



IASLIC NEWSLETTER

Indian Association for Special
Libraries and Information Centres



November 2021

A Monthly Newsletter Published by IASLIC

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Quote of the Month

*“Libraries are the ultimate
restaurants for brain food”*

— Simon Van Booy
Anglo-American 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.

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IASLIC ACTIVITIES

New Members

Institutional Members

1. Pt. Sundarlal Sharma (Open) University, Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh
2. Raja Narendra Lal Khan Women's College (Autonomous), Midnapore, West Bengal
3. Ramananda College, Bishnupur, West Bengal
4. Swatantrya Sainik Suryabhanji Pawar Arts College, Purna (Parbhani), Maharashtra

26th IASLIC - Ranganathan Lecture: Brief Report

The 26th IASLIC - Ranganathan Lecture was held on September 26, 2021 through online mode. Dr. Divakar Potluri, former Principal Scientist (Library Services), Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad, delivered the lecture on the topic “Scholarly Communication in Post-Ranganathan Era: Some Reflections”. The programme was chaired by Prof. Narendra Lahkar, President of IASLIC. Extending hearty welcome to the speaker Dr. Divakar, Chairperson Prof. Narendra Lahkar, members of the Governing Body of IASLIC, members of the Executive Committee of IASLIC and all other participants linked with the programme through GoogleMeet, Shri Abhijit Kumar, General Secretary, IASLIC, mentioned how IASLIC - Ranganathan Lecture was started in 1993 following a decision of IASLIC Council Meeting held at Annamalainagar in 1992. Shri Kumar also introduced the Speaker. Prof. Lahkar, Chairperson, expressed sincere gratitude to Dr. Divakar Potluri for agreeing to deliver the lecture on such an important topic in the context of rising incidents of plagiarism.

Dr. Divakar commenced his lecture by paying homage to Dr. S R Ranganathan. He said that he felt honoured to deliver the prestigious lecture which had earlier been delivered by his teachers Prof. A Neelameghan, Prof. Ganesh Bhattacharya, and Prof. S Seetharama and other luminaries in the LIS field. He pointed out that scholarly communication began in 1665 with the emergence of 'Journal des Scavans' and 'Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society' and mentioned that some kind of regulation was in force from the very beginning with regard to scholarly publication. Before concentrating on his lecture topic i.e. scholarly communication in post-Ranganathan era, Dr. Divakar highlighted some issues regarding scholarly communication during Ranganathan era (1892 - 1972), which he termed as Golden Era of scholarly communication. During this period, he said, professional societies played a dominant role and bibliographic control systems also emerged. He further stated that information explosion that influenced libraries and librarians accelerated with the emergence of Internet and world wide web during 1990s. Simultaneously, commercial publishers took the control of scholarly communication from professional and learned societies, he said. Dr. Divakar mentioned that government funding in development of science and technology as well as in Mega Science projects and 'Big Science' projects impacted scholarly communication. He also shared some

thoughts on scholarly communication in humanities and said that the characteristics of literature in the discipline of humanities and emergence of 'Digital Humanities' had also impacted scholarly communication. He also highlighted the peer reviewing trends and open access in the present era. Dr. Divakar also mentioned about the use of 'Artificial Intelligence' in scholarly communication. He concluded his lecture by pointing out that 'selecting journals', 'avoiding predatory titles', 'literature search', 'standardization of references', 'checking plagiarism' were some areas where a librarian could play a pivotal role in scholarly communication.

Prof. Narendra Lahkar, Chairperson, invited comments and views from the listeners, though in a memorial lecture there was no much scope of interaction. Dr. Abdul Majid Baba shared his views relating to scholarly communication. Finally, the vote of thanks was proposed by Ms. Moumita Ash, Librarian, IASLIC. Around 65 library professionals attended the programme. Smt. Manali Mitra Paladhi, Shri Sujan Saha and Shri Arun Samanta extended technical support in conducting the lecture programme.

