



20

katha
wtsaw

2017



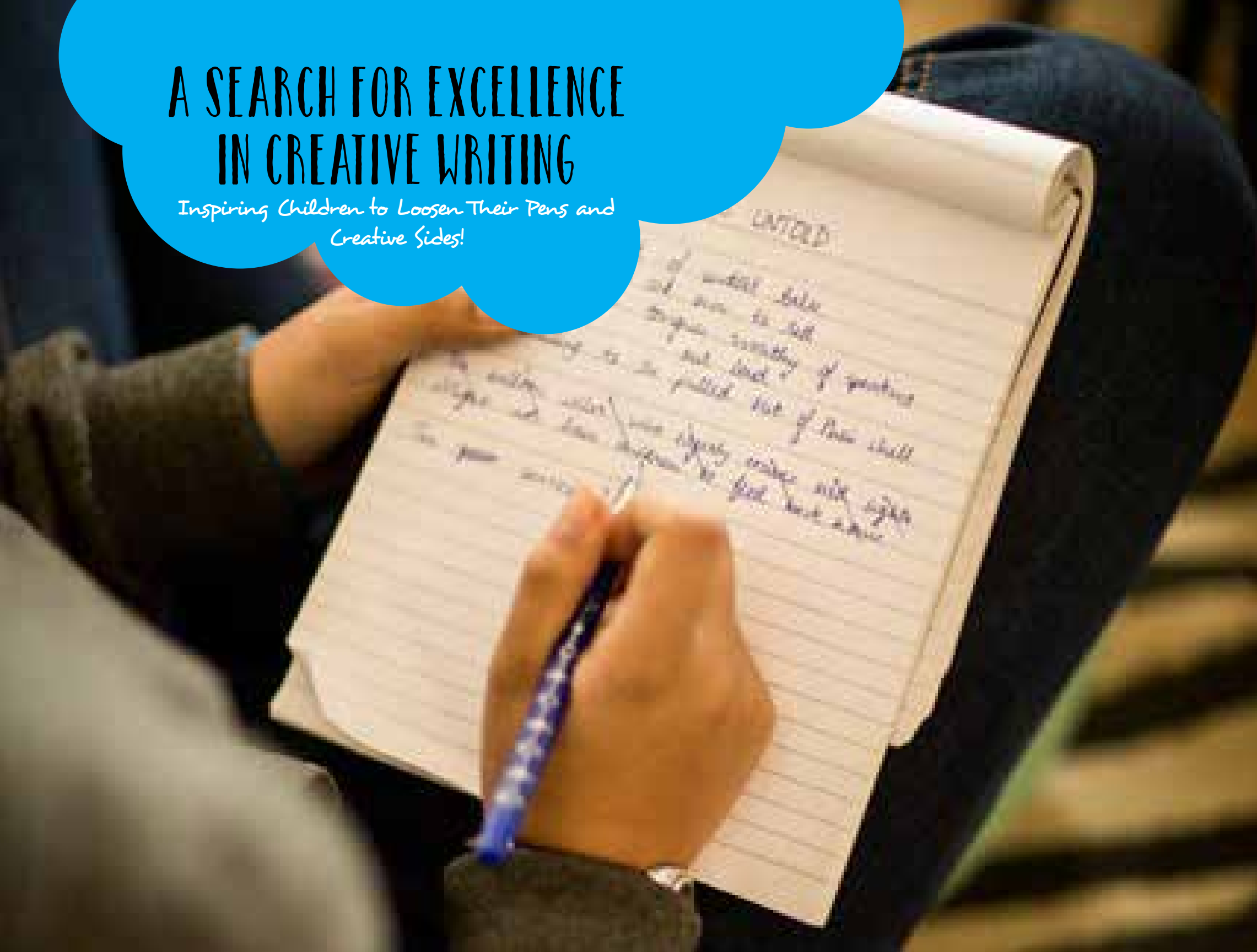
YOU AND ME. KINDNESS AND EMPATHY.

The Theme This Year

Kindness and empathy are superpowers that our children need in the 21st century—these are not just inborn traits but skills that children need to learn and internalize; these are values that carry transformative powers which affect children's understanding of relationships, beliefs and expectations at a deeper level while also nurturing in them the willingness to share. With a special theme this year, Katha Utsav celebrated Kindness and Empathy and helped children explore the experiences of compassion and care in their writings—thereby empowering children to forge ahead on their path to master the challenges of today to shape the world of tomorrow and help in the creation of a kinder, more equal world for all.


A SEARCH FOR EXCELLENCE IN CREATIVE WRITING

*Inspiring Children to Loosen Their Pens and
Creative Sides!*



The children of today are impatient to take their rightful place as global citizens. They need to understand their roots so that they can appreciate global cultures. And what better way to learn who they are and where they come from than through stories and poems from their own backyards. Storytelling, creativity and imagination are the most wanted skill-sets for the twenty-first century. It is incumbent upon us to create a new breed of storytellers and writers. This is an urgent and essential responsibility of all educational institutions and educators.

Launched in 2013, Katha's Search for Excellence in Creative Writing helps students use their creativity and imagination to create some great stories, poems and translations. Designed to promote creative writing, illustration and translation skills in children 8–17 year old, the programme has been designed to nurture the creative instincts in



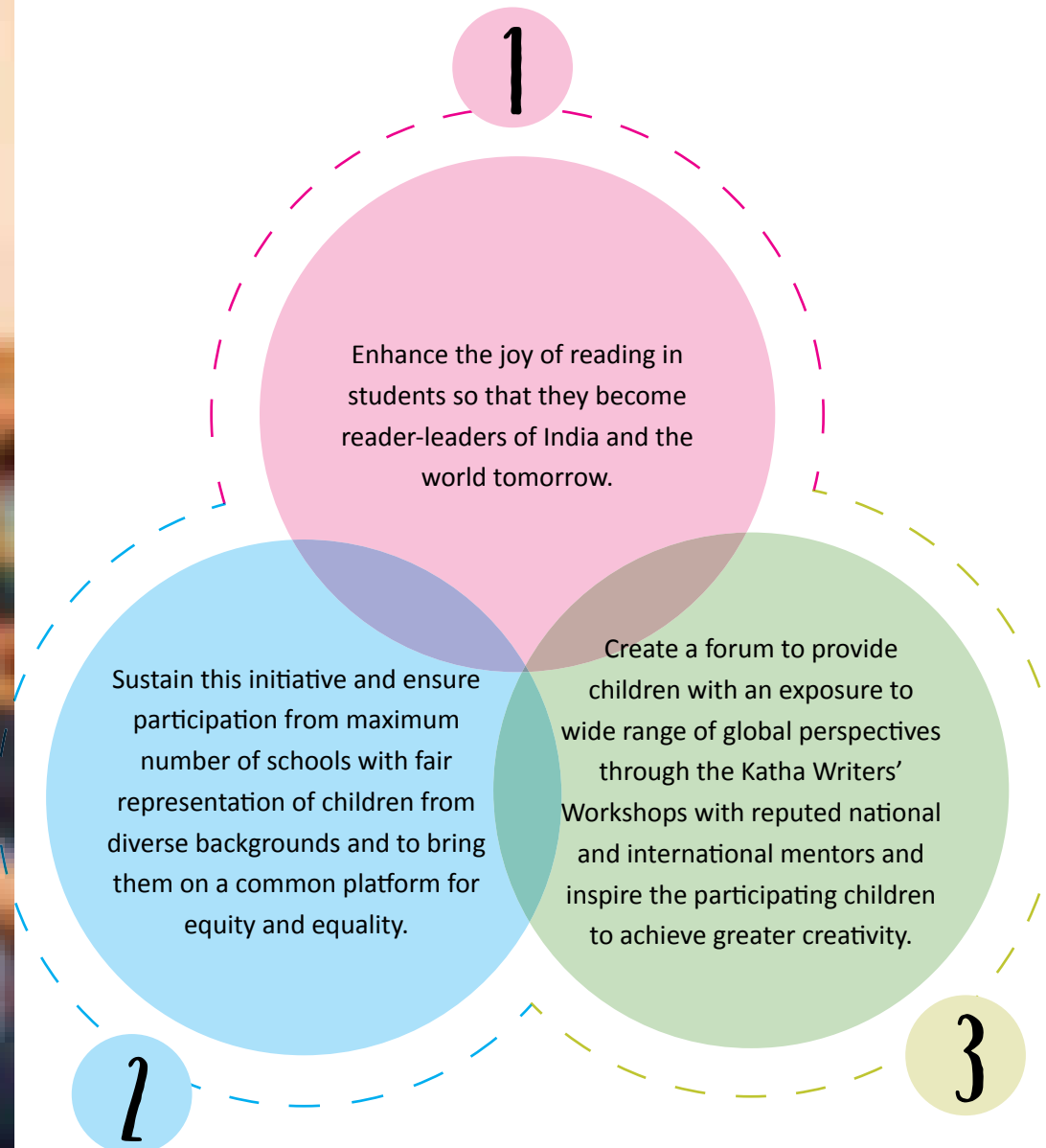
India's children and to give them a platform to share their writing and celebrate their work, thereby inspiring a generation of future writers.

