

katha
2005•2006

the executive director's report



We started with one utsav and finished with another. First it was the NEW! Utsav in April 2005 – how fond we are of that little exclamation mark in Katha. NEW! stood for the Northeast writers’ utsav. And it was the grandest thing you could have imagined.

And we finished the year with the Asia Utsav in January 2006.

And so ... it was storytelling all the way. From the great Satriya dancers from Majuli to the music of the Wadali Brothers and the scintillating dance performance of Rama Vaidyanathan. It was the still centre that we discovered. Music and dance, puppets and films filled our lives with the magic of what Bharat must have imagined as the quintessential storytelling of all – the mimed story.

And so we bring you, for the first time almost, an annual report that dances with colour and unheard music. With the work of brilliant illustrators who stole the hearts of our children and evocative wordsmiths who lingered in the minds of adults.

And what can I say about the people at Katha - my innovative, happy colleagues, our children and women but a BIG thank you for warmth and friendship!

Here, for you, our world of 2005-2006.

Enjoy!

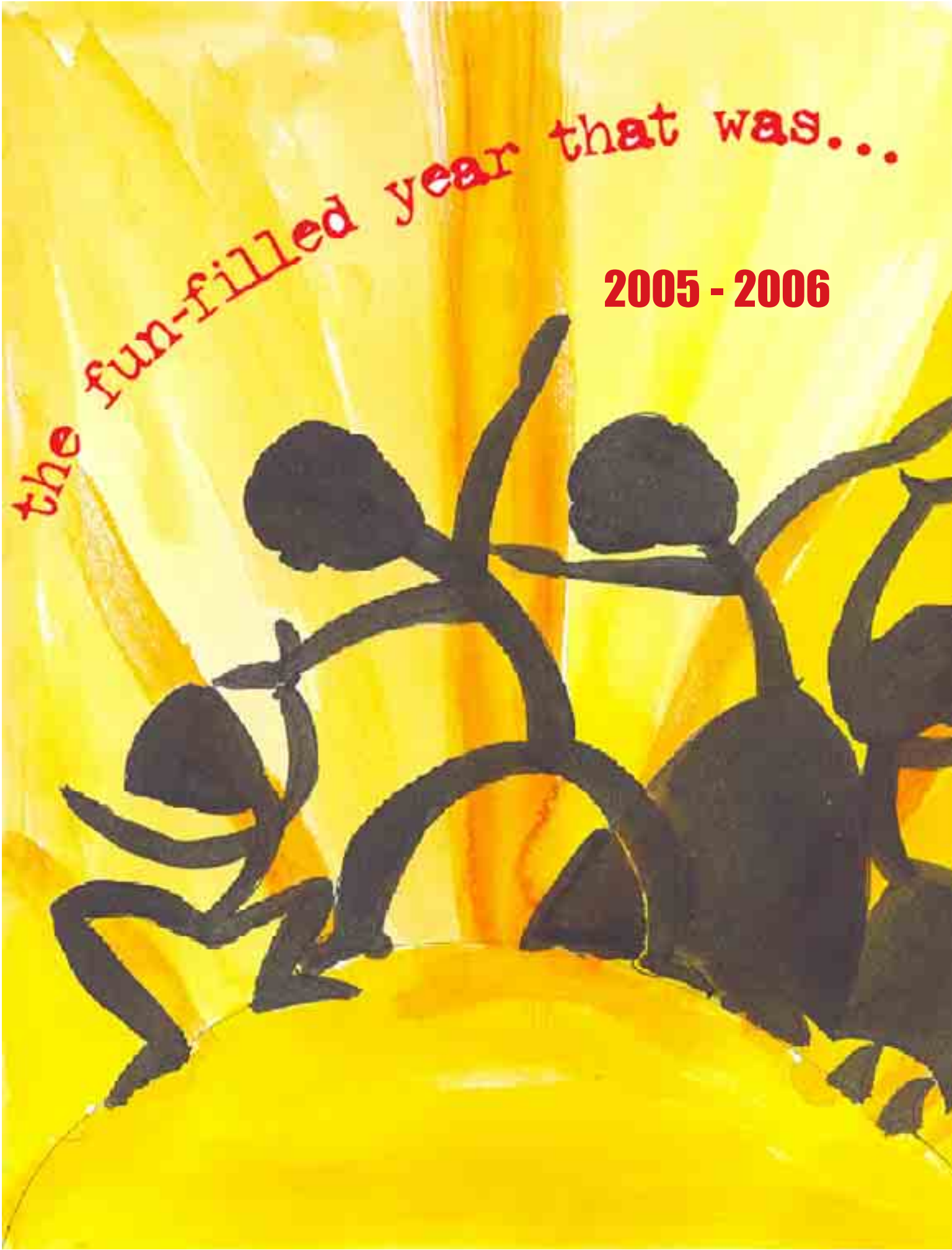
Geeta Dharmarajan
(Executive Director)



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the fun-filled year that was...

2005 - 2006

Kathashala . a school with a difference

Kathashala started its 2006 academic year with a bang! The vidduniya and story pedagogy, special innovations at Katha made classrooms link personal experiences with traditional and nontraditional subject learning. We did three vidduniyas this academic year. Katha students learnt through their own experiences, the collective experiences of their elders, their communities, the people who work with them as mentors, teachers and experts.

Trimester 1: It was north Indian cities and celebrations from January. The cities that students studied for urban growth, their design and town planning were: Pataliputra. Kashi . Varanasi . Benaras. Ujjain. Srinagar. Peshawar. Urban development down the ages. Urban planning. Entrepreneurship. While their language arts classes took them into flights of fantasy with Kalidasa to Kashinath Singh , her-story, his-story, my-story. Students were writing the city through this trimester. Appreciating mehfil/mushaira. And participated in a contest in town planning and interior design. Activism was there in good measure, bold political, social reforms . SACH or social action for change. The fresh fictions festival looked at living the city through art, architecture, matters of the heart and mind. The Katha theatre festival was the students' own venture into scripting and staging a play. And to top it all - a 3-day film festival!

Trimester 2 was no less exciting. It took our students romping around the city, interviewing people and learning huge chunks of information that even the best schools do not always provide! My City's a Riddle - brought them closer home, to Delhi. These took teachers and students on fascinating journeys where they did 13 surveys ranging from studying economic and social gaps to entrepreneurship, health and transport. They interviewed 2500 students to find out how friendly Delhi was to children. They even did a lower income survey! And seriously studied gender issues in the **third trimester**. Individual, team and teacher led learning ... and lots of fun! It was uncommon solutions for a common good. And it brought them good marks in their board exams - 92% average. And the school touched the finishing ribbon with 90% plus 85% attendance and 90% retention! A record of sorts, we are told, for schools run by voluntary organizations. ... **students are in college this year**. And our returning graduates are getting great jobs!



