



IASLIC NEWSLETTER

Indian Association for Special Libraries and Information Centres

SEPTEMBER, 2022

A Monthly Newsletter Published by IASLIC

Editor

Prof. Amitabha Chatterjee

Associate Editor:

Dr. Gurudas Ghosh

Assistant Editor:

Dr. Partha Sarathi Das

Editorial Board

Prof. K P Majumder

Prof. P K Panigrahi

Dr. Nitai Raychaudhury

Quote of the Month

*“What is the value of libraries?
Through lifelong learning, libraries
can and do change lives, a point that
cannot be overstated”*

— **Michael E Gorman**

Professor, Department of Science,
Technology, and Society,
University of Virginia, USA

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

IASLIC ACTIVITIES

IASLIC 29th National Seminar

IASLIC 29th National Seminar, which could not be held during last two years due to pandemic, will now be held at North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Shillong, in offline mode during November 2 - 4, 2022. The theme of the seminar is 'Library and Information Centres in Digital Age: Present Scenario and Future Strategies'. Further details are available on IASLIC website.

Librarians' Day Celebration 2022: Brief Report

IASLIC, jointly with Bengal Library Association (BLA) and West Bengal Public Library Employees Association (WBPLEA), and in collaboration with Raja Rammohan Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF) and West Bengal State University, Barasat, observed Librarians' Day 2022 to commemorate 130th birth anniversary of Dr. S R Ranganathan through a function held on August 20, 2022 at West Bengal State University, Barasat. Dr. Sushanta Banerjee, University Librarian, WBSU, welcomed the dignitaries and all the professionals attending the programme. Inaugural speech was delivered digitally by Prof. Mahua Das, Vice Chancellor, WBSU, wherein she expressed her thankfulness to three associations IASLIC, BLA and WBPLEA for celebrating Librarians' Day 2022 and selecting WBSU as the venue. Prof. Sutapa Chatterjee Sarkar, Director IQAC, WBSU, in her address, paid her respect to all library professionals. On this occasion she shared her experiences as a library user since her student days. This was followed by an informative speech by the Guest of Honour, Dr. Ram Kumar Mukhopadhyay, an eminent writer and winner of Ananda Puraskar. He emphasized on the duty and responsibility of the librarians to verify the authenticity of a publication before purchasing the same. They should preferably choose publications of original publishers instead of giving importance to cheap publications. This would definitely prevent spreading misinformation amongst readers, he added. Prof. Krishnapada Majumder, General Secretary, BLA, gave a brief account of Librarians' Day celebrations since 1990. He also recalled Dr. Ranganathan's association with BLA. Shri Tapas Sarkar, General Secretary, WBPLEA, mentioned about the present condition of public libraries in West Bengal and presented statistics regarding existing vacant positions in various government libraries. He also expressed his anxiety over future of public library system in West Bengal. Shri Abhijit Kumar, General Secretary, IASLIC, in his address, mentioned how Librarians' Day Celebration was started in 1990 following a decision at JOCLAI Meeting held at the Jaipur IASLIC Conference in 1989. He also highlighted the role played by IASLIC in organizing Librarians' Day in West Bengal, jointly with BLA and WBPLEA. Shri Kumar also acknowledged the financial support received from RRRLF for celebrating Librarians' Day during last three decades.

The inaugural session was followed by a discussion on the topic “Role of Stakeholders in Promoting the use of Public Libraries”. The discussion began with a speech by Shri Anup Motilal, Curator, Rabindra Tirtha and Nazrul Tirtha, New Town, Kolkata. He pointed out the bondage between the book and its keeper. A library professional must not only be a voracious

reader but also know the whereabouts of each book in his library in order to provide the right book to the right person at the right time, he said. Quoting from Rabindranath, he stressed upon librarian's perception about books for serving the clients. In this context, he mentioned the names of Peary Chand Mitra, Rajendralal Mitra, Haraprasad Shastri, Bipin Chandra Pal, Harinath De, Prabhat Kumar Mukhopadhyay and Nihar Ranjan Ray, who were not only book lovers and learned educationists but also they looked after some libraries efficiently without having any degree in library science. He concluded his speech saying that although library management software like KOHA were helpful, librarian's feeling or consciousness about books and other reading materials could make a library atmosphere user friendly. Shri Jyotirindra Narayan Lahiri, Editor, *Sudhu Sundarban Charcha*, in his speech, shared some of his childhood experiences about reading books from a village library which motivated him to rejuvenate a dilapidated village school library and extend the true essence of knowledge amongst poor school-goers. He requested the gathering to join hands to work for the betterment of the rural libraries. Dr. Tushar Pandit, Teacher, Katwa Bharati Bhaban, and a library developer, stated that libraries had always played a significant role in the socioeconomic development of our nation. He said that it was high time to start penning the disappearing history of rural libraries of Bengal which would definitely enrich our culture and tradition. Finally, the vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. Joydeep Chanda, Joint Secretary, BLA. Altogether 250 LIS professionals attended the programme.