CONFERENCES / SEMINARS / WORKSHOPS

National

IATLIS Conference

The 37th Conference (International) of IATLIS, is being jointly organized online by Indian Association of Teachers of Library and Information Science (IATLIS) and Department of Library and Information Science, University of Calcutta, Kolkata, during November 25 - 27, 2021. The theme of the conference is 'LIS Education and LI Services during and beyond the COVID-19 Pandemic'. For details email to: jagtardeep@gmail.com

Conference on LIS

The 6th Soference National Social Conference on Library & Information Science (LIS), organized by Information Resource Centre of Tata Consultancy Services, is scheduled to be held on December 18, 2021. The theme of the conference is 'Looking Ahead: Future of Libraries'. For details visit: <https://sites.google.com/view/soference/>

Refreshers Course in LIS

UGC-Human Resource Development Centre, Kannur University, Kannur, Kerala, is organizing a UGC sponsored Refresher Course In Library Science during January 19 - February 1, 2022. For details visit: <https://hrdc.kannuruniversity.ac.in/user/>

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Book Lovers' Hub at Lucknow Metro Stn.

Looking for an option where you can catch hold of literary stuff on history, governance/policy, science, fiction or on many other topics and languages, than the newly opened Uttar Pradesh Book Promotion Centre (BPC) at Vishwavidyalaya Metro station in Lucknow is the place to be, says a *The Times of India* story. With a collection of over 2,000 books, the BPC, by National Book Trust, India, is set to be a new hub for book lovers in the city. It was inaugurated by the Basic Education Minister Satish Chandra Dwivedi recently. Excited with the opening of the book store, young readers from various colleges and students of Lucknow University and Isabella Thoburn College shared that for them the place was a 'bonus library' apart from the libraries at their institutes. "The best section was of new arrivals, something that we don't easily get at our institutes. Just look at the collection they have from the book *Magical Mandu*, the story of a beautiful fort and what happened with its walls, by Swapna Dutta, to books by Prem Pal Sharma and Mahesh Dube. Almost every new creative work is on the shelf," said BA student Pankhuri Srivastava. LU student Priyanshi said, "It's difficult to find books in regional languages but I was happy to see that not only books in Bhojpuri which is my language but also books in other languages are available here." "BPC will offer book lovers a Readers' Corner, Authors' Corners, Young Writers' Mentorship Scheme, Panchayat Libraries, Mobile Exhibition Vans and much more in the coming days. It will house books in more than 55 Indian languages and dialects, on science, social science, art and culture, education, competitive exams, biographies," said Deputy Director, National Book Trust, Amit Singh. Happy with the opening of the BPC, the Basic Education Minister said, "I am happy that now the city has BPC where our young readers, especially university students, can read books and purchase one at a low price. The hub will turn out to be a centre of reading and research." For full story visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/lucknow/bibliophiles-get-a-new-hotspot-at-metro-station/articleshowprint/85992214.cms>

Non-resident Bihar Youths set up Library

Turning an adversity into an opportunity, a group of young professionals from Bihar's Samastipur district, who had returned home during the Covid-mandated lockdown, pooled in money and mobilized resources to set up a library and a sports zone in their village, says a story by Rajesh Kumar Thakur in *The New Indian Express*. The youths, all working in big companies/organizations, took the initiative as they faced difficulties in accessing books and journals in the village, Bhagwanpur-Desua. Thanks to their initiative, the village now has facilities it can boast of. "Our village has everything from a railway station to schools and a bank, but there were no library or

sports zone. So, all of us who work in corporate and business sectors came together and set up these two facilities in the village,” said Rajeev Kumar, who works with UNICEF and was among the ones who took the lead. District Magistrate Shashank Shubhankar recently inaugurated the library and the sports zone. These young professionals also motivate the other villagers to utilize their leisure time in reading at the library. The library building was constructed by the efforts of the local MLA while youths like Nitish Kumar, a JNU alumnus working with Anand, Manish Arjun, and others contributed to arrange books, chairs, tables and other facilities. Rajeev also sought help from Quest Alliance, an agency working in the field of education. A big support came from Poonawala Fincorp, which helped develop the infrastructure through its corporate social responsibility fund. In the sports zone, the youths have built a cricket pitch and a volleyball court and arranged cricket coaching facility. For original story visit: <https://www.newindianexpress.com/good-news/2021/aug/13/turning-adversity-into-opportunities-non-resident-bihar-youths-set-up-library-in-village-2344149.html>