Tracking Tools for Bringing our Children on



With the World!

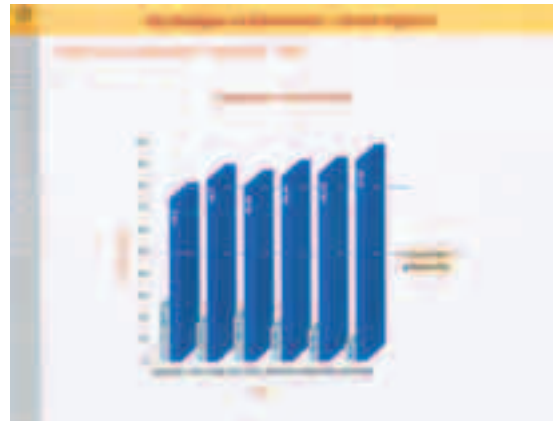
[PAR stands for Performance . Attendance . Retention]

Student academic performance and retention are important. However, in Katha, tracking does not judge children in competitive ways, nor pushes them into undesirable competition. The tests are continuous, sensitive to the needs of children. So we encourage our teachers to constantly ask: Are students learning as best as they can? Is the learning relevant and hence, rememberable? How can we improve pedagogy and classroom practices, so the child benefits?

KITES the Katha Information Technology and Ecommerce School

offered IT professional courses which have improved their earning substantially. From our little ones in the preschool to our high school students, everyone gets to master the computer keyboard. From touch typing to the intricacies of Photoshop and programming – there's little that our students cannot do!

We wanted 10,000 footsteps into the school each year. "Get the community in!" was the order we gave ourselves a few years ago. On 3 December 2005, we organized **HAMARA GAON MELA**, right in our community. Colourful and crowded, it featured performances and showcased the work of our students and women, and the entrepreneurship of the community.



Annual sports day . Fresh Fiction Festival

The **KATHASHALA ANNUAL SPORTS DAY** was held on 21st February 2006 at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium. One of the objectives of this event was to spot talented sportspeople amongst children from 57 communities who come to the Katha Community Schools including Kathashala and the Schools on Wheels. A total of 1500 children converged at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium. We take this opportunity to thank the authorities of Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium for sponsoring the event, for working so closely with us to make the event a success. We also thank them for working closely with the students of **KATHA JOSH!** our sports academy, over the last few years.

It was an exciting and emotionally satisfying experience to watch children, many of whom live in dire poverty, showcase their skills. Some of the participants were as young as three years old!



yoga is part of the katha josh physical training programme



Kathashala Hamara Gaon Mela & more ...

This year at Katha, Purna Siksha or holistic education - which once again brings stories in education centrestage - brought to students leadership, management and urban survival skills that gives them a good grounding in ethics.

The **Katha School of Entrepreneurship** [started 1995] and **KITES** [the **Katha InfoTech & Ecom School**] offer a triple-braided graduation certificate. This year, our children found placement in the best of places, including IBM.

TEACHER TRAINING:: Katha, since the last decade, has had a 160-hour Educating the Imagination workshop. This is supported by a twice/monthly faculty club meeting for peer learning/assessment. This year's workshop focussed on gender; and we held 24 faculty club meetings.



DELHI'S Chief Minister visits our school!



The Times of India March 8, 2006

"... Katha offer(s) us excellent models of creative solutions for educational problems ... Both public and government schools can learn from Katha how to anchor literacy in the indigenous tradition of storytelling ... Katha has marked a breakthrough in teacher training too. The fact that Katha's over-thousand children do not hurt or tease Zarina, the cat who lives in the school, certifies it for serving as a vision for the future."

PROF. KRISHNA KUMAR
Director, NCERT
India's premier national
organization, the **NATIONAL
COUNCIL FOR EDUCATION
RESEARCH & TRAINING**

Katha Lisu Schools at Arunachal Pradesh

The Katha-Lisu Schools [245 students] are part of a community-based programme aimed at helping wildlife conservation by reducing hunting pressures in Namdapha National Park from the marginalized Lisu community that live in remote villages with poor access to health care, education and other income-generation opportunities. The schools are anywhere from 136-157 km (on foot) to the nearest road, from the nearest town.

A five member committee was

appointed to oversee the smooth functioning of the school and to ensure that teachers took regular classes.

The committee members for the Katha-Lisu School in Gandhigram are Diyosey, Yasuti, Wayebo, Sekiyo and Solo. Sekiyo is the Treasurer for money provided for school maintenance. Discussions and agreement about a new committee were conveyed to other parents who did not attend the meeting through an announcement in the Church.



charting new maps

bridging gaps



Sharing the joy of reading



Tamasha Roadshow

Tamasha! the fun magazine for children from nonliterate families that we started in 1988 still sets the tone and culture for the organization. She gets hundreds of children writing to her, asking for tips and treats.

Tamasha! Roadshows take the BIG fun-loving elephant to 22 newly forming slum clusters to bring the joy of learning and the world of knowledge to 800 children.



I Love Reading Campaign

The Katha Language Arts Programme [KLAP!] strives to build sustained reading pleasure in students. With the existing illiteracy, Katha's mission is, sadly, far from over. We want to extend our network across India, bringing in the magic of the creative web bridge of knowledge and education to as many children

as possible! The Campaign operated through the Katha Story Box and the 10 Rupee Bookshops in our 53 schools.

Work on the **Tamasha! Graded Readers** has started. Distinct sets for primary, middle, and high school students will help build a **60 to 6,000** word vocabulary, through innovative and fun ways.





Shakti Khazana

the self help groups

Income Generation
Programme

[she]2: safe water •
sanitation

health & housing

education and economic
empowerment

We learnt in 1990 that if children need to come to school families should be economically self-sufficient. Immediately, we started the income generation programme for women. This year we had 40 self help groups: that's more than a 1000 women involved in various ways to augment their family incomes in efficient ways. Now we have 2000 women in our Ma Mandal or Mothers' Association. What started off as a SHG to bring in women of the community out of their homes and merge them into the economic mainstream, today boasts of women doing business in ethical efficiency. Its customers this year include corporates like HCL, Taj group of hotels and NGOs like Navdanya, CRY, PRIA. And we have a waiting list on our school!

Over the period of last one year, Shakti Khazana has evolved into a unit which is not only capable of catering meals and bakery products, but has also developed capacity for promotion, distribution, packaging and marketing their products. Their sales last year was Rs 11,72,000.

"The name, Katha-Khazana, could not have been more apt as the endeavour has contributed to stories of women's empowerment, stories of would-have-been school dropouts becoming school toppers and now the story of how despite being housed in a dirty slum, a wonderfully clean bakery churns out delightfully tasty biscuits ... It is also a story of struggle waged by women such as Manjula and Urmila to cast away the veil that shrouded their existence and step out of their homes to establish their worth not just to the outside world, but also to themselves ..."