IASLIC Foundation Day Celebration

IASLIC was formally established on September 3, 1955 at a meeting of librarians held in Calcutta (now Kolkata) under the chairmanship of late Dr. S L Hora, former Director of Zoological Survey of India. IASLIC celebrates this day (September 3) as its Foundation Day every year. This year too, the day will be celebrated where the Foundation Day Lecture will be delivered by Prof. Amitabha Chatterjee, former Professor and Head, DLIS, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, and Editor of *IASLIC Newsletter*. The theme of the lecture will be 'Ethical Challenges and Dilemmas of the Librarians in the Changing Environment.' For further details, visit IASLIC website.

CONFERENCES/SEMINARS/ WORKSHOPS

National

Conference on Changing Information Landscape

The Department of Library and Information Science, Alagappa University, in association with Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation, is organizing a National Conference on 'Changing Information Landscape and its Transformation in LIS

Education (NCTLISE-2022)' during September 2 - 3, 2022. For details visit: www.alagappauniversity.ac.in

Workshop on KOHA

The Central Library and the Department of Library and Information Science, Suresh Gyan Vihar University, Jaipur, is organizing a National Workshop on 'KOHA-LMS: A Practical Approach for Library Automation' during September 15 - 17, 2022. For details email to: deep.singh@mygyanvihar.com

Conference on Best Practices in LICs

The Knowledge Centre of the Digital University Kerala is organizing a National Conference on 'Best Practices in Library and Information Centers' during September 21 - 23, 2022. For details visit: <https://sites.google.com/duk.ac.in/libcon2022/home>

Conference on Trends in 21st Century Librarianship

The University Library, Tamil Nadu Physical Education and Sports University (TNPESU), Chennai, in association with Madras Library Association (MALA), is organizing a National Conference on 'Current Trends and Challenges in 21st Century Librarianship' during September 30 - October 1, 2022. For details visit: <https://sites.google.com/view/ctclis21/home>

Conference on Transformation of LRCs

The SALIS 2022 National Conference on 'Transformation of Learning Resource Centres in the Digital Era' is being organized by the Department of Library, K S Rangasamy College of Technology, Tiruchengode, during October 13 - 15, 2022. For details visit: <https://ksrctsalis2022.blogspot.com>

International

Conference on Libraries for Sustainable Development

A Virtual International Conference on 'Libraries as Drivers for Achieving Sustainable Development Goals 2030' is being organized by SLTC Research University, Padukka, Sri Lanka, on October 25, 2022. For details visit: <http://www.slrc.ac.lk/>

Conference on Libraries and Civilization

An International Conference on 'Libraries and Civilization (ICLC 2022)' will be held in Venice, Italy, during November 10 - 11, 2022. For details visit: <https://waset.org/libraries-and-civilization-conference-in-november-2022-in-venice>

Conference on Libraries and Society

An International Conference on 'Libraries and Society (ICLS 2022)' will be held in Venice, Italy, during November 10 - 11, 2022. For details visit: <https://waset.org/libraries-and-society-conference-in-november-2022-in-venice>

CALIBER 2022

The 13th International CALIBER 2022 on 'Envisioning Digital Transformation in Libraries for NextGen Academic Landscape' is being organized by INFLIBNET, Gandhinagar, in collaboration with Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, during November 17 - 19, 2022. For details visit: <https://caliber.inflibnet.ac.in/index.php>

Conference on Social Media and Libraries

An International Conference on 'Social Media and Libraries (ICSML 2023)' will be held in Mandalay, Myanmar, during January 23 - 24, 2023. For details visit: <https://waset.org/social-media-and-libraries-conference-in-january-2023-in-mandalay>

Conference on Social Media and Libraries

An International Conference on 'Social Media and Libraries (ICSML)' will be held in Amsterdam, Netherlands, during February 8 - 9, 2023. For details visit: <https://waset.org/social-media-and-libraries-conference-in-february-2023-in-amsterdam>