After four successive hits, the fifth edition of the Katha's Search for Excellence in Creative Writing once again nurtured the latent writing skills in children by giving them a platform to share their writing and celebrate their creativity. In its fifth consecutive year, the programme took epic proportions with over 15,000 stories from over 600 participating schools from India and abroad.

This year too, eminent national and international writers, illustrators, educators, journalists, and innovators were invited to mentor or India's budding young writers and illustrators. A series of engaging workshops were organized for children to expose them to literature from around the world and encourage them to think up ideas and explore them in their writing.

BROAD OBJECTIVES

Creating a Generation of Readers and Writers



ON A CREATIVE TRAIL

Making Words Sing and Stories Dance!

In its fifth edition, the Search for Excellence with our partnering schools brought in excellent stories and poems from over 2700 students. We held Regional Writers' Workshops for the selected students in North, East, West and South zones in Oct–Nov 2017.

Through workshops on story writing, the programme helped students use their creativity and imagination to create their own stories. The trajectory of the programme is as follows:

STEP 1:

Online submission of stories and poems. Participating schools organize the Search for Excellence in their respective schools. Selected stories are then submitted online to Katha at www.ilovereadng.in.

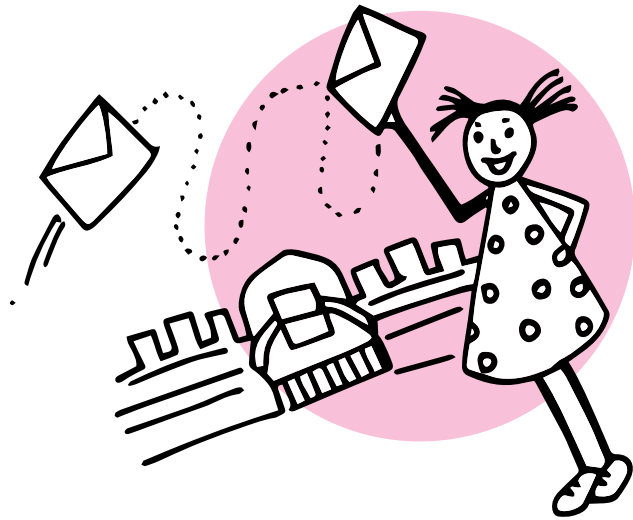
STEP 2:

A jury is formed by Katha to screen the online student submissions. The semi-finalists are selected for the four Regional Writers' Workshops in East, North, West and South zones. At the end of the regional workshops, students submit their entries for the final round.

STEP 3:

Following the Regional Writers' Workshops, a team of resource people screen the submissions for Katha Utsav. The finalists, accompanied by their teachers or parents, participate in the workshops with national mentors and attend masterclasses with international writers and illustrators at the Katha National Utsav in New Delhi.