– The Week





“Katha Books ... The Best of India Translated”

— *India Today*

in story pedagogy. in story pathways.



KATHA VILASAM, THE STORY RESEARCH AND RESOURCE CENTRE, seeks to foster and applaud quality fiction from India's myriad bhashas, the regional languages and share it with a wider readership through quality translations.

Katha has been working in the areas of storytelling and translation since 1988, and is one of India's top publishing houses. We showcase contemporary Indian fiction like no other publisher. Our list includes more than 300 of India's best literary talents from 21 languages. Katha also introduces an array of writings from the many oral and written traditions of India to children, ages 0-17.

KATHAKAAR, KATHA'S CENTRE FOR CHILDREN'S LITERATURE, endeavours to initiate children into the colourful world of imagination and discovery by publishing splendidly illustrated books. Drawing inspiration from Katha's various activities for children, Kathakaar works with a pool of writers and illustrators. Picture books, stories, environmental awareness books, activity books - all keep children engaged with the story and inspire them to read early and consistently.

Katha's education programme and its special curriculum and pedagogy have enabled Kathakaar to identify the needs of children and bring quality into literacy for greater impact and resonance.

Katha's books have won recognitions in the NOMA Concours Contest for Picture Book Illustrations, organized by UNESCO, and at the Bratislava Conclave in Europe.



eminent writer, dilip chitre at a Katha reading

THE KATHA CHUDAMANI 2005

This lifetime achievement award is rooted in Katha's firm belief that true art not only speaks of life, but is also the source of the living truth. It honours a writer of enduring and exceptional merit whose work showcases both creativity and daya – empathy for the living. **Shri Vijaydan Detha** is testimony to this. His short stories and novels are desert-children, borne of the folk-landscape he inhabits. In his own words, **"The stories of the desert are like its sand, fine and transparent."** Katha honours this teller of fine stories for his generous vision and inimitable style.

KATHA CREATIVE AWARDS 2005

Honouring writers . translators . illustrators . editors

Instituted in 1989, the Katha Awards are an annual tribute to India - written, translated, reinvented, imagined from margin to margin; to an India told through a story, heard through a song. Honouring the short story, the most difficult and elusive of forms to master, celebrating twenty one bhashas and saluting creativity. The Katha Awards for Creative Fiction for Translation and the Katha Journal Awards applaud the art of writing, translation and editing.

The 2005 search for excellence travels from the vegetable bazaars of a Manipuri village to the Pune Mumbai Expressway, from the Kannavam Reserve Forest in Kerala to anonymous railgadis passing through remote districts of Bihar.

WRITERS

Rajendra Sarmah . Rongili Biswas . Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay . Hemangini Ashok Ranande . Kunal Singh . Mahabaleshwar Sail . N S Madhavan . Santosh Aechikkanam . Sandhya Mohan Gholap . Nee Devi . Sudhir Naoroibam

TRANSLATORS

Krishna Dulal Barua . Ipsita Chanda . Shubhra Ray . Nimesh Patel . Shriti K Tyagi . Malati Mathur . Xavier Cota . K G Ramakrishnan and Nirmala Aravind . K M Prema and E M Priyamvada . Lalita Paranjape . T Bijoykumar Singh

JOURNAL EDITORS

Pankaj Thakur, *Ajir Asom* . Iqbal Karim Hasnu , *Bangla Journal* . Debrabrata Chattopadhyay, *Parikatha* . Akhilesh, *Tadbhav* . Ravindra Kalia, *Vagarth* . Madhavi Sardesai, *Jaag* . K C Narayanan, *Bhashaposhini* . Sada Dumbare, *Saptahik Sakal* . Madhuri Vaidya, *Vipulshree* . Jayant Kumar Sharma, *Sahitya*

The Katha National School of Translation strives to help forge linkages between writers, students and teachers. Launched in 1997 as Kanchi, KNIT has been conducting workshops in schools and colleges countrywide to enhance the pool of translators, editors and teachers of translated fiction. KNIT operates through five Academic Centres in various universities in the country: Bangalore University, IRIS, Jaipur, North East Hill University, Shillong, SNDT Women's University, Mumbai, in addition to its Delhi Centre.

kanchi



katha centre for film studies

based in Mumbai, is one of the responses to a growing need to situate and understand the significance of cinema as a unique language of contemporary art practices that has enormous impact. KCFS organizes film festivals in Mumbai along with orientation courses in "Ways of Looking at Cinema," as well as intensive and instructive scriptwriting workshops. It has also built up quite an enviable collection of films and books related to film studies.

K a t h a

LOVE IN THE TIME OF INSURGENCY
Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya

ARUMUGAM

Imayam
Translated from the Tamil by
D Krishna Ayyar

THE STONE LAUGHA & ATONEMENT
LA SA RA

**THE LIFE AND TIMES OF PRATAPA
MUDALIAR**
Mayuram Vedanayakam Pillai



THE MASTER CARPENTER

MT Vasudevan Nair
Translated from Malayalam by
Gita Krishnankutty

The legend of Perumthachan, the Master Carpenter is recreated vividly from a popular folk tale by MT Vasudevan Nair, the Jnanpith, Sahitya Akademi and Padma Bhushan award winning writer.

THE EPIC OF PABUJI

Jhon D Smith

Pabuji, a medieval Rajput hero from the deserts of Marwar, is widely worshipped as a folk-deity capable of protecting against ill fortune. This book chronicles the epic narrative in English free verse as well as interesting details about the words, the music and the par itself.

B O O K S

TAMIL NEW POETRY

An Anthology

Translated from the Tamil by
Dr K S Subramanian

Katha proudly presents its first anthology, tinted in every wash of life and dotted with the Sirissa trees and wailing Palms of the Tamil landscape. Beautifully translated by Dr K S Subramanian, the anthology is the latest chapter in this history. Featuring a range of poets, from stalwarts like Na Pichamurthy to young artists like Kanimozhi.

KATHA PRIZE STORIES 13

Edited by
Geeta Dharmarajan

Another year, another Katha Prize Stories. And this time, twelve stories showcasing different shades of human experience – through a silent song and a wild dream, through a mute keyboard and a city so grim ... The best fiction from 2001-2003 in ten Indian languages, selected by a panel of distinguished writers and scholars. Instituted in 1990, Katha's search for excellence in Indian literature continues.



FRESH FICTION

Folk Tales, Plays and Novellas from the wingtip of India, the Northeast. Exciting journeys: from the battles between the Japanese and the Nagas to the war between the sun and people, from insurgency in Mizoram to the pleas of a just-dead soul wishing to stay alive, these are haunting stories from well known writers of a little known region: Indira Goswami, James Dokhuma, Shürhozelie Liezietsu, Arun Sarma and many more, carefully and lovingly culled by the North East Writers' Forum. Brought to you by Katha.

