



# IASLIC NEWSLETTER

Indian Association for Special  
Libraries and Information Centres



October 2019

A Monthly Newsletter Published by IASLIC

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Prof. P K Panigrahi

## Quote of the Month

*"Books suggest the inner light and the method of bringing that out, but we can only understand them when we have earned the knowledge".*

— Swami Vivekananda

## 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](mailto:chatterjeeamitabha@yahoo.co.in)

## IASLIC ACTIVITIES

### IASLIC 32nd All India Conference, 2019

**December 3 - 5, 2019**

*Organized by*

**Cochin University of Science and Technology, Kochi**

*Main Theme - Future of Library and Information Profession in India.*

*SIG 1 - Digital Archiving (Computer)*

*SIG 2 - Performance Appraisal of Libraries / Information Centers*

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### **Nomination invited for different awards of IASLIC**

IASLIC invites nominations for the following awards for the years 2016 and 2017:

1. Prof. Prabir Roychoudhury and Mrs. Amita Roychoudhury - IASLIC Best LIS Teacher Award, sponsored by Prof. Prabir Roychoudhury and Mrs. Amita Roychoudhury Memorial Fund Trust.
2. Smt A Satyavathi and Prof. AAN Raju - IASLIC Best Young LIS Teacher Award, sponsored by Prof. AAN Raju.
3. S M Ganguly - IASLIC Award for the Librarian of the Year, sponsored by Late S M Ganguly, one of the founder members of IASLIC.

Six copies of application in prescribed format should reach Honorary General Secretary, IASLIC, P291 CIT Scheme No. 6M, Kakurgachi, Kolkata 700054, on or before October 15, 2019.

**For eligibility criteria and prescribed format of application visit IASLIC website**

### **IASLIC Foundation Day**

The 65th IASLIC Foundation Day was celebrated on September 3, 2019 at the Seminar Room of the Association. The foundation day meeting was chaired by Dr. J N Satpathi, while the Foundation Day Lecture was delivered by Dr. Jayati Ghosh, former Librarian, Commercial Library, Kolkata, and a senior member of IASLIC. The meeting started with the welcome address by Shri Sajal Kanti Goswami, Honorary General Secretary, IASLIC. One-minute silence was observed in the memory of those IASLIC members, who had passed

away during the last year. Dr. Ghosh, in her lecture, gave a historical overview of IASLIC and its progress along with reminiscences about some senior library professionals who had been closely associated with IASLIC for a long time. She also acknowledged their valuable contributions towards the development of IASLIC. After the lecture, Dr. Satpathi, invited the IASLIC members, who were present at the meeting, to share their experiences, comments, expectations and grievances, if any, regarding IASLIC activities.

Prof. Krishnapada Majumder, Vice President, IASLIC, pointed out some important problems being faced by the LIS profession and LIS organizations in the present time. According to him, job opportunity had become very limited in schools, colleges and universities, which were affecting the enrolment in LIS schools. He also mentioned how in the present socio-economic condition the library and information professionals were not able to spare time to work in professional and other voluntary organizations. He opined that all the professional organizations in the field of LIS should jointly submit a memorandum to the concerned authorities for filling up the vacant posts in libraries. Shri Pradip Kumar Sarkar, Joint Secretary, IASLIC, commented on the development activities of IASLIC and the constraints being faced by it. Shri Jagamohan Das, in his reminiscences, described how the present building of IASLIC was erected and the nature and qualities of the people who were running IASLIC earlier. He also mentioned about some incidents in IASLIC which reflected how those people loved IASLIC and how they loved their work. Dr. N. C. Ghatak, IASLIC member and Director of Kiran Bala Library Foundation, Kolkata, suggested that IASLIC should consider accepting non-professionals as its members. This would help to increase the number of members of the association, he said. In his concluding remarks, Dr. Satpathi called upon the young professionals to come forward to strengthen the association. Shri Pradip Kumar Sarkar, Joint Secretary, IASLIC, proposed the vote of thanks. A good number of IASLIC members were present on the occasion.