1. INVITATION



2. REGISTRATION



3. ORGANISE



4. SELECTION



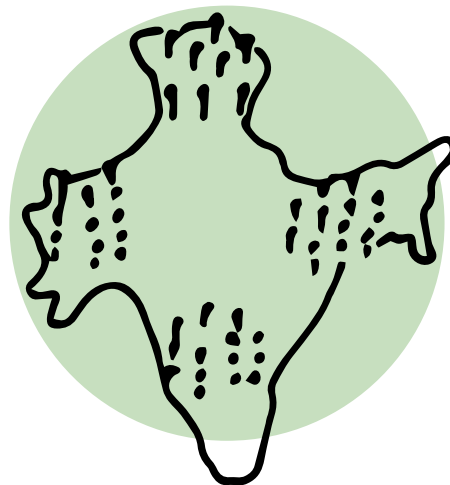
7. DELHI



8. PARTICIPATION



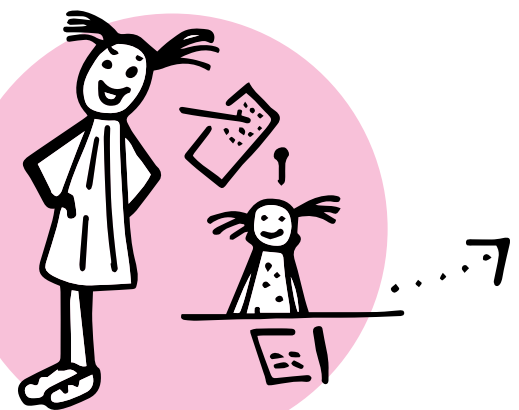
5. EVALUATION



9. AWARDS!



6. GRAND FINALE SELECTION





enhancing the joy of reading
since 1988

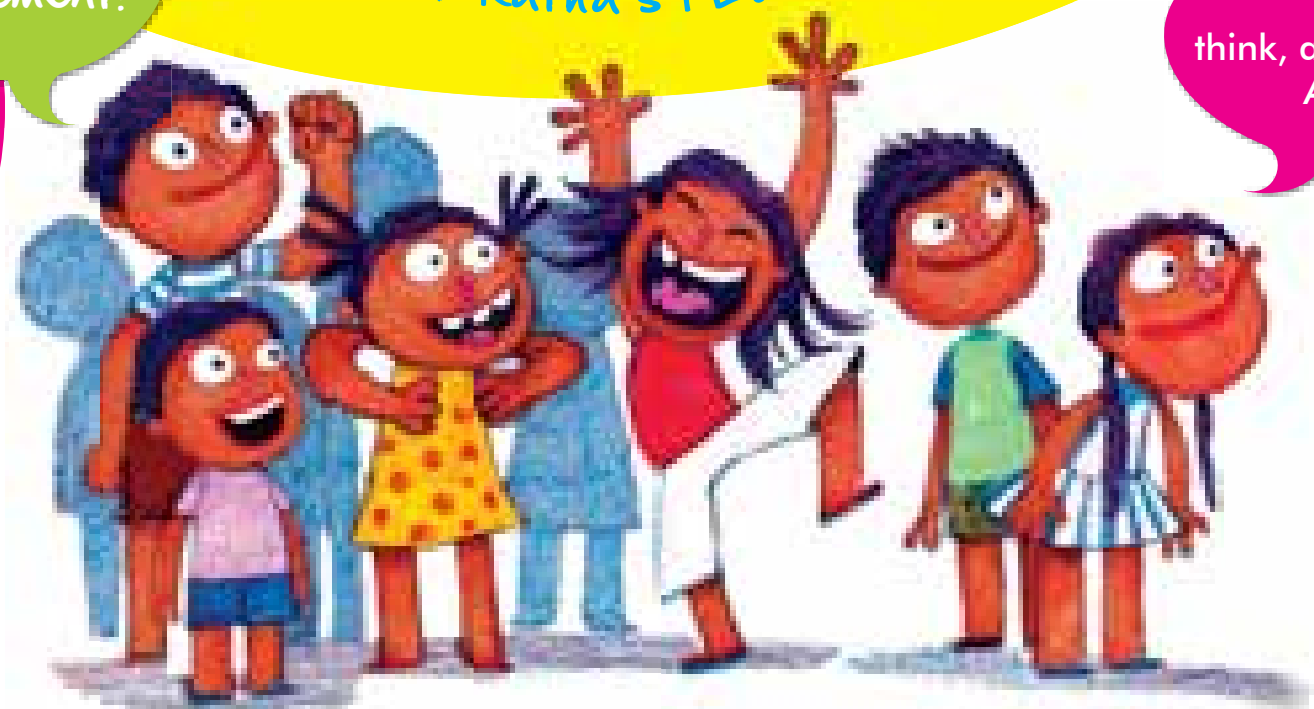
KATHA WRITERS' WORKSHOP

For budding wordsmiths from more than 600 Schools!

We bring
excitement!

We're part of Katha's I Love Reading Campaign

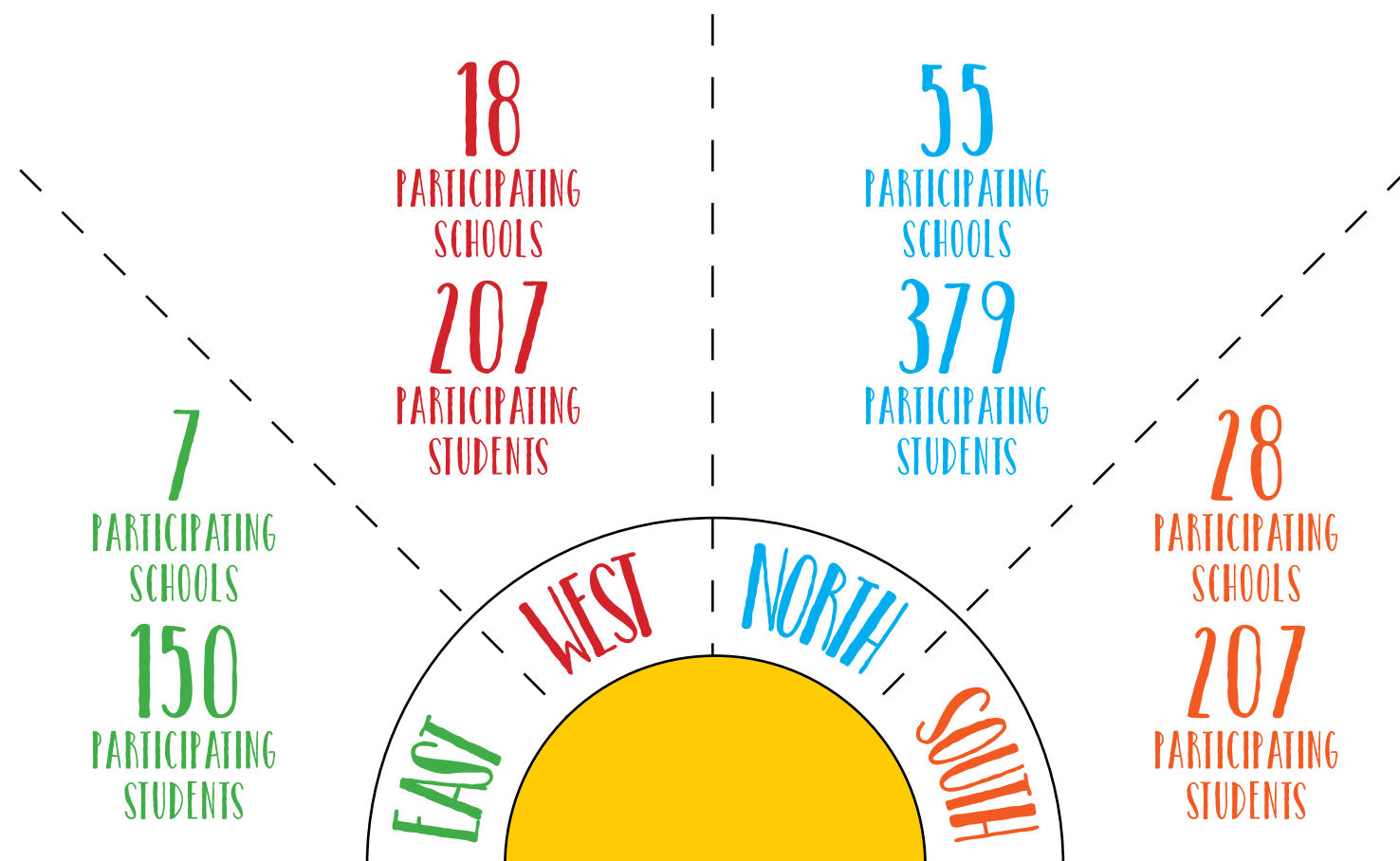
We
think, ask, discuss
ACT!



The young writers of the shortlisted stories from Katha's Search for Excellence were invited to the regional writers' workshop conducted in Delhi for the Northern region, Bangalore for the Southern region, Guwahati for the Eastern region, and Baroda for the Western region. The young writers honed their creative skills under the guidance of a talented group of professional writers, poets, translators, theatre artists, activists and heritage activists.

art by Rajiv Eipe

THE REGIONAL WRITERS' WORKSHOPS



The regionals were held in New Delhi (North), Bangalore (South), Guwahati (East) and Baroda (West) with 300, 350, 150 and 162 participants, respectively.



"Why do writers create alternate worlds, and how do these worlds explore inequality and loneliness? Are dystopian worlds equally unfair for everyone in them?"

Ishani Bhutalia, of Young Zubaan explored the fabulous world of words at her session in #KathaUtsav17

**NORTH ZONE
7TH & 8TH OCTOBER 2017
D.A.V School, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi**

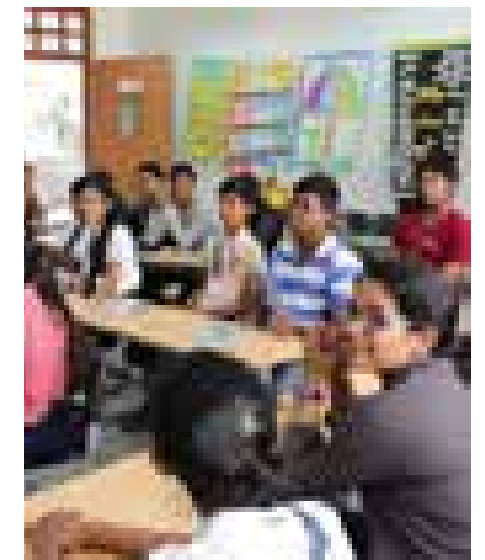


Katha Utsav's Regional Writers' Workshop commenced on 7th October 2017 at D.A.V School Vasant Kunj, marking the beginning of an exciting and creative journey. About 150 participants from North India gathered for the workshop, eagerly looked forward to learn the art of writing. The eclectic team of mentors which included Vikram Singh Rooprai, Rashmi Chaudhary, Gauri Chakraborty, Shiv Datt Sharma, Avani Parekh, Gunjan Gupta, Sangeeta Barooah Pisharoty and Sumedha Garg, was prepped up with innovative plans for the day's proceedings.