C h i l d r e n ' s



THE MYNA FROM PEACOCK GARDEN

Naiyer Masud
Art by Premola Ghose

LUKOSE'S CHUCH

Geeta Dharmarajan
and
Keerti Ramachandra

NIGHT OF THE THIRD CRESCENT & OTHER STORIES

Geeta Dharmarajan and
Keerti Ramachandra

THE MAGIC RAINDROP

Geeta Dharmarajan
Art by Bindia Thapar

Come join us ... Step into a wonderland of magical raindrops and unbelievable kites ...
fairy told by Geeta Dharmarajan and breathtakingly illustrated by Bindia Thapar.

THE SKY QUEEN

Presented by Mamang Dai
Art by Srivi

ONCE UPON A MOON TIME

Presented by Mamang Dai
Art by Nimret Handa

U SIER LAPALANG

A Khasi tale retold by
Kynpham Sing Nongkynrih
Art by Maya Ramaswamy



B o o k s



HANUMAN'S ADVENTURE IN THE NETHER WORLD

Madhavi Mahadevan

Art by Srivi

The master magician, Mayil Ravana, has cast a stupendous spell! But, wait! There goes Hanuman, the son of the swishing wind, gliding across the bluest sky in search of the nether world. Slip into your invisible diving suits for a splashing, big adventure!

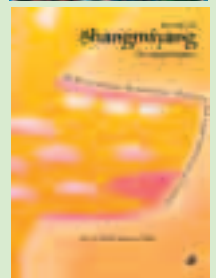
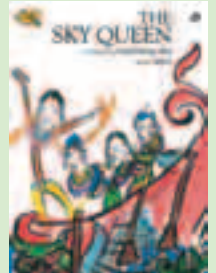
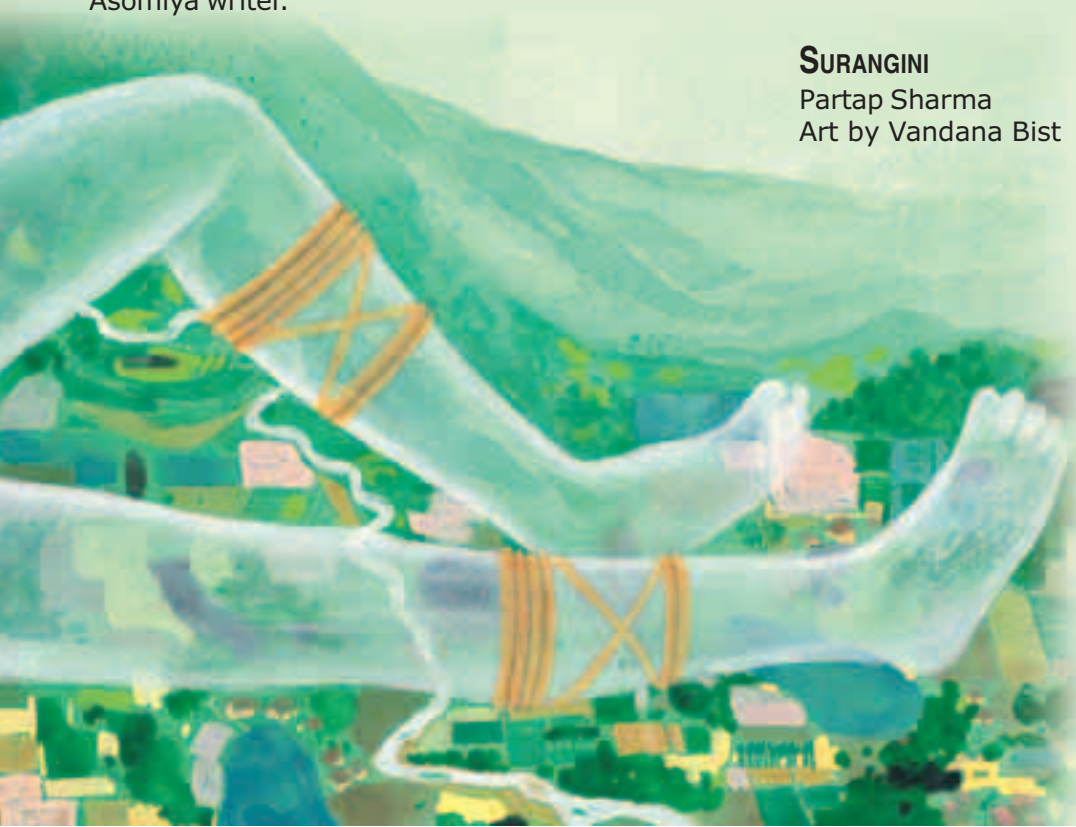
SHANGMIYANG

By Birendra Kumar Bhattacharya. Excerpted and retold from his novel Yaruingam little book about the gentle, BIG giant who sneezed up a storm ... A visual delight for children, superbly illustrated by Suddhasattwa Basu. Excerpted and retold from Yaruingam, a novel by Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya, eminent Asomiya writer.

SURANGINI

Partap Sharma

Art by Vandana Bist



reaching out . the katha academic centres

bombay on the menu

The Katha Academic Centre at SNDT Women's University, Mumbai under the charming and erudite Prof Mitra Parikh, has been in existence since 1999. They have done some amazing work in translation. This year, one of their highlights was a fifteen day course conducted by Antoine Lewis from January 15-30, 2005. It explored the diversity of Mumbai city through its food. It set out to trace how Mumbaikars first began to eat out as a regular practice, the communities which first initiated it, the forms it took, and the locales where the first spaces for public eating appeared. From khanawalas to Irani cafes to modern day restaurants, this course traced the diversification and increasing sophistication of restaurants along thematic and conceptual lines.

Antoine Lewis is an eminent food writer and member of the Asiatic Library whose gastronomic knowledge is matched only by boundless reserves of patience that allow him to walk food aficionados through occasional cooking lessons.

the national workshop on indigenous traditions of translation

The Katha Academic Centre at St Xavier's, Ahmedabad under the strong and charismatic leadership of Dr Rita Kothari, organized many events in 2005-6. One of them was a national seminar on translation with a select group of translators and academics. A journal called *Kathasaar* was released by them with great fanfare.

