

## Some Highlights of the Year

**July, 1994.** Children of KathaShala got together and met the MLA and managed to bring him to the centre to address the chronic problem of stagnating sewer-water.

**August:** The Katha Translation Contest prize are given away by the Vice-president of India, Shri K R Narayanan.

The Govindpuri Working Women's Cooperative stars off.

**November:** Plague strikes Delhi. Our students went fearlessly into the community and talked about the steps to adopt to save yourselves from plague.

- Special issue of *Tamasha!* on the Rights of the Child, sponsored by UNICEF is out!

**December:** Katha Prize stories, Volume 4 released in six cities, simultaneously, thanks to the efforts of the friends of Katha.

**January 1995:** Katha Prize Stories - 4 goes for a reprint - in 45 days flat:

- A National Workshop in Tolerance and Conflict resolution organised by Katha, in association with the USIS, New Delhi.

**February:** We are told that all the earlier Katha Prize Stories volumes (1-3) need to be reprinted!

**March:** Dr Wally Dow, Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations, visits – the visit's scheduled for an hour. He spends two delighting in our children.



*Tamasha!* 1989 September issue on Immunisation

Once again, we have had a hectic year at Katha with a lot of enthusiasm from staff members, a lot of trust reposed in us by grantees and we have to say it, unfortunately – more than needed tension due to lack of funds for much of the work Katha has been doing. Whether this is because the work is too cutting edge, or whether it is because we are stubborn and unwilling to have more donor-driven programmes, I do not know ...

Beginning of this financial year, we took time in a workshop where we, took time to remember our beginnings. At least some of us in Katha still remember the way we began. In my garage. No fan. Sultry heat of summer. The first issue of *Tamasha!* was out. No response. The Katha adventure was still to begin. And I thought that was it. ...

Many more of us remembered the inaugural day of KathaShala. We had a mela – folk dancers and rope walkers; the magician and the snake charmer, a merry-go-round the littlest of the giant wheels. Bill we were thinking literacy. So We tucked

in a small hook stall into a corner of the field that was next to our “school” building. We had bought books in the market (or Rs 10, and sold them for a rupee each. We thought the stall would be neglected. We were mobbed. Children came clutching ten rupee in their lists. “We want TEN books!” they said. “Can you have a regular book shop?”

And these were children who had never been to a school, or had dropped out or it so long ago that they had slid back into illiteracy.

So Khazana had come to be. We started with 5 children. Today, when I look at the painted walls and the bright-eyed children, the busy, dedicated teachers, each one a gem and a pleasure to talk to and interact with. I wonder at the pace with which things grow when a group of Committed people come together, And this has been the case with each and every project we have undertaken till now.

I would like to start off my report to the Annual General, Body Meeting with a heart-felt thanks to the staff members of Katha without whom none of this would have been possible.



Forthcoming: The Special UN-50 issue

## TAMASHA!

The health and environment funbook for first-generation school-goers is the flagship project of Katha. It was born even before Katha was, and is today a quarterly magazine that reaches out to nearly 300,000 children, basically children who go to non formal education centres and government school first generation readers of book.

The magazine which had come about because of the enthusiastic support of the Delhi office of UNICEF, in April 1989, has been gaining new readers, but lack of regular funds is still creating a problem.

This year as usual we had four wonderful issues of *Tamasha!*. In fact the very first issue was the Best of *Tamasha!* which contained a collection of the best stories & poems of all the previous issues. The vibrant and lively cover by Atanu Roy aptly suited the theme. The issue was a Major hit at the World Book Fair held in February, 1994. *Best of Tamasha!* was planned as a bumper (double) issue with 64- pages.

The next issue came in September 1994. The theme was environment. Its stories highlighted care of draft animals and trees. This issue was supported by UNEP and the Ministry of Environment. A contest which requested better designs for a bullock cart had very encouraging response and hundreds of children sent in their entries.

December '94 saw an issue on the 'Right' of the Child. Information about the universe & moon, apart from stories and poems were also featured. The child right stories of this issue were supported by UNICEF.