Library Book returned after 40 Years

A library in the Dutch town of Groesbeek celebrated the return of a long-lost book recently when one of the patrons brought back a novel that was nearly 40 years overdue, says a story by Deutsche Welle, quoting news agency DPA, in *Indian Express*. The library, located in the Dutch town of Groesbeek near the German border, posted a picture of the book and its checkout card on Twitter. The stamp on the card reads “05 March 1981” making the book 39 years, 13 weeks and 5 days overdue. “The reader must have had a hard time letting go,” the Groesbeek community library said, also commenting that sometimes as a librarian, “you do not believe your own eyes.” The book that he held onto for so long was a 1965 novel called “Terug naar Oegstgeest” (or “Back to Oegstgeest”) by Dutch author Jan Wolkers. Dutch news agency ANP calculated that the man's overdue fees should have amounted to nearly €1,531 (\$1,726). But the man was in luck, the Groesbeek community library sets a limit for its overdue fees, meaning the man was able to pay just a €5 fine. For original story visit: <https://indianexpress.com/article/world/dutch-man-returns-library-book-nearly-40-years-overdue-6452025/>

Village Library for Career Guidance

The Ambala district administration recently inaugurated a library under the pilot project at Government Model Sanskriti Senior Secondary School in Samalheri village of the district, to prepare the students of Class XI and XII for competition and provide them guidance for their careers, says a story by J K Singh in *The Times of India*. The library was inaugurated by Ambala Deputy Commissioner (DC) Vikram Singh in the presence of District Education Officer Suresh Kumar and school principal Naresh Moudgil. The officials talked to the students of Class XI and XII and answered their queries too. Some students shared their targets of joining the army and National Defence Academy, becoming an engineer, banker and others to the

officials. DC Vikram Singh guided the students and assured them that all the relevant books and other materials required for their preparation in the interested fields would be provided to them at their school library. He said, “the stage of Class XI and XII in a student's life is very crucial as it is this time when they have to make a decision about their career and set a target”. The library houses books on different subjects and related to competitive exams in various fields. Shri Singh told the media, “apart from beautification of the libraries in all 93 senior secondary schools of the district, the work is being done to provide competition books, competition charts, career-related books, magazines for the students there. The beautification work has been completed in libraries of 22 schools and the remaining will be done soon so that the students are able to use the facility.” He added that in the schools where there was more curiosity among the students to join the fields of Army, banking, police and other defence forces, the senior officers of these departments would be asked to interact with them. “This will help the students to resolve their queries about the fields or their targets”, said Shri Singh. Ambala administration has instructed the school management to include special timing for students to use the library and ensure that it continues regularly. For original story visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/education/news/library-inaugurated-under-pilot-project-to-prepare-students-for-competition-guide-them-for-career-in-ambala-village/articleshow/86201498.cms#:~:text=AMBALA%3A%20The%20Ambala%20district%20administration,them%20guidance%20for%20their%20careers.>

Library on Cycle for Kids

A cycle decked up with story books makes its way through narrow bylanes of a remote village in Gadchiroli district while kids look on with curiosity. This was the scene in November last year when Maharashtra state Education Department and Unicef India launched the Firtay granthalaya (roaming library) and Goshtincha Shanivaar (Storytelling Saturday) in remote villages of districts like Gadchiroli, Palghar, etc. The deadly second wave of Covid and the monsoon did put a brake on the initiative, but it still continued in a handful of places in Gadchiroli, says a story by Abhishek Choudhari in *The Times of India*. Teachers or some NGO volunteers would pick a book from their bicycle library and start reading out to kids in villages. Speaking to *TOI* recently, Rajeshwari Chandrasekar, chief of field office in Unicef Maharashtra, said that this initiative had received a good response. Vinit Padmawar, a zilla parishad school teacher, said, “It's a wonderful initiative and we have taken it a step further. Students are asked to pick up books and start reading. We have these reading sessions for at least an hour to help them gain confidence and become familiar with words and texts.” Seeing a library on bicycle is quite an attraction for kids, said Padmawar. “Small fairs in villages often have sellers loading their wares on a cycle. So, the balloons would be tied to a cycle or a basket of snacks would be

tied to the carrier. So, the cycle and anything carried on it immediately attracts the attention of students,” said Padmawar. While *TOI* had earlier covered the success of Goshtincha Shanivaar, the roaming library part of the project did not get as much limelight as it deserved. During lockdown, students in remote villages were on the verge of dropping out of the schooling ecosystem and it was worse for the smaller kids who had just about started getting exposure of formal education. Padmawar said, “For young kids of Std I-IV, it's important to keep them engaged in a creative way. Reading will be fun for them if the content is interesting, and nothing better than stories. We would read these fun stories to them and every single child would be engrossed in the process.” In rural areas schools have reopened for Std VIII-XII and this initiative is now a part of their daily routine. A school teacher from Gadchiroli said, “After the morning assembly or the first period, we ask them to take books from the library and then talk about it with their friends. If they read, they will be more connected to school and, thus, have a better chance of succeeding in life.” For original story visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/nagpur/library-on-bicycle-attracts-tribal-kids-to-world-of-books/articleshow/86128602.cms#:~:text=Seeing%20a%20library%20on%20bicycle,be%20tied%20to%20the%20carrier.>