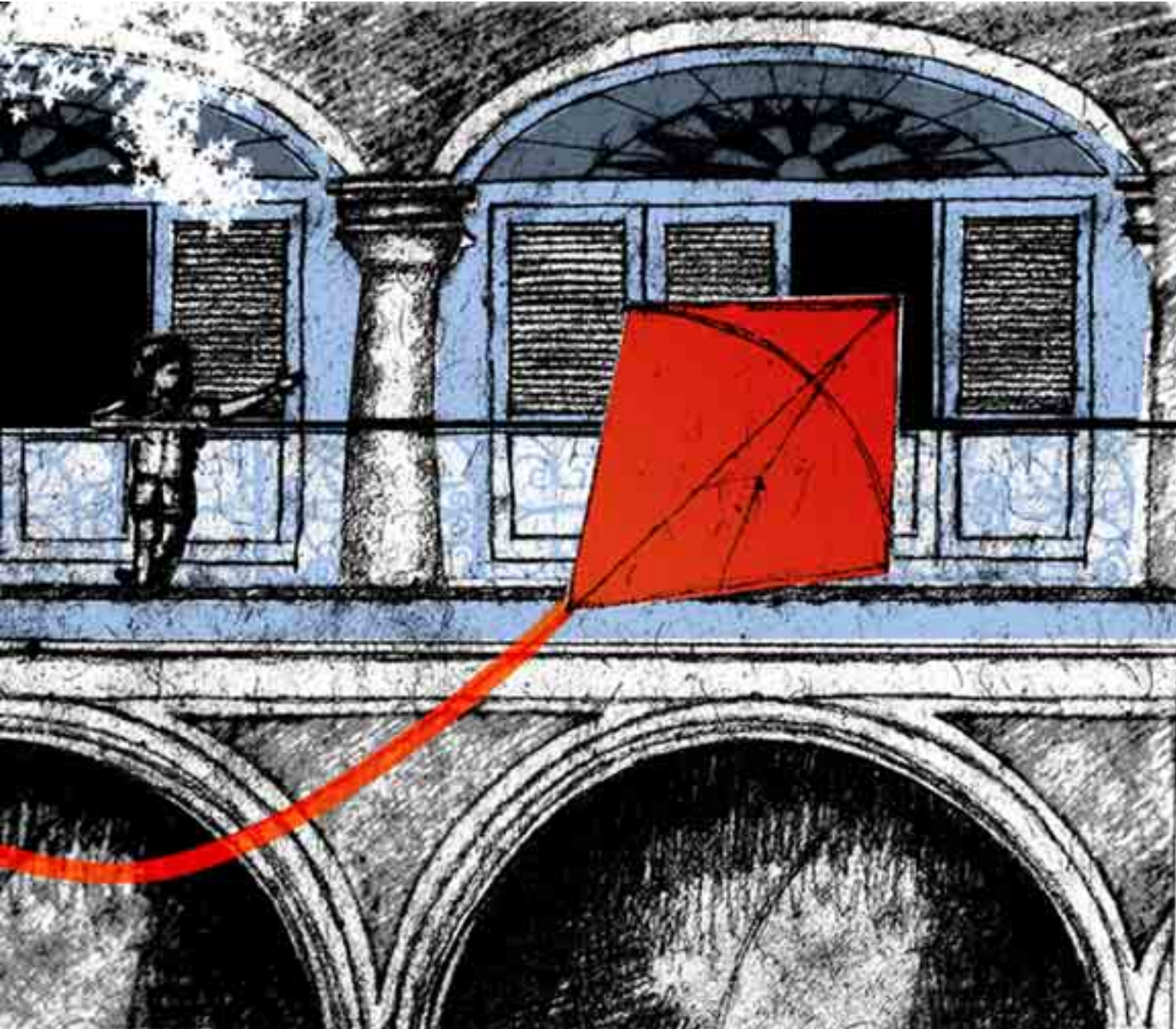
PUKAR winter institute 2005

Urban Knowledge, Language and the Research Process

Formed by Katha and the department of Communications and Journalism, University of Mumbai, The PUKAR Winter Institute 2005, the second in a series of three such annual institutes, was designed as an opportunity to bring together research scholars from various Mumbai based research centers (across disciplines and sectors) and to engage in a dialogue with scholars, writers, translators and practitioners.

The Katha-PUKAR collaboration . The Literary City

This seminar featured a discussion with acclaimed writers on their work set in Mumbai. The writers were: Mohammad Khadeer Babu (Telugu) Ashok Srinivasan (English) N S Madhavan (Malayalam) Dilip Chitre (Marathi) and Sajid Rashid (Urdu).



The Chitrakala award is a unique, first of its kind initiative to bring the very best of illustrators to Indian children. Katha instituted the Award in 1998. The Awards recognize and honour fresh talent in children's illustrations and storytelling. In 2005, The Chitrakala contest went international and received an overwhelming response from across the globe with hundreds of entries coming in from as many as eight countries, not to mention from all corners of India. Katha is proud to announce the winners of the Chitrakala Award, 2005: **Grand Prize winners:** Rashin Kheiriyeh, Iran. Feeroozeh Golmohamadi, Iran. **Runners Up:** Hoda Hadadai, Iran. Shilpa Singh, India. Anahita Taymourian, Iran. **Notable Mentions:** Hassan Amehkan, Iran. Sadia Sayed, India. Hamid Reza Beidaghi, Iran. All the prizewinning entries are being published by Katha.



Utsavs . a katha story that's unique



We at Katha have always worked with issues of identity, storytelling and translation. Through 18 years of working in the literacy to literature continuum, we have strived to meet our mission goals of transformations effected through storytelling, of protecting the heritage of languages that defines us.

Since 1991, Katha has been bringing writers, translators, academics, students and the reading public together in events that celebrate the story. Since 2001, the utsavs became international events.

The City Stories. Katha Asia Internatinal Utsav was another step in this direction. Katha asia's visionary flight was possible because of the generous support from our partners: GAIL India Ltd, the Government of Delhi, US Aid/ Reach India, the US Embassy, the Australian High Commission, the Allaince Française and the India Habitat Centre.

A colloquium of a multitude of voices, a smorgasboid of events, a six day trek that was a journey of discovery. A Milestone for Katha, a celebration of the Asian City - built demolished, re-risen, imagined, heard, written, enacted.

the wadali brothers
enthralled a jam-packed
hall with music. So did
rama vaidyanathan [opp.]



City Stories . Katha Asia International Utsav

City Stories. Katha Asia International Utsav, was held from **January 6 to 11 at the India Habitat Centre**, and other venues across Delhi.

Katha asia took its cue from the first-of-its-kind Asia Relations Conference of March 1947 that was organized in Delhi by Jawaharlal Nehru to celebrate the beginnings of Asian independence and its assertion on the world stage. It questioned, reiterated and celebrated peace and development in Asia through story and storytelling, the time-tested ways in which Asia has always brought lasting change unto itself. The Utsav's theme - the city translated and transformed.