March 1995 saw a very different issue with a brilliant Madhubani cover by Sri. Satyanarayanlal Karn. This was the special story issue. Stories by M. Mukundan (Malayalam), Vyankatesh Madgulkar (Marathi) and poems by Rabindranath Tagore (Bangla) and others were represented with beautiful illustrations. The

issue was sponsored by the Royal Netherlands Embassy. And we have now been asked by Shri Von Sponeck of UNDP to do a special issue to celebrate the 50th year of the United Nations.

Other sponsorship for stories in this year's *Tamasha!*

**June:** Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources, Government of India.

**September:** National Afforestation & Eco Development Board, Ministry of Environment & Forests and the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources.

**December:** Voluntary Health Association of India

**March:** Ministry of Culture.

## Kalpavriksham

The 'Centre for Sustainable Education' is still only basically at its infancy while we await funding. With small grants, however, we have managed to do some work this year in teacher education and in development of materials.

## Kalpna

**Teaching-is-fun workshops** for teachers in rural and Delhi learning centres which work with working children and their siblings. Facilitated by a grant from the Indo-German Social Service Society, the workshops were much appreciated. Some teachers, for example in H.P. who had happened to visit one of our workshops there, briefly, have written to ask if we could do one specially for them. Coordinated and planned by Kokila Gulati (with initial support from Charu Anand), the workshops have also included:

– two workshops for teachers working with working children in Uttar Pradesh. ILO's CLASP Programme had short-listed Katha from NGOs operating in this area to do these workshops. Chanda Bose, ILO Coordinator has written the way she is happy with the way the workshop has enriched and enthused the teachers.

– a workshop for primary school teachers of Ramjas School, New Delhi. Kirti Jeyram, the coordinator of the 'Teachers' Resource Room' there, has found a marked change in the attitudes of primary school teachers at Ramjas to adopting the story and word method of basic language education that Katha has been advocating,

## Enhancing Tolerance A National Workshop

Co-sponsored by the USIS

"The workshop was the result of an idea that had taken root during a study tour I was invited to last year to discuss tolerance in a pluralistic society, at the invitation of the US government in 1993-94. At the end of that trip, we had decided that a similar exercise should be done in India. Katha was asked to co-sponsor workshop.

This was attended by NGOs from various parts of India working in the field of education, training and women's issues.

The workshop was spread over three days and was based on the principle of participation and cooperation. It was a good mixture of small group discussions, panel discussions, role plays, games, and lecture. The session ended on an upbeat note with a discussion on what it means to be thoughtful and understanding in a pluralistic society.

## Kalpna:

### Development of

### Teaching/Learning Material

"We need to make our own books," we had said when we first started KathaShala.

In 1990, we did. Our first basic kit for literacy, as Members are aware, developed an innovative **Katha Methodology for Teaching Reading** appropriate for older children who are in nonformal education: The story method of learning to read. It invests meaning in words, for the working child is a busy person and does not have the time to waste on

learning letters that don't add up to anything!

Staring with a story, it gets! to a word and then to the letter. It has proved successful for teaching reading to children with all the worries and responsibilities of a grown-up.

Katha again is sitting too uncomfortably close to the cutting edge. No money for such activities. Everyone wants to fund literacy for women. The child's important, but what do we do our mandate does not allow the kind of project you want,' they say, agonizing with me but helpless. We know women are extremely important, but children are too, and in many ways more so.

This year, Katha has been researching pre-school education and working on a prototype for a teaching kit which will put meaning back into words and hence making reading a pleasure that will see itself growing into lifelong preoccupation for our children.

And the researched materials on sustainable living are awaiting some kind of funding to be able to design, illustrate and print this.

In the meanwhile ... We have been asked to develop learning materials for Level A of the National Open School (a Government of India project to attract and take older children/young adults towards a formal school-leaving certificate).

And yet another dream has come true. **YuvKatha**, a project that has been in our minds for long, reached its first landmark with the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation asking Katha to do a book to celebrate the 50th year of the United Nations to fulfill their commitment to Mr Boutros Boutros-Ghali, Secretary-General of the UN.