They day began with a short introductory speech by Ms Geeta Dharmarajan, writer, editor, educator and Founder-President of Katha. Ms Dharmarajan spoke about the power of reading and writing through anecdotes from her own childhood, and motivated each child to tell their story in their own words, as each story is unique, and indisputably personal.

Then the gathering of students broke away to attend workshops with their respective mentors. While some workshops catered to younger children, quite a few of them involved of all ages.

All these sessions drew to a close in the afternoon, and all the students went back with their heads buzzing with ideas, and their hands itching to pen their stories!





WEST ZONE
12TH & 13TH NOVEMBER 2017
Cygnus World School, Baroda



The Regional Writers' Workshop for the West Zone was held in Cygnus World School, Baroda. It witnessed 160 participants from the western states of the country. The inauguration ceremony began with the lighting of the lamp by the Principal of Cygnus World School; Chairman of UWB and Dr Verdia, Director of UWB and Ms Piyali Dasgupta, the Curator of Katha Utsav.

The students actively participated in the writers' workshop and produced some masterpieces.

The mentors for the West Zone Regional Writers' Workshop included Suverchala Kashyap, Arundhati Sridhar, Taha Memon, Darshil Shastri, and Apsara Iyengar.





Our venue partner for the East Zone Regional Writers' Workshop was Royal Global School, Guwahati. The workshops witnessed many renowned authors, poets, storytellers and editors who mentored students from the Eastern parts of the country. Mamang Dai, Merry Baruah, Rashmi Nazary, Amanda Bashisha Basaiawmoit, and Srutimala Duara were some of our proud mentors for the East Zone.

EAST ZONE
3RD & 4TH NOVEMBER 2017
Royal Global School, Guwahati



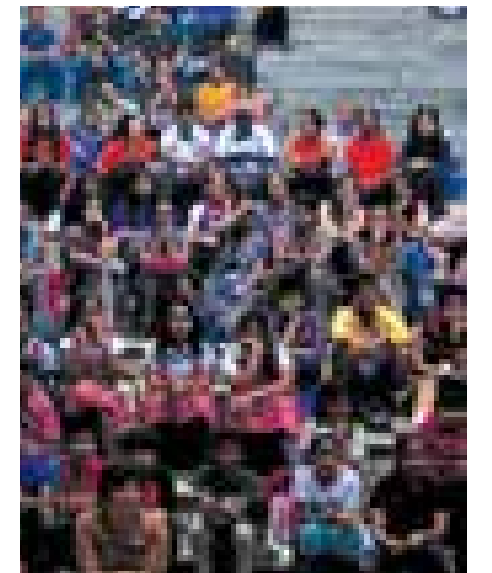


SOUTH ZONE
18TH & 19TH NOVEMBER 2017
Gear Foundation School, Bangaluru



The Regional Writers' Workshop for the South Zone took place at Gear Foundation School, Bangaluru, on 18th and 19th November 2017. About 350 young and enthusiastic students from 31 schools participated in the workshop.

Nandini Bhat, Principal of Gear Foundation School, welcomed all participants with great enthusiasm and warmth. Sarvesh Srinivasan, Director, Gear Foundation, enlightened the students with his words of wisdom. Mr Mahesh from United Way, Bangalore, too addressed the students.



LEARNING THE ART OF WRITING FROM THE MASTERS

Mentors for the Regional Workshops



The students were excited to meet their mentors: Vikram Sridhar, Sharoon Sunny, Sourabha Rao, Nisha Abdullah, AndaleebWajid, and Lavanya Prasad. The Regional Writers' Workshop in the South zone came to a successful wrap, creating a greater excitement for the National Writers' Workshop.



AMANDA BASHISHA BASAIAWMOIT

Born into a Khasi family, Amanda's poetry explores the emerging trends of contemporary Khasi society. Her works have been published in *Muse India*, *The Criterion*, and *Asian Signature*. She is a founding member of the Shillong Literary, and is currently compiling and translating Khasi bedtime stories. Amanda teaches English Literature in Shillong College.



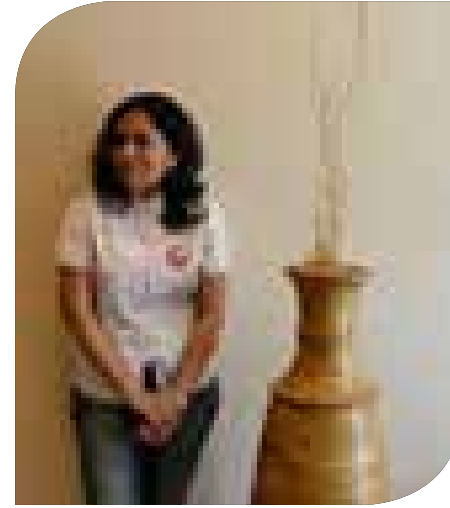
ANDALEEB WAJID

Andaleeb has published 13 novels of which 3 are e-books on the Juggernaut platform. Her young adult novel *When She Went Away* was shortlisted for The Hindu Young World-Goodbooks Award 2017. She enjoys writing about food and her most well-known novel is *More than Just Biryani*. Her young adult novel *Asmara's Summer* is popular among teens.



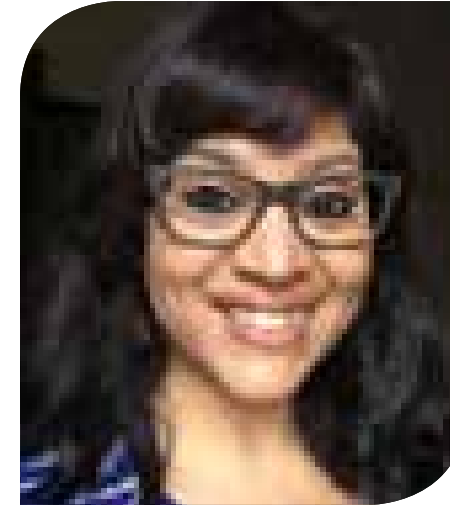
ARUNDHATI SRIDHAR

Arundhati studied sociology and history from Delhi University. She has written extensively about her several solo journeys around the world—all of which have sharpened her identity as a young, independent woman. She also leads the public health and young women's leadership programmes with a feminist collective in rural Gujarat called ANANDI.



APSARA IYENGAR

Apsara Iyengar is a Vadodara-based theatre artist and voice-over artist. She started 'Applause Vadodara', a theatre initiative open for all ages and professions. The initiative started in 2012 as a Facebook page to connect theatre enthusiasts around the country and the world, and emerged as a group by 2014, hosting regular and intensive theatre and dramatics workshops.



AVANI PAREKH

A trained counsellor with 9 years of experience in relationship issues ranging from abuse and sexual assault to healthy relationship paradigms; Avani Parekh started Kiran in 2008, a South Asian domestic violence agency in the US, where she worked closely with the community to create awareness on domestic violence and human trafficking. In 2014, she founded an interesting platform—LoveDoctor, a place where people across age groups can get some of their most personal queries answered. In 2016, LoveDoctor merged with a women-only space, SHEROES. Currently Avani Parekh is the Director at SHEROES.



DARSHIL SHASTRI

Darshil Shastri is a visiting resource person for Bal Bhavan, Baroda. He conducts creative writing workshops with kids in the age group of 9–16. He also writes for websites and sports blogs, and is a national-level debater and quizzer. He was conferred with the National Bal Shree Award for Creative Writing in 2010.