At the Utsav we attempted to explore some of the city's innumerable facets. From urban renaissance to poverty alleviation, from youth interests to

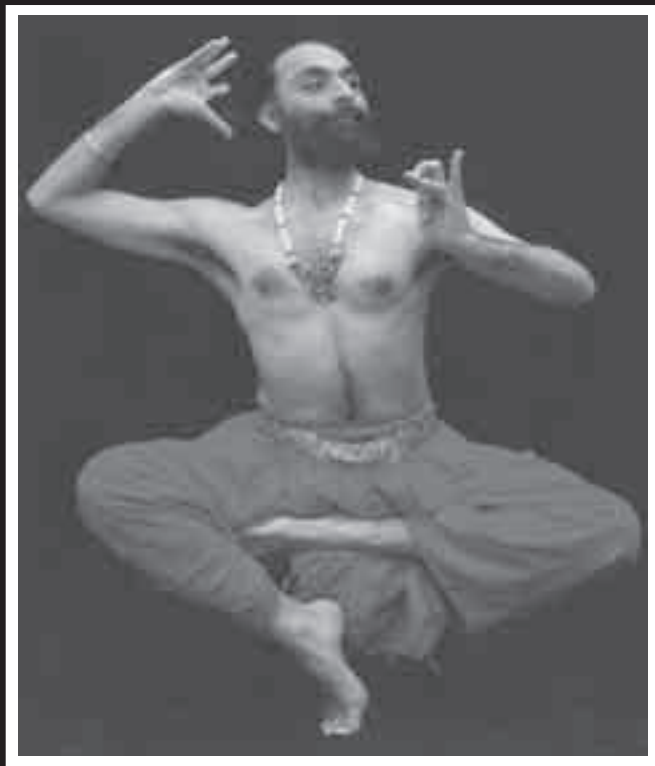
the future of nations – writers and intellectuals; community activists, academics and scholars; school and college students debated and explored purposeful ways to tackle urgent issues.

Stringing together Asia through translations was one of the serious issues under discussion. Best practices were showcased. Visionary writers heard. Minds set aflame.

Writers and activists from as many as **22 countries** were present at Katha asia. The inauguration started with a **jan adalat at the India Habitat Centre**. Nearly 1500 representatives from various slum clusters across Delhi debated important issues. Srimati **Sheila Dikshit**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Delhi agreed most graciously to be the chief guest. Shri **Rajat Sharma** compèred the programme.

From the 8th to the 11th, we organized as many as 200 sessions across Delhi, at the India Habitat Centre, our venue partners for the Utsav: talks, keynotes, workshops, seminars, performances, readings, film-screenings and of course, discussions.





amazing asia!

It was fun and frolic for 1500 students from 43 public schools and 23 NPO schools participated in the Amazing Asia international carnival at The India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.

Kathashala was honoured to be entrusted the leadership role in organizing the WINTER CARNIVAL. It was our chance to showcase the talents in leadership that our students and teachers have.

The workshops included interactive sessions with authors and craftsmen as well as hands-on activities by the students under guidance of experts. By any standard, it was a grand success.

the academic conference

In the face of rapid urbanization, the college can no longer be an island amidst the city's community. Katha asia forges a discussion space for the college's role in community development. Ther interdisciplinary conference - College, Curriculum and the City focusses on the city, its writings, issues of self-image and the imagined. The Katha asia Academic Colloquium hosted two parallel seminars, concurrently

The 110 college initiative. What started off small ended up with 110 colleges participating. The best speakers were at the Utsav. Laureates from design and architecture institutions in India who had participated in the search for excellence for good urban design for slum clusters were also present.

Meet the author sessions were a unique feature that introduced students to many lands. Hidden. Misread. Unexplored.

CITY STORIES

THE KATHA ADALAT

1500 women from 33 slum communities across Delhi met with Hon'ble Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit. She gave them her cell phone number and has returned papers in reply to their queries. When people across caste, class and partisan lines, transcend differences and talk to one another, we have the making of a good society, communities on social resurgence. The Katha Asia Utsav started off with the creation of a public sphere where members of self-help groups representing community people of Delhi, who form a large percent of the population, were in an interface with representatives of civic authorities, parliament with leading personalities of the city with the media in attendance.

the national teachers conference:

Cities embody collective memory, and collective memory signifies a living culture. The best cities have strived to be "good societies," helping erase socio-economic differences. They have celebrated entrepreneurship. The questions we asked - what are schools doing for the cities they inhabit? What is the role of schools in the making of the responsive, responsible citizen? How can curricula and project work in the arts/sociology disciplines and classrooms rise to the urban challenge of design, planning and architecture?

the poverty seminar

Through a focussed seminar, participants at the Utsav discussed and attempted to find imaginative and original solutions to the problem of urban poverty.

the translation seminar


Katha Asia held a translation seminar in honour of good friend, Dr B C Ramachandra Sharma, who passed away this year. There was also a translation workshop with the well-known Prof Mona Baker from a British University.

chitrakala seminar

Illustrators, writers and academics discussed the state of children's publishing in India.

cities of the mind. making of the creative cities.

Two cultural theorists and writers spoke their mind and discussed what goes into the making of creative cities.



THE KATHA ADALAT was chaired by Shri Rajat Sharma. Many of the issues raised by the communities' representatives received their replies from the Chief Minister's office. And action is on to take these forward so that the larger good of the people of Delhi is achieved!

THANK YOU, SHEILAJI!

a chiaroscuro of events

living dangerously. modernity & the tradition bound city.

As our cities expand and people shift from rural to urban spaces in search of jobs, Asia is growing more urban by the day. Our cities turn into melting pots of cultures and megapolises of frightening proportions. How do the cities of Asia come to terms with people living in streets and slums? With contrasts of tradition and modernity? Are we learning to live dangerously? What are the different aspects and issues that we need to look at?

urban nightmares. a constructive agenda.

Asian writers have always celebrated the city - and bemoaned it. The human predicament comes out sharply when we look at the immense differences, the hatreds and the passions that a city creates. The question of history and identity and search for a constructive agenda were the broad themes for discussion.

power glory & lies

An Indian legal luminary, a writer and man of many parts from Sri Lanka discussed stories based on their personal encounters with power and glory. How lies work to deny cities and citizens their basic rights.

landing trouble. legal tiffs & legal tangles

What is a city story without legal tangles and untold miseries? When we look at our jails, our under-trails. When we see the way police atrocities happen, or how the corrupt get away with murder, there are many untold stories that need to be told.

conflict of conscience. islam & literature

Life in the city has been riddled with issues that in Asia have often been along religious or caste lines. Gandhiji's philosophy has a relevance and resonance here. How can we emulate his philosophy in contemporary society? What stories have the Islamic literatures to tell us? How finally, all languages and literatures talk the same language of forgiveness, tolerance and the need to believe in the self.

the final cast elections decide

The final "cast" of knowledge keepers and dream makers are decided by the elections once every five years and the slums become the prize catch. But the debate will remain with the eternal questions of who decides what, and for whom? And are those we entrust our lives to, are worthy of our trust ?

extras @ the utsav

Seventeen Years of Katha, an exhibition on Katha's multi-coloured history.

Best Practises in Urban Design: A display showcasing entries received from architectural students for the Katha EU Urban Design contest.

Community Activism: A display of Community Best Practices.

