors	5,305,928	4,376,224
Loans and advances	146,554	89,387
Stock of Books	11,853,769	10,298,249
Cash in Hand	12,763	26,456
Cash at Bank	969,973	9,641,190
Deferred Development Expenses	1,291,037	896,573
Other Current Assets	22,502	_
Total	27,749,601	26,928,621

for Pratham Books

Rohini Nilokani Chairperson Suzanne Singh Managing Trustee As per our report of even date for Singhvi, Dev & Unni

Chartered Accountants Firm Reg No 003867S

> S Ranganath Partner

Membership No.201191

Bangalore, 6th December, 2012

Receipts and Payments account for the year ended March 31, 2012

Particulars	As at March 31, 2012 (Amount in Rupees)	As at March 31, 201 (Amount in Rupees
Receipts		
Balance brought forward		
- Cash on hand	26,456	7,851
- Cash at bank	9,641,190	2,299,768
Sale of books	15,148,246	15,435,938
Donations	18,169,501	13,597,100
Other Income	485,239	594,340
Closing Balance (Axis Bank)	47,709	-
Total	43,518,341	31,934,997
Payments		
Book Development Expenses	20.703,049	7,065,937
Selling & Administrative Expenses	14,468,535	12,199,105
Promotional Expenses	268,342	304,331
Fixed Assets Purchased	591,969	319,527
Duties and Taxes	120,322	_
Deposits	6,335,679	318,500
Amount paid to Rajiv Gandhi Foundation	-	2,059,951
Balance carried forward		
- Cash on hand	12,763	26,456
- Cash at bank	1,017,683	9,641,190
Total	43,518,341	31,934,997

for Pratham Books

Rohini Nilokani Chairperson Suzanne Singh Managing, Trustee As per our report of even date for Singhvi, Dev & Unni Chartered Accountants Firm Reg No 003867S

> S Ranganath Partner

Membership No.201191