## CONFERENCES / SEMINARS / WORKSHOPS

### National

#### **Seminar on Rebuilding Skills for Learning**

A National Seminar on 'Rebuilding Skills for Learning and Research in the Information Age' is being organized by Annammal College of Education for Women, Thoothukudi, jointly with SALIS TVL Chapter, on October 12, 2019. For details email to: [darunachalamlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:darunachalamlibrary@gmail.com)

#### **Workshop on Digital Repository**

Crescent Institute of Science & Technology, Chennai, in association with Madras Library Association, is organizing a National Workshop on 'Institutional Digital Repository through DSpace Software' on October 12, 2019. For details visit: [www.madraslibraryassociation.com](http://www.madraslibraryassociation.com)

#### **Conference on Public Libraries**

Department of Library and Information Science, University of Rajasthan, Jaipur, in collaboration with Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF), Kolkata, is organizing a National Conference on 'Revisiting Public Library Services in Current Scenario' (NCRPLS - 2019) during October, 12 - 13, 2019. For details visit: [https://www.uniraj.ac.in/acad-events/conferences/NCRPLS-2019\\_DLIS-21aug19.pdf](https://www.uniraj.ac.in/acad-events/conferences/NCRPLS-2019_DLIS-21aug19.pdf)

#### **Seminar on Social Media and Librarianship**

A National Seminar on 'Social Media and Librarianship' will be held during February 26 - 28, 2020 at the Department of Library and Information Science, Mizoram University, Aizawl, For details visit: <https://mzu.edu.in/2019/09/02/national-seminar-on-social-media-and-librarianship-connecting-the-communities-26-28-feb-2020/>

### International

#### **Conference on Visual Communication**

An International Conference on 'Advances in Visual Communication, Library Science & Translation Studies in World Literature - 2019' is being organized by IMRF Institute for Education and Research, Vijayawada, during October 11 - 12, 2019. For details visit: <https://www.imrfedu.org/alcns2019>

#### **Webometrics Conference**

15th International Conference on Webometrics, Informetrics and Scientometrics (WIS) and 20th COLLNET Meeting, will take place in Dalian, China, during November 5 - 8, 2019. For details visit: [http://collnet2019.dlut.edu.cn/meeting/index\\_en.asp?id=2676](http://collnet2019.dlut.edu.cn/meeting/index_en.asp?id=2676)

#### **Conference on Future Ready Libraries**

The 3rd International Conference on Library and Information Management 2019 on the theme 'Digital Transformation and Reinvention of Future Ready Libraries' will be held at University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka, during November 14 - 15, 2019. For details visit: <http://conf.kln.ac.lk/iclim2019/>

#### **Workshop on Information Research**

The 11th Asia Library and Information Research Group (ALIRG 2019) Workshop will be held during November 28 - 29, 2019 at the Department of Information Management, Beijing Normal University, China. For details visit: [alirg2019.csp.escience.cn](http://alirg2019.csp.escience.cn)

#### **Conference on Library 2030**

KIIT Deemed to be University, Bhubaneswar, is going to

organize 12<sup>th</sup> International CALIBER 2019 on 'Library 2030: Moving Towards Smart Technologies, Services and Resources' during November 28 - 30, 2019. For details visit: <https://caliber.inflibnet.ac.in/>

#### Data Mining Conference

The 17th Australasian Data Mining Conference will be held in Adelaide, Australia, during December 2 - 5, 2019. For details visit: <https://ausdm19.ausdm.org/index.php>

#### Digital Archives Conference

The 10th International Conference of Digital Archives and Digital Humanities on 'Digital Humanities and Social Trends' will be held at National Taiwan Normal University, Taiwan, during December 3 - 6, 2019. For details visit: <https://dadh2019.conf.tw/site/page.aspx?pid=901&sid=1308&lang=en>

#### Conference on Sustainable Librarianship

MANLIBNET 2019 International Conference on 'Sustainable Librarianship: Reimagining and Reengineering Libraries' is being organized at Parul University, Vadodara, during December 19 - 21, 2019. For details visit: <https://www.paruluniversity.ac.in/manlibnet2019/MANLIBNET2019.pdf>

