

A BOOKSTORE WITH A DIFFERENCE

There is a place where you will find books and toys that you will not find anywhere else. It's called the Comet Media Foundation. Beautiful books with great stories and fabulous illustrations published by India's best publishing houses. Check out *The Slant Book*, a unique and charming picture book on a slant (complete with tilted text and images) which tells the delightful tale of a stroller gone amok or *ABC3D*, a spectacular pop-up alphabet book; or *Excuse me, is this India?* by Anushka Ravishankar. All of these are published by an excellent Indian publisher called Tara Books.

Also look a range of books by another great publisher called Tulika. Their books, for kids from 0-16 are many. Check our *My Mother's Sari* or *Home*, beautiful fold-out book. There are books by a publisher called Pratham including *City of Stories* (we have reviewed this in an earlier issue of ya!). Pratham's books are priced as low as Rs 20. Over the years many wonderful authors from India have been writing books for children of all ages. But you seldom find these books at any of the major bookstores.

You will however, find most of them at Comet.

At Comet you also find a selection of very different toys. Comet's work as an NGO (Non Governmental Organisation) took them to the villages, and in the villages



Photos by Salman Ansari.DNA



they met artisans whose art was dying out because not many people were buying their products anymore. So they trained these people to make products that people would like and started to sell them in their store. So

Comet's range of toys range from colourful (non-toxic) wooden toys from Andhra Pradesh, to toys that help develop motor skills, and other thinking skills



for children. They also have a great range of low-cost science toys that are great for hands on science experiments and projects.

This is also a great place for picking up unusual gifts for back presents and party favours.

The store itself has a lovely feel to it with its white walls, charming murals and clearly organised bookshelves. The store may be a bit hard to find but when you do, you'll be glad you took the trouble to look for it.

Lubaina Bandukwala

Comet Media Foundation Bookstore
Comet Media Foundation
Topiwala Lane School
Lamington Road
Mumbai, Maharashtra
400007
Call 2386 9052



THIS WEEK

Measure your own planet

What: You do not need a ruler to measure the Earth, at the National Council of Science Museum's travelling exhibition you can learn about the planets measurable features. There are the findings of the Greek mathematician Eratosthenes, who tried to calculate the planet's diameter long long time ago. The exhibition features how the weight, speed, rotation, etc are measured.

Where: Nehru Science Centre, Dr E Moses Road, Worli

When: It will be on till February 20

Call: 2492 0482

Art watch

What: Exquisite Indian craftsmanship can be seen in the displayed ganjifa cards, lacquer ware, bidri work, paper mache and enamelware — all contributing to a fascinating glimpse of the city from the bygone era.

Where: Kamalnayan Bajaj Mumbai gallery, Bhau Daji Lad Museum, Veermata Jijabai Bhonsle Udyan, Dr Ambedkar Road, Byculla (E)

Call: 6556 0394

Robot talks

What: Here's a chance to meet the Lego MindStorm's humanoid robot.

Where: 41, Dhariyaveer, 8th Road, North-South, JVPD, Juhu

When: February 12
Call: 99675 83355, 5 to 7pm



Flower power

What: You can visit parks with The Little Gardener and learn all about making flower jewellery and also about recycling.

Where: Amarson's Garden, Bhulabhai Desai Road, Breach Candy

When: 5 to 6.15pm
Call: 98925 82794



Comic relief

What: Artists from Amar Chitra Katha show children how to make their own comic books

Where: David Sassoon Library Garden, 152 Mahatma Gandhi Road, Kala Ghoda, Fort

When: February 13, 2-4pm

Where's your lab coat?

What: Here are science modules for even the pre-schoolers. You can get a bit of the ocean in bottles or explore the dinosaur homes and also create new colours by mixing the basic ones.

Where: Indigo Kids, 6/18 Grants Building, Second Floor, Arthur Bunder Road, Colaba

When: Ongoing

What's that tree?

What: Join the nature walk with the BNHS to Salim Ali Point inside Sanjay Gandhi National Park You can also spend the morning at Ilthan in Rabale in Navi Mumbai

When: February 14

Call: 22821811