



IASLIC NEWSLETTER

Indian Association for Special Libraries and Information Centres

APRIL, 2022

A Monthly Newsletter Published by IASLIC

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Quote of the Month

“Libraries are the backbone of our education system.”

— Karin Slaughter,
American Crime Fiction Writer

Appeal to Readers

News from different regions / states are solicited from IASLIC members for inclusion in the newsletter. Send such news to the Editor.

Email: chatterjeeamitabha@yahoo.co.in

APPEAL FOR DONATION

At the outset, myself on my personal behalf and on behalf of IASLIC, convey my sincere gratitude to the esteemed members of IASLIC for their continuous support and patronage. We are also thankful to those members who made valued contribution in response to our appeal for donation made in 2012. The esteemed members of IASLIC are aware of the escalating prices and hardship in carrying out regular functions of IASLIC in the present pandemic situation. Under these circumstances, IASLIC again makes an ardent appeal to all of its honoured life members to please come forward to help IASLIC by donating liberally, at least Rs.1000, by DD / multicity cheque duly drawn in favour of IASLIC payable at Kolkata. The payment can also be made through electronic transfer. The Bank details are furnished below:

Bank Name: Punjab National Bank

Branch: New Manicktala

Account Name: IASLIC

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The donors' names will be published in the *IASLIC Newsletter* as well as in the Annual Report of the subsequent year.

General Secretary
IASLIC

An Appeal to Publishers of LIS Literature

Indian Library Science Abstracts (ILSA), being brought out by IASLIC since 1967, is the only national abstracting and indexing journal of India in the field of library and information Science. Due to the phenomenal growth of LIS literature in India in English as well as regional languages and the lack of volunteer professionals it has become a herculean task to collect, organize and compile data for the ILSA. The last cumulative volume (Vols. 40-44, 2006-2010) was published in 2018, the print copies as well as e-copies (in CD) of which are available for sale at IASLIC Office. The editorial team has now undertaken the task of compiling the next cumulative volume covering the period 2011 - 2015 and intends to publish the volume at the earliest. It will cover, besides periodical literature, papers published in conference/seminar volumes, festschrift volumes and other composite works. Due to pandemic situation the editorial team is facing problems in obtaining hard copies/soft copies of published materials in LIS. The team solicits cooperation from publishers, state library associations, organizers of the conferences/seminars/workshops, authors and individual library professionals and requests them to furnish hard copies/soft copies of LIS literature in English and regional languages published by them during the said period at the earliest, to enable it to complete the compilation work and publish the volume in time. The team hopes that with the effective support of the concerned people ILSA will become an authentic and comprehensive surrogate of Indian intellectual output in Library and Information Science.

CONFERENCES / SEMINARS / WORKSHOPS

National

Library Technology Conclave

The Library Technology Conclave (LTC2022) on 'Research Data Management and Stewardship: Building Blocks for Open Science' will be held during April 28 - 30, 2022 at Mumbai. For details visit: <https://www.ltc2022.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/conclave.pdf>

INFLIBNET Training Programmes

INFLIBNET Centre, Gandhinagar, Gujarat, will conduct the following training programmes during May - June, 2022: (1) Big Data with Hadoop Ecosystem, May 4 - 6; (2) Research Evaluation and Research Support Tools, May 18 - 20; (3) Installation and Operation of SOUL 3.0, May 23 - 27; (4) Ethical Issues and Use of Plagiarism Detection in Research, June 13 - 15; (5) Using DSpace - Basic, June 20 - 24; (6) e-Learning using INFLIBNET Learning Management Service (ILMS) - Content Creation and its Hosting, June 27 - 29. For details visit: <https://hrd.inflibnet.ac.in/>

International

Metropolitan Libraries Conference

Metropolitan Libraries Conference 2022, sponsored by IFLA Metropolitan Libraries Section, will be held in Oslo, Norway, during May 18 - 20, 2022. For details visit: <https://www.ifla.org/events/save-the-date-metropolitan-libraries-conference-2022-oslo-norway/>

Conference on Conceptions of LIS

An International Conference on 'Conceptions of Library and Information Science' is being organized by the Department of Archives, Library and Information Science, Oslo Metropolitan University, Oslo, Norway, during May 29 - June 1, 2022. For details visit: <https://www.oslomet.no/en/about/events/colis11>

