



APPROACHES TO
LANGUAGE
TEACHING

INTERNATIONAL
ILLUSTRATED

KATHA UTSAV 2014



A PUBLIC DIPLOMACY
INITIATIVE OF THE MINISTRY OF
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

A Katha - CBSE initiative!



Dear Friends,

We at Katha constantly endeavour to bring out the creativity in children, and this year too—in collaboration with the Central Board of Secondary Education—we brought together 8500 students from 600 CBSE schools from all parts of the country and abroad to participate actively in the Search for Excellence in Creative Writing. I thank the Central Board of Secondary Education for continuing to place such immense faith in Katha to help students discover their natural creativity and skill in writing. The fund of creativity that the students possess amazes one and all. It truly showcases the fact that children are hungry and eager to show off their skills to the world at large. However, the flavour of their creative products needs to be firmly rooted, so as to take pride in their Indianness for which I have been consistently maintaining that one only needs to look into their own backyard and recall the stories of valour, wit and humour told by our grandparents and mould them by our own creative skills.

The aim of Katha Writers' Workshops is to enhance the joy of reading in today's students so that they can become reader-leaders of India and the world tomorrow. The Katha I Love Reading (ILR) Campaign started in 2006 with the main objective of encouraging all children, despite their varied backgrounds, to write and allow their imagination to explode beyond boundaries. Today it works with about 2,00,000 children; in 248 slums and 88 corporation schools. This Search for Excellence project with CBSE is the second edition which has brought in greater enthusiasm with larger participation of students and schools. I can proudly say that the number of stories received has more than doubled from the previous edition, enthusing us to take forward this combined effort in the coming years. We thank Mr. Vineet Joshi, Chairperson, CBSE, Dr. Sadhana Parashar, Academic Director, CBSE, and their able team members for their generous time and spontaneous support to Katha Writers & Illustrators Workshops 2014. We also thank Mr. S Akbaruddin, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs and other officials of Public Diplomacy team for supporting Katha and giving international exposure to budding student writers and artists by helping us invite eminent writers, storytellers and illustrators from Australia, Canada, Costa Rica and Iran for the National Katha Utsav.

We acknowledge the support of each and every one who was a part of this unique programme, especially the principals of Sanskriti School, Delhi, G D Salwan Public School, Delhi, PSBB Millennium School, Gerugampakkam, Chennai, and Navrachana School, Vadodara, for hosting our regional and national events as well as all the principals and teachers of the six hundred registered schools who worked closely with us.

Our heartfelt appreciation goes to our national and international mentors who brought their expertise to Katha Writers' & Illustrators' Workshops, to sharpen each student's skill and to appreciate their written work with the prestigious Katha Student Awards. I am also thankful to all my colleagues at Katha and most of all, our thanks to each one of the 8500 students for their awesome stories, haiku and non-fiction!

We believe we have embarked on an important journey and we look forward to achieving more milestones with CBSE as our firm supporter and partner.

Parvinder Kaur
(Executive Director, Katha)



A SEARCH FOR EXCELLENCE IN CREATIVE WRITING

A CBSE-Katha initiative, Search for Excellence is a creative writing programme that is designed to draw out the storyteller in every child. Through workshops on story writing, the programme aims to help students to use their creativity and imagination to come up with some great stories. We aim to cultivate a culture of writing among young people. Our pursuit is to discover talent and foster it. CBSE

and Katha launched a joint venture in 2013 to help nurture future writers in the country.

This year, as an extension of the Katha Chitrakala Awards, and with the kind support of the Ministry of External Affairs, five eminent international illustrators and writers were invited to India to inspire and help cultivate India's budding young writers and

illustrators. A series of engaging Katha Chitrakata Illustrators' & Writers' Workshops for children were held in three cities—Delhi, Chennai and Vadodara—to promote a rich cultural exchange, provide world-class exposure to our children in the field of literary and fine arts, and nurture our country's own emerging talent in these fields.





We believe in the power of story to get children excited about learning. And more importantly to find their Indian roots even as they become global citizens.

– Ms Geeta Dharmarajan,
Founder-President, Katha





i love reading.in

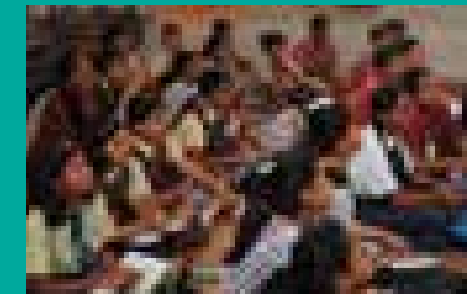
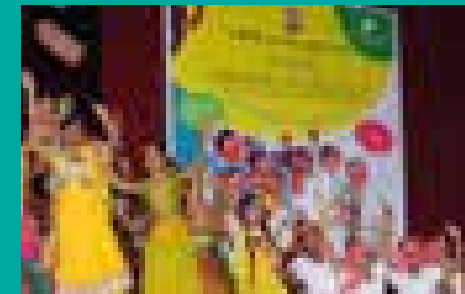
A Katha - CBSE initiative!

EVERY CHILD A READER AND WRITER

Making reading and writing immediate and fun is what Katha has worked for, since 1988. And to enhance the joy of reading, Katha launched the I Love Reading Campaign in 2006 across the corporation schools and slums of Delhi. In an attempt to extend the creative web-bridge and to nurture the latent creative writing skills in children, the I Love Reading programme took epic proportions with the generous support of Central Board of Secondary Education, the country's apex educational body.

Through a Search for Excellence in participating schools, and Writers' Workshops at the regional and national levels that culminated into the prestigious Katha Student Awards for Creative Writing, we aimed to expand the imaginative worlds of students and help them become reader-leaders, in inspired and innovative ways. It's a world of reading and writing for children that helps them to create their own "words within worlds - worlds within words."

Katha's Theory of Change states: If children learn to read well and for fun, they do well in school, gain confidence and self-esteem thereby driving change that can help create a better India for all. Katha's approach to creating a more equitable and sustainable world has been taken forward in this project with the extremely supportive and able team at CBSE, led by Mr Vineet Joshi, the Chairman, and Dr. Sadhana Parashar, Academic Director.



