Dear Friends of Pratham,

It gives us great pleasure to send you PrathamUK’s third annual newsletter. After a successful launch in 2003-04, PrathamUK has witnessed steady growth over the last three years. 2005-06 has been a year of consolidation and an important milestone for PrathamUK as we have now raised over £1 million since inception. This would not have been possible without your continued support. Here is a short update on Pratham in India and in the UK. We look forward to receiving your feedback at prathamuk@prathamuk.org.

Recent Pratham News

ASER (Annual Status of Education Report) 2005
The ASER 2005, led by Pratham, tested a representative sample of children in over 188,000 households in 485 districts in India. Competencies in language and math were tested for all children in the 6-14 years age group; schools were checked for pupil-teacher ratios and infrastructure. The results show that enrolment levels are high in almost all states, however the foundation of basic reading and arithmetic needs to be urgently strengthened. The survey indicates that 11 million children are not in school. Of the children surveyed in classes VI to VIII in government-run schools, 22% could not read simple passages, while 40% could not do simple division.

Pratham opens chapter in Punjab
Pratham began its first initiative in Punjab in December 2005 by starting “Learning to Read” classes in 100 schools of Bathinda and opening individual libraries in 51 schools of Ludhiana. The goal is to improve reading and comprehension skills while also introducing the children to more books.

Pratham’s programme in Mewat, Haryana
The programme in Mewat, Haryana started in February 2005. Nearly 116 rounds of the “Learning to Read” programmes are running here and a dozen libraries in about 50 villages. This region has been particularly challenging because of its very low level of education especially for women and a very backward mindset. Volunteers go house to house in search of girls to be educated. Although changing the system and psyche of Mewat may take a long time, it seems a mark has been made.

Pratham fights child labour
Pratham worked with the Mumbai Police to rescue about 450 children from Byculla, Mumbai. From April 2005, Pratham has been actively involved in helping the rescue, repatriation and rehabilitation of working children. Officially, about 1,000 children were rescued from work-places in Mumbai and sent to their home districts while over 15,000 children have left for homes at the factory owners’ prerogative. A similar effort is in progress in other states of India.

Pehla Kadam or Akshar-Mela
This campaign has just been launched and aims at building foundations of basic learning. The objective is to enable children entering classes I and II to know the alphabet and numbers up to 10. Over 1.2 million children will be involved in the programme in four states- Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Maharashtra.

PrathamUK touches the £1 million mark!

June and July 2005… Hike and Run for Pratham…
A group of students led by Phil Strother hike in the Lake District and scale 24 peaks to raise a total of £3000. Over 50 volunteers run to support Pratham in the London 10K raising a total of £25,000.

September 2005… Merrill Lynch ‘Charity of the Year’…
From over 30 applications received, PrathamUK is selected as the joint ‘Charity of the Year’ by Merrill Lynch’s Global Markets and Investment Banking EMEA group. For a one year period, Merrill Lynch will organise a set of fund raising events.

24th September 2005… It’s Ball time again…
The 2005 Ball, a glittering event chaired by Surina Narula and held at the Grosvenor House, is attended by over 750 guests from various parts of the UK and Europe. A total of £355,000 is raised resulting in net proceeds of over £265,000.

October 2005… Various UK chapters come alive…
Waheeda Rehman, the Goodwill Ambassador for Pratham India, participates in a series of events including: a dinner dance in Essex with over 300 people; a get together in Leeds with 150 and in Harrow with 75; and an ‘Introduction to Pratham’ at the Nehru Centre with over 150 supporters from London.

February 2006… Cricket and Bollywood time…
Pratham Club students at London Business School organise live cricket broadcasts of India-Pakistan matches in the school including a special Valentine’s Day event of Bollywood music.

February 2006… Morgan Stanley NetAsia ‘Charity of the Year’ award…
Pratham is selected by Morgan Stanley’s NetAsia team as ‘Charity of the Year’. All funds for charity that NetAsia raises this year will support Pratham’s activities.

April 2006… It all ends with a Marathon…
Bobby Rahman runs the London Marathon and raises £1900.

Change of Guard:
Reita Gadkari and Nina Sodha will join the PrathamUK Board which will otherwise remain unchanged for 2006-07. Sangeeta Chawla Joshi will take over as President of PrathamUK from Dr. Viral Acharya. Seema Ram will take over as Treasurer from Jasjyot Singh and Nina Sodha will take over as the Secretary.
Enrolment Watch

The Pratham movement has now spread to 12 states and 39 urban areas across India. By the end of this academic year Pratham would have touched 4 million children through its various programs. The figures below provide details of Pratham enrolment in class-based programmes and libraries, classified by location and programme.