Conference on Digital Libraries

ACM/IEEE Joint Conference on 'Digital Libraries' will be held in hybrid mode at Cologne, Germany, during June 20 - 24, 2022. For details visit: <https://2022.jcdl.org/>

Conference on LIS

The De La Salle University (DLSU) Libraries and the Philippine Normal University Library and Information Science Alumni Association (PNULISAA) are organizing a Conference on 'Library and Information Studies' (CLIS) 2022, in online mode (via Zoom) during July 12 - 13, 2022. For details visit: https://animorepository.dlsu.edu.ph/conf_clis/2022/

Conference on Knowledge Engineering

The 23rd International Conference on 'Knowledge Engineering and Knowledge Management' will be held at Bozen-Bolzano, Italy, during September 26 - 29, 2022. For details visit: <https://ekaw2022.inf.unibz.it/>

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Reimagining of Karnataka Rural Libraries

I love libraries. I love everything about them - the hush, the slowly spinning blades of the ceiling fan, the sunlight spilling in from tall windows, the magazines lying open on polished wooden tables, the readers slumped over books, taking notes, the rows and endless rows of books on shelves. Half my childhood was spent in libraries. Living in the different places where my father was posted, my mother would take us along after kindergarten - my sister, three years younger, and me - to the nearest library. She would sink into an armchair with a novel by Somerset Maugham or Nevil Shute, and we would settle down to play quietly on the floor. I think we started reading by sheer osmosis, somewhere during those peaceful, sunlit afternoons. Whether it was the library at the club, the city public library, or the circulating library down the road, my sister and I grew up surrounded by the conviction that books were for devouring and sharing. "I have always imagined that Paradise will be a kind of library," said Borges. I knew exactly what Paradise felt like, says Uma Mahadevan-Dasgupta in a first person story published in *The Hindu*.

Karnataka has over 5,600 rural public libraries in its gram panchayats. By late 2020, the pandemic had forced schools to close for months. Rural children needed a way to stay connected to reading. 'Oduva Belaku' - the light of reading - began as a programme across Karnataka to revive rural public libraries, help children stay connected to reading, and build a library culture within communities. To ensure that no children were left out, library membership was made free. In the months that followed, one million rural children enrolled. They received little yellow cards so they could take a book home to read, a first for many children. Rural libraries were taken up for revival in phases. Book stacks in dingy corners were tracked down. Many were given new spaces and some got new buildings. Next came electrical connections, book racks, furniture, reading rooms or balconies, study desks for students, armchairs and garden benches for seniors. A donation drive was taken up. Civil society organizations readily came forward. A 'Pustaka Jolige' - an initiative to sow the seeds of a public library movement - was launched. The slogan went: *Naavu nimma mane bagilige, nimma ondu pustaka namma joligege* (We are coming to your doorstep; please give us one book for our knapsack). A small procession shared the message about libraries and reading. They were welcomed warmly, with one village even arranging a musical band to welcome the initiative. In Gangavathi taluk in Koppal district, over 8,000 books were donated to libraries.

The re-imagining of the rural library was exciting, even moving. A panchayat officer in Belagavi spoke about how, as a student, she would walk several kilometers to access the library. "Now I can make it available locally for today's

students.” Many had struggled with education in these difficult conditions; everyone understood the importance of free public libraries. The ideas were as full of common sense as of beauty: there should be bean bags, indoor plants, colourful curtains, child-sized sofas, world maps, chess sets. And, of course, computers. Pictures of Karnataka's Jnanpith awardees went up on library walls. There were murals of Shivarama Karanth, Savitribai Phule, S R Ranganathan. There were murals of children: a girl on a swing; a child dreaming under a tree; a child hugging a book.

In a coastal Karnataka library, children created a wall magazine. In a Koppal village, a schoolteacher celebrated his child's birthday by repainting the library. In Khanapur in Belgavi, an open-air library came up, a *bayalu granthalaya*, in a garden around an old well. In a Gadag panchayat, government school teachers organized weekly sessions, over several months, for students to talk about books they had read *Naanu odida pustaka*. Children spoke about what the library meant to them. Fatima, a student in Bidar, said she read about dinosaurs in a library book. In Davangere, Nandini said the library gave her space and privacy to study. Manjula, in Raichur, asked, heartbreakingly, if a small library could be set up in her village please because she stayed far away, and although she wanted to come to the library every day, her family asked why she needed to go so far to read; what was she going to achieve?