Conference on Books and Libraries

An International Conference on 'Importance of Books and Libraries (ICIBL 2023)' will be held in Brussels, Belgium, during March 27 - 28, 2023. For details visit: <https://waset.org/importance-of-books-and-libraries-conference-in-march-2023-in-brussels>

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Librarians' Day celebrated at Shillong

The Central Library and the Department of Library & Information Science of North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Shillong, and the Shillong College celebrated National Librarians' Day by organizing separate programmes on August 12, 2022, says a *The Shillong Times* report. The programme organized at NEHU was attended by Vice-Chancellor Prof. P S Shukla, Assistant Librarian, Dr. Manoj Rana, and many others. In this programme several speakers remembered the contributions of Dr. S R Ranganathan, the father of Indian librarianship. Shillong College celebrated the Librarians' Day by organizing a poster campaign on the theme 'My Library, My Temple of Knowledge', a two-day orientation programme 'Connect with Your Library', and formation of Readers' Club for the students of the college. The programme was attended by college principal Dr. E Kharkongor, and IQAC Coordinator Dr. S Sarma, among others. For original report visit: <https://theshillongtimes.com/2022/08/13/nehu-shillong-college-celebrate-national-librarians-day/>

Library Cess not transferred to Govt.

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has earned the wrath of the Urban Development Department of Karnataka for not releasing the library cess, collected from citizens to the education department, says a *The Deccan Herald* report. The department has directed BBMP's Chief Commissioner Gaurav Gupta to initiate disciplinary action against officials for not just responding to the notices but skipping the meetings that were called to discuss issues related to library cess. In a letter, Rakesh Singh, Additional Chief Secretary of the Urban Development Department has directed Gupta to share the names of officers and staff who did not respond to the letters written by the

department in April, June, and September of last year and a reminder in April this year. Interestingly, the letter also states that the concerned officer did not attend the meeting called on April 13. For original report visit: <https://www.deccanherald.com/city/top-bengaluru-stories/library-cess-delay-palike-earns-udd-s-wrath-1100927.html>

Aircraft shaped Library fascinates Children

A Bihar school principal's unique idea to design a library like an aircraft to encourage children to read has paid off, with villagers and children alike thronging to it. The aircraft-shaped library was constructed in three months by the school authorities. The library, located in the premises of the upgraded middle school, Shivesinghpur, in Samastipur district, has been designed like a plane with cockpit, wings, wheels and a stairway to board, says a story by Lata Rani available on *gulfnews.com* website. School Principal Meghan Sahni, who conceptualized the idea, said that he wanted to do something extraordinary to arouse children's interests in reading books, but the government had no funds to translate his dream into action. Ultimately, he spent ₹ 200,000 from his personal funds to construct an aircraft-shaped library that has become a big hit among the schoolchildren now. "Since most of the children in this school come from the rural areas and have never seen a plane, I constructed the library to let them experience the same joy of boarding a plane and also feel the pleasure of reading," School Principal Sahni said. He said that the front section of the library had been designed like a "cockpit" with a few buttons added to it, while the interior had been tastefully decorated with attractive lighting. About 25-30 students can study together in the "airplane library" at any given time. There is always a rush among the children to sit inside to get a feeling of "travelling by plane". Currently, the school has more than 900 students. A girl said a few weeks ago that her school room was in a dilapidated condition and she hated going to school. But now it has been designed so tastefully that she always wants to be in the library. "It looks like I am seeing a dream," she told the media. The innovative idea of the school principal has won laurels from various quarters and earned praise from the Education Department. "Creativity at its best. Kudos to the headmaster, students and faculty and the district education team," said Bihar Education Secretary Sanjay Kumar. "Parents want to admit their children in this school not only because of our innovative ideas but also because of the quality of education we provide to them. That's why more than a dozen students are shortlisted for scholarships by the government every year," the school principal said. For full story visit: <https://gulfnews.com/world/asia/india/bihar-schoolchildren-rush-to-read-in-aircraft-shaped-library-1.85346341>

