



Annual Highlights 2025

Parag, Tata Trusts: Convenor of IBBY India
International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY)



INDIA
CHAPTER OF
iBbY



parag



The Parag Initiative of Tata Trusts since 2005 has been committed to nurturing and enhancing the children's literature sector in India. Parag believes in the transformative power of reading and has been dedicated to making good books accessible to children, with a focus on disadvantaged communities. Sector strengthening include pioneering efforts like awards for children's writers and illustrators, annual honour lists of books, support running libraries in government schools, offer courses for library educators and practitioners, and also support development of good books through grants to selected publishing partners.

The International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) is a non-profit organization representing an international network of people across the world who are committed to bringing books and children together. It was founded in Zurich, Switzerland, in 1953 and now has a network of 84 countries with well-developed book publishing and literacy programmes and pioneering work in children's book publishing and reading promotion

Parag has been the India Chapter of IBBY since January 2024

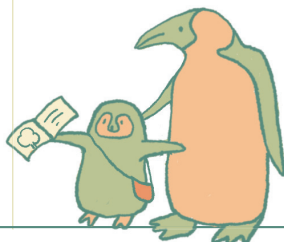
Considering Parag's role as a sector builder for over twenty years, the IBBY platform and its network of 84 countries, is beneficial to nurture the Indian children's literature ecosystem further through global sharing, inwardly and outwardly, by including various stakeholders.

In 2025, Parag actively engaged as IBBY India in three broad ways:

- Participating
- Disseminating
- Cross-sharing and supporting other IBBY chapters



PARTICIPATION



Hans Christian Andersen Award

The Hans Christian Andersen Award (HCAA) is the international recognition, awarded to an author and an illustrator of children's books. It recognises the contribution of the author and illustrator for a complete body of work that made an important and lasting contribution to children's literature. It is awarded biennially. Click [here](#) to read more about the Award.

Parag nominated illustrator Atanu Roy for HCAA 2026 for his unparalleled contribution to Indian children's literature and for his dedication that nurtured and guided generations of young illustrators.

The Parag IBBY India team, in close coordination with practitioners, publishers, collaborators and associates of Atanu Roy prepared a dossier documenting his exceptional contribution. The dossier was a mandate for nomination, for jury consideration and review and can be accessed [here](#).

Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award

The Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award (ALMA) was established in 2002 by the Swedish government to promote every child's right to great stories. One of the world's most prestigious global awards in the field of children's and young adult literature, ALMA is awarded annually to a person or an organisation for their outstanding contribution to literature, storytelling, and reading promotion for young people. Click [here](#) to read more about the Award.

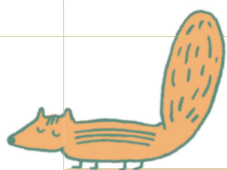
Parag IBBY India nominated Atanu Roy for ALMA 2026.



Dr. Shailaja Menon was selected by the IBBY Executive Committee as a jury member for the HCAA 2026

Her presence in the jury has been an honour to the Indian children's literature world. She, along with nine other jury members, closely reviewed the works of 78 authors and illustrators who were nominated by the IBBY chapters. Her being on the jury brings home a learning about diverse writings and illustrations from a network of 84 countries. At the end of the process, the jury selects a list of outstanding books that they recommend for reading.

This [list](#) is a stellar one.



IBBY- iRead Outstanding Reading Promoter Award

The IBBY-iRead Outstanding Reading Promoter Award was established by the Shenzhen iRead Foundation in partnership with IBBY to encourage deep and sustained commitment to reading promotion, with the hope of inspiring similar efforts across the globe. The award is presented biennially to two recipients who have demonstrated outstanding reading promotion initiatives, effective advocacy for reading-friendly policies, and a strong commitment to upholding children's right to read. Click [here](#) to read more about the Award.

Parag IBBY India nominated Dr. Namita Jacob, Founder of Chetana Trust, Chennai. The preparation of the nomination dossier was a deeply enriching experience. Members of the team visited Chetana Trust, closely observed its programmes, and engaged in conversations with multiple stakeholders who have directly benefited from her long-standing efforts in promoting reading among children and communities.





IBBY Yamada Fund

The IBBY Yamada Fund was established to provide grants for IBBY projects that support the development of a vibrant book culture for children across regions of the world. Each year, approximately ten projects are selected by the IBBY Executive Committee.