### Daily Class-Based Programmes and Libraries (March 2006)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Total Units</th>
<th>Bastis</th>
<th>Libraries</th>
<th>Direct Programme</th>
<th>Direct Total</th>
<th>BALWADI</th>
<th>L2R</th>
<th>R2L1</th>
<th>R2L2</th>
<th>Other</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Direct</td>
<td>BALWADI</td>
<td>L2R</td>
<td>R2L1</td>
<td>R2L2</td>
<td>Other</td>
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<td>Total</td>
<td>Children</td>
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<td>Andhra Pradesh</td>
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<td>291</td>
<td>9993</td>
<td>4792</td>
<td>1269</td>
<td>2859</td>
<td>664</td>
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<td>Tamilnadu</td>
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<td>55705</td>
<td>21784</td>
<td>14866</td>
<td>3772</td>
<td>3146</td>
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<td>50060</td>
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<td>10158</td>
<td>5051</td>
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<td>1687</td>
<td>771</td>
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<td>Bihar</td>
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<td>192</td>
<td>7591</td>
<td>11338</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>3230</td>
<td>3614</td>
<td>1014</td>
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<td>421698</td>
<td>213675</td>
<td>94517</td>
<td>57406</td>
<td>38522</td>
<td>4312</td>
<td>18918</td>
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</table>

- **Library**: A network of community-based libraries is set up to encourage reading and to sustain a learning environment. Libraries have books from one of the 5 local languages and English, from pre-school level to advanced reading.
- **Balwadi**: Includes pre-school education for 3-5 year old and early reading programmes for 4-5 year old children with basic health inputs. Exposure to early childhood education increases the likelihood of first generation learners enrolling in school and learning well in formal schools.
- **Learning to Read (L2R)**: Pratham’s accelerated learning programme combines several activities to enable children to read in two months. Besides reading, basic numbers and addition-subtraction is also taught. It is offered to children between the ages 6 to 14 who cannot read fluently.
- **Reading to Learn (R2L1, R2L2)**: Objective of these programmes is to teach children, who have been through the L2R programmes to read with comprehension, analyze, write based on text and independently, and do the next stage of basic arithmetic. It is offered in two cycles of four months each. It prepares out-of-school children to join regular school and offers remedial help to children who have been in school but are on the verge of dropping out.
- **Other**: Includes computer-assisted learning, Bal (Child) Club, Health Intervention and other programmes.

### Picture Gallery: Pratham Charity Ball 2006

Chief Guests and Pratham team: (From left) Kiran Rao, Aamir Khan, Surina Narula, Waheeda Rehman, Gabriella Wright, Vikram Chatwal, Ujwal Thakar, Viral Acharya

The hostess of the evening, Simi Garewal, introduces Kapil Dev, the Indian cricket legend, who appealed to the audience to donate generously.
**PrathamUK fundraising and utilisation stories...**

**Merrill Lynch selects Pratham as ‘Charity of the Year’ and raises £257,500 through a series of fund-raising initiatives**

- In September 2005 Merrill Lynch’s Global Markets and Investment Banking Group in the Europe Middle East & Africa (EMEA) region chose Pratham as their preferred charity of the year. Making the announcement, EMEA Chairman Bob Wigley said “We are pleased to announce that Action on Addiction and ‘Pratham’ have been finally chosen because of the charity’s links with disadvantaged children and education, the strong commitment of the team members and the potential ability of our fundraising to make a significant impact on the work of these charities.”
- Pratham was nominated by Adrian Pearce and Arvinder Mudhar. Says Adrian “I am very aware of the value of education and it gives me great pleasure to work on a project which gives so many children an opportunity to engage in education when they would otherwise have none.”
- Since the announcement, contributions have totalled c. £515,000 for the two charities. The highlight has been the MD’s Forfeit Auction. Employees were asked to donate money to watch 99 of their senior managers perform stunts including lawn mowing, super hero racing, sumo wrestling and flamenco dancing! The money raised was roughly twice the amount raised by the same event last year. Summarising the sentiments of the firm, Arvinder said “Merrill Lynch has significant associations with India from many commercial perspectives. This is an opportunity for us to invest in the youth of the country in a targeted partnership with Pratham.”

**PicTalk - a tool for teaching English is piloted in Thane near Mumbai... A project funded by Pratham UK**

- Teaching English in India is a big challenge. Typically three times more children fail in English compared to the local language or math. Teachers and parents, even when educated, are not trained to teach English.
- The interactive PicTalk technology was designed by Pratham to accelerate the teaching and self learning of English. It includes showing pictures of actions and situations to children, asking them to identify these in English and then checking in the local language (Marathi) if they understood the meaning. The electronic co-ordination of the written word in a book with an audio output is particularly effective as children do not have enough exposure to spoken English.
- Teachers (Balasakhis) conduct PicTalk activities for 35 minutes thrice every week and comprehension activities twice a week. So far 32,000 children in classes I-IV in 98 schools are using these booklets. Remarkable improvement in English vocabulary, understanding and phonetic awareness has been recorded. The Balsakhi’s English is rapidly improving as well.

