

Prabhu Rajendran ('Panchumittai' Prabhu)

Author, Storyteller, and Founder of Oongil Kootam & Panchumittai

Secretary: Directorate of Heritage Language Education (UK)



"I believe in 'reading for pleasure' because that is where real learning happens. When children read for pleasure, stories fly across language borders; they experience the taste and aroma of multilingual narratives, making culture more reachable than ever."

— Prabhu Rajendran

Prabhu Rajendran is a London-based Tamil children's author, critic, and independent publisher with over a decade of experience in cultural mediation. Through his dual platforms—Panchumittai (Cotton Candy) and Oongil Kootam (Pod of Dolphins)—he acts as a "two-way bridge," bringing UK-based stories to Tamil audiences and sharing contemporary Tamil literature with the UK diaspora. **Prabhu is a proud supporter of the London City of Languages (LCoL) initiative, contributing to its mission to celebrate and preserve the city's rich multilingual heritage.**

Literary & Editorial Authority

Prabhu is a leading voice in contemporary Tamil children's literature:

- **Author & Editor:** He has authored more than five children's books and is the editor of *Modern Tamil Children's Literature*, a definitive resource material for educators and researchers.
- **Critic & Curator:** He provides ongoing literary criticism for parents and teachers, introducing notable UK-based English literature to the Tamil community and reviewing heritage language books to maintain high reading standards.

- **A Platform for Young Voices:** As featured in *The Hindu*, his magazine *Panchumittai* is "for, of, and by children," sourcing 70% of its content directly from children's own narrations and imaginations.

Key Initiatives

- **Oongil Kootam (Pod of Dolphins):**
 - An independent publishing house for Young Adult (12+) literature, with 25 titles published in Tamil and English.
 - Mass Impact (Tamil Nadu, India): A landmark achievement of this imprint is the book *Kayiru* (The Rope). Released as a "People's Edition" priced at just ₹1 through collaborations with various organisations, it has reached over 200,000 students, sparking massive grassroots reading movement.
- **Panchumittai (Cotton Candy):**
 - Quarterly Magazine: A high-quality print publication that prioritizes children's creative agency.
 - Digital Hub: www.panchumittai.com offers 450+ articles on child psychology and literature for adults.
- **Storytelling & Community Outreach:**
 - A veteran storyteller with 150+ global events, Prabhu currently coordinates story sessions and book reviews across Maidenhead, Ilford, Reading, and East Ham through Saturday Tamil schools.

Featured Work: *Olaudah*

Prabhu's novella, *Olaudah* (Olaudah Equiano), reimagines the life of the famous abolitionist through a Tamil literary lens. This work provides a multilingual resource for a subject already notable within the UK National Curriculum (KS3) and Black History Month studies, directly supporting the "decolonising the curriculum" movement.

Community Leadership

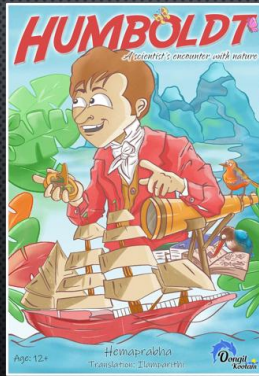
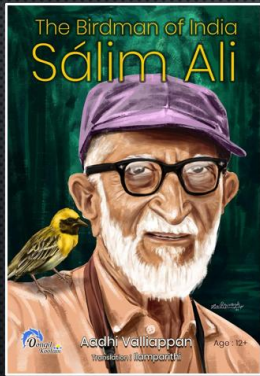
- Secretary: **Directorate of Heritage Language Education (UK)**
- Treasurer: Tamil Nadu Children's Writer and Artist Association (TNCWAA).
- Facilitator: Organiser of bilingual book review contests connecting young readers with established contemporary writers.

Contact: editor.panchumittai@gmail.com

Links:

1. Panchumittai: <https://www.panchumittai.com/>
2. Tamil Nadu Children's Writer and Artist Association: <https://tncwaa.co.in/>
3. Directorate of Heritage Language Education: <https://tamilnewway.com/>
4. Oongil Kootam Books at Amazon Kindle (Both Tamil & English):
<https://amzn.to/3vfOvqX>
5. Hindu Newspaper Article about Panchumittai:
https://www.panchumittai.com/2018/08/09/hindu_article/

NOTABLE WORKS IN ENGLISH: YA



A FEW OF PRABHU'S WORKS:



CHILDREN'S ART FROM MAGAZINES:



Note: First row: Children's Art | Second row: Magazine's cover.

Thanks.