Parag IBBY India facilitated the submission of two project proposals from India. Among these, Muskaan's project Nurturing Critical Literacy through Literature in Indigenous Children was selected by the IBBY Executive Committee as one of the recipients for the fund 2025.

For the project, Muskaan conducted sessions with approximately 100 children from the Muskaan school, as well as children in community libraries and villages, engaging around themes such as war, gender and caste. In addition, Muskaan organised two open workshops for individuals interested in library work, further extending the reach and impact of the project.

We are grateful to the IBBY Yamada Fund for supporting this rich learning experience and enabling a meaningful engagement with children and communities.

Click [here](#) to read more about IBBY Yamada Fund.



International Children Book Day 2027

International Children's Book Day (ICBD) is celebrated every year on 2nd April, Hans Christian Andersen's birthday, to inspire a love of reading and to draw global attention to children's books, with a different country spotlighted each year. Click [here](#) to read more about ICBD.

For ICBD 2027, Parag reached out to Rajiv Eipe and Anushka Ravishankar, to bring together their distinctive creative strengths, visual storytelling and poetry, and submitted a poster for 'Many Childhoods: Stories Connecting Us'.

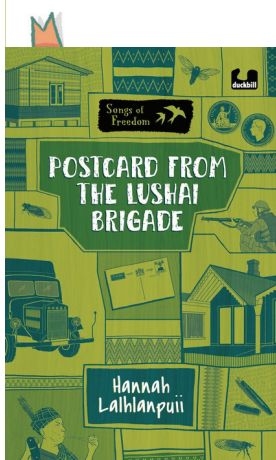
IBBY Honour List

The IBBY Honour List is a biennial selection of outstanding books honouring writers, illustrators and translators from IBBY member countries. The titles are selected by the National Sections under the three categories - writing, illustration and translation.

Parag called for nominations from the sector in-keeping with the nomination criteria and received a total of 56 nominations. From these, Parag selected the following books for the IBBY Honour List 2026.

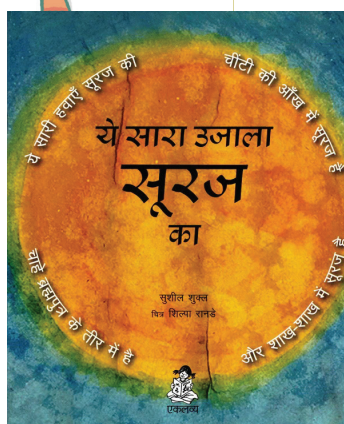
Click [here](#) for more about IBBY Honour List.

WRITING



Postcard from the Lushai Brigade

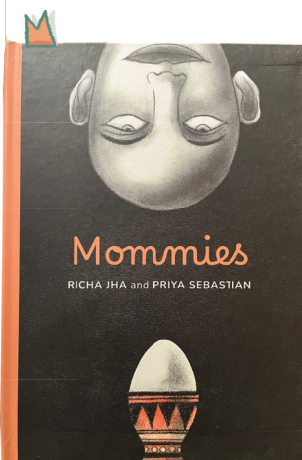
Author: Hannah Lalthlanpuii
Publisher: Duckbill,
Penguin Random House



Ye Sara Ujala Suraj Ka

Author: Sushil Shukla
Illustrator: Shilpa Ranade
Publisher: Eklavya

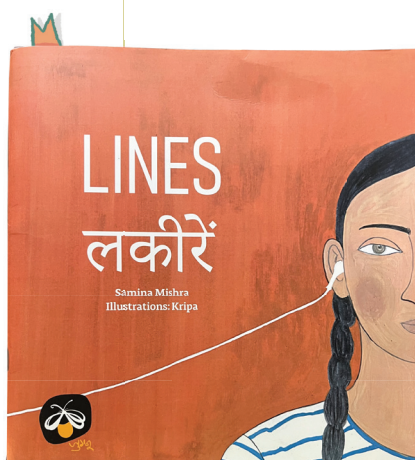
ILLUSTRATION



Mommies

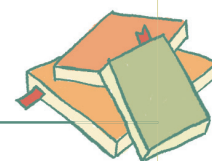
Illustrator: Priya Sebastian
Author: Richa Jha
Publisher: Pickle Yolk Books

TRANSLATION



Lines / Lakire

Translator: Shashi Sablok (English to Hindi)
Author: Samina Mishra
Illustrator: Kripa
Publisher: Jugnoo Prakashan, Ektara Trust





IBBY Asia Pacific Regional Conference in South Korea

Biennially, IBBY Sections organise a Regional Conference to enhance communication, networking and professional exchanges between members of the IBBY regions. The conference is hosted by a National Section selected by the IBBY Executive Committee.