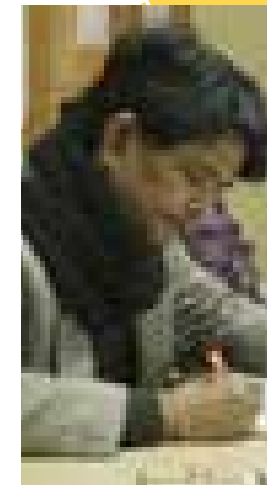
A JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY AND CELEBRATION

In association with CBSE, Katha kindled the creativity in bright-eyed, ever-eager children as they explored the craft of writing through:



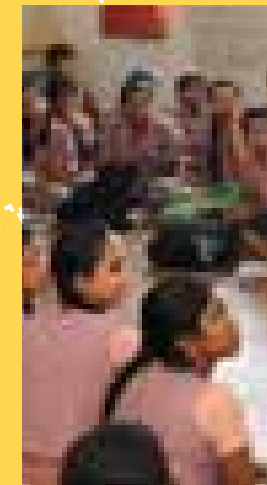
KATHA CLUBS

Katha brought its prestigious brand of writing and translation to schools through KATHACLUBS. 600 CBSE schools registered for the Katha Clubs. The Clubs conducted an on-the-spot Search for Excellence wherein creative writings and translations were selected and uploaded on our website, www.ilovereadin.com.



JURY-ENABLED SHORTLISTING

A Jury was formed and guidelines issued to review and evaluate these stories on the basis of their originality, theme and expression. After the first round of evaluation, the shortlisted stories were further reviewed by a second set of Jurors.



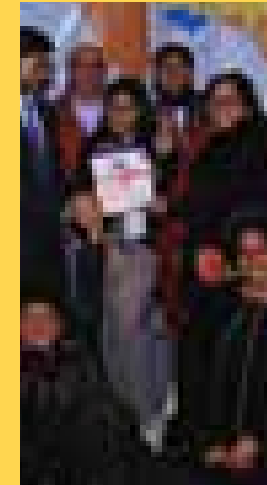
REGIONAL WRITERS' WORKSHOPS

The young writers of the shortlisted stories were invited to the Regional Writers Workshop conducted in Delhi for the Northern Region, and Chennai for the Southern Region. The young writers honed their creative skills under the guidance of a talented group of professional writers, poets and translators.



NATIONAL WRITERS' WORKSHOPS

The students refined their creative potential, and were encouraged to submit final entries for the National Writers Workshop. The best stories from each school nominated by student vote for the longlist. A panel of respected national writers and illustrators choose young writers for the prestigious Katha Awards for Creative Writing.



THE KATHA UTSAV 2014 & THE KATHA AWARDS

The winning entries were felicitated with awards during a three-day Katha Utsav held in Delhi. Each participant in all workshops was awarded with the certificate. Certificates were divided into three categories: Grand prize, Laureate prize and Encouragement prize for creative writing.

THE BIG ANNOUNCEMENT

CBSE NOTIFICATION: CBSE-KATHA CREATIVE WRITING SEARCH FOR EXCELLENCE

KATHA, an Indian publisher of children's story books and translated fiction, has been working in the areas of creative writing and translation for nearly 25 years. I Love Reading is a programme to promote creative writing and translation among students. I Love Reading Project seeks to nurture their creativity by giving them a platform to share their writing, thereby inspiring generations of future writers. Participation is free of cost.

CREATIVE WRITING SEARCH FOR EXCELLENCE



STAGE 1 KATHA CLUBS

I LOVE READING

- Affiliated schools will organize On the Spot Creative Writing Search for Excellence in the following Categories:
i. Classes IV-VII | ii. Classes VIII-XII:
- The Principal shall verify and attest to the originality of the stories/translations, submitted by students, before uploading them onto the Katha website: www.ilovereadin.org
- Initially, students may submit their stories in English and Hindi.

[Sample narratives and tips for writing and translation are accessible on the website]

- All students may access the submitted stories/translations on the website and cast their votes online.

STAGE 2 REGIONAL CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOPS

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2014

- About 300-400 selected semi-finalists and their accompanying teachers are invited to a Regional Writing Workshop.
- The semi-finalists will be given an opportunity to further develop and revise their submitted stories/translation under the guidance of professional writers, poets, and translators.
- At the conclusion of the Regional Writing Workshop, students submit their stories for the FINAL ROUND.

STAGE 3 CBSE-KATHA UTSAV

DECEMBER 2014

- The submissions will be screened by experts who will select about 200 of the best entries for the FINALS.
- The finalists and their teachers will attend the Katha Utsav in New Delhi. The Katha Utsav will be a 3-day workshop held in Delhi, with master-classes by experts from the literary field.
- Katha will also organize meetings with publishers and literary agents.
- A jury will announce prizes for the Best Story and Best Translation which will be published by Katha as BalKatha Prize Stories.

For further details, schools may contact:

Organisers: Tel. 011 4141 6600/Email: ilr.cbse@katha.org /CBSE: Mr. Sandeep Sethi Officer:011-23217128

Sd/-

Dr. Sadhana Parashar

Director (Academics, Research, Training and Innovation)

THE MANY NAMES OF EXCITEMENT!

A **KATHA CLUB** start in your school. Find, inspire and grow talent in your students. Our goal is to help you create India's future wordsmiths!



ONLINE ACTIVITIES where students' can upload their stories, poems & translations. Encourage students to read, write, vote and win! Read and critique stories by top Indian writers.

THE WRITERS WORKSHOP at a regional level will give selected students a chance to hone their writing talent. And win a place at the Katha Utsav!



FREE ACCESS to Katha e-books from the 63 books recommended by CBSE.

The **NATIONAL KATHA UTSAV** will reward your students' writing skills. And showcase their works to the world!



It was a mesmerizing experience to be a part of the Katha Utsav. Thanks for providing this golden platform to our children ...