GAURI DURGA CHAKRABORTY

Gauri Durga Chakraborty is the Joint Acting Head, Associate Professor, Stream Head, and Film Course Coordinator at Amity School of Communication, Amity University, Noida. She is a PhD research scholar (Mass Communication), and a diploma holder in cinema from FTII, Pune.



GUNJAN GUPTA

Gunjan Gupta has been working in the field of creative education for twelve years. She has worked with NGOs and corporates like Shelter Don Bosco, Credibility Alliance, CSR project by RPG called Pehlay Akshar, Mukangan, and The Pomegranate Workshop, etc. She has been practising and learning various forms of theatre with different groups and has also performed on stages like Kamani Auditorium, NCPA (Mumbai) and Prithvi Theatre. A varied experience in theatre has given her an insight into theatre in education, which she utilises in her work to the fullest.



LAVANYA PRASAD

Stories were an integral part of Lavanya's childhood. She strongly believes that the shortest distance between any two people is a story. The result of her vision for a better society and her passion of using stories for the same, resulted in founding of Tale'scope, her brain child in 2014. Tale'scope works with all audience and specializes in training, using stories.



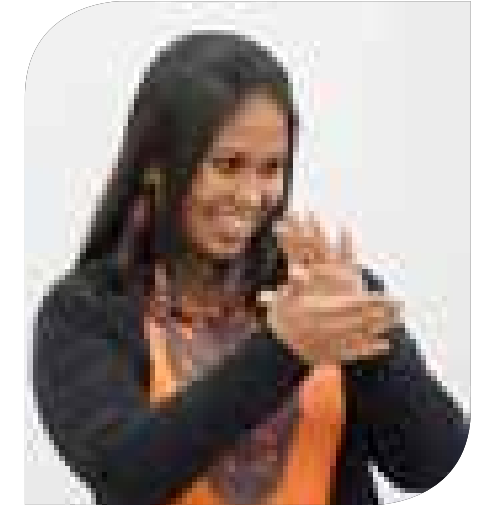
MAMANG DAI

Mamang Dai is an Indian journalist, author, poet, and former civil servant based in Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh. She authored Katha's *The Sky Queen* storybook for children.



MERRY BARUAH

Merry Baruah Bora is an Assistant Professor (Sr) in the Department of English, Cotton University, Guwahati. Her interest lies in Indian English Writings and North East Writings. She received her PhD from the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT, Guwahati in 2010. She has contributed articles to research journals; written chapters for both (Major) and PG (English) textbooks under Krishna Kanta Handique State Open University. A former Visiting Faculty at TISS (Guwahati Campus), Dr Baruah has interest in translation work. She has translated resource material for WWF into Assamese besides translating into English short fiction from original Assamese writing.



NISHA ABDULLAH

Nisha Abdulla is a playwright and theatre practitioner. Her play 'Mi'raj' has been performing to full houses since August 2016, while 'Blue is the Colour I Cry' was long-listed at The Hindu Playwright Award 2017. Her short plays have been performed at the Short+Sweet festival, and as school productions. Currently, she is learning theatre direction at the Indian Ensemble Directors' Training Program. Nisha is also co-founder, writer and performer at Ever After Learning, an organisation that seeks to develop and promote the use of stories in various learning environments.



SANGEETA BAROOAH PISHAROTY

Sangeeta Barooah Pisharoty is a Delhi-based journalist with over two decades of experience in reporting and editing news besides ideating news stories. After spending six years in the news agency, the United News of India, she worked for *The Hindu* for 12 years and is presently associated with the online news site *The Wire*. Besides writing on books, arts, lifestyle, health and culture, she also specializes on the northeast region, its politics and the people. She is also a translator.



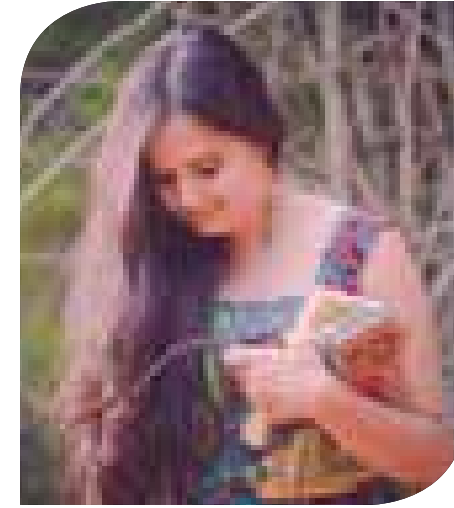
SHAROON SUNNY

Sharoon Sunny is the founder of A Better World, an organisation that promotes the love of writing and has helped over 800 students in small group settings and one-on-one sessions since its inception in 2012. She believes children are more engaged and enthusiastic about learning when their imaginations are ignited. In 2014, Sharoon organized a writing competition and compiled the winning entries into an anthology of children's stories and Haiku. With over a decade of experience in teaching children from kindergarten to graduate school in the United States and in Bangalore, India, she is currently using her experience in student learning patterns to research the best ways to help young learners unravel the complexity of writing as a PhD scholar at the English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad.



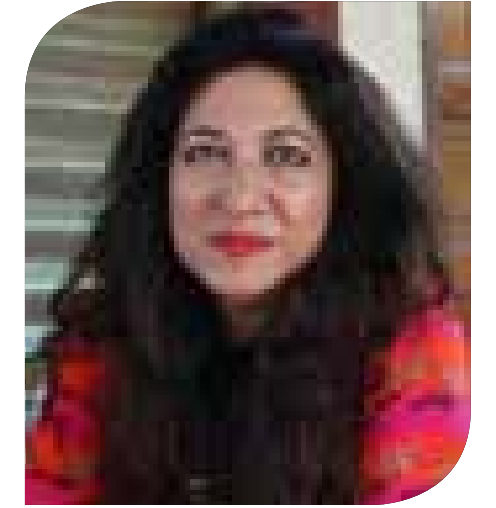
SHIV DATT SHARMA

Shiv D. Sharma is one of the founding members of, and currently the Manager, Research & Projects at the Centre for Studies in Gender and Sexuality at Ashoka University. He has been involved in queer politics for many years, and was also a member of Delhi-based collective called Queer Campus. Shiv conducts workshops on many issues and questions related to gender and sexuality; sexual harassment, public culture etc. His broader areas of inquiry include the subjects of desire, masculinity and visual culture.



SOURABHA RAO

Sourabha Rao is a writer from Mysuru, currently living in Bengaluru. Although she graduated as a Computer Science Engineer and worked in the IT industry for nearly two years, she always knew that her calling was writing and wanted to pursue her passion and make it her profession, too. Currently working as the staff writer at India's leading travel-and-photography company, Toehold, Sourabha also writes poetry, essays, travel stories and prose in her free time in both Kannada and English. She loves reading, singing and travelling. She has a child's unquestionable trust on the power of writing and all other forms of art.



SRUTIMALA DUARA

Srutimala Duara is an English and Assamese writer from Assam, India. *The Sunset and Other Stories* (Spectrum, 1998), *Waiting for the Last Breath* (Spectrum, 1999), *The Jhoolan Evening* (Spectrum, 2000) are her short story collections in English. *Travelling with Dreams* (Spectrum, 2001), *Maya's Party* (BR Publishing Corp, 2003) and *Ashes in the Seas* (BR Publishing Corp, 2003) are her English novels. Her books for children are *Sadhukathar Desh* (1995), *Sadhukathar Bagicha* (1996), *Sadhukathar Tupula* (1996) which was selected by National Book Trust as One of the Best Indian Children's Literature published between 1990-98.





