

Now, Hanuman as narrator in comic book

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Hanuman, the symbol of power, purity and faith in the Ramayana, has appeared in a new avatar-as the 'sutradhar' (narrator) of the epic mythological tale in an adventure activity and comic book for children, "Where's Hanuman".

Conceived and written by California-based publisher and a devotee of Lord Krishna, Alister Taylor, the animation book which is the first of a series has been illustrated by Christopher Woods and Ben McClintic and published in India by Penguin-Books India.

It was launched on Saturday at the

Reliance Timeout Store in Gurgaon in an action-packed activity evening for children and their parents. The activities centred on Hanuman, one of the most frequently invoked deities in the country, and his brave lores.

A live-sized mannequin of the monkey god kept the children glued to the programme.

The slim volume begins with an introduction of Hanuman in first person and a cast of all the characters, both man and animals, who accompanied him on his journey of life. It also has a list of six objects-a bow, mace, conch, discus, ring and lotus- which

Hanuman lost along the way.

As a part of the adventure exercise, children were supposed to spot the objects and characters, all associated with Hanuman in some way or the other, from the double-spread illustrations of Ramayana in the book.

"It is a new concept. The idea is to make the book participatory and interactive in nature. The children have to identify Hanuman and his associates from the illustrated sequences from Ramayana. They are almost hidden in unlikely corners. It is a good way to keep the children engaged and promote the epic," said Taylor. — IANS