The IBBY Asia-Pacific Regional Conference 2025 was held in Suwon, hosted by IBBY Korea, on 30 and 31 August 2025. The theme of the conference was 'Living in Harmony with Our Planet'.

Invitations to participate were shared with all National Sections, following which Parag circulated the call for participation with stakeholders aligned with the theme through their work and were invited to submit abstracts for presentations.

Publisher Kalpavriksh was selected for a presentation on 'Children's Eco-literature as a Tool for Environmental Education'.

One team member from Parag and Kalpavriksh participated in this vibrant gathering of authors, illustrators, librarians, school teachers, researchers and IBBY officials from different countries. The conference featured multiple sessions on diverse voices, experiences and challenges, fostering a strong sense of community around shared visions and goals.

The Parag – IBBY India Chapter also showcased a selection of outstanding books in this theme from different Indian publishers. The display generated keen interest among participants and encouraging responses. The book display was jointly curated by Parag and Kalpavriksh.



Here are a few remarks for visitors at the display

"India is advanced in its book publishing."

"Lavanya Karthik... I love her books!"

(on seeing the title Travelling Seeds by Lavanya Karthik)



DISSEMINATION

Parag IBBY India actively disseminated invitations for awards such as:

- [The BolognaRagazzi Award \(BRAW\)](#)
- [Nami Concours](#)
- [The IBBY-UNESCO Collection](#)



BCBF BolognaRagazzi Awards

The BolognaRagazzi Awards (BRAW) is an international showcase celebrating some of the world's finest and most innovative picture books. The awards comprise five main categories: Fiction, Non-Fiction, Opera Prima (debut works by authors and illustrators), Comics (comic books and graphic novels), and Toddler. In addition, juries may confer a special New Horizons Award to recognise particularly innovative works.

Parag IBBY India shared the call for nominations widely with authors, illustrators and publishers across India to encourage participation.

In 2025, *Art Is a Voice* by Kripa, published by Art1st, won the award under the Sustainability Special Category. In the same year, *Cutpiece Kumar* by Indu Harikumar, published by Eklavya, was selected for the BRAW Amazing Bookshelf, themed on Sustainability.



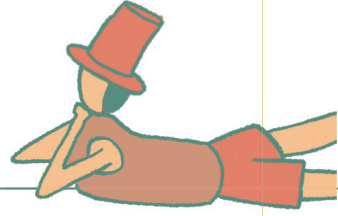
Nami Concours Illustration Initiative

The Nami Concours, sponsored by Nami Island Inc., aims to provide illustrators with opportunities to showcase their creative talents and to enhance the quality and standards of picture book illustration worldwide.

The competition is open to picture book illustrators from around the world and does not charge an entry fee. Participants may submit up to five illustrations, and the winners will be announced in January 2026.

Parag-IBBY India shared this opportunity widely with illustrators across India, and six illustrators responded positively by submitting their work. We hope that books illustrated by Indian illustrators will be recognised and showcased on a global platform through this initiative.





IBBY–UNESCO Collection of Remarkable Books in Indigenous and Endangered Languages

IBBY and UNESCO have joined efforts to protect linguistic diversity in the field of children's literature by launching a global call for submissions to create the IBBY–UNESCO Collection of Remarkable Books for Young Readers in Indigenous and Endangered Languages. This worldwide invitation is extended to publishers, librarians, and institutions, both public and private, working to promote books and reading, to identify and share children's books published in Indigenous and endangered languages.

Parag IBBY India disseminated this invitation among organisations dedicated to the promotion of home languages and Indigenous languages across India.

