

## **StoryWeaver is celebrating National Science Day with Wonder Why week**

February 28th is National Science Day in India and to mark the occasion Pratham Books' StoryWeaver is curating a week-long celebration of curiosity and learning with a collection of non-fiction books based on concepts in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). The collection includes 20 titles in 10 languages and all the 200 stories will be available on the StoryWeaver platform for free. The stories can be read, downloaded or printed and used.

The development of these books were supported by Oracle Giving Initiative. "Effective reading skills are the foundation for every child's overall development. Through StoryWeaver, Pratham Books is helping thousands of children across the country gain free access to high quality STEM content delivered in an interesting style in multiple languages." Rajendra Tripathi, Senior Manager – Corporate Citizenship India, Oracle.

Non-fiction books are a great way to provide information and new facts to children using a compelling and engaging narrative. While the aim of each book is to inform and educate, the idea is also to nurture the innate sense of wonder in children and in turn, encourage them to explore further. "Through these information books, we attempt to inspire curiosity in children about a range of non-fiction themes and help them engage with it in fun and memorable ways." shares Yamini Vijayan, Content Manager, StoryWeaver.

'Bonda and Devi' talks about robotics through the story of a unique friendship between a little girl and a robot. 'How Far is Far' takes humongous distances and shrinks them down for children. 'Let's Go Seed Collecting' follows three friends as they collect seeds and discover the humble origins of even the mightiest tree.

To create these books, StoryWeaver brought in Guest Editors like popular children's author Roopa Pai, environmental writer Bijal Vachharajani, renowned author Payal Dhar and editor Vidya Mani who was a founding member of Bangalore-based Bookalore. Their in-depth knowledge about certain themes and more importantly, passion for making the information appealing to young readers were an integral part of the process.

Suzanne Singh, Chairperson, Pratham Books shared why the series was created as 'digital first'. "We have chosen to go digital first with this series because we want to make them available to every child absolutely free. Children can choose to read them on mobiles at home or on school computers or teachers can print them from the StoryWeaver platform and give them to children."

From February 28th-March 6th StoryWeaver will share one book online every day with storytelling sessions taking place across the country.

### **About the books**

Measuring distance, genes, environmental conservation and aeroplanes. These are just some of the topics that have been explored in this set of books. You can see all the titles published so far [here](#), and here's a sneak peak into some of them.

How Far is Far? (Link to: <https://storyweaver.org.in/stories/4445-how-far-is-far>)

If you thought your friend's house on the other side of town was far away, you have clearly not read this book. Climb the Magic Math Ladder to get from where you are to the top of Mount Everest, to Kashmir, to the moon, the Sun, and ultimately, to the edge of the Universe, which is very, very, VERY far away indeed. Ready, steady, go!

Dum Dum-a-Dum Biryani (Link to: <https://storyweaver.org.in/stories/4772-dum-dum-a-dum-biryani>)

Basha and Sainabi are in a panic. Ammi is ill, and Saira aunty has just announced that she is arriving for lunch - with 23 other people! Budding chef Basha thinks he can cook Ammi's Dum Biryani, but her recipe only makes enough for 4 people. Math wiz Sainabi jumps in to help, declaring that she knows how to turn a 4-person recipe to a 24-person recipe. Do the siblings succeed in serving up a truly Dum Dum-a-Dum biryani?

விதை சேர்க்கும் விளையாட்டு! (Link to: <https://storyweaver.org.in/stories/4411-vithai-serkkum-vilaiyattu>)

Join Tooka, Poi, and their best friend Inji the dog, as they go around collecting seeds. The adventure begins when the three friends meet Pacha the tamarind tree.

हवाई जहाज़ कैसे उड़ते हैं? (Link to: <https://storyweaver.org.in/stories/4329-hawaijahaz-kaise-udate-hain>)

Sarla wished she could fly high like an eagle or like an aeroplane. Of course you can fly, said her new teacher. Here, Sarla shares all that she has learnt about flight and aeroplanes.

Bonda and Devi (Link to: <https://storyweaver.org.in/stories/4782-bonda-and-devi>)

Do best friends always have to be alike? Devi and Bonda are best friends, but Devi is a little girl, while Bonda is a... Well, he can lift heavy boxes, he can extend his arms and legs, he never forgets anything he's told, he can be turned on and off. Can you guess what he is?

## **STORYWEAVER**

StoryWeaver is an open source digital platform from Pratham Books with over 1300 stories in 34 languages and a rich image bank of over 2500 images. All openly licensed, all completely free. The stories can be read, downloaded, translated, versioned or printed

using tools embedded on the platform. All the content on StoryWeaver is available under Creative Commons licenses to encourage collaboration and reuse.

## **PRATHAM BOOKS**

Pratham Books was set up as a not-for-profit children's book publisher in 2004 with the mission to see 'a book in every child's hand'. The key objective was to publish good quality, affordable story books in multiple Indian languages to support reading acquisition among children. In the last decade, Pratham Books has published over 300 original titles in 18 Indian languages, which total up to about 2000 books. The books cover a range of genres including early readers, fiction, non-fiction, and storybooks on science, history, mathematics and nature. They have had the distinction of working with many of the country's renowned authors and illustrators and their books have won several awards as well.

[www.prathambooks.org](http://www.prathambooks.org)