**Some visits to Pratham India by supporters in the UK...**

It was really encouraging to see such enthusiastic and dedicated people working for Pratham and to witness the remarkable work they are doing. The volunteers were very generous with their time and gave us a much appreciated overview of Pratham’s history, current activities and major challenges. We also met one of the City Managers in Delhi who was strikingly bold, dedicated and enthusiastic about her work. We were then taken through one of the railway bordering slums to visit a number of different classes. Seeing and hearing the classes in action really brought to life what it is that Pratham is about.

Gayathri Radhakrishnan, Nov 2005

Yesterday has to have been the best thing I have done so far – Monisha and Taleem took us round some of the learning centres Pratham have set up - Pratham is educating over 50,000 kids in Delhi alone although it works all over India. “Look,” said Monisha proudly on more than one occasion “look how Taleem has worked to make the site beautiful for the children!” And I struggled, I really struggled to hold back the tears as I looked around at the peeling paint on the only three walls left standing of the decrepit building, at the threadbare carpets and rugs, the broken lights and the roughly drawn pictures coloured in by Taleem’s loving hand. We sat in on several of the children’s classes – Hindi, arithmetic, even English. I can’t even begin to describe what it evoked in me: the wide-eyed curiosity; these well-behaved beautiful children proudly telling their visitors how they had bathed that day. What is clear is that the children loved their teachers, and here the grassroots work, not only provides kids with the opportunity to have an education, but also gives women the chance of a career in teaching as all the teachers are local women who are recruited and trained to teach the children.

We are often jolted into action by a newspaper advert or images on TV of need – it is only by experiencing first hand the work of an organization like Pratham and seeing the magnitude of what they are trying to do that you can really only begin to understand just how valuable our support is.

Isabel Davis, June 2005

I visited Mewat area with the Pratham team and was able to see the work in 7 villages. Each volunteer runs classes in their own Choupal with 20 to 30 children. The team was very dedicated, sincere and inspiring and has trained more than 150 unpaid and equally dedicated volunteers in Nagina block. The children were taking keen interest in learning and wish to study more. The visitors feel that Pratham’s way of teaching is the best thing they have seen and they all want their children to study. The Pratham team here enjoys a lot of respect. Positive feeling seems to be everywhere. This is a change programme which is having an enormous impact in this area. A revolution in the making!

Mehmood Khan, May 2005

If you are planning a trip to India, PrathamUK can organise a visit so you can see how your funds are being utilised and share your experiences with supporters in the UK.
PrathamUK Fund Raising

Fund Raising
During the year ended March 31, 2006, PrathamUK raised c. £705,000 through four major sources:
- Pratham Charity Ball 2005 (c. £356,000)
- Corporate support, primarily through ‘Merrill Lynch Charity of the Year’ programme (c. £257,500)
- Individual donations (c. £46,000)
- Other Events (c. £41,000)
Funds raised have been utilised as follows:
- Funding specific projects in India (c. £375,000)
- Costs (c. £100,900), primarily for Pratham Charity Ball (c. £89,000)
- Reserves held with PrathamUK (c. £257,500), mainly because Merrill Lynch funds will be disbursed over a three-year period to support catalytic work in Bihar.

Pratham Activities and Fund Utilisation

In 2005-06, PrathamUK contributed £375,000 to finance educational initiatives including existing initiatives underway in Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu. PrathamUK has seed-funded projects in Gauriganj and Sultanpur (Uttar Pradesh), Gurgaon (Haryana) and currently also supports the Niramaya Health initiative, the survey conducted by Pratham for the Annual State of Education Report (ASER) and the PicTalk as a tool for teaching English at schools.

How can you help? You can support Pratham in many ways:

- Make a financial contribution- see pledge form below
- Support PrathamUK’s events- see next box
- Identify and approach possible sponsors to support Pratham
- Hold talks to introduce Pratham to local schools, business communities, and Charity of the Year programmes
- Help with analysis and research on Pratham data
- Visit a Pratham centre on your next trip to India

Amount of Donation: £________

If you are a taxpayer in the UK, under the Government's Gift Aid Scheme, PrathamUK can reclaim for every pound you give, an extra 28 pence from the Inland Revenue, increasing your donation at no extra cost to you. Please tick the box below if you would like PrathamUK to reclaim the tax on your gift. To qualify for Gift Aid, what you pay in income tax must at least equal the amount we claim in the tax year.

[ ] Yes, I want this donation and all future donations I make to be treated as Gift Aid donations until I notify you otherwise.

Name: __________________________
Address: __________________________
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Please either:
- send a cheque payable to “PrathamUK Ltd” to PrathamUK, 85 Apsley House, St John’s Wood, London NW8 0NZ; or
- pay by wire-transfer to “PrathamUK Ltd”, Account number: 51751557, Sort code: 40-04-01, HSBC, 92 Kensington High Street, London W8 4SH.

In either case, please complete this form and mail to the PrathamUK address below. If you would like to donate through a payroll scheme please contact us at prathamuk@prathamuk.org.

PrathamUK is a registered charity incorporated in the UK (Charity registration number: 1099386).
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