In response, the Language and Learning Foundation (LLF) submitted six titles in accordance with the guidelines, representing three Indigenous languages:

Santhali

रमिलि आर चासा होड़ (Rimil Aar Chasha Hodo) – The Cloud and the Farmer

हाती और चेड़े (Haati Aur Chede) – The Elephant and the Bird

Khadiya

पो'डा ते पोखरा (Poda Te Pokhra) – The Village Pond

मैना या' कुन्डु' (Maina Ya Kundu) – The Baby Myna

Mundari

सङ्गिबोंगा (Singbonga) – Singbonga

सोहराई (Sohrai) – Sohrai

Through such initiatives, Parag IBBY India continues to support and amplify efforts that celebrate linguistic diversity and uphold children's right to read in their home and Indigenous languages.

CROSS-SHARING AND SUPPORTING OTHER IBBY NATIONAL SECTIONS



IBBY Italy Mamma Lingua Project

The Italian reading promotion initiative Mamma Lingua (mother tongue), launched in 2015, aims to increase the availability of books in original languages so that children and families reached through the national programme “Nati per Leggere” (Born to Read) can access stories in their mother tongue at public libraries and reading points. Promoting multilingual books is central to recognising children’s right to see their cultures acknowledged, represented and valued.

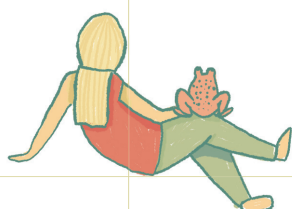
The Italian library association requested the IBBY Italia Mamma Lingua Working Group to further expand the bibliography by including books for the 6–11 age group as well as additional family languages. In this context, the IBBY Italy sought support from Parag IBBY India to recommend suitable titles in Hindi and Tamil that reflect a range of genres and themes. Parag shared a list of by discussing with experts in the respective language communities. The books are to be procured by IBBY Italy and shelved for access in their programme.

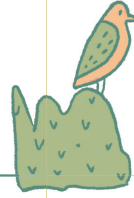
Bookbird: A Journal of International Children's Literature

Bookbird: A Journal of International Children’s Literature is a peer-reviewed journal published quarterly by IBBY. The journal aims to share new ideas and critical perspectives with a global community of readers interested in children’s books and welcomes contributions on a wide range of topics within the field of international children’s literature. Click [here](#) for more about Bookbird.

For each issue, the Bookbird editorial team invites submissions based on a specific theme. For the special themed issue on Crime in Children’s Literature, Parag invited Muskaan, Bhopal, to contribute an article, considering the nature of their work and the books they have produced. However, the article was not selected for publication.

Bookbird also features a Postcards section, which includes short reflective reviews of children’s books aligned with the issue’s theme. The IBBY India team submitted a postcard written by Shailaja Srinivasan on Chiknik Choon written by Sushil Shukla, illustrated by Atanu Roy and published by Eklavya. This has been selected for a publication in Bookbird, Volume 63, Issue 4.





IBBY Russia

The IBBY Russia team reached out to Parag IBBY India to request a list of good books in English that could be made available for children to read and browse in libraries across Russia. In response, Parag shared a list of 56 titles from a range of Indian publishers.

Subsequently, the IBBY Russia team also requested a reference for an Indian storyteller to conduct workshops and sessions on Indigenous Storytelling for parents and children. The Parag IBBY India team introduced Dr. Deepa Kiran, a storyteller, a resource person for the Ministry of Culture, visiting faculty at the University of Delhi, and guest lecturer at the English and Foreign Languages University (EFLU) to the IBBY Russia team.

Dr. Kiran attended the III International Forum of Children's and Youth Literature in Moscow in December 2025 where she delivered two lectures: 'Oracy and Orature: Unique Richness and Pedagogical Possibilities' and 'Speech-to-Print and Print-to-Speech: Oral Storytelling for Building a Reading Culture'. In addition, she conducted three storytelling sessions for young audiences at the Russian State Children's Library.

Each session brought an authentic Indian tale to life through a rich blend of sound, performance, and demonstrations of traditional Indian folk instruments.

And here is what IBBY Russia team said:

"The experience was truly remarkable, and we have been delighted to receive overwhelmingly positive feedback from both the enthralled children and their grateful parents."



IBBY INDIA ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Parag IBBY India is deeply grateful to its advisory committee who guides the team, helps taking a decision and supports intervention plans. The committee comprises of five members who have been supporting Parag through the IBBY journey since the beginning of the year.