Tribal Women set up Library

A group of 20 tribal women in Odisha has taken an initiative to inculcate reading habit in the current generation as nowadays youngsters spend more time on their phones and very less on

books, says a story by Ankita Sarkar available on samacharlive.com website. This roadside library is near the Arts College in the district and the books stocked are donated by these women and the local residents. Currently, the library offers only on the spot reading facility and it is open from 6 am to 11 am in the morning and 3 pm to 9 pm in the evening. "A few years ago, we set up a library at the Malyabanta Hostel, which houses orphans of the district. The response was not very encouraging. We decided to move it out as we expect more people to spend the balmy winter evenings in the open," said Jayanti Buruda, one of the members of the group. "Reading books builds our patience and influences us in a positive way," she added. The library was inaugurated by a 70-year old woman, Pushpanjali Choudhary, who contributed a few books herself. According to *TOI* reports, the library model was inspired by a similar initiative that happened in Arunachal Pradesh's Nirjuli town. "Book reading sharpens our focus, which is bound to be hampered while reading from a cellphone. The blue light emitted by the screens leads to eyestrain. We are traditionally more attuned to reading from books, as our ancestors would read from palm - leaf manuscripts", said eminent Odia writer Dash Benhur. For full story visit: <https://samacharlive.com/tribal-women-in-odisha-set-up-reading-library-in-maoist-affected-malkangiri/>

E-Library in every Hospital of Haryana Soon

An e-library will soon be started in every hospital of Haryana and medical colleges will also be associated with this so that students pursuing the DNB course get the latest and world-class information. Haryana Health and Family Welfare Minister Anil Vij stated this while addressing the gathering at the DNB Orientation Programme held at Indradhanush Auditorium in Panchkula recently, says a *The Tribune* report. He said that the world was moving towards digitization and the state of Haryana was also progressing faster towards e-treatment. For full report visit: <https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/haryana/e-libraries-to-be-started-in-hospitals-soon-vij-416053>

Library in Sunderbans spreads Smile

A library set up in a remote corner of the Sunderbans has brought cheer to the hearts of local residents as it promised to expand their horizons by connecting them to the outer world through books. The Falak Spreading Smiles Foundation installed the library on the premises of Swapnopuran Siksha Niketan, a proposed CBSE school, run by Swapnopuran Welfare Society, on July 24 to promote the habit of reading among children and adults, says a story by Subhadrika Sen in *The Telegraph*. Hingalgaon MLA Debesh Mondal, filmmaker Sudeshna Roy, four-time kettlebell World Championship winner Shivani Agarwalla and educationist Harshit Chokhani were present at the inauguration of the event as chief guests. "It was our dream project to build a library for students in the

Sunderbans. We'll keep on upgrading this library with civil services and competitive exams books. Local people will be able to access this library," said Tarang Kanodia, founder and director, Falak Spreading Smiles Foundation. The library currently houses around 4,000 books, most of them suitable for children, and aims to bridge the gap between people and their difficulty in accessing quality books. It now has a repository of textbooks, novels, activity books, art and craft books and dictionaries. The stock will also be upgraded from time to time with Bengali, English and Hindi language books. "I'm happy to be present at the inauguration of the library. The zeal, desire and enthusiasm of Swapnopuran Welfare Society for the people of the Sunderbans is praiseworthy. The library will help people understand the power of reading books," said Mondal. Only in-library reading facilities are available at present from Monday to Friday between 10.30am and 5pm. However, efforts are on to create library cards to enable people to borrow books. "I congratulate Falak and Swapnopuran on achieving this ambitious project in this interior region. I thank these young people who are contributing to the social well-being of local residents," said Sudeshna Roy, who is also the special consultant to the West Bengal Commission for Protection of Child Rights. For full story visit: <https://www.telegraphindia.com/my-kolkata/news/new-library-in-sunderbans-spreads-smiles-among-local-residents/cid/1876577>

Missing Tamil Bible found in London

A manuscript, believed to be the first Tamil translation of a Bible, which allegedly went missing from the Saraswathi Mahal Library in Tamil Nadu's Thanjavur district, has been traced by the state's Idol Wing CID police to the King's Collection in London, says a *The Indian Express* story. According to a police statement, the translation of the 'New Testament' in Tamil was printed in 1715 by Danish Missionary Bartholomaeus Ziegenbalg. Born in 1682, Bartholomaeus had arrived in Tranquebar (anglicized form of Tharangambadi), a tiny Danish Colony on the east coast, close to Nagapattinam in Tamil Nadu. He had set up a printing press and published studies of Tamil language and Indian religion and culture. He later died in 1719 at the age of 37 leaving a Tamil translation of the New Testament and Genesis through Ruth, many brief writings in Tamil, two church buildings, the seminary and 250 baptized Christians. The statement noted that there was a strong speculation that another missionary named Schwartz handed over the first copy of the New Testament to Tulaji Rajah Serfoji, the then ruler. After the takeover by the Tamil Nadu Government, the antiquarian book became an exhibit at the Saraswathi Mahal Museum for public viewing. In 2005, the Deputy Administrator of the Serfoji Palace told the Tanjore West police that the antique Bible had been stolen from the library. However, the police had closed the case. Later, based on a complaint in 2017, the Idol wing registered a case under Section 380 (theft in dwelling