Mini Library for Elderly Home

A group of women has set up a mini-library for an old age home in Pujali, in South 24-Parganas, West Bengal, for a generation that is used to reading books and not swiping screens, says a story by Jhinuk Mazumdar in *The Telegraph*. The library has been set up with a collection of 400 books and magazines in Bengali, English and Hindi, both fiction and non-fiction, which could keep the residents engaged and give them an opportunity to discuss what they read. It is not a traditional library where one has to read silently. It has been created as a space for discussions, may be over a cup of tea. Ananthamaya Elder Care Facility, about 10km from Budge Budge, run by Nirvana Foundation, has five residents in their 70s and 10 more will be joining the facility soon. “This is an age group used to reading, not like the current generation who has to be guided to read books. In fact, they may have earlier read some of the books we have given and the library would give them the opportunity to revisit the books,” said Srabane Chakraborty, founder president, Rotary Club of Calcutta Avyanna, which set up the library. The all-women club named the library “Kichhu Golpo” and promised to add more books. “It is a place where one can discuss a book he or she is reading,” said Chakraborty. Club president Apala Datta said the foundation had approached the club. “The residents have no family and reading provides emotional succour. It is not always enough to provide food or materialistic benefits. Reading feeds the brain and is a respite from loneliness, too,” said Datta. The library will keep the residents engaged, a trustee of the foundation said. “They like reading and listening to stories,” the trustee said. The trustee

added that the elderly care centre had the facilities needed for a comfortable life. It is also home to destitutes. The foundation has been running it for two years but like most such places, arranging funds during the pandemic has been a challenge. “Donations have dried up and to sustain the facility, we do need funds,” said a trustee. For original story visit: <https://www.telegraphindia.com/my-kolkata/news/mini-library-for-elderly-home-near-budge-budge/cid/1832162>

Library for Sundarbans Kids

A library for young girls and boys, many of whom were on the verge of dropping out from school during the pandemic, has come up at Piyali in South 24-Parganas, West Bengal, says a story by Jhinuk Mazumdar in *The Telegraph*. Most of their parents could not afford to buy textbooks for them, the students said. “The idea of a reading space came from the children. After we spoke to them, we realized that many of them did not have the money to buy textbooks. Earlier, when the school was open they had access to libraries. We have started with a mixed collection, with books outside their syllabus,” said Sarmistha Dutta Gupta, Honorary Secretary of Ebong Alap. It is primarily a Bengali collection with a separate section on the Sundarbans. Many of the students and their families belong to the Sundarbans, said Dutta Gupta. Joyita Majhi, 18, whose mother works in a company that makes bags and was out of job for months at a stretch during the lockdown, said that reading books was a luxury for them. “During the lockdown there were days when we would eat once a day and keep some food for the next day to make sure we don't go hungry. Under these circumstances I cannot ask my mother to buy me books,” said Joyita, a graduation student. For Class XI student Dikshit Mondal, the library has given him the opportunity to read more about Sister Nivedita and Bhagat Singh about whom he has read only in his textbooks. “I am keen to know more about them,” he said. Dutta Gupta said that what had started for the children would be extended to their mothers as well to give them a space to relax, read and temporarily take their minds off the struggles of life. For original story visit: <https://www.telegraphindia.com/my-kolkata/news/library-in-sunderbans-big-help-for-kids-from-families-with-shrunk-income/cid/1835828>