The effort continues. Over time, its impact will become apparent. Already young people have formed study circles in many libraries; some have organized computer classes, exam coaching, and career guidance workshops. Seniors drop in for a quiet look at the morning paper. Children, especially girls, come in groups to study in the calm library environment. In a Chikmagalur library, I saw children of different ages seated around a table, deeply engrossed in picture books and stories, with a dictionary in front of them. My heart brimmed. Today, small but sustained initiatives to set up community libraries are beginning to take shape. In the 21st century, the rural public library is an essential civic institution. It is an open and accessible space. It can reduce information asymmetry, bridge the digital divide, and reduce the gap between the privileged and the less privileged, especially children. It is a space of social equality, where anyone can enter and seek information: a grandfather to read the newspaper; a women's collective wanting to know how to set up a small business; a teenager to register for open school; or a child who just loves everything about the library the hush, the readers taking notes, the magazines lying open on the tabletops, and the rows and rows of books. For full story visit: <https://www.thehindu.com/society/local-initiatives-are-spreading-the-magic-of-public-libraries-across-rural-karnataka/article36644280.ece>

IPS Officer sets up Library

There is a library in Gaurela Pendra Marwahi, the new district of Chhattisgarh. There is a discussion about this library all over the country. It has been made a library by an IPS officer from the books purchased during his own preparations. To understand the importance of this library, you have to understand the library being built up in the midst of the new challenges of the new district. What was the purpose? The feelings of the IPS officer are attached to this news, says a story by Ravi Miri available on www.abplive.com website. IPS Suraj Singh Parihar was the ASP in Dantewada district. Then he saw that youths were going in the wrong direction by getting confused in a severely Naxal-affected district like Dantewada. This bitter experience created turmoil in the life of the IPS officer. From that day, he was determined that whatever necessary steps had to be taken to give the right direction to the youth, it would be taken. IPS Suraj Singh Parihar had a hankering to give better direction to the youth. Meanwhile, after the transfer from Dantewada to the new district of the state, Gaurela Pendra Marwahi, he was made the SP. Amidst the challenges of the new district, Parihar, in consultation with his wife, started collecting books to open a free book bank. The wife and Parihar collected all the books purchased during their preparation. Around 300 books were found. But the number is less for a library. Parihar appealed to the people to donate books in his Twitter account. After this, books started coming even from abroad. Before the library completed one year, the number of books exceeded three thousand. The library started functioning on February 6, 2022 in two vacant rooms of the District SP office. The library has been named after the martyr head constable Shivnarayan Baghel who died in the Narayanpur Naxalite attack. The library was inaugurated by the daughter of the martyr jawan. The library has books for almost all major exams including IIT, UPSC, CGPSC, NEET, SSC, Bank, Railway, CAT-MAT, NDA. The students belonging to SC-ST, OBC and Divyang class do not have to pay money for the book. The rest have to pay an annual fee of Rs 99 for the membership of the library. Parihar is currently serving as ADC in Raj Bhavan. Taking time out between duty schedules, he guides the students of UPSC and CGPAC. For full story visit: <https://www.abplive.com/states/chhattisgarh/chhattisgarh-ips-suraj-singh-open-library-in-gaurela-pendra-marwahi-district-ann-2050462>

Bhopal Collector donates for Library

The collector of Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh has donated his one month's salary to a government-run library to help it buy study material for various competitive exams, according to a

PTI report carried by *theprint.in* website. An official release said Bhopal Collector Avinash Lavania had made the announcement about the donation to the Maulana Azad Central Library while chairing a review meeting of the government-run facility recently. He asked the police and the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) concerned to ensure a healthy and quiet atmosphere conducive to study around the library, and also assured that a water cooler would be installed at the facility. For original report visit: <https://theprint.in/india/mp-bhopal-collector-donates-months-salary-to-govt-run-library/849213/>