house, etc) of the IPC and pursued the case. A special team was formed to trace the Bible. During the course of the search operation, a perusal of the visitors' register revealed that a group of foreigners had visited the museum in 2005. The wing noted that these visitors had come to India to attend a function to commemorate Bartholomaeus Ziegenbalg. The officers then browsed through several antique collection websites and stumbled upon the collection of George III which included thousands of printed books, manuscripts and pamphlets. Among the books, the investigators discovered the missing Bible that was printed in the 17th century with the signature of Rajah Serfogi of Tanjore on the King's website. For original story visit: <https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/chennai/cops-trace-missing-first-tamil-translation-bible-kings-collection-london-8003769/>

Parents fulfil Son's Dream

Among the many dreams Vasanthan, an arts student at Madras Christian College, had was starting a library in his father's village in Tiruchirappalli. But fate didn't give him a chance to make it happen. The young man met with a fatal accident. However, Vasanthan's parents Sudha and M Ulaga Oli, who are also avid readers, wouldn't let their boy's dream fade away. They found it difficult to set up a library in Tiruchirappalli, but did the next best thing. In 2015, one year after his death, they established the Vasanthan Library at their home at Sivan Koil Street in Kodambakkam, to honour his memory, says a story by Gokul M G in *The Deccan Chronicle*. The library today helps hundreds of young people in their academic pursuits and to determine a career path too. "Looking back at these seven years, as parents we feel happy and proud. Vasanthan Library is not just a library. It is a centre where children, youngsters, and even some old people come and enjoy books, share their emotions and personal life with others, and leave de-stressed," says Sudha, who was a banker and Tamil news reader. "When we started, it was just the books from Vasanthan's and his dad's collection. Later, with our friends' help and donations we procured more books. At one time we had over 5000 books," says Sudha, adding, "we support new independent libraries started by individuals or associations, and sometimes donate books from our collection to them, so our inventory now stands at around 3000." Sudha and Ulaga Oli also started organizing community activities such as drawing competitions, talk shows and interactive sessions by subject experts for kids every Saturday and on occasions too. Sudha provides career guidance and helps youngsters find jobs suited to their qualifications. Those preparing for Civil Service exams initially made use of Vasanthan's books as he was also preparing for the competitive examination. "Since those books are outdated, each year we acquire new books," says Sudha. Though the library doesn't lend books, reference

books are always in high demand and the collection at Vasanthan Library helps it stand out. The family sold their car and turned the parking area into a reading room. With the spacious hall and the parking space they can accommodate 10 to 15 people at a time. The pandemic brought new challenges, but they were creatively handled. Digitally recorded books for kids is a new project Vasanthan Library has embarked on in its YouTube channel. "We have been getting help from volunteers, especially teachers, to read and record the books, and we now need volunteers who can edit and produce videos to go with the audio clips. We have recordings of academic books for students till Class X," Sudha says. For full story visit: <https://www.deccanchronicle.com/lifestyle/books-and-art/040722/library-of-dreams.html>