Library in every Panchayat in Bihar District

Bihar's Purnia district has taken the initiative to be the first district to build libraries in every panchayat, according to a story by Chaithra available on <https://lifebeyondnumbers.com/> website. The initiative aims to instill the love of reading in students and stop students from migrating from rural to urban regions. In preparation for competitive and other examinations, youth and students from Purnia's remote regions have been coming to libraries to study books and browse journals. Purnia, a central district in Bihar's Seemanchal region, seems to have a low literacy rate of 52.09 % and yet has evolved into a book

paradise, with 237 rural panchayat libraries as well as seven city Nagar Parishad libraries. In January, a district-wide scheme named “Kitab Daan” was initiated to build libraries in each of Purnia's panchayats, the state's first of its kind. The efforts were led by District Magistrate Rahul Kumar, who worked with officials from the district department of education and villagers to build libraries in each panchayat. Throughout his frequent trips to rural schools around two years ago, he recognized that something was needed to be done to develop rural abilities. “I talked to intellectuals about it and decided to build up rural libraries,” Purnia DM told *Hindustan Times*. On January 25, 2020, a book donation drive was started. In Purnia, 190 of the 230 panchayats currently have their libraries. So far, 1.26 lakh books have indeed been acquired under the “Abhiyan Kitab-Daan,” as per Kumar. The Banmakhi block's 24 panchayat libraries have more books, 13054, followed by the Annaour block's 24 panchayat libraries, which have 12057. He also noted that the government was taking several steps to maintain the initiative's long-term effectiveness. For original story visit: <https://lifebeyondnumbers.com/bihar-purnia-libraries-190-panchayats/>

Hub of 24x7 Libraries at Dharwad

Libraries play a vital role in every student's life. Dharwad, which has emerged as a hub of 24x7 libraries, is now attracting students. There are 100 libraries which run 24x7 for the benefit of students in the district, says a story in *The Times of India*. There are nearly 20 to 25 such libraries within a 2 km radius of Saptapur and Basavanagar in Dharwad. Dharwad is also known as Vidyakashi in North Karnataka region, where many students from backward districts, including Ballari, Raichur, Bagalkot and Vijayapura, come to study, since many coaching centres offer different types of courses, and coaching to prepare candidates to face IAS, KAS, PSI and other competitive exams. To help students, many people have now started the 24x7 library concept, to enable candidates, who are preparing to crack competitive exams, to study for long hours, in the day and at night. According to a source from the library association, there are 100 libraries in Dharwad district. Earlier, students attempting to crack competitive exams used to study in gardens, under trees, in temples and college campuses. Now they are turning to 24x7 libraries. About 20,000-30,000 students are enrolled in the libraries. Each 24x7 library has separate boy's and girl's sections, WiFi, drinking water, English and Kannada newspapers and magazines, and books to prepare for competitive exams. In each library, a minimum 100 - 200 students have registered their names to avail of this facility. A fee ranging from ₹500 to ₹700 is charged from each student every month, who want to be members of a 24x7 library, said sources. 24x7 Libraries Association of Dharwad president Ravindra Kamaladinni told *TOI* that the concept was first started in Delhi, and has now come to Dharwad. “I have opened a 24x7 library to help students to crack competitive exams by

reading books in a pleasant atmosphere, without any disturbance. Earlier, students used to study in the KUD campus, parks, Ulavi Channabasawere temple premises and other places. Due to the climate and sound pollution, students have become members of libraries.” Sobha, who runs Shrutam 24x7 library in Srinagar in Dharwad, as well as many students, are of the opinion that these libraries are the best places to study to face competitive exams. As a result, there is a huge demand for 24X7 libraries in the city. KSRP personnel Yallappa Shilavant from Bagalkot said, “A 24x7 library has helped me to crack the written test and get a job in the KSRP. Every aspirant wanting to face competitive exams should make use of it.” Civil police personnel Rekha C from Yadagir said, “Studying at home or other places will not help much, but studying in 24X7 libraries will motivate us to read for long hours in order to crack competitive exams. For original story visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/hubballi/dharwad-a-hub-of-24x7-libraries/articleshow/86047828.cms#:~:text=Dharwad%2C%20which%20has%20emerged%20as,Saptapur%20and%20Basavanagar%20in%20Dharwad.>

Free Library at Dehradun village

A free-of-cost library has been set up in a state-run school in Koruwa village of Chakrata block, in the outskirts of Dehradun, says a *The Times of India* report. The library set up by the regional director of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) Ranbir Singh has more than 3,000 books for students of Class V to XII. Books meant for competitive exams have also been kept in the library. Besides, books on regional Jaunsari literature and religious texts are also available in the library. For original report visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/dehradun/free-of-cost-library-set-up-in-doon-village/articleshow/84622138.cms>