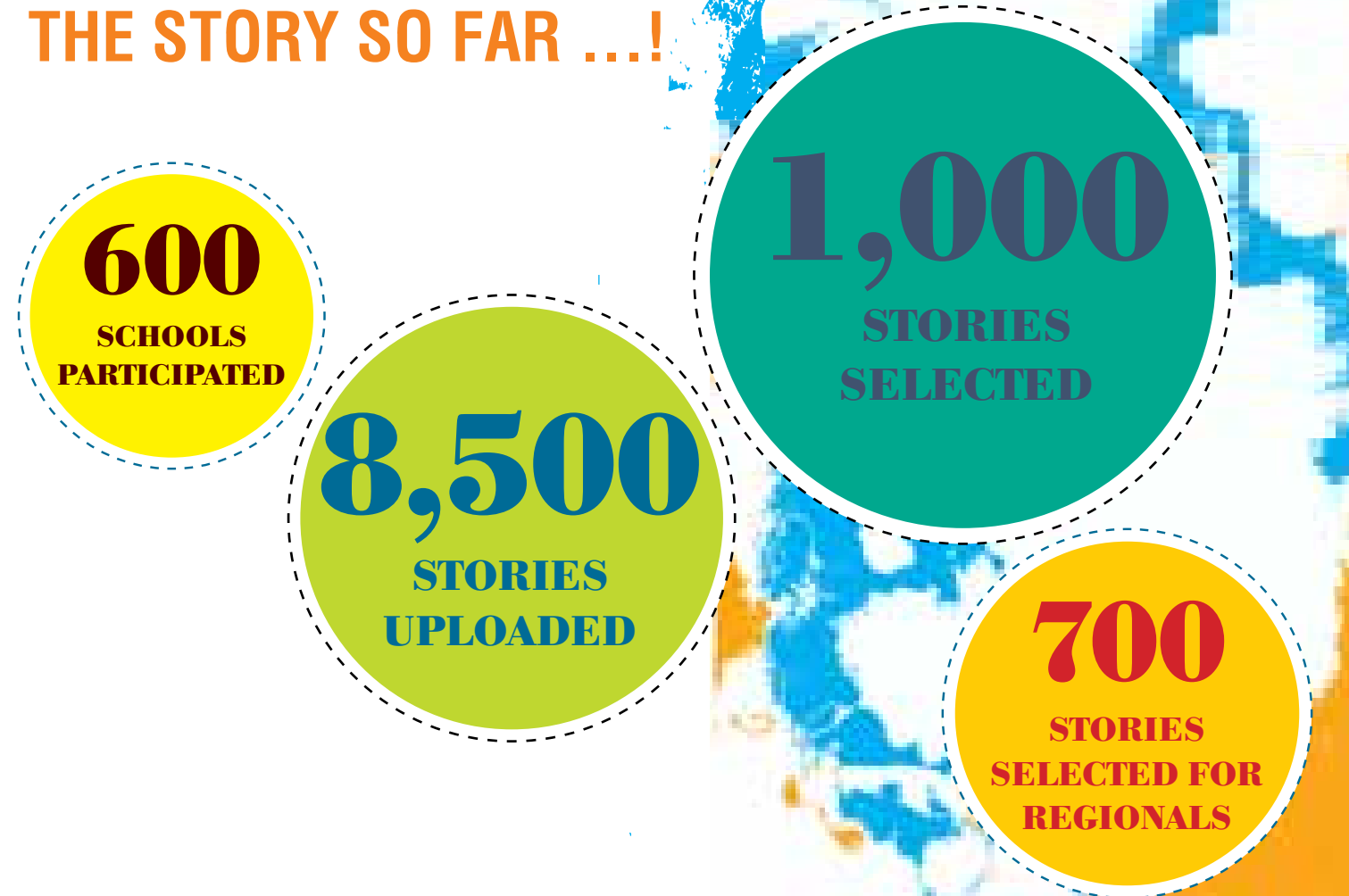
– Ms Sheetal Grover, Jaspal Kaur Public School, Shalimar Bagh

THE UPSHOT: 600 PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS AND 8500 STORIES

The CBSE-KATHA Search for Excellence in Creative Writing received an overwhelming response with over 600 participating schools and 8500 stories, almost double of that received in the previous year. The cross-section of children cut across regional boundaries and social backgrounds and proved how all they needed was the opportunity and the recognition that they could write. A Jury was formed and guidelines issued to review and evaluate these stories on the basis of their originality, theme and expression. One thousand stories were selected by that Jury and these were then further reviewed by a second set of Jurors who finally shortlisted seven hundred stories.

The select seven hundred stories were displayed on the Kātha website along with the name of the child and school name with address. These children were then invited to participate in the regional workshops.

THE STORY SO FAR ...!





IMAGINATIONS UNLEASHED THROUGH THE REGIONAL WORKSHOPS

The regional writers' workshops were held in Chennai and Delhi. Eminent writers, storytellers, poets and illustrators provided guidance and training in creative writing to the participants during these workshops. CBSE-Katha's relentless pursuit to enhance the joy of reading and rediscover 'stories' and 'storytelling' in children was evident in the smiling, excited faces of young children. The aim of these workshops is to kindle an interest in lifelong learning and induce the reading habit in each child. 552 students from 140 schools attended the regional workshops.

REGION	VENUE	DATES	NUMBER OF	NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING STUDENTS	RESOURCE PERSONS
CHENNAI	PSBB Millennium School, 9 Multi Nagar Main Road, Gerukkam-pakkam, Chennai	October 30th & 31st 2014	60	252	Annie Besant, Eric Miller, Meera Srikanth, K Ramesh Ramesh Anand, Sonia Duggal, Tulsi Badrinath
DELHI	GD Salwan Public School , Pusa Road, New Delhi	November 1st & 2nd, 2014	80	300	Anjali Nayar, Deepa Agarwal Kala Ramesh, Vandana Bist Manisha Gupta, Nirmala Nair Piyali Das Gupta, Roopal Kewalya Sangeeta Barooah Pisharoty

My heartfelt thanks to CBSE-Katha team for organizing such an innovative event!

—Ms Poonam Lalla, Hansraj Model School, Punjabi Bagh, Delhi



THE SOUTH-REGION CHAPTER



The South-region workshop kick-started with an inauguration function by the PSBB School with a prayer and lighting of a lamp by all dignitaries. The school was celebrating Rashtriya Diwas Day too on the same day. The children performed an enthralling mime act and a dance to showcase different regions and languages of our nation.

CBSE-Katha Workshop started with a welcome note on behalf of Katha by Ms Sonia Duggal, introductions

of all resource persons and a brief address on the stated aims and objectives of the programme. For ease of being mentored and given personal attention, children were detailed into smaller groups and sent to different resource persons in the workshops where they had two-day interactive sessions with their respective mentors. At the end of the workshop, their original stories/poems/non-fiction work underwent a sharp improvement process without

impinging on their respective creativity and originality. The improved versions were submitted for the National Katha Utsav 2014.

Teachers and parents, who had accompanied the children for the regional workshop, had a useful interactive session with Ms. Sonia Duggal on the challenges of school education and curricula. At the end of the workshop, children were given a certificate of participation by their respective mentors.





THE NORTH-REGION CHAPTER



The North-region workshop started with children checking their registrations and organizing themselves into groups for the respective workshops. Ms. Geeta Dharmarajan addressed the audience on the conceptualization of this programme and the vision of making the CBSE-Katha joint venture a platform to reach out to all CBSE schools throughout the country for inculcating creativity in literary fields and to hone their skills to become the future reader-leaders of the nation.

Participants came from faraway places like Jorhat, Jharkhand, Raipur, Muscat (UAE), Surat, etc. apart from various Delhi schools. The enthusiasm shown by schools as well as children was indeed awe-inspiring.

During the two-day workshop, the young writers were introduced to the finer nuances of creative writing by their respective mentors while helping them build confidence, take pride in their work, develop creativity, and have lots of fun! As in the

previous edition of the programme, Haiku, a new form of poetry, was introduced to children which they immensely enjoyed. They wrote their own Haiku and expressed their thoughts through these brief three-line verses.

