

Pratham Books and Cisco partner to build a reading habit and encourage STEM literacy in government schools

July 25, 2019, Gurugram: Pratham Books, in partnership with Cisco, gave away over 10,000 STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) books as part of 100 Library-in-a-Classroom kits. These books in English and Hindi were distributed to government schools across four municipalities of Gurugram, at an event organised in partnership with the Government of Haryana. The event was a culmination of a yearlong initiative with key stakeholders of the education system to equip schools with more STEM-themed storybooks.

Recognising the immense reading deficit among India's children, Pratham Books and Cisco have partnered to develop a range of multilingual STEM-themed storybooks that will help build much-needed STEM literacy among children. These storybooks are now being distributed in four states through partnerships with over 500 government schools, so that over 1,60,000 children benefit from reading, learning, and exploring the world around them. Pratham Books and Cisco are committed to helping the next generation build a love for reading, and curiosity about science, mathematics, and technology.

The culmination event included teachers and principals from primary schools in Gurugram, Sohna, Pataudi, and Farrukhnagar municipalities. The kits were handed over by Amit Khatri, Deputy Commissioner, Gurugram; Himanshu Giri, CEO, Pratham Books; and Harish Krishnan, Managing Director, Public Affairs & Strategic Engagements, Cisco India.

“We believe that storybooks are a way for children to explore new subjects and themes. We have published over a hundred STEM-themed children’s books in multiple Indian languages so that children can discover futuristic subjects like mass transport, topical themes like personal privacy on the internet, scientific phenomena like sonar, and even biographies of Indian scientists,” says Himanshu Giri, CEO, Pratham Books.

“Through this partnership with Pratham Books, we wish to fill classrooms with colourful illustrations, localized content in Indian languages, and exposure to simple concepts that are important in a Digital Era. This is aligned with our commitment to positively impacting 50 million beneficiaries in India by 2025 and will help children overcome the barriers to reading and become lifelong learners,” says Harish Krishnan, Managing Director, Public Affairs & Strategic Engagements, Cisco India.

In a happy coincidence, S.T.E.A.M Ahead, a day-long festival of science stories engaged government schoolchildren in Bengaluru, Karnataka, with STEM-themed ideas, facts, and activities at Cubbon Park.

About Pratham Books

Pratham Books (www.prathambooks.org) is a not-for-profit children’s book publisher founded in 2004 with the mission to see ‘a book in every child's hand’. Its key objective is to publish good quality, affordable storybooks in multiple languages to support reading acquisition among children. Since inception, Pratham Books has published over 3,000 fiction and nonfiction storybooks in 22 Indian languages.

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