The book had been commissioned out, but the writer failed to come up with the manuscript at the last moment. After a month of panic and confusion. Geeta herself took on the writing of the book. *A Unique Odyssey: The Story of the United Nations* is due for release in August 1995, in Hindi and English.

*A Unique Odyssey: The Story of the United Nations* is an intricately-woven story a mixture of facts and fantasy which takes the reader on a world tour, visiting places where the United Nations is supporting a development or peace programme; or where, with UN support, women, panchayats, cities and villages are showing the way to a brand new, sustainable future.

### Katha Vachak

The cell that researches and produces colourful, appropriately-written literacy and post-literacy material for adults, especially women has got funding for another eight books from Government of India, Department of Education.

Another major project we have undertaken this year is *StreeKatha*, a story about women who have shown the way, proving to be light-bearing



role models for other women in other less empowered situations. Written by Geeta Dharmarajan and Sheeba Choudhury, the book is to be released in August, 1995 in six language: Hindi, Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, Telugu and Urdu. It has been illustrated by two Madhuani artist, Moti Karan and Satyanarayan Lal Karn. Written for the neo-literate and for use by grass-root level workers, the book was commissioned in connection with

the Beijing Conference, 1995. The book is to be 48 pages long and will be priced at Rs. 90/ (Rs 45/ for NGOs and individuals)

Work is also in progress to develop with the women of Khazana, a Literacy Kit (LitKit) on Water and sanitation. Funded by ActionAid, we hope this will be a useful addition to the sum total of materials available today for the neo-literate woman.

The Hindi Lab has taken on an expanded and enthusiastic role with the coming of Dinesh Sharma, a most valued person in Katha who along with ever-willing Arvinder Chawla and the whole Design Unit, hard-working Suresh in DTP, and innovative Kokila Gulati and Charu Anand, have made the work of Kalpavriksham and Katha Vachaak possible and quality conscious. And all the work in all the various departments are supported and the wheels are oiled properly and will care by Shri P P Sharma, Shalini Gupta, Manjeet Kaur, with the support of the peons and of course. Jose who is Man-friday!

### KathaShala

Our only field project has been having some very exciting times. This India country IPEC programme for ILO has about 1200 children today. Most of them working or siblings of working children. The Govindpuri

#### We are Proud of you!

4 students out of 19 (NOS) registered in '93) took their exams this May. Two of them—both girls—appeared in all 5 subjects. They have passed! One of them is continuing her education after a gap of 12 years. 12 boys were sent for the 10th CBSE exam (first batch) One came out with I division and 9 with III division and ten with compartment. (No. failure). In October, Mother's International School had an interactive programme with our children.

Community has about 10,000 income is Rs 600 - Rs 800., said a Delhi Administration Survey in 1989. No one as far as we know, has any other statistics, except what we gather from the children and now from members of the women's cooperative.

**Tutorial:**

Enrollment - 504

Total No. of dropouts - 217. Out of this 217 approximately 150 students. have started doing self coaching and are showing good results in their school also.

There is a mixture of Hindu and Muslim families, some people who have migrated from Bangladesh also live here. The men work in various unskilled labour. The women work in houses in the well-to-do neighbourhood of Alaknanda, Chitaranjan Park as servants and maids. Many times their daughters are not sent to school because they have to augment the family income, helping the mother at her house work or at her outside place of work. Boys normally have a certain amount of money they have to bring into the family.

Most girls and boys do not find education relevant. They are so busy looking at fending away daily hunger that they do not and cannot think about their futures.

When you work will a neglected forgotten community like an urban slum, nothing says small. Or simple The people line in the most crowded area in Delhi: 600 families/hectare. Many of their children had not attended any type of educational institution.

KathaShala already has about 400 children in the Community Library we started last year will a three-month NBT support. PLUS about 1000 children in the various programmes there which includes.

The **Creche** provides for the children of Mothers who come for skills-upgradation and for the

siblings of our young students whose responsibility it is to look after them.

The **Preschool** is there to provide a place for 3-0 years to stay safe in while their mothers work, but it also has a larger objective: To help parents and children get into the habit of school.