The final session of the respective workshops concluded with distribution of certificates. The works of children were collected for the grand finale, Katha Utsav 2014.



SOME GOOD THINGS THAT WE HEARD FROM OUR REGIONAL MENTORS...

It was interesting holding a workshop for so many children!
— TULSI BADRINATH

Thank you Katha for this wonderful opportunity. I enjoyed myself immensely and found it a valuable experience.
— ANNIE BESANT

It was a pleasure to be a part of the Katha writers' workshop at PSBB Millennium School. The children were enthusiastic and their creativity and energy made the effort really worthwhile. I hope my working with them made a difference to them too.
— MEERA SRIKANT

A BIG thank you to Katha for giving me an opportunity to be one of the mentors of the Regional Writers' Workshop in Chennai and for giving full freedom to work intensively with the children of varied ages to enhance their creativity! Katha has made my life more meaningful and beautiful! What a talent children showcased I went speechless!
— RAMESH ANAND

I thoroughly enjoyed interacting with students. They were quite enthusiastic and open to learning. I was pleasantly surprised to note how creative the students were during the programme. Thanks again for giving me an opportunity.
— K RAMESH

The event was very well-run. I appreciate the freedom and time I was given in the classroom.
— ERIC MILLER

It was great being a part of the CBSE-Katha writing initiative 2014 in Delhi! Thanks for inviting me to be part of this lovely workshop.
— MANISHA GUPTA

I thoroughly enjoyed the workshops, to say the least. The sessions were by and large interactive and a lot of fun.
— ROOPAL KEWALYA

It was a wonderful workshop and I had a fantastic time. Hope the kids enjoyed as much as I did. It must have been a logistical nightmare to coordinate 300 kids from different cities and kudos to you and the team to have pulled it off without any hassles.
— NIRMALA NAIR

It was a very enriching experience for me. And I congratulate Katha for pulling it off so beautifully.
— SANGEETHA BAROOAH PISHAROTY



KATHA UTSAV 2014

INTERNATIONAL
WRITERS
WORKSHOP

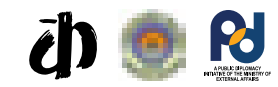
INTERNATIONAL
ILLUSTRATORS
WORKSHOP

APPROACHES TO
LANGUAGE TEACHING
FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

ilovereading.in
A Katha - CBSE initiative!

26-28 DECEMBER

SANSKRITI SCHOOL . DR S RADHAKRISHNAN MARG
CHANAKYAPURI . NEW DELHI





BUDDING WORDSMITHS IN ACTION AT THE NATIONAL WORKSHOPS

Following the Regional Writers' Workshops, a team of dedicated resource people screened the submissions and selected semi-finalists for the National Writers' Workshops during Katha Utsav, the three-day festival held at New Delhi in December, 2014. The modules for these final workshops were developed after intensive research and discussions between numerous resource people involved with the project. We were clear on what we wanted to give the children through the entire process, through what methods and in what kind of an interactive and energetic environment!

Number of participating schools	Number of children	Number of workshops
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98	320	12
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The three-day festival was organized from 26th Dec to 28th December, 2014. Scores of excited students, accompanied by their parents and teachers, queued up to register themselves for the workshop on the first day of the event and were assigned different mentors. The Writers' Workshop was classified into four 'Strands' and assigned to mentors. After the registration, the event was officially inaugurated with the lamp-lighting ceremony by Geeta Dharmarajan, the Founder-President of Katha, who later addressed the audience, and Dr. Balasubramanian Former Director, Academics, CBSE. In the welcome address, Ms Dharmarajan emphasized on the importance of writing and dwelling more deeply into one's own culture/language.

NATIONAL MENTORS

STRAND 1

Eerie spine-chillers and delicious fantasies! Adventures, mysteries and horror.

STRAND 2

Is it possible? 'Slice-of-Life' stories.



ANUSHKA RAVISHANKAR

Anushka is a well-known writer and has made a name for herself internationally as an Indian children's writer, with over 10 books of verse, fiction and non-fiction. Anushka Ravishankar can be said to have pioneered the Indian English nonsense verse form and brought it to international attention.



ARUNIMA MAZUMDAR

Arunima is a 29-year-old Delhi-based writer and journalist. She writes on art, culture and travel for various publications such as Mint – Hindustan Times, The Hindu Business Line, Femina and The Man magazine. Reading, she says, is therapeutic for her and she has keen interest in travel literature written especially by Indian authors.



KAMAL PRUTHI

Kamal Pruthi is a recipient of ATSA(Art Think South Asia-2014) fellowship in the field of Arts management and Goethe's Scholarship for young theatre practitioners of the world-2006. Active in the theatre industry since 1999, Kamal is active as the artistic director of a young theatre company 'Museum Theatre' since 2012.



MANISHA GUPTA:

Manisha is a multifaceted personality—a writer, painter & trainer. A prolific writer with many articles published in leading national dailies and reputed magazines, she is a columnist with The Financial Express and SME World. She is also the Founder & MD of LOGI HQ Training & Publishing, which promotes new writers by helping them self-publish their books. She has been writing Hindi & English poetry since childhood. She has lived in Japan and learnt the Japanese language, art & culture, including Haiku.



PIYALI DASGUPTA:

Piyali Dasgupta is an Expressive Arts Practitioner. She is trained in Storytelling, Art, Music, Narrative–Therapy, Psychodrama, Playback Theatre, Dance Movement Psychotherapy, Palliative Care Counseling, Hypnotherapy and Reflective Teamwork. Isa and her friends – The Bully Gully Scare is her first novella for children. Her expertise lies in Life Skill Development, Mentoring, Capacity Building, Storytelling, Corporate Training, Writing and Project Management.



SANGEETA BAROOAH PISHAROTY:

Sangeeta is a journalist for the last 18 years! A desire to read newspapers and listen to radio since childhood developed her an ardor for details, like what constitutes a newspaper, why people read it daily, who tells the reporters about an incident, who gives the headlines, who chooses the pictures, why some news is on the first page...why a certain information on the radio is read out first, why sports is always at the end of a bulletin, etc, etc. After her graduation from Guwahati University in 1995, she joined the well-known news agency, United News of India, in New Delhi.



NATIONAL MENTORS

STRAND 3

Crabs, flying squirrels and humongous anthills. Sci-fi and nature-based stories.



ANKIT CHADHA

Ankit Chadha is a writer-storyteller who brings together performance, literature and history. He specializes in Dastangoi – the art of Urdu storytelling, and has written, translated, compiled and performed stories under the direction of Mahmood Farooqui. His first book for children, the national award-winning My Gandhi Story, was published by Tulika Books in 2013.