City Café: A meeting point for counterpart meetings, pairing, mentoring and closer interactions.

Folk Performance, courtesy the Sangeet Natak Akademi - Katha asia book fair

city stories at the NGMA

City Stories. The Perceived Experience. 5th January 2006 onwards. National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi. This specially curated exhibition culled from the repository of the National Gallery of Modern Art included important works by well-known artists from the pre-independence to contemporary times. The selection included works by Amrita Shergill, Thomas Daniell, William Hodges, Ram Kumar, N S Bendre, Avinash Chandra, Bhupen Khakhar, Manu Parekh, Gulammohammed Sheikh and F N Souza amongst others.



The Katha Asia Film Fest

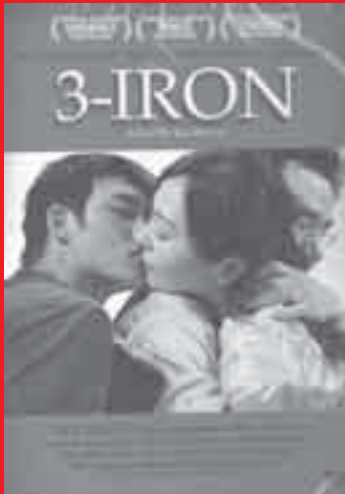
Ever since the stirrings of the first motion picture, the city has captivated cinematic imagination across the globe.

Whether it is the slums of Dharavi or the bylanes of bandstand, the skyscrapers of San Francisco or tea-shops in Taipei, nothing romances the camera more fittingly than the city. The city is, one may say, first and always, a story. Katha asia presented a series of cinematic classics

curated by **Prabodh Parikh**, as part of its tribute to, and flight from, the city.

Screenings, at the Alliance Francaise and IHC, were accompanied by workshops & discussions. Also held was a scriptwriting workshop with Javed Akhtar and Atul Tiwari.

This has paved the way for the katha centre for film studies at Mumbai.



Katha Asia Book Fair

Was a book fair with a difference, featuring books both from India and other Asian countries. Katha celebrated a festival of bhashas during the Katha Asia International Utsav, 6 to 12 January, 2006, at the India Habitat Centre. An eclectic selection with books ranging from culture, religion, philosophy, history, buddhism to translation. And of course Katha's fabulous new releases!

A 7 day extravaganza called City Stories: WRITING THE CITY, TRANSFORMING THE CITY. This Katha Asia International Utsav brought together more than 300 students from across India, to meet and talk to writers and activists from 22 Asian countries.

Given the response of the students, teachers and parents, it can be said without exaggeration that the Utsav was a grand success. It was evident from various comments made by the students, teachers and the parents that the participating students learnt many arts and crafts for which no expertise is available in any school. Students asked many questions and the authors gladly answered their queries and in this process the students acquired information unavailable from any other sources. And as for the Kathashala students, they learnt a lot about leadership and self-esteem and much more about the 9Cs that has brought joy and character skills to the lives of our children since 1992:

Curiosity . Creativity . Critical Thinking . Competence . Confidence
Courage . Cooperation . Concern
Citizenship



writing the north east . transforming the north east



An exciting journey of discovery and celebration, the NEW! Katha Utsav saw writers, teachers, translators and students from the Northeast and beyond experience the exuberance of Northeast. NEW! brought more than 50 writers, translators and students from the Northeastern States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura, to Delhi.

Northeast India is one of the most culturally diverse regions in India. Each of the eight states has its own distinct range of cultures and traditions. A place renowned for its magical beauty and amazing diversity, the Northeast is home to more than 300 separate tribal groups,

speaking a wide range of languages.

NEW! storytells and questions, reiterates and celebrates, writes and talks back on peace and development in the Northeast, from culture to poverty alleviation, youth interests to the future of the Eight States. Writers and intellectuals, academics and scholars, school and college students debated and exchanged stories as they found purposeful ways to tackle these urgent issues.

It was an open forum for established and emerging storytellers as also for teachers, scholars and critics. It aimed to promote closer readings of the Northeast amongst students and emerging decision-makers.

A Book Fair was organized at the Alliance

**THE LARGEST NORTH EAST WRITERS FESTIVAL OUTSIDE THE NE!
APRIL 27, 28, 29 2005**



Française. A wide range of fiction and nonfiction, English translations of contemporary and classical authors and a great variety of children's books were on display.

THE SHADOW PARLIAMENT is not an entity in India. But in Katha, over the last few years, it has played an important role. A mock parliament was formed by a group of about 20 students from various schools. The topic given to them was to prepare towards passing of a bill: the development of the Northeast Region [DONER] Bill. They heatedly debated and finalized the Bill after due consultations with the people of the Northeast at the Utsav. The bill however was rejected by the audience, as the students were unable

to explain the changes which they wanted in the present setup.

It was a multi-dimensional event bringing out the diversity and vibrancy of the region's myriad cultures. It gave a common platform to students, the media, literary circles and the artists who participated in a series of lively events such as keynotes, discussions, workshops, dance performances and film shows. The utsav was a one of a kind extravaganza that gave the Northeast an opportunity to speak out and speak back. This utsav reiterated Katha's mission to create friendships of a rare kind to culturelink people, faiths and creative impulses. The success of the Utsav was its ability to break down stereotypes and demystify the Northeast.

Fusion Music

Ever heard of a didgeridoo, a cajon or a lava flute? Exploring the basic pulse that runs through us, two skilled musicians – an Indian and the other French – executed a fine sonic harmony with whirling pipes, shaking springs and exotic drums to leave the audience spellbound in an event titled: *An Evening of Music on Lost Traditions*. Organized by Katha and CitiFinancial at the Habitat’s amphitheatre on Oct 21, 2005, this event featured performers Suchet Malhotra and Glenn Louvet playing a variety of nonmainstream ambient instruments.



Rakugo



Katha in collaboration with the Japan Foundation, organized a performance of the English Rakugo, Japanese sit-down comedy at the India Habitat Centre. Rakugo is Japan’s humorous approach to fundamental human experiences. The newer stories reflect modern Japanese society. The idea of hosting a Rakugo performance as a pre-event to the Utsav was to showcase an Asian tradition and its adaptability in the face of modernity and urbanization.

“With this selection of some of the best short fiction published around the country in 2001-03, Katha honours its commitment to its charter to bridge linguistic divides and enlarge the pool of shared creativity. Of special interest are stories from Manipur and Assam.”

— *The Indian Express*

“Katha has several achievements, the most important one being the cultivation of a whole new readership for translations of contemporary short stories drawn every year from Indian languages.”

— *The Indian Express*

“The modus operandi employed at the school can be described, in the absence of any other word as “different”. The students are free citizens of the land ... In the language of the land, the classrooms are termed as labs – experimental centres where infantile minds are stimulated and provoked to inquire and query about the “Goldfish bowl” that they exist in ... Slowly but steadily, Katha has made a mark in the life of the children who have gone through its portals.”