Micro Libraries in Bengaluru

Belakoo Trust in Bengaluru is setting up micro-libraries across the city, says a story by Asra Mavad in *The Deccan Herald*. The NGO has set up two micro-libraries so far and plans to set up nine more soon. Founded by Shivananda R Koteshwar and Smitha Hemmigae, the NGO is focusing on providing quality K-10 education for children from underprivileged backgrounds. Inaugurated recently, the two micro-libraries were opened in Hebbal and Dollars Colony. "During the pandemic, many children lost access to books, whether comics or magazines. Also, the tradition of subscribing to weekly comics and magazines for kids has died down. We wanted kids to start using their free time to start reading again," says Koteshwar. The libraries are essentially tiny cupboards filled with books. They are placed on the footpath. "A lot of thought has gone into choosing the locations. We want the libraries to be accessible to all," he tells *Metrolife*. The nine micro-libraries will be located across south Bengaluru. Each micro-library contains about 125 books, ranging from magazines, comic books to encyclopaedias. There are no academic books on the list. Once it is set up in a locality, a local librarian is appointed. "A person from the area can volunteer to be the librarian and take care of the maintenance. The work is simple, the librarian is expected to ensure that the books are well-stocked and engage the people in the locality to come forward and donate books," he says. The process of borrowing books is simple. "Anyone is free to pick a book and borrow it. There is no time limit set on how long one can borrow the books. But, we expect the borrowed books to be returned eventually," he adds. The estimated cost of setting up a single micro-library is ₹ 9,000. The structure of the mini bookshelves is created with recycled materials. The NGO has collaborated with TrashCon, a startup, to manufacture the structure. "The initial investment was from the trust. But once people started liking the concept, many came forward to donate. Recently, a young student has raised enough money for 10 libraries," he adds. While the micro-libraries are funded by the trust, the books are collected through a donation drive. By the end of the year, the organization hopes to set up 100 such libraries across Bengaluru. For original story visit: <https://www.deccanherald.com/metrolife/metro-life-cityscape/nine-micro-libraries-to-come-up-in-the-city-1090204.html>

Book Collection Drive to set up Libraries

There is no gift more valuable than books as they help in increasing one's knowledge and widening the horizon. Not everyone can buy books and thus public libraries play a vital role by providing them to people and this is what a young Indian Administrative Officer, Rahul Kumar, has done by starting Abhiyan Kitab Daan, a campaign to donate books to establish libraries in Purnea, says a story available on *indianarrative.com* website. The initiative by Kumar, the District Magistrate of Purnea, Bihar, has borne fruits and today this district boasts of libraries in 230 panchayats and seven local urban bodies! The journey to this achievement has not been easy or quick. Purnea was among the least literate districts in Bihar in the past two censuses of 2001 and 2011 and the District Administration was seized of this matter. Determined to reverse this, a drive called Abhiyan Kitab Daan was launched on January 25, 2020 by Kumar through which people at large and spread across the country, were invited to donate books, to help the authorities set up public libraries. Within a year, the first library was started on January 25, 2021 at Parora village in Krityanand Nagar Block. At that time Kumar had informed that they had received over 60,000 books, despite the Covid-19 waves. Today these libraries boast of more than 1.30 lakh books on varied subjects - literature, history, geography and competitive examinations. Sharing his thoughts Kumar said: "People from all ages are getting benefit. They are literally a boon for the poor, who cannot afford to buy books from open markets." Egged by the success of this scheme, it has been decided by the District Administration to spend ₹ 2.25 crore on infrastructure for these libraries, which will include tables, chairs, bookshelves, etc. To help students and readers to know about these libraries and the books, a web portal too will be designed. Talking about this Kumar said: "Soon there will be an exclusive web portal, which will provide all information related to the libraries as well as books." Modernization of these libraries is underway with one computer provided to 15 libraries based on their performance. The members of managing committees of the libraries are being trained by professionals. For original story visit: <https://www.indianarrative.com/culture-news/bihar-s-purnea-boasts-of-libraries-in-panchayats-and-urban-bodies-157186.ht>

Library to be named after Bangabandhu

The Tripura Government has decided to dedicate the old Central Jail compound into a library named after neighbouring Bangladesh's father of the nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, says an ANI story available on *theprint.in* website. According to historians, Bangabandhu spent a night in the old central jail complex during the Bangladesh liberation war and this is why the state government is keen to dedicate the place in his memory. Tripura Government sources said, "Initially it was planned that the old building will be converted into an English