ATANU ROY

Atanu is a Delhi-based illustrator and cartoonist, who has illustrated over a hundred children's books. He has worked with organizations such as India Today and National Trust of India. He has received a number of international awards for his work.



KALA RAMESH

Kala Ramesh is neck deep in haiku! Kala has taken over 45 workshops for kids and adults for all ages from 12 to 101! She also has 90 hours of teaching behind her for the under-graduates at Symbiosis Centre of Management Studies, Pune. Kala is a regular featured speaker at the Bookaroo, a children's literary festival conducted across the country.

STRAND 4

Bollywood, Kollywood, Oopswood! Tall tales & exaggerations.



ARVIND GAUR

He is the director and founder of the renowned Asmita Theatre Group. He is known for his work in innovative, socially and politically relevant theatre. Gaur's plays are contemporary and thought-provoking, connecting intimate personal spheres of existence to larger social political issues. He has organized theatre workshops for children in schools and slums and is a champion of street theatre performances on socio-political issues.



NIRMALA NAIR

Nirmala Nair is a communication designer and documentary filmmaker. She graduated from the National Institute of Design in Visual Communication Design and works on bridging the existing gap between mainstream, popular content and meaningful, socially relevant content. She works on issues like social-inequality, caste-based discrimination, human trafficking and gender inequality and uses media to bring about a change in attitudes and behaviour of people.



VIKRAM MALL

Vikram Mall has close to 15 years of experience in facilitating and designing of Learning & Development initiatives both indoors and outdoors. He has been involved with line functions in organizations and running a profit center. He has also worked with The Body Shop, Freight Systems, Samsung and Nokia. He is accredited in MBTI, DISC and TKI. He runs various Value workshops at all levels of organizations. He is also a theatre enthusiast, SCUBA diver and enjoys horse riding and cooking.

THE NATIONAL TEACHERS' WORKSHOP

While children were engaged in the writers' workshops, the teachers too had sessions called the ALT21 – Approaches to Language Teaching in the 21st Century. With a keynote address by the Founder-President of Katha, Ms. Geeta Dharmarajan, followed by another eminent educationist, Mr. G Balasubramanian, Academic Director (Retd.), CBSE the ball was set rolling for all the participating teachers to come up with innovative ideas and best practices adopted in classrooms.

The main focus of discussions in ALT21 revolved around the following topics:

- Can English be learnt as part of relevant education for all-round development?
 - How can English language teachers help create strong, sensitive societies that nurture equity?
 - How can language arts classrooms rise to the quality challenge of integrated learning?
- Can we adopt the best practices from schools and language teachers around the world?

The deliberations that the teachers had with the experts from different creative fields included innovative ways of inculcating the habit of reading, creative writing and critical thinking in students. The dedicated teachers took active interest in the discussions and voiced their views, making the debates very vibrant and relevant for all present.



APPROACHES TO
LANGUAGE TEACHING
FOR THE 21ST CENTURY



WHAT OUR PROUD NATIONAL MENTORS HAD TO SAY...

It was an honour to be part of Katha Utsav.
ARUNIMA MAZUMDAR

As a mentor it was heartening to see so many school students taking to writing in the real sense even in this day & age where computers & mobiles rule. Some of them write pretty well and this is because they are sensitive to the happenings around them. Such writing workshops by Katha will give them a good exposure and experience and enable them to develop their creativity further.
MANISHA GUPTA

2014 ended in a special way for me because of the lovely workshops. It was a wonderfully enriching experience and I hope the children enjoyed as much as I did!
NIRMALA NAIR

Thanks to Katha for giving me this opportunity to teach Haiku to young lovers of nature and literature! I've always loved teaching school-kids and this experience was no less rewarding. I taught them contemporary haiku as it is practised today all over the world.
KALA RAMESH

It's indeed a great opportunity to work with students from across the country. I congratulate the entire Katha team for putting this together.
ANKIT CHADHA

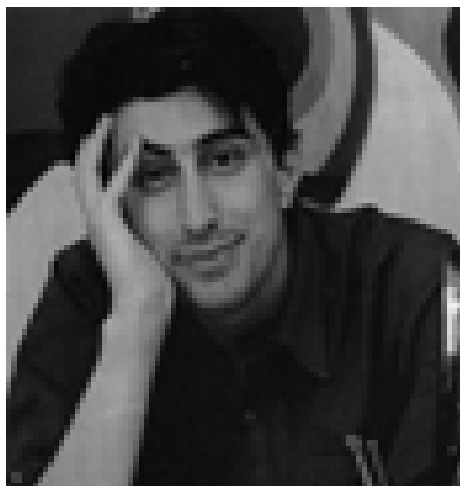


THE CHITRAKATHA INTERNATIONAL WRITERS' & ILLUSTRATORS' WORKSHOP

PAINTING WITH WORDS, WRITING WITH PICTURES

The CBSE-Katha Search for Excellence had an international component this year. Facilitated by the Ministry of External Affairs, the three-day fest saw six writers and illustrators from different countries holding workshops with 400 students of CBSE schools from across India on story writing, poetry composition and illustration. The international list included Australian poet and writer Libby Hathorn, Japanese poet Eiko Yachimoto, Iranian illustrators Hassan Amekan and Negin Ehtasabian, Inuit writer from Greenland Canada Michael Kuchugak and Costa Rican illustrator Wen Hsu.

INTERNATIONAL GUEST FACULTY



HASSAN AMEKAN

Illustrator, Artist, Designer & Animator, Iran

The winner of the International Noma Concours children's book illustrations 2004 and 2006, Hassan Amekan has illustrated many award-winning children's books that have been published in Korean, Japanese, English and several other languages. He has also participated in many international art exhibitions.



LIBBY HATHORN

Writer & Poet, Australia

Libby Hathorn is an award-winning author and poet of more than 50 books. She writes for children, young adults and adults. She recently won The Alice Award, a national recognition for a woman who has made a distinguished and long-term contribution to the Australian literature.



MICHAEL KUSUGAK

Author & Storyteller, Canada

Michael Kusugak, winner of The Vicky Metcalf Award for Children's Literature, 2008, is a storyteller and a Canadian children's writer who tells stories about Arctic and Inuit culture. During his childhood, his family travelled by dog sled, living a traditional Inuit lifestyle. He has written eight picture books, one young reader novel and one non-fiction picture e-book.



NEGIN EHTESABIAN

Illustrator, Designer & Freelance Artist, Iran:

The recipient of the Golden Pen in the 44th International Biennial of Illustration of Belgrade – Serbia, Negin Ehtesabian has been working on posters, book covers and children's books since 2001. She has participated in several international art exhibitions in Italy, Germany, USA, Canada, Serbia, Japan, Portugal, and Iran.



