

Can Ganesha, Noah become friends?

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bangalore: On Sunday evening, Lord Ganesha met and made friends with a totally modern invention — Noah, the friendly computer virus. How is that possible? Can an ancient God really jell with a computer virus? In one sense, both Ganesha and Noah are symbiotic. After all, one lives in the divine space and the other in the virtual. And both are inseparable part of our daily lives.

Such philosophical meanderings did not, of course, trouble the children who flocked to Crossword on Residency Road, to see how the two friends get along.

Once the 50 or so children were there, they heard that whenever Ganesha, 'Remover of Obstacles,' is around, "there is no dearth of fun and excitement.' And what kind of excitement? This is a sample: he tackles a serpentine foe, has to put up with sibling rivalry and even, help out with a brother's romance.

Author Jyoti Ganapathi's book *Ancient Tales for Modern Times*, charts all this and more. At the release of the story collection by the US-based author, even the littlest of little ones sat still!

But then, they were equally enthralled to hear the adventures of Noah. The friendly computer virus is the pivot of Paramita Sen's second book. After *Just Noah: The Friendly Virus*, the author is out with *Noah to the Rescue: Adventures of the Friendly Computer Virus*. Noah's tale is as complex as Ganesha's. He has just escaped the claustrophobic confines of the computer and found his true love.

But it wasn't just books and fun, chief guest and chairperson of Akshara Foundation, Rohini Nilekani asked the children what Independence Day means to them.



Rohini Nilekani, chairperson of Akshara Foundation, releases a book on Ganesha and Noah in Bangalore on Sunday. Writer Paramita Sen looks on.