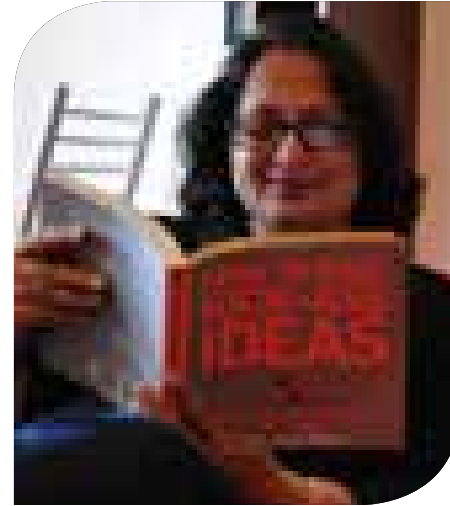
SUMEDHA GARG

A designer, storyteller and educator, Sumedha studied Visual Communication in New Delhi and completed her Masters in Narrative Environments from Central Saint Martins, London. Passionate about innovation in education; she also designs, develops and delivers courses and workshops for learning, connecting and healing through the creative arts. Sumedha is currently an Assistant Professor at the Sushant School of Design, Ansal University.



TAHA MEMON

Taha Memon is a young poet who was the Grand Prize Winner for Creative Writing (Haiku) in Katha Utsav Delhi 2014–15, organised by Katha and CBSE. He has received several awards in elocutions, debates and essay writing, etc.



SUVERCHALA KASHYAP

Suverchala Kashyap is an accomplished educationist, communicator and journalist. She has a versatile background, with a dual degree (Masters) in Botany and Education, topped with a diploma in Journalism and Communication. She was an International Associate (India) for Aspire Trust Liverpool, UK (www.aspire-trust.org). She is also working closely with Daksh Autism Services, Bengaluru, as their Gujarat counterpart and advisor. She has in the past also been closely associated with Bhasha Publication and Research Centre, Vadodara as a volunteer and later as a Trustee.



VIKRAMJIT SINGH ROOPRAI

Vikramjit Singh Roprai is a Heritage Activist, who started his career as a software engineer. While he still consults with a few MNCs as their digital marketing consultant, he spends most of his time promoting and protecting the heritage of India. He is the founder of Delhi Heritage Photography Club and Youth for Heritage Foundation. His organization conducts exhibitions, walks and lectures at corporates, colleges and schools.



VIKRAM SRIDHAR

Vikram Sridhar is a performance storyteller and theatre practitioner based in Bangalore, India. He is the co-founder of Tahatto, a Bangalore-based award winning theatre group. He has volunteered and worked with different organizations in the Animal welfare and conservation space from his childhood days. And he also consults and works with organizations in the social sector. He combines the three in his storytelling to make a difference. He's a TEDx speaker and speaks about the power of oral storytelling in the contemporary times. He also part of the organizing team and curates events and festivals around storytelling and theatre like the Bangalore Literature Festival, Bengaluru Poetry Festival, the BeSt (Bengaluru Storytelling) Festival, etc.

katha wtsaw 2017

*A Celebration of
Creativity*

*“Rules and regulations
aside, you may create
your own rules in
the future”, said
Shipli Marwah at her
exciting workshop that
consisted of reading
stories and adapting
those stories into short
scripts and further
enacting those scripts!*

The shortlisted stories from the Regional Writers' Workshops were encouraged to submit their final entries for the National Writers' Workshop. The best of student's stories from each school were nominated by student vote for Katha's Search for Excellence longlist. From this, a panel of respected national writers and illustrators chose young writers for the prestigious Katha Awards for Creative Writing.

The programme culminated into a grand finale in which 500 finalists come together in New Delhi. This three-day literary extravaganza consisted of Writers' Workshops that included media & journalism sessions; poetry sessions; expressive arts & communication sessions; theatre, storytelling & heritage sessions. The sessions provided children with the tools to write creatively about practical ways to combat contemporary issues of environment, education, socio-economic disparity, while helping them broaden the spectrum of their imagination and understanding of the literary world and its many facets.



THE NATIONAL WRITERS' WORKSHOPS

75

PARTICIPATING
SCHOOLS

397

PARTICIPATING
STUDENTS

14

INDIAN STATES 1
FROM MUSCAT,
OMAN

27 . 28 . 29

D E C E M B E R

LOCATION: RIDGE VALLEY SCHOOL, GURGAON

TIME: 9 A.M. - 4 P.M.

“Creativity is not only about figuring out the metaphor, creativity is also the presentation of the page,” said Vikram Aditya Sahai

For its fifth edition, Katha Utsav focused on creative writing and empathy in today's digitalized world. While digitalization has been arousing controversy over the last decade, literature is still driven by the magic of the printed book. However, narrative techniques, picturization and dramaturgical approach are constantly evolving, offering new and progressive literary objects to contemporary readers. At this crucial moment in time, the young generation is particularly exposed to the emergence of digital mediums, which involves new reading habits and so, a new consideration of contemporary literature.

Spaces of freedom that does not demonize digitalization but simply and sincerely takes it as a part of our ever-changing literary world have become a true education need. Katha brilliantly took up the challenge, by offering a very rich platform for young students to talk, write and to analyze the society.

Despite their many differences, each participant of Katha Utsav 2017, not only grew from the experience but also surely understood that creative writing was universal and would stand the test of time by adjusting to innovating mediums.

At that, the choice of Kindness and Empathy as the main theme of the three-day workshop sessions stands in line with the human values emanating from Katha's projects since its creation three decades ago.



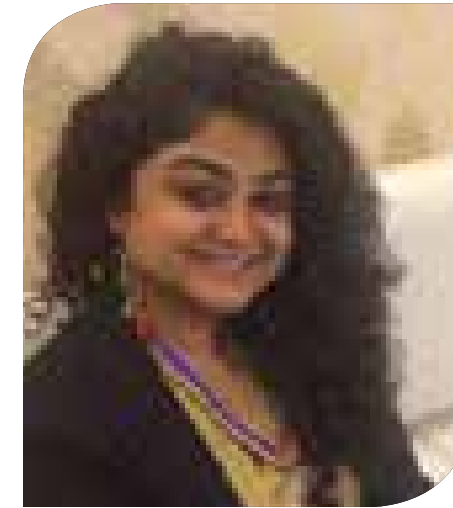
LEARNING THE ART OF WRITING FROM THE MASTERS

Mentors for the National Workshops



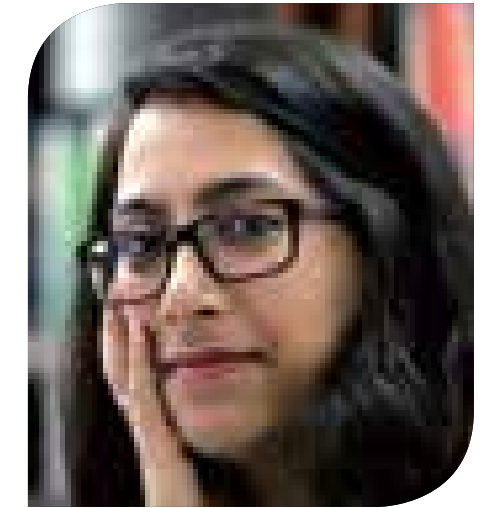
ASEEM ASHA USMAN

A thirty-three-year-old science graduate from Aligarh Muslim University, Aseem has completed his PG Diploma in Development Communication from AJK, Mass Communication Research Center, Jamia Millia Islamia in 2005. He worked on a project 'Finding a Voice', funded by UNESCO, QUT (Adelaide, Australia), and UNDP. He is a trained film maker and music composer. He has trained more than 500 people how to raise their voices by making short films and digital stories based on their own issues under the banner of his group Flying Birds of India.