Immunity boosting Library

An “immunity-boosting library” which has been developed at Poothkalan in northwest Delhi has been opened for Delhiites to educate them on the usage of medicinal plants and the process of growing them at home, says a story by Priyangi Agarwal in *The Times of India*. People will be allowed to take the medicinal plants for free from the nurseries of the forest department. Forest department officials said that the place was named “immunity-boosting library” to help visitors closely watch and learn about the health benefits of medicinal plants. If any person has health issues, he or she can know what herbs should be added to their diet for improvement. Visitors can enjoy a walk in the library and know the process of growing the plants at home. For instance, for growing giloy in a pot, it should be soaked in water for 24 hours and later cut into five-inch-long pieces. These sticks should be covered in soil in a pot, whose height should be 6 to 12 inches. Deputy Conservator of Forests (North) Vipul Pandey said, “The purpose is to let people take a walk in the library. They can observe the qualities of medicinal plants

and learn how to grow them. They can then go to the nearby nursery and pick up the plants of their choice.” He added that entry was free for visitors. “We beautified a vacant plot which was lying unused for a long time. The walls have been painted with pictures and information about medicinal plants, which have been planted there. The idea behind developing this library is to create awareness among people about the importance of medicinal plants,” said an official, adding that a forest department employee is present to guide the visitors. For original story visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/delhi/immunity-boosting-library-to-showcase-medicinal-plants/articleshow/85544411.cms#:~:text=NEW%20DELHI%3A%20An%20%E2%80%9Cimmunity%2D,of%20growing%20them%20at%20home.>

TECHNOLOGY NEWS

YouTube permanently cancels Rewind

Video sharing platform YouTube has confirmed that YouTube Rewind, the company's annual year-end round-up of trends, creators, memes, and the most popular videos on the site, has been cancelled for good, says an ANI report published in *Deccan Chronicle*. According to *The Verge*, instead, YouTube has stated it will "refocus our energies on celebrating you and the trends that make YouTube with a different and updated kind of experience," although the company didn't elaborate further on what it'll be replacing Rewind with. YouTube will also be relying on creators on its platform to fill the gap, with a spokesperson telling that "It'll continue to be inspiring to see the myriad of ways the most creative content producers in the world, our YouTube creators, encapsulate the end of the year in their video recaps, as YouTube retires its own Rewind video." As per *The Verge*, this news of YouTube cancelling Rewind permanently isn't a big surprise, as the company already took off 2020, citing the difficulties of the year: "2020 has been different. And it doesn't feel right to carry on as if it weren't." Also, Rewind had already been struggling long before the pandemic. 2018's video was viciously panned by the YouTube community (to this day, it remains the most disliked video ever posted to the platform). Creators argued that the company was shifting focus from the "real community" including controversial creators like Logan Paul and PewDiePie, in favour of more advertiser-friendly choices. Later 2019's video attempted to skirt controversy entirely by shifting its format from the big-budget mashup of YouTubers from years past to a more ordinary (and boring) list of clips of most-watched creators, videos, and trends. Still, whether well-received or endlessly dunked on, Rewind videos have been a big part of YouTube's culture for the past decade. Hopefully whatever YouTube does to replace its big year-end celebration ends up a little less controversial going forward. For original report visit: <https://www.>

deccanchronicle.com/technology/in-other-news/081021/youtube-permanently-cancels-rewind.html

