A NOTE ON THE KATHA FONT, CATAMARAN

The catamaran is an amazingly simple and sturdy sea-going vessel, that stands for daring and adventure. A single or at the most two logs, tied together with simple coir rope, it is a jugaad innobvation that has stood the test of time.

Wikipedia says: Catamarans were seldom constructed in the West before the 19th century, but they were in wide use as early as the 5th century by the Tamil people of Tamil Nadu, South India. The word "catamaran" is derived from the Tamil word, *kattumaram*, which means "logs bound together."[3][4] The 17th-century English adventurer and privateer William Dampier encountered the Tamil people of southeastern India during his first circumnavigation of the globe. He was the first to write in English about the primitive watercraft he observed in use there. In his 1697 account of his trip, *A New Voyage Round the World*, he wrote,

> "On the coast of Malabar they call them Catamarans. These are but one Log, or two, sometimes of a sort of light Wood … so small, that they carry but one Man, whose legs and breech are always in the Water.["]

We are proud to have the catamaran font desiged by Pria Ravichandran, as the font for the Katha website. It both signifies the adventurous spirit of Katha and its ability to leverage a simple, bold idea to reach far and wide, effectively.

THE FONT: Catamaran is a Unicode-compliant Latin and Tamil text type family designed for the digital age. The Tamil is monolinear and was designed alongside the sans serif Latin and Devanagari family Palanquin.

It currently comprises of 9 text weights, making it a versatile family that strikes a balance between typographic conventions and that bit of sparkle. (A catamaran is a multihulled vessel consisting of two parallel hulls of equal size. The catamaran concept is a relative newcomer for Western boat designers, been used since time immemorial among the Dravidian people, in South India.)

The Catamaran project is led by Pria Ravichandran, a type designer from India.

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Number of times Google Fonts API served Catamaran over the last week (first week of November, 2017). Catamaran is featured in more than 58,000 websites.