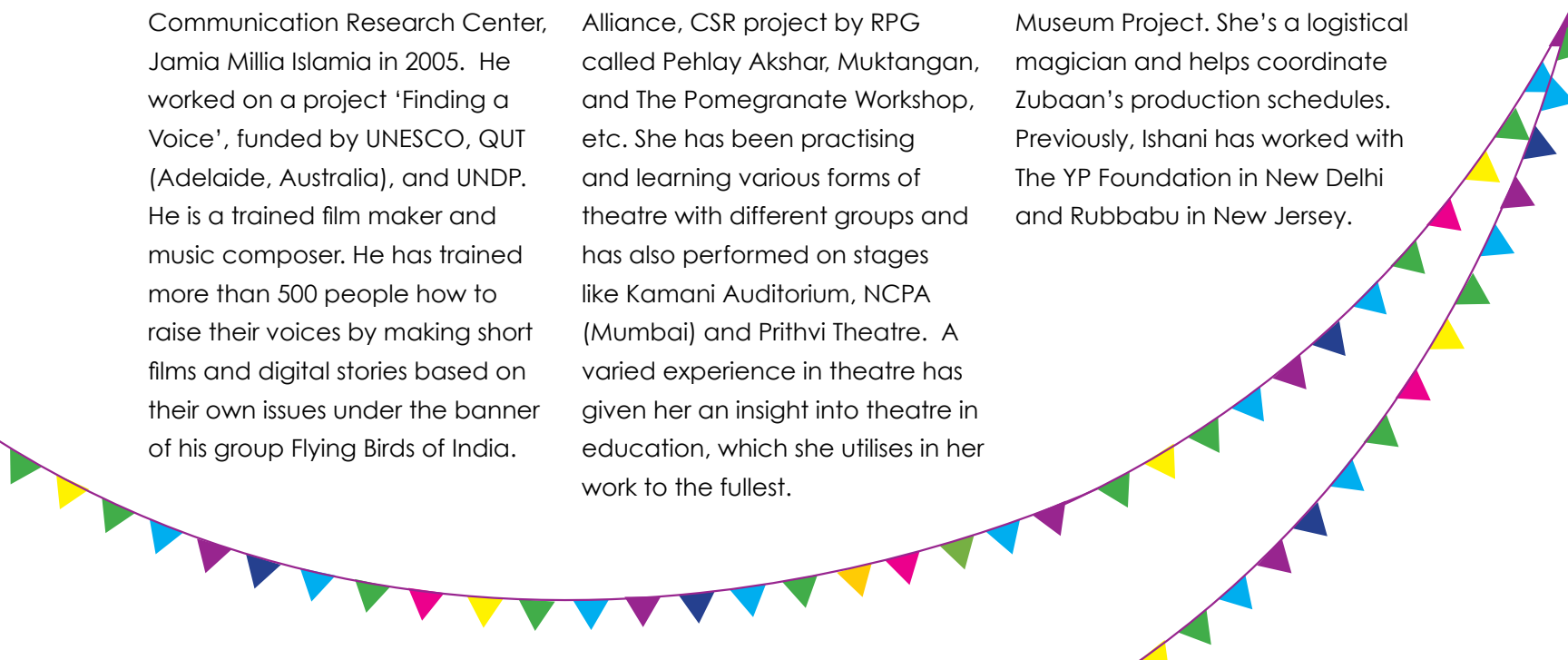
GUNJAN GUPTA

Gunjan Gupta has been working in the field of creative education for twelve years. She has worked with NGOs and corporates like Shelter Don Bosco, Credibility Alliance, CSR project by RPG called Pehlay Akshar, Muktangan, and The Pomegranate Workshop, etc. She has been practising and learning various forms of theatre with different groups and has also performed on stages like Kamani Auditorium, NCPA (Mumbai) and Prithvi Theatre. A varied experience in theatre has given her an insight into theatre in education, which she utilises in her work to the fullest.



ISHANI BUTALIA

Ishani commissions and edits for the Young Zubaan list and previously worked on both the Sexual Violence and Impunity (SVI) Project and the Women's Museum Project. She's a logistical magician and helps coordinate Zubaan's production schedules. Previously, Ishani has worked with The YP Foundation in New Delhi and Rubbabu in New Jersey.





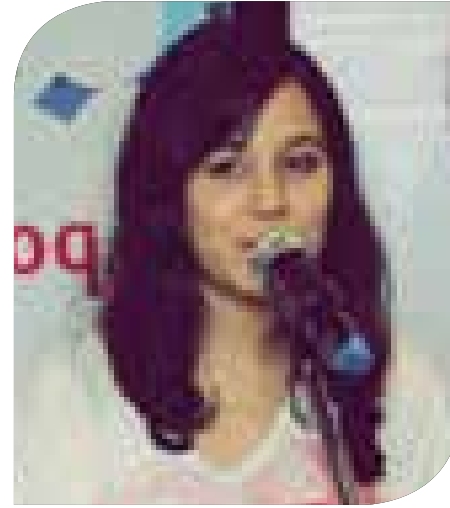
KALA RAMESH

An exponent of Hindustani Classical Music, Kala Ramesh was bitten by the haiku-bug in 2005. Since then, she has explored various genres like haiku, tanka, senryu, haibun and renku, (collaborative linked verses) and has been published in leading e-zines and anthologies. An external faculty member of the Symbiosis International University Pune since 2012, she teaches Japanese short forms of poetry to undergrads—a first in the country.



LAVANYA PRASAD

Stories were an integral part of Lavanya's childhood. She strongly believes that the shortest distance between any two people is a story. The result of her vision for a better society and her passion of using stories for the same, resulted in founding of Tale'scope, her brain child in 2014. Tale'scope works with all audience and specializes in training, using stories.



RASHMI CHAUDHARY

Rashmi has a broad background in Hindi creative writing, editing, proofreading and translation for various books and magazines. She has worked as a child performer, a youth programme compeer and as an 'Announcer' for 4-5 years at All India Radio, Almora. She also played an active role as a 'motivator' in 'Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan'.