Medium College in PPP model. The project was almost in the final stage but due to some problems, it could not work out. Thus, the new plan of converting the historic building into a library came up in the discussions". "Most probably, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman entered Indian territory through Khowai borders (now a district) and straight arrived at the capital city - Agartala. He was then accommodated at the official residence of Nani Gopal Kar Bhowmik, the then Jail Superintendent of the old central jail," said Sekhar Datta, historian and scholar. Bangabandhu spent the whole night in Kar Bhowmik's residence and met the then Tripura Chief Minister Sachindra Lal Singh. No official records of the meetings were kept considering the situation prevailing at that point of time. Tripura's significance in Bangladesh's liberation has been recognized by the Bangladesh government time and again and this new initiative will certainly add a new feather to the bilateral ties, at a time when Tripura is trying hard to make progress in the field of trade and commerce using Bangladesh as a route to South-East Asian market. A botanical garden may also be built alongside the library considering the demands of Mukta Mancha - a platform of intellectuals and civil society members. Arif Mohammad, Bangladesh Assistant High Commissioner, on the other hand, told ANI that the state government was also identifying the places with historical importance related to the Bangladesh liberation war. "A good number of bunkers, graveyards and other places of significance pertaining to the Bangladesh liberation war still exists in Tripura. A process of identification of those places is underway," Mohammad added. For original story visit: <https://theprint.in/india/tripuras-old-central-jail-likely-to-be-transformed-into-library-named-after-sheikh-mujibur-rahman/861498/>

First-of-its-kind Rural Library

Deepshikha Deshmukh, a producer, entrepreneur, and mother, has launched a first-of-its-kind initiative called 'Read Latur,' which she describes as "a small effort to set up libraries across the rural schools of the region and instil reading, not just textual but of fables, stories, and tales that help children dream and fire their imagination," says an IANS story in *National Herald*. Deepshikha is an avid reader herself, and she believes that reading for 10 minutes every day can change your life. Deepshikha, as a mother, instils the habit of reading in her children and understands the difference it makes in one's life. When she noticed that Latur's children had limited access to reading materials, the majority of which consisted of curriculum and textbooks, she devised a plan to spread the joy of reading to as many children as possible. She states, "Children's stories, fables, and tales are essential for giving their imagination wings and transporting them to the magical world and sense of wonder that these books contain. I am a strong believer in the circular economy and the environmental benefits of sharing what you have. This is how 'Read Latur' got its start. I've been asking friends and publishers to come forward and help

us build these rural libraries, whether it's with one book or many. We can all work together to instil a love of reading and learning in our children." Deepshikha continues, "There was a time when I stopped reading for a variety of reasons, and it really made me appreciate the value of books in my life. That's when I realized I'd instil a reading habit in my children no matter how busy I got. As a mother, I can attest that regular reading can improve language skills, increase children's curiosity about the world they live in, shape their perceptions, and boost their confidence. I am pleased that, as a result of this initiative, we will now be able to establish libraries in 12 to 15 rural Latur schools. I hope that this is just the beginning of empowering every child in Latur with inspiring stories." For original story visit: <https://www.nationalheraldindia.com/culture/a-first-of-its-kind-rural-library>

Social Organizations to run Mohali Libraries

The Mohali Municipal Corporation has decided to hand over all libraries in the city to social organizations for their maintenance within a week, says a *The Tribune* report. Mayor Amarjit Singh Jeeti Sidhu announced this while handing over a library in Silvi Park, Phase 10, to Shaheed Azam Bhagat Singh Resident Welfare Society. Deputy Mayor Kuljit Singh Bedi and area councillor Narpinder Singh Rangi were also present on the occasion. The Mayor said that the corporation had opened libraries in various parks to increase the interest of people in reading. The MC would hand over the libraries to welfare organizations of the area who wanted to run these. The electricity bill of these libraries and the cost of newspapers would be paid by the corporation. A financial assistance of ₹10,000 per month would be provided to the organizations. For full report visit: <https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/chandigarh/mohali-to-give-libraries-to-social-organisations-357505>