The **Nonformal Education Centre** is for the 7 -14 year olds, basically working children who have dropped out of school a long time ago and have lapsed into illiteracy or who have never stepped into a school.

The **Tutorials and Remedial Classes** are an effort to help the working child stay in school. We've had a tough year with many children still lacking A in basics and so finding it difficult to cope. Many of our students have been successful, but we have had some failures too, unfortunately. Seven

girls took their 10th class examination this year, Three of them have passed in III division: two have got Compartment and two have failed.

We need to work harder. In this context, our Worksheet Project gains added importance. Worksheets have been developed with teachers putting in overtime and working on holidays to develop experimental teaching and testing work sheets for internal consumption only.



This year we had 217 drop-Outs, from our tutorial programme, Even one dropout maybe signifies a lack of relevance in the curriculum we are following. Ofcourse many of them are gainfully employed. But is this what we want? And as for the rest, we have stopped coming due to various valid reasons. For the last four months. I have been meeting with various people in the field of education to see how we can make education more relevant for working children.

As a result of this exercise has evolved the First Workshop on Small Business Management for young adults in the age group of 14+.

The curriculum is being drawn up by Geeta and we hope to have some eminent people from the fields of advertising, banking, funding agencies, IGNOU, NCERT and

**Tutorial Results IV to class X**

|                 |   |     |
|-----------------|---|-----|
| I rank holders  | - | 11  |
| II rank holders | - | 12  |
| Pass percentage | - | 92% |
| Failure         | - | 6%  |
| Compartment     | - | 2%  |

**No. of admissions**

|                  |   |      |
|------------------|---|------|
| Creche           | - | 46   |
| NFE              | - | 322  |
| Summer School    | - | 157  |
| Tutorial and NOS | - | 366  |
| Pre School       | - | 228  |
| Total            | - | 1119 |

**No. of Dropouts**

|                 |   |     |
|-----------------|---|-----|
| NFE             | - | 59  |
| Creche          | - | 20  |
| Pre-School      | - | 38  |
| Tutorial & Open | - | 111 |
| Total           | - | 228 |



NEISBUD to be on the guest faculty. Most of them have agreed.

We have this workshop will lead to the setting up of the experimental **Katha School of Entrepreneurship** for the 14+ working children of our community at Govindpuri. A quality 'small-business school' for working children and those who cannot afford a twelve-year formal education or quality training in business management.

An innovative programme, the KSE envisages equal time being given to scholastic and vocational education along with management skill, will certificate and diploma courses being planned which are short-term enough to attract children and intensive enough to give them the satisfaction and the skills required in future. Working children in the age group of 14+ will be helped to write their 10th and 12th class examinations and regular intensive tutorials are given here along with training in various income-generation activities like

- catering,
- maintenance of home electrical appliances,
- bakery
- confectionaries and
- computers.

### The Early Achievers!

Pre School: 48 have gone to formal school and 30 students also have joined in Don Bosco from the community through KATHA. And more than 140 had taken admission in Government schools in Delhi and in rural areas to where the families have shifted back.

The whole KathaShala programme would come to naught if it weren't for the dedication and sincere care of Saraswati Subramaniam. Now will a M.Ed under her belt. Saraswati is raring to go with all kinds of ideas!

### Shakti at Khazana

This programme that was started so that children would be able to invest time and energy in long-term rather than only on helping the family meet its daily needs, has been growing steadily.

An active women's empowerment programme, Shakti women of this community participated in

- the income generation and skills upgradation programme
- the empowerment programme
- A Mothers' Club with 600 members.
- A water and sanitation committee
- A Campaign against Child Labour, mounted by the children which saw the coming together of the community and various religious leaders to increase awareness in the community.

### Teacher-training programme

Every year, for the last five years, about 15/20 women from the community are chosen each year to undergo rigorous training in nonformal education methodology, as developed and practised in Katha, in our development of materials, our short-term teachers' workshops, and in KathaShala.