– *The Statesman*



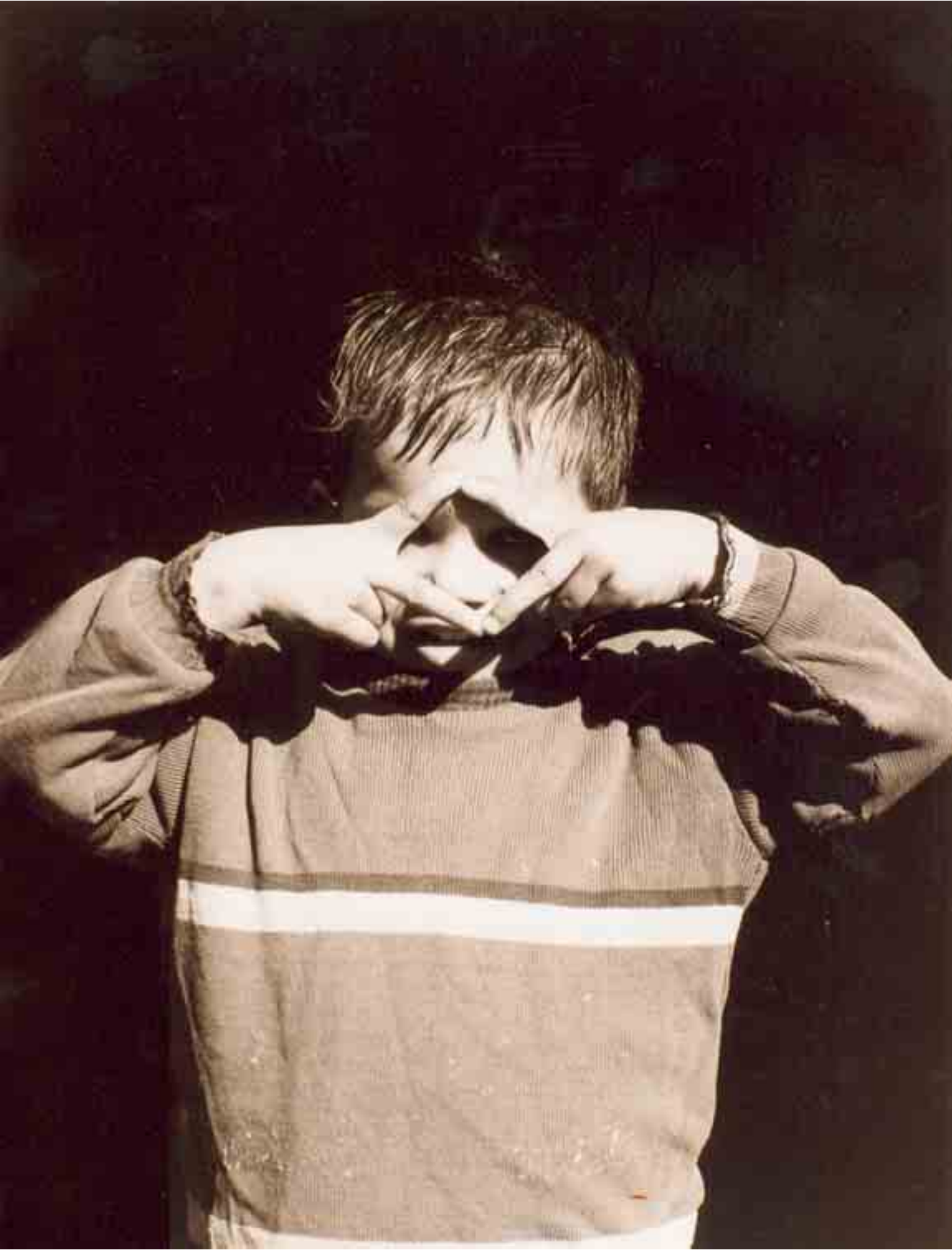
Katha is a registered nonprofit organization working with, and for children and adults through story and storytelling. Katha serves as a leading edge organization in the literacy to literature continuum, in both education and publishing.

We started in 1988 with one volunteer, and a magazine for first generation schoolgoers, *Tamasha!* In 1990, Katha Khazana, a “deschool” was born in one of the largest slum clusters in Delhi. Soon followed income-generation activities for the women in an effort to bring children into schools and keep them there. Katha has helped take incomes from Rs 800/family/month (according to a 1990 government survey) up to Rs 18,500/woman/month. Today we help bring positive changes into the lives of more than 6,000 children and 250,000 adults, living in 57 communities across Delhi and Arunachal Pradesh. Today many of our children are in college. The Katha All in School Mission [KASM] ensures that all our children are in school till grade 12 at least, and doing well.

At the other end of the spectrum, Katha is known as one of India’s top publishing houses. Starting in 1988 alongside with *Tamasha!* our focus here is on quality translations. We showcase contemporary Indian fiction from 21 Indian languages. Our vision is 21:21. 21 languages for the 21st century. Katha’s search for excellence identifies, fosters and applauds creative writing and translation, language, culture and culture-linking through, and, with story.

Katha also introduces an array of writings from the many oral and written traditions of India to children, ages 0 - 17. Classy productions, child friendly layouts and superb illustrations go in tandem with excellent writing.

With a good number of national and international recognitions to our credit – including the **NASDAQ Stock Market Education Award** – we have always believed that, as a “profit for all” organization, we need to find purpose and the means will follow.



Thank You

Through the years we have indeed been fortunate to have many individuals and organizations that have helped us make the impossible happen. We would like to thank ALL of our partners in progress, with all the love we can muster! Starting in 1988 with UNICEF to the Government of Delhi and of India. The embassies and high commissions including the Australian, the French, the German, the Netherlands, the Swedish, the UK, the US and the EU. Our corporate and donor partners including Action Aid, British Telecom, Cognizant Foundation, Ford Foundation, GAIL, Intel, MSDF, Oxfam, PVR, Target, Tata group, Wipro. Also the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust, HPS, ICCR, UNEP. We warmly remember their spontaneous support and faith in us.

We would like to thank all the friends of Katha, the resource people and many enthusiastic supporters who have valiantly helped us in the endeavour to support and foster Indian literature, through the years.

To all our Governing Council members we extend our immense gratitude.

And to all our staff members and volunteers who make positive change happen, every day, very warm thanks.

our thanks to friends through the years ...

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"Katha is doing an incredibly heroic work. By making available in English translation the best of Indian short fiction, Katha is presenting the 'real' India to English readers across the world."

— *Bharati Mukherjee as quoted in The Express Magazine*

"Katha is giving rebirth to the Indian Languages"

— *Punjab Kesari*

"Katha transports underprivileged children into the mainstream education system successfully."

— *The Financial Express*



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