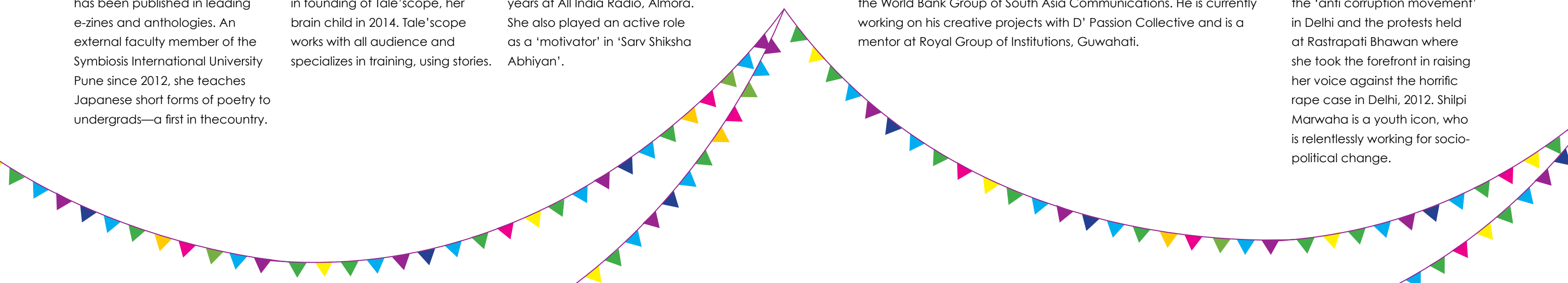
SATTYAKEE D'COM BHUYAN

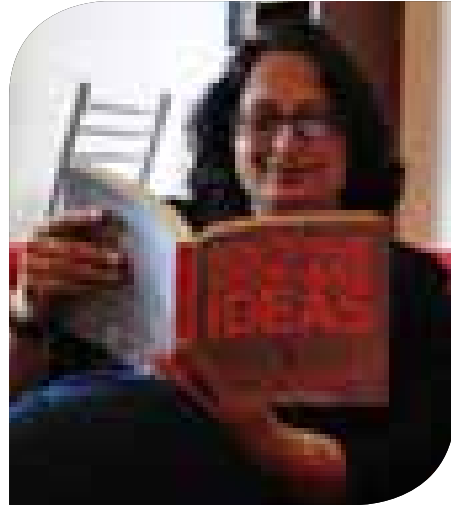
Sattyakee D'com Bhuyan, founder-director of the leading theatre group 'D' Passion Collective'. His passion and flair for creative arts, especially the stage made him enter into the world of theatre at an early age and is one of the youngest in the field of direction when it comes to English theatre. In 2010, he was selected as the Youth Icon of the Country by *India Today* for his creative contribution towards the arts in the region. He voluntarily retired at the end of 2014 after serving the World Bank Group of South Asia Communications. He is currently working on his creative projects with D' Passion Collective and is a mentor at Royal Group of Institutions, Guwahati.



SHILPI MARWAHA

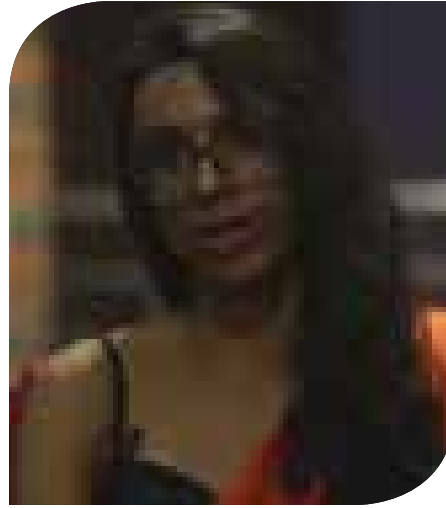
Founder of Sukhmanch Theatre, actor, director, and social activist, Shilpi Marwaha is one of the most well known names in Delhi Theatre Circuit. She gained prominence through her activism through street theatre during the 'anti corruption movement' in Delhi and the protests held at Rastropati Bhawan where she took the forefront in raising her voice against the horrific rape case in Delhi, 2012. Shilpi Marwaha is a youth icon, who is relentlessly working for socio-political change.





SUVERCHALA KASHYAP

Suverchala Kashyap is an accomplished educationist, communicator and journalist. She has a versatile background, with a dual degree (Masters) in Botany and Education, topped with a diploma in Journalism and Communication. She was an International Associate (India) for Aspire Trust Liverpool, UK (www.aspire-trust.org). She is also working closely with Daksh Autism Services, Bangaluru as their Gujarat counterpart and advisor. She has in the past also been closely associated with Bhasha Publication and Research Centre, Vadodara as a volunteer and later as a Trustee.



VIKRAM ADITYA SAHAI

Vikramaditya Sahai, also known as Vqueeram Aditya Sahai on social media, is a social activist who teaches at Ambedkar University, Delhi. He held a workshop called, 'In the Name of Love: Workshop on Gender and Sexuality' at the Indian Languages Festival, Samanvay 2015.



VIKRAMJIT SINGH ROOPRAI

Vikramjit Singh Rooprai is a heritage activist, who started his career as a software engineer. While he still consults with a few MNCs as their digital marketing consultant, he spends most of his time promoting and protecting the heritage of India. He is the founder of Delhi Heritage Photography Club and Youth for Heritage Foundation. His organization conducts exhibitions, walks and lectures at corporates, colleges and schools.



VIKRAM SRIDHAR

Vikram Sridhar is a performance storyteller and theatre practitioner based in Bangalore, India. He is the co-founder of Tahatto, a Bangalore-based award winning theatre group. He has volunteered and worked with different organizations in the Animal welfare and conservation space from his childhood days. And also consults and works with organizations in the social sector. He combines the three in his storytelling to make a difference. He's a TEDx speaker and speaks about the power of oral storytelling in the contemporary times. He also part of the organizing team and curates events and festivals around storytelling and theatre like the Bangalore Literature Festival, Bengaluru Poetry Festival, the BeSt (Bengaluru Storytelling) Festival, etc.



ALT21 – APPROACHES TO LANGUAGE TEACHING IN THE 21ST CENTURY

A freewheeling exchange between experimenting educators, parents and creators of children's books, the Approaches to Language Teaching in the 21st Century this year brought together an eclectic forum that discussed the importance of kindness and compassion in today's world.

Teachers and parents were invited to think, discuss, and share how they can cope in the new world to train and help children become empathetic beings. On 27 December 2018, Ms Apoorva Kamat, the founder of Karmantik and a Gandhi Fellow with an experience of working in the tribal belt of Rajasthan and a Young India Fellow, conducted workshop with parents and teachers on how to plan lessons using Katha books. The teachers and parents appreciated the interactive session as it allowed them to approach learning and lesson planning in innovative ways.

On Day 2, Mr Harriet Raghunathan, who's been teaching English literature in Jesus and Mary College, Delhi University, for the past 35 years, was invited to address parents and teachers across the country on Classroom Management and share with them the tips and strategies that work.

Parents and teachers spent the second half of the day with experts from Stones to Milestones who shared with them the importance of reading and how to bring simple yet effective changes in teaching methods.

Day 3 of the festival witnessed a lot of excitement with Dr Deepa Chopra, who is a teacher, special educator and education consultant, conducted a workshop on Behavior and Learning: Finding Empathy as a Teacher, which emphasised on how to change the attitude towards learning and teaching.

The ALT 21 session concluded with Geeta Dharmarajan's address to the parents and teachers. Her enthusiasm and zeal towards the cause of education energized everyone and motivated them to work towards the common goal of spreading the joy of reading and learning among children. The ALT 21 session ended with a certificate



“We are too deeply entrenched in our own needs, desires & me time to notice the silent sighs or ever so futile cries of another. It’s time to up the quotient of compassionate concerns.” Suverchala Kashyap, a journalist, communicator & educationist took the children into a world of introspection & healing through her amazingly sensitive sessions.

THE KATHA AWARDS FOR CREATIVE WRITING

What is an Utsav without all the merriment? In celebration of the immense talent of the young citizens of our country, the participating students were felicitated with awards during the last day of Katha Utsav. Each participant was awarded with a certificate. Certificates were divided into three categories: Grand prize, Laureate prize and Encouragement prize for Creative Writing.

As Katha Utsav 2017 came to a successful close, the young writers had their heads teeming with new ideas and their hearts full of the inexplicable joy of experiencing and expressing the magic of the word. The mentors too came away charged with the energy that children



WITH GRATITUDE...

We are grateful for the support we have received from our partner-schools, teachers, mentors, media, and most of all from the young visitors and their parents who make Katha Utsav what it is. And lastly but most importantly, none of this would have been possible without our enthusiastic bunch of volunteers who make Katha Utsav sail over smoothly—it is they who keep the Utsav flag flying high!





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कथा

Katha is a non-profit organization that has seamlessly connected grassroots work in education, teacher-training and publishing for nearly 28 years.

We believe that by providing children with holistic, relevant books and education, and fostering in them a love of learning, they can become agents of change who can lift their families and communities out of poverty. Our innovative education model, integrally supported by our award-winning book publishing programme, benefits over 160,000 underserved children and 1,100 teachers annually.

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