#### Conference on LIS

The 2020 International Conference on 'Library and Information Science' (LIS 2020) will be held in Osaka, Japan, during January 15-17, 2020. For details visit: <https://iconlis.org/>

#### Conference on Information Management

The 6th International Conference on 'Information Management and Industrial Engineering' (ICII 2020) will be held in Cape Town, South Africa, during January 20 - 22, 2020. For details visit: <http://www.icii.org/>

#### Conference on Health Informatics

The 13th Australasian Conference on 'Health Informatics and Knowledge Management', Australasia's Digital Health Scientific Conference, will take place in Melbourne, Australia, during February 4 - 6, 2020. For details visit: <http://www.hikm.net.au/>

## MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

#### New Address for Delhi's Sunday Book Market

Delhi's popular Sunday Book Market, which used to be in Daryaganj for at least 20 years, has now got a new address, says a report by Nayanika Sahgal, available on <https://www.msn.com> website. Earlier for many years, this book market used to be located in Daryaganj near Lal Qila. One of the oldest book markets in the city, it will now run at the Mahila Haat ground opposite Broadway Hotel in Chandni Chowk. The book market was shut in last July following the Delhi High Court's order (For earlier report see August 2019 issue of this newsletter). After the closure of this Sunday book

market, while the book-sellers were worried about their source of income on which they had been relying for years, the book lovers panicked about finding a new place where they could buy good books at low price. But the good news - the market being relocated - has brought happiness to all. "We have been buying books from this market for many years now. I like to buy all the novels and my younger brother buys all his academic books at cheap price, from here. I'm so happy that this market has reopened," said Disha Mair, a regular visitor to the Daryaganj market. In Mahila Haat, 276 book-sellers have been allotted space. Last Sunday (September 15), more than 200 book-sellers wrote a letter to the district commissioner, in which they requested to allot a new place to run the market. Qamar Saeed, president of the Sunday Book Bazaar Patri Welfare Association, said, "We got the confirmation on Thursday that this market could be set up in Mahila Haat from Sunday. This place had not been given for rent till now, but we have been allotted." He said that the officials of the commissioner's office visited the place and allowed them to reopen the market. The last market was set up on July 21. Although the market was set up in Mahila Haat on Sunday, some 100 vendors opened their stalls on the first day. The variety of books available at each stall was also minimal. To this, Qamar Saeed replied, "It rained today and it's the first day. Not everyone has unloaded their old stocks. We ensure that the place will be a book haven, just like before, from next Sunday." For original report visit: <https://www.msn.com/en-in/news/newsindia/delhis-iconic-sunday-street-book-market-has-a-new-home/ar-AAHljsd?li=AAgbRN&ocid=mailsignout>

#### Village of Books Now Govt. Scheme

The 'village of books' project at picturesque Bhilar near the popular hill station Mahabaleshwar has been formalised into a government scheme, paving the way for a regular flow of funds and creation of permanent staff and infrastructure, says a *The Times of India* report. A decision to this effect was taken by the Maharashtra cabinet recently. Till now, the project was run by the Rajya Marathi Vikas Sanstha, an autonomous undertaking of Maharashtra government's Marathi Language Department. Bhilar, located in the Sahyadri hills and known for its strawberry fields, has been an open library since May 2017. *TOI* reported about the village in its edition dated June 2 this year. Thirty homes and public spaces such as temples and schools were turned into open libraries, each dedicated to a different genre such as literature, poetry, religion, women and children, history, environment and folk literature (See Special Feature on this project in June 2017 issue of this newsletter). The Marathi Language Department's experts meticulously put together a collection of over 30,000 books organised under various genres. Though a majority of the books are in Marathi, some books in English have also been included. The idea was inspired by the Welsh village of Hay-on-Wye, which is informally known as the "town of books" and has scores of second-hand and antiquarian bookstores. When the idea was