Popularity of Karnataka e-Library App

In a bid to offer the tech-savvy generation the opportunity to browse through some of their favourite titles in the comfort of their homes, the Department of Libraries in Karnataka had developed an e-library app to provide access the vast trove of books. Books at the Public Central Library in Dharwad, which is a veritable paradise for bibliophiles, too have been digitized and uploaded on the app's database. The readers in Dharwad have taken the library with gusto - nearly 1.5 lakh readers, who have registered on the app, called the e-Sarvajanic Granthalaya, are from North Karnataka district, says a *The Times of India* report. The app was launched by the then Minister of Primary and Secondary Education S Suresh Kumar in February 2020. The cloud-based resource offers readers access to books in English, Kannada, Urdu and Marathi, in addition to latest copies of magazines and newspapers. Deputy Director of the Department of Libraries M B Karigar told *TOI*, "there are three digital libraries in the twin cities, where we have installed computers and tablets to allow readers to access books on the database. So far, the government has disbursed funds for six computers and 12

tablets. With schools and colleges remaining closed owing to lockdown, there was much demand from readers that they be granted access to soft copies of books. Students were among those who used the library facility extensively.” Karigar is elated that the department's initiative to ensure that the readers could continue reading even when the libraries were closed owing to the lockdown. For full report visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/hubballi/dharwad-boasts-1-5-lakh-readers-on-e-library-app/articleshow/89210393.cms>

Release of LIS Journal

The seventh volume (2021) of a peer reviewed refereed journal on LIS, *Ganthakuti*, published by the Central Library and IQAC, Dibru College, Dibrugarh, Assam, was released by Dr. Jitu Buragohain, Principal, Dibru College on February 22, 2022 in front of a large gathering of students and faculties. On the prestigious occasion Dr. Pallavi Gogoi, Librarian, Dibrugarh Hanumanbax Surajmall Kanoi College, delivered a lecture on the 'Use of ICT Devices in Working and Services of College Libraries'. The guest editor of the journal is Prof. Narendra Lahkar, President, IASLIC, while the editor is Ms. Dipika Das, Librarian, Dibru College. It aims to promote quality LIS literature and foster relationship between LIS and other disciplines. The journal is published with different themes annually and is also accessible online. The theme of the current volume is “Extending Advance Library Services: Issues and Challenges”. It contains 16 research papers authored by LIS professionals from different parts of India. The journal is available at <http://granthakuti.lis.journal.org.in>

TECHNOLOGY NEWS

WhatsApp may allow Polls in Chats

WhatsApp is expected to soon launch a new feature that will let users vote in group chats, says a story in *The Indian Express*. The ability to create polls will soon come to the popular instant messaging platform and will allow group members to select one of a few pre-defined options to vote. A new report from *WABetaInfo* suggests that the feature could soon come to iOS beta and eventually, the stable version of the app. While not confirmed, it is likely that the ability to set and vote in polls could also later come to Android devices. Polling will also be available only in group chats and will be end-to-end encrypted, which means only the people in the same group will be able to see the poll and its results. A similar feature that lets users vote for options is already available in WhatsApp rival app Telegram. Telegram introduced group polls back in 2018 and the feature has been a popular, useful feature in many large groups and channels. Meanwhile, the new feature could be WhatsApp's latest feature to keep up with the competition. WhatsApp also has been testing a new community feature for a while, which will make it easier for users to keep track of groups and communities. The new tab is

expected to replace the current camera tab. For original story visit: <https://indianexpress.com/article/technology/social/whatsapp-may-soon-let-you-vote-in-group-chats-7806189/>

Automatic Video Captions in Instagram

Meta-owned photo-sharing platform Instagram is introducing automatic captions to videos in the feed, says an IANS story in *Business Standard*. They will be enabled by default for creators too. Auto-generated captions will initially be available in “select” languages, but Instagram hopes to expand them to more languages and countries, reports Engadget. The AI behind the captions won't be flawless. Instagram expects the quality to “continue to improve.” The addition should improve accessibility for deaf and hard-of-hearing users, who will have more choices for spoken-word video, the report said. Producers won't have to manually add captions themselves. However, Instagram also noted that this should help people who simply prefer to watch videos with the sound off. Users won't have to toggle the volume just to understand what someone was saying, the report said. Recently, Instagram said that it would no longer be supporting standalone app for IGTV, instead, it would focus on having all videos on the main Instagram app. Instagram also said that it was exploring more ways for creators to earn by creating reels that entertain the community. In addition to bonuses, later this year, it will begin testing a new ad experience on Instagram, which will allow creators to earn revenue from ads displayed on their reels. For original story visit: https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/instagram-brings-automatic-subtitles-to-videos-in-feed-report-122030200567_1.html