India to get 6G soon

Telecom companies in India are currently conducting 5G trials and it is expected that 5G service will be launched in India by next year. Meanwhile, there are reports of 6G already coming ahead of the commercial rollout of 5G service, says a story available on *dnaindia.com* website. It is said that preparations have also started for 6G in India. According to reports, 6G will have Internet speed that is as many as 50 times faster than 5G. In fact, some reports have surfaced claiming that the government has started preparing for the 6G network. The Telecom Department (DoT) is said to have entrusted the responsibility to state-run telecom research company C-DoT. It is said that the government has directed C-DoT to explore all technical possibilities related to the 6G network. Telecom Secretary K Rajaraman has said that technical prospects related to 6G should be considered so that 6G can be launched in the worldwide market as well as rolled out in India at this time. India is currently undergoing a 5G trial, while the 5G network has been commercially launched in South Korea, China and the US market in 2019. There are many giants who are currently working on 6G networks. These include the names of giants like Samsung, LG, Huawei who have started work on 6G networks. It is estimated that 6G networks may also be rolled out globally by 2028-2030. That is why India has also started preparations for the 6G network. Coming to 5G network, it can offer data downloading speed up to a maximum of 20Gbps. On the other hand, the maximum speed of data download has reached 3.7Gbps during testing of 5G network in India. The three companies Airtel, Vi and Jio have conducted speed tests on data downloads up to 3Gbps in 5G network trials. On the other hand, it is expected that the same speed may reach 1000Gbps in the 6G network. Media reports have surfaced that LG has also started 6G trails. According to reports, the company had recently started trialling the 6G network in Berlin, Germany. According to the information, the data was sent and received at a distance of 100 metres during this testing. This testing was also considered successful. In the 6G network, you can download a 6 GB movie in just 51 seconds at a speed of 1000 megabytes per second. The highlight of 6G network are: (1) 6G network will be 15 times faster than 5G. (2) 6G network in Japan is expected to be launched by 2030. (3) Apart from Japan, South Korea, China and Finland are also preparing for a 6G network. (4) Now preparations have started for the 6G network in India also. (5) According to the DW report, millions of euros are being spent in the European Union for the 6G network. For original story visit: <https://www.dnaindia.com/technology/report-india-to-get-6g-soon-know-internet-speed-other-features-of-6g-network-2915337>

SPECIAL FEATURE

A Teen Crusader!

It's 6 in the evening, and Sadiya Riyaz Shaikh is carefully painting the leaves of a tree on the powder-blue walls of a small room. Young visitors huddle around the 18-year-old, giggling shyly while advising her on colours. She writes the English alphabet and the numbers 1 through 10 along the branches. Outside, dusk has settled. In the glow of a tube light, a few older children quietly read their books in a corner. This is no ordinary place. Here in Deora, a small village in Bihar, a state in eastern India, it's the only library. Standing at the edge of a road, the unassuming Maulana Azad Library can easily be overlooked, unless you stop to read the bright yellow board bearing its name. Just a few months ago, it was a dilapidated guesthouse. But when Ms. Shaikh came back to her ancestral village to wait out the pandemic, she had an idea, says a story by Radhika Iyengar available on the website of The Christian Science Monitor, an independent international news organization.

Child marriage is common in Deora, she noticed, and attending school is not. The village of 3,500 has a male literacy rate of 45%, while the female rate is 38%, according to the last census. "Many families often withdraw their children from schools because they cannot afford to buy books for the prescribed syllabus or even uniforms," Ms. Shaikh says over the phone. Some families don't wish to educate daughters, she adds, and other children are forced to work in the fields with parents and siblings. She herself was born here, but moved to Mumbai when she was 3 years old. Amid the pandemic, her father's small manufacturing business had to temporarily shut shop, and the family was forced to return. Since September 2020, she's transformed the small space to provide schoolchildren with access to books they otherwise could not afford, and a supportive place to study.

It's one of many times Ms. Shaikh has tried to use her own opportunities to open doors for others. A polyglot in Hindi, Urdu, and English, she often speaks at inter-college events on the right to education, women's empowerment, and unemployment. For as long as she can remember, she's loved standing in the midst of a spellbound audience. Last year, amid nationwide demonstrations against a contentious citizenship law accused of discriminating against Muslims, she took to the stage to speak out against rising intolerance and the police crackdown on student protesters.

In July 2020, back in Deora, Ms. Shaikh sat down with her family elders and proposed the idea of the library. Many shook their heads in disagreement - this wasn't how a young girl should spend her time. After many discussions, she finally convinced them, and gained access to her relatives' guesthouse, renovating it with almost 5,000 rupees (\$67) she'd won in public-speaking awards over the last two years. She took the help of her uncle, Akbar Siddique, and cousin, Nawaz Rahman,

and got to work. Walls were repainted, the bamboo roof was repaired and fastened to a crimson tarpaulin, lights and a bookshelf were installed, and the room was filled with plastic chairs and a table. Vivid charts tacked to the walls - from anatomy and transportation, to India's "freedom fighters" for independence - enlivened the space.

The 7-by-12-foot room was ready for big dreams.

Named after India's first education minister, the Maulana Azad Library houses hundreds of new and secondhand school books (acquired through donations and fundraising). Colouring and story books are provided to younger children. Ms. Shaikh also managed to secure subscriptions to Hindi and Urdu newspapers. Not all the books are in great shape - some are dog-eared or slightly frayed. But for some readers, they are crown jewels.