Examination papers and the viva-voce are conducted - by government-recognised institute. There is a three-month apprenticeship at the end of the course. Till now, almost 95% of our women have been absorbed into the teaching centres to which they have been attached as trainees.

Shakti and the teacher-training programme are under the efficient care of Veena Nanda. Her dedication and her no-nonsense approach to solving problems are much appreciated by all of us.

### Khazana

#### Working Women's Coop

The community women have slowly and gradually been taking over the running of the Cooperative. They have undergone various

For cookies, cakes and lunches, orders can be placed by telephoning:

6476440;

46441131;

4728227.

training, including one conducted by the National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD).

They also operate a small savings scheme. Their aim now is to start their own Fair Price Shop.

We believe that such all-round development of the individual is the first step towards a community's confident as says into self-reliance. With time we hope that this will be the foundation on which we build a better future for our children.

Today, our women earn up to Rs 2500/month. That's many times what the Delhi Government's survey has shown as their monthly family income: Rs 600 - Rs 800 month/family.

The women belong to various income-generation activities groups which are run by themselves.

**Katha Rasoi:** An office lunch programme for executives in a local business centre.

The Katha Bakery makes mouth-watering cakes, cookies, puff. **Silai-Khazana**, the tailoring and embroidery unit.

Regular customers for our bakery items have been the American Women's Association and the Latin American Wives Association besides shops in the area. The Khazana puffs and cakes are especially appreciated and have carved a niche for themselves in it market that is flooded with commercial products. More power to our women, we say!

The income-generation programme has been funded by three agencies:

The Indo-Canadian Cooperation Office; The British High Commission and Oxfam-bridge

Building construction has also been started here, in an effort to provide proper and hygienic space for the various food-related activities. Money for this has come from ICCO and the BHC, as also from SEVA, the Indian Women's Association in Riyadh. This grant was processed when with us, looking after fund-raising. She put us in touch with Ms Nazeema Aziz whom we thank for the Riyadh grant.

The Income-generation programme has been under the coordination of Gargi Bose. An artist and a Kindra-garten teacher by training, Gargi has brought a lot of dedication to her work will the women all really been the first to understand the idea of the Cooperative and she has helped put it on stream.

One of the major good things that happened this year was having one of our senior Council Members with us, to help on an almost full-time basis. In a purely honorary capacity, Shri K Dharmarajan looked after the Khazana programme when the full-time director had to leave us without proper notice. Till he handed over responsibility to Shri N C Nirula who joined to in December, 1995. He retired as chief general manager of Coal India.

### Katha Vilasham

The Story Resource and Research Cente which mainly works at enhancing the quality of translations between the various languages or India; and in fostering and applauding quality fiction in the various Indian languages has been active in many satisfying ways.

*Katha Prize Stories – Volume-4* was released in an innovative way in six different cities on December 17, 1995. This would have been impossible

without the Friends of Katha who most spontaneously offered to do all the arrangements. There were workshops associated with each release in

Delhi: Dr. Abid Hussain, President of Katha, and many of our Council members like Srinathji and Krishnamurthy-Anna were there for the release of *KPS-4* and the first annual Kathop Kathan meet. The forenoon was given to discussions of the book and finished with a lunch, The venue was India International centre who cosponsored the event and we are indeed thankful to Shri A Madhavan, Director, and Premola Ghosh, Programme officer for their ideas, their cooperation and most of all their friendship.

The guests were drawn from academia, journalism, translators, new and established, critics and writers. The authors and translators or some of the stories were present:

The morning was rounded off with a sumptuous lunch hosted by our distributors, **Rupa & Company.**

In Calcutta Smt Enakshi Chatterjee represented Katha and organised a release function presided over by Shri Bimal Kar who formally released the book.

A similar function was organised at Guwahati by Shri Pankaj Thakur. The guest of honour was Shri Birendra Kumar Bhattacharya, a Jnanpith award winner and former president of the Sahitya Akademi. The function was presided over by Shri Jogesh Das. Shri Manoj Kumar Goswami was present.

Katha Prize Swries ... has established itself in a surprisingly short period of three years as an anxiously awaited yearly event watched alike by discerning reader's in India and abroad as well as by write, translators and literary journals.