How to raise Internet Browsing Speed

We all must have been in a situation when the Internet led us down because of low bandwidth and speed. There could have been multiple reasons - a load of files running in the background, multiple pages which never got shut and of course heavy website nature. But do you know this concern can also be cured and your Internet could act and perform faster in situations like these? Yes, we do have a solution to this problem, says Saumya Nigam in a story on *indiatvnews.com* website. The story provides a few tips which can act as a lifesaver to speed up the Internet connection on your handset:

- (1) *Clear Cache* - A smart device or even a laptop faces lots of lagging when multiple caches are running behind the device browser. Hence, one can cure the Internet speed by clearing out the cached data which keeps the app data saved on the device. Users can download a number of apps to clear the caches or can simply visit my files and choose the cache option to delete the history.
- (2) *Removing Unused Applications on your Smart Device* - Some apps have a heavy property that tends to occupy a lot of space and affect the speed of the processor. No

matter if you rarely use the device, if the app is occupying space in your device, it will impact the processing speed. Hence, removing the widgets from the home screen of your device might act as a saviour and may help you to upgrade the speed of your device accordingly. Kindly note that the apps which are running in the background and which are not in use also consumes a lot of data and can slow down your browser accordingly.

- (3) *Enable Reader Mode* - If you need to experience fast Internet then this is the model which you must opt for. Read Mode enables the user to access only text while reading on a web page and hides the images, which use time in loading and Internet to download the data. Users can activate the Reader Mode according to their needs and preferences. This feature enables the user to load the web pages swifter.

For original story visit: <https://www.indiatvnews.com/technology/news/tips-to-increase-the-internet-browsing-speed-on-your-smartphone-and-laptop-2022-02-24-761381>

Google Chat to Replace Classic Hangouts

Google has announced that it is now ready to move into the final phase of the migration from Classic Hangouts to Google Chat for Google Workspace customers, says an IANS story in *Business Standard*. The company said it would turn on the “Chat preferred” setting for any customers who had not already done so, making Google Chat the default chat application beginning March 22. “This means that when users visit classic Hangouts in Gmail on the web or the classic Hangouts mobile apps, they will be directed to Chat,” the company said in a blogpost. “Hangouts.google.com will continue to work. It is not possible to opt out of this change. If you would like to export your classic Hangouts and Chat data, learn about exporting your organization's data,” it added. After domains are upgraded to “Chat preferred”, all classic Hangouts applications, except hangouts.google.com, will be disabled. Additionally, the “Chat and classic Hangouts” and “Classic Hangouts only” settings will be removed from the Admin console. Messages sent in classic Hangouts will continue to be retained and held according to policies set for Chat, and searchable and exportable with Gmail search in Vault. Messages sent in Chat are subject to retention rules and holds you set for Chat and searchable and exportable with Chat search in Vault. The company also mentioned that except for a few special cases, all the conversation history from Hangouts would be available in Google Chat. However, starting mid-March 2022, any newly created spaces in Google Chat within domain will not appear in classic Hangouts. For original story visit: https://www.business-standard.com/article/technology/google-chat-to-replace-classic-hangouts-for-workspace-users-from-march-122022301230_1.html

SPECIAL FEATURE

Chasing a Dream!

Chasing a dream is indeed a pleasant work as it generates a lot of enthusiasm and will to overcome all odds and when the dream is fulfilled the heart is filled with immense joy. Here are two such stories which may inspire people to chase similar dreams.

The first story is that of an English college teacher of Kerala chasing his dream, as narrated by Amiya Meethal in *The Indian Express*:

“How about spending your holidays with a favourite book in your hand in a forest, cut off from outside world. As you take the serpentine path towards your favourite spot, cicadas hum the welcome song while old-fashioned buildings pass by you. Doesn't it create images of a fantasy world in your mind? If yes, then the dream could be a reality soon.

“Welcome to Wuthering Heights Academic Library and Digital Research Centre at the 12th hairpin bend of Kuttiyadi Ghat road on the Kozhikode-Wayanad border. Nasrullah Mambrol, an English teacher at NAM College Kallikandy, is the man behind it.