Bijal Vaccharajani

When Bijal Vachharajani is not reading a children's book, she's writing or editing one. Chief picture book dreamer at Pratham Books, she's the author of multiple planet-friendly books including *Savi and the Memory Keeper*, *A Cloud Called Bhura* and *When Fairyland Lost Its Magic*. She's also been the Editor at *Time Out Bengaluru*, consulted with international NGOs and written about children's literature and sustainable development as a freelance journalist. She has a masters in Environment Security and Peace with a specialization in Climate Change and Security at the UN-mandated University for Peace in Costa Rica. She's now a certified climate warrior.

Prachi Kalra

Prachi Kalra teaches courses in literacy at Gargi College University. She also teaches a course in children's literature and storytelling. Prachi has a PhD in storytelling from Delhi University; her data showed that children, even young ones, enjoy complex stories not necessarily with a direct moral. Stories help children make meaning of their lives and shouldn't be used to merely test memory or teach grammar.

Richa Jha

Richa Jha is the founder and publisher of Pickle Yolk Books, an independent publishing house for children's picture books in English. She is also an author and editor. Several of the books written by her have won prestigious Indian and international awards and nominations. She is a vocal advocate of picture books being suitable for readers of all ages and actively promotes the relevance and importance of this format among parents and educationists.

Swati Raje

Swati Raje is an award-winning author, journalist, editor, translator, and scholar of children's literature. She represents a blend of academia and activism. She is the Founding President of the Pune-based NGO Bhaashaa Foundation, which works for the preservation of regional languages, and has been active within and beyond Maharashtra for over two decades. She has been selected by IBBY as a member of a special international committee of a UNESCO-IBBY project to catalogue indigenous and rare-language children's books from around the world.

Thejaswi Shivanand

Thejaswi Shivanand is a library educator at Champaca Children's Library, Bengaluru. He works with schools and library-focussed organisations across the country in the professional development space to support the growth of communities of readers.



ABOUT PARAG

Parag's sectoral work has been made possible because of strong partnerships built across stakeholders over more than 2 decades. The organisation has worked collaboratively with multiple players in the children's literature sector bringing critical stakeholders together which has enabled the ecosystem to grow and be nurtured. Convening the IBBY India Chapter has been fruitful including as many stakeholders as possible for the various IBBY activities.

Some of Parag's work is similar to IBBY's, especially for some activities and programmes. Similar to IBBY's Hans Christian Andersen Award for lifetime achievement of authors and illustrators, Parag recognises significant contribution of authors and illustrators of Indian children's literature through the [Parag Awards](#), where the winners are selected by an eminent jury. Parag also launches an annual list of outstanding Indian published books in the Parag Honour List (PHL), in Hindi and in English, selected by an independent jury, which is similar to the IBBY Honour List. The list aims to promote access to good quality children's literature that librarians, teachers, parents, and children can refer to. You can read more about PHL [here](#).

>> [Parag Children's Choice Award \(PCCA\)](#) was introduced in 2025. It invites children to share their own thoughts and preferences about the books they read. It puts the young readers at the centre, aiming to help children build a joyful and lasting relationship with books. PCCA 2025 was awarded to the creators (author, illustrator and publisher) of Aada Pada. The award ceremony and launch of the Honour List takes place at Parag's annual event Parag Utsav.

✓ At Parag Utsav 2025, Priyamvad (Parag Author Prize 2025), Rishi Sahany (Parag Illustrator Prize 2025) and Taposhi Ghoshal (Parag Significant Contribution Award 2025) were felicitated.





For nurturing library practitioners, Parag conceptualised the Library Educator's Course (LEC) and has been offering the course since 2014. So far, there are 330 LEC alumni. The 10th batch of LEC graduated in 2025. More information on LEC available [here](#).



In 2025, the second edition of 'More than Words: A Masterclass for Illustrators to Create Wordless Narratives' took place. Over two editions, 43 illustrators have been mentored by senior illustrators, and selected stories in the pipeline for publication. We hope that in future editions, illustrators from other IBBY National Sections will join in for participation.

Parag Honour List 2025 is a curated list of 61 titles, 33 in English and 28 in Hindi. Browse the PHL 2025 catalogue [here](#).





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