– *The Economic Times*

There were many friends who participated in the discussion in the various cities, Some of them were

**In Bangalore:** Shashi Deshpande and Dr. Ramachandra Sharma

**In Calcutta:** Sarat Kumar Mukhopadhyay, Moti Nandy, Shyamal Gangopadhyay, Sankha Ghosh, Subrata Sengupta, Sunil Das, Tapan Bandopadhyay, Swapan Sen, among others. The author of the prize-winning stroy Swapanmoy Chakaravarty was also present.

**In Guwahati:** Shri D.N.Bezbarooah, editor The Sentinel, Shri Malinidhar Bhattacharya, Smt. Mitra Phukan, Shri Atulananda Goswami were some of the participants.

**In Delhi:** Bohwar Mohamed Kunh, N.S. Madhavan. Vandana Bist. Sarla Jagmohan, Rajendra Yadav, Nirmal Verma, Harish Trivedi, Rukmini Bhayya Nair, Meenakshi, Gopinath, Sachidananda Mohanty, Pamela Philipose, Paras Venkteswarea Rao. Purbi Panwar and Dhananjay Kapse.

Shri Chandrakant Kem, editor Rashtramat conducted the proceeding at Panaji, Goa, on behalf of Katha. The book was released by Shri Arun Sinha, editor Navhind Times. The discussion that followed was led by Shri Manohar Shetty and saw lively participation of eminent journalists and literary personalities.

**Bangalore and Madras** saw the released of *Katha Prize Stories - 4* per kind courtesy of Shri K.S. Padmanabhan of Affiliated East West Press, and Shri S. Chandrashekhar, Managing Director of Higginbothams.

Prof. U.R. Anantha Murthy was and literary personalities.

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Higginbothams at Madras hosted a simple function where Shri N.S. Jagannathan, former chief editor, *Indian Express* was present.

*Katha Prize Stories - 4* has received extremely favourable reviews in all leading newspapers and magazines like *India Today*, *Indian Review of Books* and the *Book Review*. It was also on the bestseller list of the IRB for two weeks.

In 1994 - 95 *Katha* had to go in for a reprint of all the four volumes of *Katha Prize Stories* and of a Southern Harvest, to meet the demand of the reading public.

**Amitav Ghosh**, a highly acclaimed young writer, in an interview in *Indian Express*, when discussing the translations now available: "I don't know if you have seen the *Katha Prize Stories - I think it is an excellent series,*"

### The Katha Translation Contest

Two years ago, the *Katha* sent a proposal to the British Council about a translation contest that will help identify new talent.

The response to the contest was overwhelming and after much deliberation, the results were announced.

July 29: The awards function was held in New Delhi with Shri K.R. Narayanan, the Vice President of India presenting the awards to the prize winners.

This was followed by a two day

workshop for invited guests and prize winners of the contest. The theme of the workshop was "Translation as Manuscript".

The awards function was well-covered by the media and Doordarshan did a live telecast of the ceremony. Most major newspapers carried a news item about the ceremony and the workshop.

There were many people who were responsible for the success of this contest. Chiefly amongst them, I'd like to thank Meera

Warrier, Meenakshi Sharma, Renuka Ramachandran, Tulshi Dharmarajan and the many students who volunteered help.

By the end of 1994, the British Council had suggested that a second contest be held on similar lines. And the process of planning was invited.

*Vision/Revisions* has stories by some well-known writers, including Harekrishna Deka, Lila Mazumdar, JP Das, Na Muthusami, Basheer, Purna Chandra Tejaswi, Chandrakant Keni, Vijaya Rajadhyaksha, Shirish Panchal, Mannu Bhandri, Ajeet Cour and Surendra Prakash.

Edited by Kriti Ramchandra, the book should be in the market by July, 1995.

