



## **This International Literacy Day Pratham Books launches StoryWeaver – India's first open source platform of multilingual children's content.**

Pratham Books weaves a new chapter in children's publishing with the launch of StoryWeaver ([www.storyweaver.org.in](http://www.storyweaver.org.in)) This open source digital platform features 800 stories in 24 languages and has a rich image bank of over 2000 images. All openly licensed, all completely free. On International Literacy Day, Pratham Books invites children all across the world, to read stories in the languages they speak and learn in. Stories are available in 14 Indian languages and 12 international languages.

StoryWeaver goes beyond just the reading of stories. It is built to encourage collaboration between content creators and users of children's content. The stories can be read, downloaded, translated, versioned or printed using the tools embedded on the platform. New stories can be created and published. All the content on StoryWeaver is available under Creative Commons licenses to encourage collaboration and reuse. The platform can be accessed on any digital device including mobile phones.

This collaborative platform will bring together authors, translators, illustrators and educators. We believe that by bringing together all the stakeholders and openly licensing our content, we are creating a participatory culture that will catalyse the creation of more content. We hope that this will create a multiplier effect to address the scarcity of multilingual reading resources that exists in India.

Ms. Suzanne Singh, Chairperson Pratham Books said, "Pratham Books believes that every child should have equitable access to good quality reading material in her own language. This is critical if we are to nurture a generation of better readers who will become better learners and better future citizens of India. We believe that to experience the joy of reading is a great gift. By openly licensing our content, we're giving all our storybooks– to the children of India, and the world. Not just for now, but for generations to come."

With StoryWeaver, Pratham Books has taken a giant leap forward in creating access to multilingual reading resources for children, and are many steps closer to our mission of putting "a book in every child's hand".

### **"Weave-a-Story" Campaign**

To mark the launch of the platform, Pratham Books has launched its "Weave-a-Story" campaign where leading children's authors, Anushka Ravishankar, Soumya Rajendran, Rohini Nilekani, Rukmini Banerjee are writing a special story for children. Priya Kuriyan, Soumya Menon will bring these stories to life. StoryWeaver will then invite the community to translate these stories. 100 new versions are expected from the 3 original stories. With this, we will demonstrate the potential of StoryWeaver. Thousands of children will benefit from these multilingual tales. Anushka Ravishankar's "Its All the Cat's Fault" is the first story which

was launched today. On the first day itself we expect to get 5 derivative versions.

### **Quotes from the industry on StoryWeaver:**

Kumarika, an employee of Infosys, who spent hours proofreading Odia books on StoryWeaver: "I am glad that I spotted Pratham Books' tweet looking for Odia proofreaders. I was aware that devoting time to proof reading can be a bit strenuous, owing to the heavy workload that I was foreseeing in my project at Infosys. But my heart did not want to let go of this incredible opportunity of reviewing children's books, that too in Odia. Around 15 years back while waiting for my engineering classes to start, I had my first stint with DTP'ing and proof reading text for books in Odia authored by my dad and his friends. Having worked on the cumbersome Indian Font softwares, I could not help appreciating the simplicity and ease of the technology involved in StoryWeaver for publishing in Indian Languages. I look forward for more such opportunities."

Shaifali, Program Manager - GROW BY Reading Library Program | Hippocampus Reading Foundation: "This is a great initiative. I shared the link with our library partners and I am getting constant mails, thanking me and telling me how useful it's going to be for them. Getting affordable and quality books in GBR libraries has always been a challenge. This initiative is great news for all of us. Looking forward to more content."

Rohini Nilekani, star author and popularly known for her character Sringeri Srinivas says, "Storyweaver is a truly revolutionary step in the societal mission of democratising the joy of reading for children. It involves creative collaboration and collaborative creation. It will allow for an exponential growth in content creation for the 200 million children of India."

"As an illustrator, I'm accustomed to illustrating stories written by others, and I've always been hesitant about writing my own stories. But when Pratham Books invited me to contribute to their 6 Frame Story Challenge, I found it very enjoyable to play with the word grid they had, to pick 6 words and weave a wordless story within 6 frames. An open platform for story building is a very interesting idea, and I'm looking forward to StoryWeaver's launch and success!" said Archana Sreenivasan who has illustrated for ForbesLife India, Mint newspaper, Manta Ray comics, Chumbak etc.

## **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)