“I read 'Wuthering Heights' in 2010 during my PG days. I fell in love with the novel so deeply that I read it eight times. I had planned to name my house after the work of Emily Bronte,” says Nasrullah. However, when the 33-year-old decided to set up the library, he found the name suited it better.

“Last September, I wrote a Facebook post about my dream nest sandwiched between trees, with a stream nearby and deers quenching their thirst from it. It has books scattered around, with people coming from far and wide living amid them,” said Nasrullah.

“Back then, he had not identified the place to set up the library. Two-weeks later, he stumbled upon a beautiful six-acre land on Kuttiyadi Ghat road and bought it. “It's exactly the place I had in my mind. The only difference was that instead of deers, I noticed jumbos sneaking in from the Periyar reserve forest behind the area,” said Nasrullah.

“He identified a 6,000 sq ft plot at a higher level to create a reading space, which can accommodate 80 persons. Besides, the space can cater to research students, scholars, film/creative writers and retired persons who are bookworms. There will be residential huts, book publishers' outlets, space for cultural events, discussions and seminars, etc.

“Only sustainable construction is planned. Only wooden seats, Internet and neon lights will be permitted,” he said. The forest department and Kavalumpara grama panchayat have extended all support to the project. English teachers S Nagesh, Salil Varma, Bindu Amet, Zahira Rahman, Priya K Nair,

Fathima E V and N Sajan contributed 50,000 books.

“We've approached the National Digital Library and state library council to associate with the project. We'll need at least ₹50 lakh in first phase. I don't know from where I can generate it, but I'm chasing the dream,” said Nasrullah, who started www.litrariness.org - a blog recommended by 200 universities around the globe. Nasrullah plans to open Wuthering Heights on December 19 next, the 174th death anniversary of Bronte”.

The second such story is that of a college student of Thrissur Rebecca Mathayi, as narrated by Shaan Joseph in *English Mathrubhumi*:

“Kerala's first-ever library exclusively for the Paniya tribe has been established in Wayanad. The library named Karinthandan Memorial Library has been opened at the Paniya colony in Nenmeni panchayat in Waynad. A grand inauguration was held accompanied by tribal songs, dance and stories.

“Rebecca Mathayi, a student and native of Govindamoola took initiative to establish a library in her village. She also wished to see the people in the Paniya tribe come out of the discrimination faced in society. Rebecca spoke to the head of the village, G Palan and planned to build a cultural institution belonging to the Paniya tribe. The plan was, however, delayed due to financial constraints.

“Rebecca says that her days at Vimala College in Thrissur was a turning point in her life. She was selected as the

Student Editor in the College Union election in 2018. She gained new friends during her college days. When she shared her dream, one of her friends named Adam Rafeeq gifted her a few books. That is how the dream of starting a library sprouted wings.

“Geethu and Jane, a couple from Ireland, Sunil Karakkattil from California, P O Thomas from the UK, Varghese Karakkada from Australia, and her Facebook friend B Bijithlal sent gifts to the tribal colony. Kites Foundation also contributed books to the library. The dream of starting a library was nearly fulfilled when more than 1000 books were collected.

“The library is located in front of Palan's house. Plus One student, G B Ramya is the librarian. Young kids and students have started borrowing books from the library. The initiative was backed by the first MBA graduate Manikuttan Paniyan, tribal artist Vinu Kidachulan, tribal poetess Sindhu Manganiyan. The next step is to construct a building for the library.”

The dream of the college teacher Nasrullah and college student Rebecca are certainly noble ones. It is encouraging to note that people still have dreams to set up libraries. Let's hope and pray that such dreams are fulfilled in toto and that more and more people have and chase similar dreams.

[Sources: <https://www.newindianexpress.com/good-news/2022/feb/24/wuthering-heights-a-dream-library-on-forest-fringe-in-kerala-2423043.html>, <https://english.mathrubhumi.com/news/kerala/library-in-kerala-1.6146256>]

Published by the General Secretary on behalf of IASLIC, P-291, CIT Scheme No. 6M, Kankurgachi, Kolkata - 700054.
Printed at Microprint Graphics, 1A, Raja Lane, Kolkata 700 009.
Editor: Prof. Amitabha Chatterjee

BOOK POST

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& Information Centres (IASLIC)
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