**Katha Translation Contest**  
in association with the  
British Council, British High  
Commission.

#### WINNERS

Assamese

**Ranjita Biswas**

Bangla

**Shampa Ghosh**

**& Dhritiman Chatterji**

Gujarati

**Madhukar G Hegde**

Hindi

**Premila Condillac**

**& Ruth Vanita**

Kannada

**Vanamatha Viswanatha**

Konkani

**Vidya Pai**

Malayalam

**CPA Vasudnan**

Marathi

**Padmaja Punde &**

**Bipin Bhise**

Oriya

**Maurice Shukla**

Punjabi

**Devinder Kaur Assa Singh,**

**Jasjit Man Singh**

Tamil

**Shakuntala Ramani**

Urdu

**Sara Rai**



### Katha Vilasam Research & Publishing Programme

*Katha Vilasam* operates as a research and resource centre in a decentralised way, as far as possible. With extremely limited resources its most valuable asset is its network of friends who provide assistance in locating outstanding short stories and finding new talent.

The friends of *Katha* along with the various editors of our commissioned books provide the research that puts us somewhere between academic and commercial publishing.

The research certainly provides *Katha Vilasam* a sufficiently large data base to formulate a curriculum/design a course for aspiring translators.

Which is, essentially, Katha's larger objective. To set up standards and norms for translation and editing in order to do justice to the authors and provide outstanding short fiction in the regional languages in reader-friendly translations.

One or two examples of such interaction have been in the work done by Prof. J Birje-Patil and Ms. Lakshmi Holmstrom, based in the USA and England respectively.

Prof. Birje-Patil teaches English at Marlboro College, Vermont. He has selected and edited a collection of short stories and some pieces of occasional writing by Suresh Joshi, the well-known Gujarati writer scholar and critic, to be published in the Katha Classics Series. Prof. Birje-Patil has not only visited India twice during which time he has spent a lot (his time in the Katha book. He held all informal workshop with the translators eminent scholars, teachers in Gujarati – to discuss translations and editorial strategies in order to ensure that the essence of the Gujarati originals was retained.

Similarly Lakshmi, Holmstrom, the editor and translator of the collection of stories by Mouni, talks of the extensive research work that went into selecting the stories by Mouni and translating them. She mentions, specially the part played by Tamil writer, Dilip Kumar in reading, critically all of Mouni's work. The translations were then discussed at the workshop conducted for the students of the University of East Anglia.

### The Katha Fellows

Katha Vilasam was started with me express purpose of fostering and supporting quality translations between India's many languages.

Economic reasons meant we concentrate on English translations in the first few years of our existence.

This year, with a Ford Foundation Grant, (got because of the interest of Anmol Vellani there), Katha has started work in three languages –

Bangla, Kannada and Tamil.

Katha Fellows are to be chosen to participate in regular workshops in translations between these three languages. Advocacy groups are being formed to enhance the status of translators and their payments.

We hope this is the first step towards, maybe an open or even a 'Virtual University in Translations & Indian Fiction.' But this seems very ambitious and I don't know what it will entail. But I do believe that by opening our doors to fresh winds and to healthy criticism, we weed out charlatanism and make way for a grand burst of creativity.

### The Publishing programme

The KATHA Award-winning stores and translations published each year in KPS have garnered much praise. The first volume is in its fifth printing; the second in its third; the third and fourth in their second printing.

This year the Awards were again sponsored by East India Hotels. We are indeed happy to have Shri P R S Oberoi and Shri K K Sharma as friends who have not only taken keen interest in literature but have also been able to support the venture. We thank them from the bottom of our hearts!

*Katha Prize Stories, Volume 5* is a special occasion for us. For live straight years, we have managed to bring out a volume, and we thought that it was only suitable that we should ask the readers to join us in a search for excellence in short fiction from India's various languages.

The selection process for Katha Prize Stories Volume - 5 was set in motion with letters sent to nearly 3000 Friends of Katha, inviting them to nominate the best story/stories they have read in their language in 1994. It was gratifying to see the number of people who responded and we know that this makes the volume special for us at Katha. Very special.

'KATHA PRIZE STORIES-5,' edited by Geeta Dharmarajan &

Meenakshi Sharma is forthcoming in December, 1995.

We've been lucky to have Keerti Ramachandra and Meenakshi Sharma with us to steer Katha Vilasam through this year.