School opens Library to outside Children

It is not every day that Class V student Shubho Halder sees so many books of different genres in one room. It was a little daunting at first. Now, at the sprawling libraries of Mahadevi Birla World Academy in Kolkata, he enjoys stories from *Vikram and the Vampire*, a translation from the original fantasy tale *Bikram aur Betal*, and many others. He has also made some new friends. Shubho is one of the many first-generation learners of NGO Calcutta Social Project who has access to the libraries of the school. Every week, students of the school also look forward to reading out to their friends like Shubho, says a story by Sana Nawaz in *The Telegraph*. The school has partnered with three NGOs - Calcutta Social Project, Park Junior and EkTara - for this initiative. Around 15 to 18 children from the NGOs come to the school's library to get a taste of fiction and literature. The aim is to instil values such as empathy, love and respect in the academy students, besides encouraging all to read. The tie-up with the Calcutta Social Project is from before the pandemic. Since this June, its children drop in at the school thrice a month for a reading session with Classes III-V. Park Junior and EkTara have been recently inducted "I enjoy exploring the library. I have also made new friends and look forward to coming back here," said Subho. The same children get to attend these sessions every month so that the school can track their development. For most, getting to read or hear a story is also a first. They are introduced to a variety of books from all genres. The interaction that follows is often the most fun part. "These sessions are immersive. The students are made to see the other end of the spectrum. This is the most nascent form of inclusion that we provide to our students from the very beginning. They get to see whom they are reading to and learn from them, thus understanding the value of inclusive learning and of all that they have," said Vice-Principal Nupur Ghosh. For original story visit: <https://www.telegraphindia.com/my-kolkata/news/mahadevi-birla-world-academy-library-for-first-generation-learners/cid/1880815>

A Library on Tree

Books raining down a tree in Alipurduar in West Bengal are not just driving out loiterers and addicts from the 109-year-old European Club ground, but also spreading the joy of reading. Nimesh Lama, 25, an unemployed graduate from Kalchini, has hung and placed books on a rain tree, a species of a flowering tree in the pea family, on the ground of the European Club of Dima tea estate, some 30km from Alipurduar. Lama's idea behind starting the open-air library was to get rid of alleged drug addicts who would constantly loiter in the area and at the same time spread the joy of books in the tea belt, says a story by Anirban Choudhury in *The Telegraph*. The youth said that he came up with the idea as he did not have the wherewithal to physically drive out addicts. "I did not have the physical ability or other means to chase them out of the ground. I discussed my idea to start a tree library with my friends. They appreciated it and also helped collect books as my finances are limited," said Lama. The plan worked. Even though Lama "opens" the library on Sundays, the initiative which started two months back has pushed substance users off the site. In the past, local residents and even the administration had tried to cleanse the area of substance users from the European Club ground but to no avail. The club, which was set up by European managers of 13 tea gardens in 1913, was also used to play golf by the tea officials. However, the ground went into disuse and about two decades ago hooligans started decamping with the bricks and other materials of the club. Slowly, goons started taking control of the ground where today there is no sign of any club building. But now, thanks to Lama, every Sunday, the young and old take out the time to visit the tree library and spend their time reading the diverse collection under the shade of the tree. The books include works in Bengali, Hindi, Nepali and English language. Lama, who has always loved books since his childhood days, said he "loves to spend his Sunday with books and book lovers". Apart from reading sessions, Lama started organizing recitations, plays, extempore events and debates at the venue every Sunday. The initiative is also attracting tourists. Biswajit Saha, the owner of a lodge near Jaldapara, the wildlife sanctuary in the Dooars, said: "I take tourists to the tree library and they appreciate Lama's initiative." For original story visit: <https://www.telegraphindia.com/west-bengal/tree-library-helps-ground-turn-over-a-new-leaf/cid/1879649>

A Village with Library on Philosophy

The tiny village, Kowthalam in Adoni mandal of Kurnool district, has an exclusive library on philosophy - run by the Mantralayam Guru Sarvabhowma Dasa Sahitya project incharge and former TTD Dasa Sahitya Project special officer Dr. Appannacharya, says a story by Nagabhushanam Hoskote in *The Deccan Chronicle*. There are more than 5000 manuscripts, some of them as old as 300 years, along with 10,000 more books on philosophy of Dwitha, Adwitha and

Visista Adwitha in the library which are a great attraction for scholars doing research in Indian Philosophy. The books are available in Sanskrit, Kannada and Telugu languages. Kowthalam village, the native place of Sri Guru Jagannatha Dasaru, the famous Haridasa in Dvaita system who was a Sanskrit scholar, dedicated his life to Haridasa Sahitya. Kowthalam is located about 30km from Mantralayam pilgrim centre. According to history, he originally had a short lifespan but gained the blessings for more years of life from Vijaya Dasa of Chippagiri in Kurnool district. Guru Jagannatha Dasaru, who was an ardent devotee of Raghvendra Swamy composed Harikathamrutha Sara in Kannada language. This was published by a British ruler. K Appannachar, former TTD Dasa Sahitya Project special officer, was a descendent of Sri Guru Jagannatha Dasaru. He continued the tradition and procured centuries-old manuscripts and books on philosophy. He initiated the renovation of the temple with the Harikathamruthasara project and library. Briefing on the establishment of the library, Appanacharya told *DC* that the library had centuries-old manuscripts including the Garuda Purana of Guru Jagannatha Dasaru and Ravana Samhitha. "We have detailed the history of more than 300 Haridasas from Narahari Theertha of 900 years ago and the recent Sundara Vittala Dasa Haridasas Keerthanas and histories," Appanacharya said. He said that three persons did their research in Haridasa Sahitya and got Ph D from various universities so far. For full story visit: <https://www.deccanchronicle.com/nation/in-other-news/180822/tiny-village-with-exclusive-library-on-philosophy.html>