WEN HSU

Illustrator, Costa Rica

Wen Hsu is the First Prize Winner of the Katha Chitrakala Search for Excellence, 2011 and the recipient of the 2008 Grand Prize in the Asia/Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU) Noma Concours for the illustrations of her story, Nadi & Xiao Lan. She received a BA in Illustration with honours from Rhode Island School of Design in 2006.

SOME GENEROUS COMMENTS OF OUR INTERNATIONAL GUEST FACULTY...



What a wonderful time I've had in India! I am glad to have met such a various and vigorous group and to have been into the chaos and beauty and gladness. I regret not having the time for in-depth conversations about the place and power of the arts in our lives—a favourite subject of ours in Australia when artists and writers get together.

— **LIBBY HATHORN**

I am so happy that I came to India. And I am so happy for the wonderful workshop I had with a bunch of such smart students.

— **HASSAN AMEKAN**



Thank you very much Katha for all kindness. I was stunned by the schools, the education system and the students.

— **NEGIN EHTESABIAN**

Amazing experience!

— **WEN HSU**



I had a nice time in India, thanks to Katha, The kids were wonderful as always. The teachers were gracious and helpful. Thanks all the kids for giving us such a memorable experience!

— **MICHAEL KUSUGAK**



BOOK FAIR



The three-day long Katha Book Fair started on December 26th, with the inaugural ceremony. All the students/ Teachers/Parents browsed through the colourful Katha books and bought them. Brochures/catalogues and the list of CBSE recommended titles were also given to all participant teachers and parents to recommend our books through their library purchase. There were many enquiries from outstation schools regarding training/workshop for teachers/ students. All the resource persons who embarked on this creative and imaginative journey and helped make the Utsav the success it was, were presented a Katha book as a token of love and appreciation.





KATHA GALA AWARDS

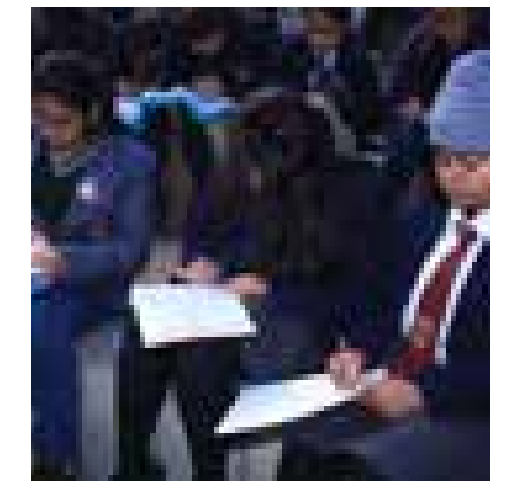
The Katha Utsav 2014 came to a close with the Katha Awards and Valedictory Ceremony wherein the winners were felicitated with awards and prizes for their active work in the field of reading and writing during the three-day workshop. Students from different parts of country were present to receive the prestigious acclamation

being given by the renowned alumni of Katha. Each participant in all 12 workshops was awarded with the certificate. Certificates were divided into three categories: Grand prize, Laureate prize and Encouragement prize for creative writing.

The five eminent visiting international faculties too addressed

the august gathering and showcased some of their work to an appreciative audience.

Ms Geeta Dharmarajan thanked the Principal of Sanskrit School, the staff for their whole-hearted support, all resource people and students for their participation.





REGIONAL WORKSHOPS WITH THE INTERNATIONAL GUEST FACULTY

Under the familiarization programme for eminent illustrators and literary personalities, Ministry of External Affairs supported the travel and lodging of the five international guest faculties for the workshops at Chennai and Vadodara.





PSBB MILLENNIUM SCHOOL, CHENNAI (JANUARY 2 & 3, 2015)

The workshop started with a welcome address by the school and the introduction of the international faculty. Around 60 children attended the writers' workshops conducted by Michael Kusugak and Libby Hathorn. Children interested in drawing and illustrating attended the sessions mentored by three illustrators, Hassan, Negin and Wen Hsu. Children from other schools too participated in the two-day workshop.

At the end of the second day, there were colourful display of children's artworks as well as the screening of a short film by Michael Kusugak and a group performance by all students who attended Libby's Poetry and Story Appreciation session.

HIPPOCAMPUS, CHENNAI (JANUARY 3, 2015)

Hippocampus is an organization set up to encourage joy of reading amongst children and, on a regular basis, conducts various workshops for children. The international illustrators and writers walked into the Hippocampus venue where more than 60 children were waiting eagerly to listen, enact and illustrate under the guidance of these mentors. After the initial welcome and introduction, the children settled with their respective groups. Though it was a two-hour session, it was difficult to end the show with enthusiastic participants wanting more.

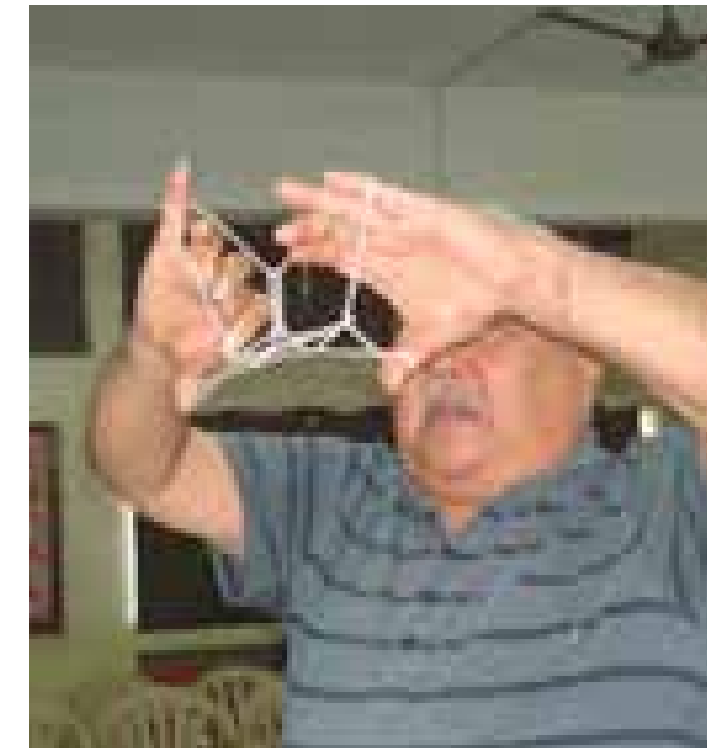


NAVRACHANA SCHOOL, VADODARA (JANUARY 5 & 6, 2015)

The principal of the school welcomed the international visitors and the students of the school had organized a cultural show of classical Bharatanatyam dance, classical choir song and a traditional Rajasthani dance for the guests. The school had also invited students from other schools in Vadodara.