KATHA CLASSICS. An exciting series on some of India's major writers who have made landmark contributions till the growth of India's literature and languages.

Forthcoming in delicious, a pleasure-to-hold-and-possess editions are:

Nov. 1995; **Masti Venkatesha Iyengar** 'Father of the modern Kannad Short story,')

Dec, 1995 U R Anantha Murthy. One of India's most rewarding writers!

May, 1996 Suresh Joshi. A simple person, a complex writer who revolutionised Gujarati fiction.

April, 1916. Mouni. A strong, strangely reticent guru of Indian writers.

### Internet

Exploiting the "Information Highway" and the electronic medium. Katha now has a home page on *India World* an **Internet** service. Also since 12 March 95, until 31st July 95, nine-short stories from *Katha Prize Stories* have been featured on Internet to subscribers of the service. Every alternate Friday, the stories are changed, (**Sharda Sangeet** was in two parts, hence the nine instead of 10).

Katha stories have received very complimentary response from subscribers, according to the users feedback sent to us by Ravi Database.

Through Internet Katha hopes to enlarge the scope of its research facilities and tap overseas resources for translation technique, the methodology adopted by translators from non-Indian languages into English, and interact with non resident Indians who might wish to keep in touch with their mother-tongues by undertaking translations and writing original short fiction



specially for Katha.

On 10 December 95, the USIS in collaboration with Katha had organised a discussion with Dr. Maria Ortiz, who among her other activities in the field of education, has translated the poems of Amrita Pritam into Spanish. Katha invited a group of poets, writers and translators to join in an interesting discussion was held on trans-cultural translation. This was held at the house of Mr. & Mrs. Krecke of the USIS.

All the friends of Katha who have stood by us always.

### **Our heartfelt thanks go to**

All the friends of Katha who have stood by us, always.

Our designers, illustrators and writers who have contributed so much of their best to Katha and to our readers.

- Our designers, illustrators and writers who have contributed so much of their best to Katha and to our readers.
- Our Nominating Editor, people who do the rough translations for choosing the Katha A wards, and the resource people
- The authors who have willingly given us permission to translate and publish their stories.
- Our resource people who helped us with many of our projects in KathaShala, Khazana, Kalpana, Katha Vilasam and *Tamasha!*
- The many people who have helped us by being part of the Katha School of Entrepreneurship Experiment and especially Dr C J Daswani, Dr Anil Sadgopal, Shri Mathew Cherian and Shri D K Bose, Ananth Ramachandran.
- Our various funding agencies and donors who have shown their faith in us through this year.
- Our friends in Government, in the Department at Education, Women & Child Development, Environment, Non-conventional Energy Sources and Culture

and in the Slum Development Department of Delhi Administration.

- The community members Bhumiheen. Navjivan and Jawahar Camps for working with us so fully for the future of their children. And to Shri Sheeshpal, our elected representative in this area: Shri Mahendra Rai, Pradhan.
- David Krecke of the USIS and his wife, Joanne.
- Our distributors Rupa and Company and especially Mr. R K Mehra, and his counterpart in South India. Mr K S Padmanathan of Affiliated East-West.
- Our various printers for striving to meet our demands for quality and especially people at Surya Print Process, Print Perfect, Gopsons, and Dhriti Printers.
- Amongst our staff member Mukesh Pahwa, our production manager, I'd like to thank star members who were with us briefly during this year: Geeta Jeyraj and Bindu Nambiar; Archana, Kalpana, Disha and Gauri.
- The people who do our typesetting (though most of it is done in house), our processing and our Xeroxing (Katha still does not have its own copying machine!).
- Dr A K Singh who gave so much time and care to the treatment and the operations for Padma Vats who had a very bad accident eight months ago and is still recuperating.
- Our auditor, Shri Ajay Gupta for his care and diligence.
- Shri Balasubramaniam of HUDCO for giving us voluntary support in getting our accounts ready and well-checked for the auditors and for helping us with financial management.
- And all the other friends of Katha who are not named here but who have helped us in ways untold. Thank you!