Local schools often lack support, with sparse furniture and lighting. Deora's students sit on thin floor mats. Those who really want to learn, like 14-year-old Ayaz Rahman, have to find alternatives. After-school tutoring can cost 500 rupees a month (\$7), a huge investment for families like Ayaz's. "I don't have money for coaching classes," he says bluntly. Ayaz lost his father a few years ago, which put his family under financial stress. His older brother, who works as a foreman, is the only earning member in the family of nine. The library serves as a refuge that whisks him away every day, where he spends at least an hour studying or reading the Hindi newspaper. Using "book guides" that support his textbooks, "I've been able to cover my entire ninth grade syllabus," he says. "Without the library, I wouldn't have been able to manage it." A tutor is paid to look after the space, and assist children with texts, alongside two young volunteers.

Before the library opened, a few neighbors turned naysayers. Some, with great delight, prophesied that things would soon go south. But "if I continue to listen to others, I'll never be able to achieve anything," says Ms. Shaikh, her oval face framed by a gray hijab. "The only way I can prove anything to anyone is to let them keep talking, while I keep working." Her strongest ally is her father, Reyaz Ahmed Shaikh. Mr. Ahmed Shaikh recalls how certain villagers began looking at him "differently" once his daughter began undermining village expectations. "I think they'd prefer if my girl stayed at home and did not venture out in public," he says. "Our culture dictates that girls should remain in purdah and they needn't attend schools or colleges. But I see things differently. I know that girls are capable of doing great things just like boys, as long as they are respectful towards their parents and others. So, I don't care about what the villagers think of me. I won't let that stop my daughter."

Ms. Shaikh is acutely aware of her privilege. The goal is to use it to rally one youngster after another, in hopes that they can alter the village's trajectory. "These children have an intelligent mind. I've seen that," she says. Recently, she's returned to Mumbai, but gets daily updates on the library from her cousin. In her eyes, the project is just beginning. Ms. Shaikh is working to organize

scholarships for Deora's children, and hopes to gather a group of volunteers to start libraries in neighboring villages as well.

Deora has been a ground for Hindu-Muslim discord. For now, only Muslim children are visiting the library, Ms. Shaikh says, but that's something she wants to change. "It may be that non-Muslims fear they are not welcome in our library, but we want to eradicate such fears," she says. "Books do not discriminate against who is reading them, so everyone is entitled to them." "I think the gap between Muslims and non-Muslims can only be repaired through education," she adds. "If we want to change society, we have to take everyone with us in our progress."

[*Note: As this inspiring story of a young crusader may be liked by the readers of this newsletter, it is being reproduced here with due acknowledgement to the writer and the news organization concerned. The original story may be found at: <https://www.csmonitor.com/World/Making-a-difference/2021/0108/For-Indian-teen-who-launched-village-library-it-s-about-more-than-books>]*

NEW LIS LITERATURE

[*Note: Publishers of books enlisted here and/or any new books in LIS may send copies of such books to the Editor, IASLIC Bulletin, for review]*

Indian

1. BALASUBRAMANIAN (P). Preservation and Conservation of Library Resources. 2021. Ess Ess Publications, New Delhi. ₹ 825. ISBN: 9789387698369

(This book makes an effort to educate all those who work in

a library to properly take care of their collection, whether it is fast changing digital information or documentary and non-documentary heritage)

2. DHIMAN (Anil K). Library Consortia: A Complete Handbook. 2021. Ess Ess Publications, New Delhi. ₹1650. ISBN: 9788194739821

(Familiarizes the users with the concept and development of library consortia that have emerged worldwide as a major mean for resource sharing in digital environment)

3. SANYAL (Surojit). Information Organization and Dissemination through Information Gateways. 2021. Ess Ess Publications, New Delhi. ₹600. ISBN: 9789387698864.

4. SHUKLA (Shiv). Digital Information and Research Support: Transforming Library and Information Services in Knowledge Society. 2021. Ess Ess Publications, New Delhi. ₹1250. ISBN: 978938769840

(The book creates a holistic road map to understand the current research scenario, library roles and users' demands through a vivid visualization)

PERSONALIA

Dr. A T Francis, Retired University Librarian, Kerala Agricultural University, Thrissur, has joined as Professor in Department of Library and Information Science, Rajagiri College of Social Sciences, Kalamassery, Kochi. IASLIC congratulates Dr Francis, a life member, for his new assignment.

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

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