Michael Kusugak and Libby Hathorn took separate sessions with children to tell, listen and share stories and poems. The illustration mentors took Master Classes with children who were inclined towards art and drawings. The sessions were extremely lively with group presentation of poems through various media like miming, music, drama, and dance under the guidance of Libby. Michael shared many inspiring stories from the land of Inuits with the young audience. The school's senior and junior session art teachers were enthralled by the recognition and importance towards illustrations.

The international faculty also did a short storytelling session for the toddlers.



GOOD NEWS!

For the creative writers, who impress everyone with their style and idea of writing will get a new platform to showcase their talent as CBSE is coming with a competition for them. For the presentation of talent of such students, CBSE is set to organize a competition 'I Love Reading'. Students of class 4th to 12th will be eligible to participate in this competition.

This opportunity is provided by the publisher of story books Katha. To promote the habit of reading and writing in students, this competition will be organized.

—INDORE CITY

An Oman-based CBSE school also took part in this year's edition. The idea is also to encourage Bhasha writing in children. We are conscious of the fact that sometimes we end up appreciating the use of language more than that of noticing creativity in children or their critical thinking. We want to bring out their creativity hiding under grammar and syntax, under concepts like adverbial clauses and gerunds.

—MS GEETA DHARMARAJAN IN AN INTERVIEW TO METRO PLUS,
THE HINDU

To encourage the ability to think, ask questions and discuss among children at an early age, publishing firm Katha has started the second chapter of their creative writing competition...

—IANS

In end-December, the second edition of the [CBSE-Katha Search for Excellence] programme saw more than 600 CBSE schools and around 8,000 students taking part. Around 400 students were short-listed for the three-day national creative writing and illustration workshop held at the Capital's Sanskriti School. Twelve writers, illustrators, journalists and theatre practitioners were chosen to help hone the children's creative writing and painting skills. Five award-winning international writers and illustrators mentored at the Utsav, offering global exposure.

—LIVE MINT

The I Love Reading CBSE-Katha Initiative, saw six writers and illustrators from different countries holding workshops with 400 students of CBSE schools from across India on story writing, poetry composition and illustration.

—THE HINDU

**HAIKU BY A CBSE
STUDENT ON PUNE WALL!**

stormy night
at the bottom of the ocean
the ship finds a home

-Aanya Singh

i love reading.in

A Katha - CBSE initiative!

ONWARD JOURNEY!

In an endeavour to empower the school community to enhance the practice of reading and learning, Katha has covered many a milestone in the last few years and this journey is going to continue till we reach to every school. In 2013, with the kind support and encouragement of CBSE, the ILR initiative received 3500 entries from 500 CBSE Schools across India. In the year 2014, we were wowed by the stories sent by 8500 children from 600 CBSE Schools from different parts of the Country.

We received entries and active participation from the state of Jammu to the newly formed state of Telangana. This year we aim to have more than 1000 schools participation. We will focus on North Eastern States schools as well. We also plan for Academic Enrichment Programme for schools in the form of various professional development workshops. Through our workshops we expect to create bhasha learning and reading environment that is encouraging and positive for children and teachers.

OUR HEARTFELT GRATITUDE

...to each one who contributed to I Love Reading programme and made it a resounding success that has left all of us deeply humbled. From the volunteers to the advisors and mentors who supported us during the entire process, reading every word that all the children had sent, pausing to ponder, drifting through the words that were weaved with utmost care.

...to the international and national faculties who were a part of the Regional Writing Workshops in Delhi and Chennai and the Katha Utsav 2014. All the distinguished panelists for sharing their experiences and knowledge with teachers.

...to the principals of all the schools who played host to us and warmed us to their hospitality, namely, Ms. Vijay Lakshmi Singh, GD Salwan public school, Delhi, Ms. Sita Umamaheshwaran, PSBB Millennium School, Chennai, Ms. Bijoya Baksi, Navrachana School, Vadodara, and Ms. Abha Sahgal from Sanskriti School, Delhi.

...to the entire CBSE team who believed in Katha's ideology of spreading the joy of reading and helped us in taking it to another level.

...to the Ministry of External affair for supporting and inviting five eminent international writers and illustrators from across the world to promote and give international experience to the students.

...and last but of course not the least, the schools, students and teachers who supported and believed in us in making this second chapter of the programme a huge success and giving us the confidence of taking it everywhere every year!

We couldn't have done it if not for all you lovely people and your kind support!