floated to the villagers of Bhilar, they volunteered to implement it and have made it a success. Anyone can walk into these libraries in the village and read to their heart's content. So far, more than 1.5 lakh readers and tourists from across the state and country have visited the unique village. The cabinet decision has now turned the project into a special government scheme. The state can make a budgetary provision for the development and promotion of the village. The cabinet also approved five new posts for the scheme and provided for recurring expenses. Bhushan Gagrani, principal secretary, Marathi Language Department, told *TOI* that since an autonomous body was running the project, there was always the possibility of it suffering some setback in terms of funding or continuity. "Since the cabinet has now approved it as a government scheme, there will be continuity in the project and its execution. Moreover, various departments of the government can chip in towards development of the project," he told *TOI*. The state government plans to develop the village as a destination for literary fests and events. Work is underway to build an amphitheatre, dormitories for visiting students and wider roads to host such events. The government is also factoring in the responses from visitors, who have demanded inclusion of more children's books in all genres and books in English and Gujarati. For original report visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/pune/village-of-books-project-in-the-sahyadris-now-a-govt-scheme/articleshowprint/70967726.cms>

### **Green Library at Kuvempu Varsity**

To encourage reading habits among students, a university has created a green library in the campus in Karnataka's Shivamogga, according to an *ANI* report. It helps students devote more time in reading books and journals. "This idea will help the students to read in an interactive environment. We have developed it with an idea that it will encourage students to interact with each other. They will learn in a healthy environment. The students, while interacting, will help develop their own thoughts. Students should not feel pressure but they should be with an aim of learning", Prof. B P Veerabhadrappe, Vice-chancellor of Kuvempu University, told *ANI*. The park facilitates free Wi-Fi to access e-library and other books borrowed from general library amid tight security in order to preserve the park. The tall trees, ponds and other things in the park provide a beautiful atmosphere to the children for enjoying time with nature while acquiring knowledge from books. For original report visit: <https://www.aninews.in/videos/national/varsity-develops-green-library-motivate-reading-among-students-shivamogga/>

### **Bangalore Varsity Building Green Library**

Reading books at Bangalore University will soon happen in a more natural locale with the opening of the "green library", says a *The Deccan Herald* report. The foundation stone of the library was laid recently at the Jnanabharathi campus to open the library at a sprawling 10-acre area inside the campus. This is basically an e-library, where students and staff can download books available online through the university's

library app that will be launched soon. The university has taken up this project under the National Digital Library of India initiative, where free Wi-Fi will be available for those who use this library. Vice-chancellor Prof. K R Venugopal said: "There will be boards, pergolas, corners for deep studies and space for group discussions in the library." For more details visit: <https://www.deccanherald.com/city/bengaluru-infrastructure/green-library-at-bu-757183.html>

### **1000 School Libraries in Orissa Soon**

School and Mass Education Department of Orissa has taken an initiative to set up libraries in high schools and has decided to expedite the process by covering as many as 1,000 schools in different parts of the state by the end of October, says a report in *The Times of India*. The action plan for the project was prepared recently during a meeting of the executive council of the state's Mo School Abhiyan under which the libraries will be set up in the schools. "We have decided to develop a strong support base of the alumni associations in 5,000 schools to carry on the agenda of 5-Ts focussing on transparency and transformation. The action plan for the library was also discussed, which will be set up with the support of the alumni," B S Poonia, Director of Odisha School Education Programme Authority (OSEPA), said. The officials also decided to organize special programmes at the school-level to encourage students to read, strengthen the alumni network through telecalls as well as visits and bring out about 100 positive stories on Odia-medium schools, among others. Poonia said the project implementation would be facilitated under the Mo School Abhiyan and most of the work would be completed by October end. "We are also going to start a separate website for availing of the information on different schools", the director added. Officials at the executive meeting also discussed extending the coverage of Mo School Abhiyan for infrastructure and other development work. A decision to cover 508 more schools located in as many as 16 different districts with a project outlay of Rs 5.82 crore was taken in the meeting. The districts where the 508 schools are located are Angul, Bargarh, Balangir, Cuttack, Deogarh, Dhenkanal, Ganjam, Jajpur, Jagatsinghpur, Khurda, Jharsuguda, Kalabandi, Koraput, Mayurbhanj, Nayagarh and Nabarangpur. Sources said the state government has provided Rs 3.88 crore, while the remaining funds came from donors. For original report visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bhubaneswar/government-to-set-up-1000-libraries-in-high-schools-by-october-end/articleshowprint/70342045.cms>