Mobile Library for Remote Areas of Uttarakhand

The Uttarakhand Government recently launched a mobile library aimed at promoting reading habits among students across the hill state, says a story by Tanmayee Tyagi in *The Times of India*. The library was flagged off by Education Minister Dhan Singh Rawat on August 12, 2022. It has books - academic and fictional - provided by the National Book Trust and NGO Room to Read. "The reading campaign began from Nanurkheda and is an addition to the new education policy. Literature and education materials need to be provided in local languages on priority," said Rawat. The first phase of the initiative will continue till September 8 and cover 30 remote public and private schools and universities in Dehradun district. "The idea is to encourage kids to read. The mobile library will complement the already existing libraries at these schools and will work like a regular one except that it will move from one place to next. The gaps created in student education because of the pandemic also needs to be plugged in and this initiative will help with that," said Pushpa Lata Rawat, State Manager, Room to Read. For full report visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/dehradun/mobile-library-to-take-books-to-remote-corners-in->

uttarakhand/articleshow/93604977.cms

TECHNOLOGY NEWS

WhatsApp's move to Stop Hacking

WhatsApp users will soon be able to prevent hackers from accessing their accounts. The platform is working on a new feature called 'login approval' that will alert the user if someone else tries to access their WhatsApp account, says a *News18.com* story. We already have a system like that in place for Facebook, Google and Amazon accounts, where the account holder is required to approve if someone else is using their account on another device. The details of login approval have been shared by WABetaInfo, which also says that the new account login will be approved via a 6-digit code. "People will finally be able to deny a login request if someone is trying to log into their account because they wrongly shared their 6-digit code, it adds. This feature will also offer other crucial details about the stranger trying to hack into your account. These include details about the device used to make the hack, and also at what time the intrusion was attempted. WhatsApp is testing the feature with select users for now, and it should offer it through the beta version in the coming days if it gets the results from the testing phase. WhatsApp is used by billions across the globe and allows anyone to message a person using their mobile number. To use WhatsApp, you need to log in via the registered mobile number, using the 6-digit code provided by the messaging app to you via an SMS. Providing a double layer of security is the right move for all users. In addition to this, WhatsApp is also going to offer special power to the WhatsApp Group admins to stop misinformation on the platform. Admins will be able to delete messages which they feel are not in line with the policies of the messaging app or share misinformation. For full story visit: <https://www.news18.com/news/tech/whatsapp-wants-to-give-more-protection-for-your-account-from-hackers-heres-how-5704933.html>

WhatsApp's Unsend Message Feature

WhatsApp is officially bringing the option to unsend messages that are over two days old. WhatsApp confirmed the update via a tweet recently, says a *News18.com* story. The unsend message feature basically means that you can delete the sent message, which is as old as two days. In fact, WhatsApp says that the message limit which can be deleted is actually 2 days and 12 hours, which makes it 60 hours in total. It is interesting that WhatsApp is giving its users so much time to delete/unsend an old message, which could be of concern to some people. The delete message feature is available for the users, and they can decide if the message is to be deleted for themselves, or for everyone. WhatsApp says that the unsend feature is not limited to chats, and you can

delete photos and videos as well. You can tap on the chat, photo or video and decide how you want to delete the content. This feature can be used if you make some typos in the previous chat, or even send a message that you would like to unsend after having a change of mind in the next 48 hours. This is not the only feature that WhatsApp is going to bring in the coming months. It will soon let users hide their online status from friends, contacts, or everyone. This option will make sure people and their privacy is not exposed in the open, especially their online presence on the messaging app. For full story visit: <https://www.news18.com/news/tech/whatsapp-users-can-now-unsend-messages-that-are-two-days-old-how-it-works-5718493.html>