Kirti Khanna Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan Public School - Delhi Rahul Kumar Bhavan Rajaji Vidhyashram,Chennai - Tamil Nadu Harshita Parinita Rajashekhar Manjushree M Brahmrishi Mission Sr.Sec. School,Abohar - Punjab Aashna Goyal Centre Point School,Nagpur Maharashtra Siddhant K.Banerjee Chettinad Vidhya Mandir Karur,Tamil Nadu Jeevika .K Harsinip Priya. S Srihari .S Gaaviya Shree M.S Sanjuhi Praphantha.S Tarun T.R Asmithaa. M.S R.Swetha. R. Priyadharshini. Akshaya R.P DAV Chandrasekharpur,Bhubneshwar- Odissa Shrestha Gupta DAV International School,Amritsar - Punjab	Siya Aggarwal Raghav Khullar DAV Public School,Faridabad - Haryana Divya Rajpal Isha Sharma DAV Public School,Hyderabad- Telangana Shrutha Keerthi Nethi DAV Public School,Kota - Rajasthan P.V.L.Gauri Harshvardhan Fatnani DAV Public School,Sec 14,Gurgaon - Haryana Lekisha Mehta kaustubh DAV School NIT Faridabad- Haryana Shubhra Sharma DAV Sr,Sec.School,Moggapair Chennai- Tamil Nadu Sarvesh Chander S.M.Arulselvan Shivakanth Sandeep Ganesh S.Adithya M.Girish Kumar G.Adityaraj V.Jaideep DPS Ghaziabad - UP Ishita Blest Sarthak Pathak Trishala Mohan DPS Haridwar,Uttarakhand	Kirti Tamanna Das Alankrita Rawat DPS Jammu - Jammu Lakshay Gandotra Govind Sawhney DPS Panipat - Haryana Jayyant Priyambada DPS RK Puram Delhi Taara Dhawan Angelina dash Aaliya Raza Saisha Monga Shivastu Kartik Aahald Sethi Essar International School,Surat - Gujrat Mehak Gupta Sarthak Harne Kartavi Patel Aryan Aggarwal Mohammed Gazi Niyanta Desai Ashutosh Bhatt Bhavana Vedantham Prateek Upadhyay Pankhuri rastogi Foster Billabong High International School,Hyderabad - Telangana Aditya Jayaraman RVS Raga Bhavana K. Gayathri Alancrita Feroze	GD Goenka Public School - Delhi Ishita Aggarwal Arin Dhawan Mahir Khanna GD Salwan Public School,Pusa Road,New Delhi Umang Gupta Janova Vidhi Maheshwari Divyam Mankhand Aanchal Singla Aaryan Paandita Aakarshit Arghya Bera Prabhneet Kaur Shivam Swati Chawdhury Aryan Aggarwal Ashutosh Bhowmik Anupam Dhiman Global Public School,Cochin - Kerala Mira Nair Neha Vishwanath Sruthi Subramanian Jaimie Mathew Shivani Sajesh Asokan Trishna Chakravarty Golaya Progressive Public School,Delhi Chetna Chaudhary Astha Renu Maanzu Sahi Gouchwal	Guru Harikishan Public School,Delhi Rasleen Kaur Gwalior Glory High School - MP Nikita Arora Gyan Mandir Public School,Naraina Vihar Delhi Simran Mishra Rajath Ratna Shruti Gupta Hansraj Model School,Punjabi Bagh -Delhi Khusboo Nagpal Yukti Khanna Jitesh Tandon Pooja Kukreja Navya Chopra Prabal Gupta Happy Model School,Janak Puri,Delhi Kushank Chawla Gurleen Saini Indian School Muscat- Oman Harleen Osahan Jaspal Kaur Public School,Delhi Sara Sharma Bakshish Kaur Gunsehaj Kaur Mansi Kohil Himesh Nayak K.V.Sunjuwan Jammu - Jammu Parth Mehar Kendriya Vidhyalaya No2,Tambaram Chennai-Tamil	Nadu Smrithi Ranganathan Shruthi Ranganathan Lotus Valley International School,Noida - UP Sanya Joneja Avani Garg Lovely Public School,PD Vihar Delhi Sidhesh Nair Shubham Jain Pranati Singh Lovely Public School,Swasthya Vihar,Delhi Rupak Bansal Shubham Bush Maharana Mewar Public School,Udaipur - Rajasthan Rishi Ameta Gulnaaz Rasiya Manav Mangal School,Panch Kula - Haryana Ms.Kashish Kataria Miss Manvi Sharma Mst.Amitoz Singh Miss Saxhika Master Mihir Mothers Public School,Bhubneshwar - Odissa Shreyak Patnaik Navniet Mishra Mount Shivalik Public School,Shimla - Himachal Abhinav Mahendroo
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N.H.Goel World School,Chattisgarh	Queen Mari's School,North	Megha Luthra	Sneha Mojumdar	Sri Venkateshwar Bala	The Global Edge
Ishrat Bhullar	End,Delhi	Ryan International,Faridabad -	Sant Nadlal Smriti Vidya	Kuteer,Guntur,Andhra Pradesh	School,Hyderabad-Telangana
Aashriya	Gurpriya Singh	Haryana	Mandir,Ghatshala,Jharkhand	K. Sree Kaavya	N.Ranjana Reddy
National Victor Public School,Delhi	Rajmata Krishna Kumari Girls	Mansi Goswami	Sakshhi Pandey	Bhavisetty Amrutha	Anokhi Panda
Sakshi Satija	Public School,Jodhpur - Rajasthan	Shubham Sahni	Harsh Kumar	Chundi Sai Jyothisri	The Hindu Sr.Sec School,Chennai-
Navrachna School,Sama,Vadodara-	Urvi Beniwal	Vrinda Vishnoi	Shilpi Mahapatra	Gollapalli Sai Madiiu Samhita	Tamilnadu
Gujrat	Mugdha Ashia	S.R.D.A.VPublic School,Dayanand	Aparupa Das	Sri Vidhya Kendra The Smart	S.Varsha
Ryan Robin	Iram Kamdar	Vihar - Delhi	Niharika Roy	School,Banglore-karnataka	The Indian School,Delhi
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Lochan Jaiswal	T.Aditya	Ananya Mishra	Haryana	Delhi	Deepanshu Jain
Joanne Lopes	Medha Naidu	Aarti Srivastava	Zoya Duggal	Rubhen D'sa	Sakshi Agarwal
Pushti Shah	Kritika Srivastava	Sanjay Ghodhawat International	Space Central School,	St.John School,Chandigarh	The PSBB Millennium School,multi
Abhishek Nair	Rock Gold Academy Shamli - UP	School,Kolhapur Maharashtra	Sriharikota,Andhra Pradesh	Arnav Singh Negi	Nagar,TamilNadu
Aditi Kim Karolil	Arjun Tomar	Anjali Vijaysingh Chauhan	N. sathvika	St.Joseph English	Nikita Denis Joseph
Anvita Ghosh	Vanshika Bansal	Gladya Samson Gonsalves	Nityashree	School,Kurnool,Andhra Pradesh	Bharti S
Sahana Iyer	Ishant	Sanskar School,Rajasthan	G Sreejith	M. Sumayya Muhseen	Yashaswini Inala
Prem P Thilak	Shrija Pandey	Khusboo Khare	Vanshika Kumari	St.Mark's Sr.Sec Public	Shruti Narasimhan
Navy Children School,Chankyapuri	Kanika verma	Megha Sharma	Dinesh Chandra	School,Delhi	Harshita Gadam
Delhi	Srashti trar	Vansika Pareek	Spring Dale School,Amritsar -	Riddhirup Bera	Anirudh
Parkhee Rattan	Dikshant Disawar	Natania Mahipal	Punjab	Pratishtha Verhwani	Advika
Muskan Bisen	Kavya khushi	Yashvi Singh	Ishpreet Arora	Subodh Public School Rajasthan	Hiranmayi S
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Shyambhavi Kausik	Kashish Chawla	Kanika Rustogi	Ananya G.	Shubhangi Singhal	Adhithyan V.

Katha is a non-profit organization that has seamlessly connected grassroots work in education, teacher training and publishing for nearly 25 years.

We believe that by providing children with holistic, relevant education and fostering in them a love of learning, they can become agents of change that lift their families and communities out of poverty. Our innovative education model, integrally supported by our award winning book publishing program, benefits over 100,000 underserved children and 1,500 teachers annually. Our mission is to help every child realize his/her full potential through community based quality learning | To enhance the joys of reading | To reduce injustice and poverty through education | To foster linguistic diversity through story and translation.



The CBSE envisions a robust, vibrant and holistic school education that will engender excellence in every sphere of human endeavour. The Board is committed to provide quality education to promote intellectual, social and cultural vivacity among its learners. It works towards evolving a learning process and environment, which empowers the future citizens to become global leaders in the emerging knowledge society. The Board advocates Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation with an emphasis on holistic development of learners. The Board commits itself to providing a stress-free learning environment that will develop competent, confident and enterprising citizens who will promote harmony and peace.

NEED WRITE-UP



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