Instagram testing new Photo Format

In a bid to match its full-screen reels, Meta-owned photo and video-sharing platform Instagram has confirmed that it will soon begin testing new 'ultra-tall photos', says an IANS story available on *www.india.com* website. According to The Verge, the company will introduce support for slimmer, taller 9:16 screen ratio photos to help them fill the entire screen as users scroll through the app's feed. "You can have tall videos, but you cannot have tall photos on Instagram, so we thought may be we should make sure that we treat both equally," Instagram head Adam Mosseri said during his weekly 'Ask Me Anything'. Earlier, Instagram's TikTok-like redesign was criticized by some photographers for the way it forced all photos to awkwardly display in a 9:16 frame. Reportedly, the company still intends to showcase that ultra-tall photo experience but without mandating it across the board. As per the reports, the company has also said that it will reduce the amount of recommendations being shown to users until it is better at selecting content they will actually enjoy. Recently, the platform has begun asking some users about their race and ethnicity. The company said if they do not know people's race or ethnicity, they will be limited in assessing how their products impact different communities. For full story visit: <https://www.india.com/technology/instagram-testing-a-new-photo-format-with-ultra-tall-916-aspect-ratio-read-here-5557044/>

Twitter fixes serious Bug

Twitter has fixed a security bug that exposed data of at least 54 lakh accounts on its platform that were put up for sale on the Dark Web, says an IANS story available on *timesnownews.com* website. Twitter said that if you operated a pseudonymous Twitter account, "we understand the risks an incident like this can introduce and deeply regret that this happened". "To keep your identity as veiled as possible, we recommend not adding a publicly known phone number or email address to your Twitter account," the company said in a statement recently. The company said that while no passwords were exposed, "we encourage everyone who uses Twitter to

enable two-factor authentication using authentication apps or hardware security keys to protect your account from unauthorized logins". The vulnerability allowed bad actors to enter a phone number or email address into the log-in flow in the attempt to learn if that information was tied to an existing Twitter account, and if so, which specific account. "We take our responsibility to protect your privacy very seriously and it is unfortunate that this happened," said Twitter. Twitter in January received a report through its bug bounty programme of a vulnerability in its systems. "As a result of the vulnerability, if someone submitted an email address or phone number to Twitter's systems, Twitter's systems would tell the person what Twitter account the submitted email addresses or phone number was associated with, if any," said the company. For full story visit: <https://www.timesnownews.com/technology-science/twitter-fixes-bug-that-exposed-at-least-54-lakh-accounts-article-93404037>

YouTubers can now shorten Videos

Google-owned streaming platform YouTube has brought a good news for content creators. In order to enhance its user experience, YouTube announced that users could now turn their longer videos into Shorts, says a story available on india.com website. It has added a new "Edit into a Short" tool to its iOS and Android application. With this new update, users can now convert their longer existing videos into 60-seconds Shorts. YouTube Shorts is now being watched by over 1.5 billion signed-in users every month with more than

30 billion daily views. "To make it easier to create even more new content, you can now convert up to 60 seconds from your own existing long-form YouTube videos and turn them into Shorts using all the same editing tools that you know and love (text, timeline editor, filters, etc.)," the company said in a developer update, as per a report by IANS. The company said that this update will allow users to bring fresh life to their classic content and give them a new way to engage their audience. For full story visit: <https://www.india.com/technology/youtubers-can-now-edit-long-videos-into-one-minute-shorts-5541658/>

PERSONALIA

Smt. Banasree Roy has been awarded Ph D degree by University of Calcutta for her thesis 'Bangla Sahityer Janya Prachalita Bargikaran Paddhatir Kshetre Prajojya Dewey Krita Bargikaraner Samprasaritha Paddhatir Udbhaban o Pryog' (Development and application of an extended version of Dewey's classification system for Bengali literature). Dr. Roy pursued her research under the guidance of Prof. Pijush Kanti Panigrahi, Professor, Department of Library and Information Science, University of Calcutta. Dr. Roy is serving as the librarian of Charuchandra College, Kolkata. She is an active member and Joint Secretary of IASLIC. Hearty congratulations to Dr. Roy.

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

If undelivered please return to :

**Indian Association of Special Libraries
& Information Centres (IASLIC)
P-291, CIT Scheme No. 6M,
Kankurgachi, Kolkata 700 054**

**Phone: (033) 2362 9651
Email: iaslic.india@gmail.com
Website: <http://www.iaslic1955.org.in>**