### **Heritage Building to House a Library**

A 19<sup>th</sup> century structure in Chamarajpet in Bangalore has attracted the attention of architects, historians and heritage lovers, thanks to City Commissioner Bhaskar Rao, says a *The Deccan Herald Metrolife* report. Rao is out to restore Bangalore Gate, as the structure is called, with the help from experts. The building is likely to be turned into a library. The building is enclosed by a compound that houses the Central

Armed Reserve police quarters near Royan Circle. Rao is talking to the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (Intach), Bengaluru, about the restoration. Basant Poddar, Director of Bengaluru-based K L Poddar and Sons, will fund the renovation. Poddar, who spent most of his growing years at heritage house No 2, Ali Asgar Road, is passionate about preserving the city's history. Poddar spoke to *Metrolife* minutes after a meeting he had recently with Rao, with the restoration of Bangalore Gate as the agenda. "I was approached by the police about a year ago to take up the restoration. The process got delayed and I have now taken it up," he says. Police feel the woodwork is weak and the building may fall apart anytime. "Two more heavy rains and the structure could come crumbling down. This is the reason for the urgency to start work," Poddar says. The design shows a blend of Islamic and colonial architecture. "We want to restore and renovate it into a library. We want more people to use it. We will also create a small park around it. The park will have flowering and fruit trees. We intend to plant a few aromatic trees as well. The idea is to bring people closer to heritage and history," says Poddar. For full report visit: <https://www.deccanherald.com/metrolife/metrolife-your-bond-with-bengaluru/heritage-building-to-be-turned-into-library-756231.html>

#### **Book Donations for Mohali Libraries**

Former Member of Parliament from Anandpur Sahib Constituency Prem Singh Chandumajra has raised book donations for the local community libraries of Mohali, says a *The Times of India* report. A group of residents, councillors and senior citizens donated books for libraries on Sunday at a park in Sector 70, Mohali. While criticizing the "callous attitude" of the Punjab government, Chandumajra said the Municipal Corporation (MC) had failed to take initiative to purchase books for the libraries. Four libraries were inaugurated under controversies in Mohali recently. Chandumajra donated 600 books for the libraries under the campaign started by the local councillor, Sukhdev Singh Patwari. Many residents also donated books for the libraries. Chandumajra said: "GMADA had renovated the libraries by spending Rs 25 lakh on each library and handed them over to the MC. But since the past three years, the MC has failed to buy books for libraries". For full report visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chandigarh/600-books-donated-to-mohali-libraries/articleshowprint/70119432.cms>

#### **Deaf-Mute Section in Trichy Library**

With the establishment of a 'deaf and mute section', as announced by the state government, at a cost of Rs 1.5 lakh, Trichy Central Library will turn inclusive by catering to almost all sections of the people, says a *The Times of India* report. With a daily footfall of over 1,000, the library has exclusive facilities for the visually challenged, children, youth, elderly and women. It also offers free coaching for competitive examinations for aspirants apart from conducting competitions for children regularly. The state government has recently announced a grant of Rs 1.5 lakh

each to the district central libraries to establish deaf and mute section. Abdul Jaffer, a PG assistant at a government school and regular user of the library, said that that learning was equally challenging for the deaf and mute like the visually challenged. "In fact, deaf and mute people find it difficult to pass in schools than the visually challenged," he said adding that "usage of sign language dictionary will help them in concept development thereby improving their understanding". According to a senior official from the school education department, libraries will get sign language dictionary and tablet PC so that content could be fetched from Internet based on their requirement. A branch library in Tiruvottiyur is perhaps the only library in the state to have a separate deaf and mute section in the state. "So far, we have been focussing on visually challenged and this new announcement will help us focus on deaf and mute people and their needs," said A P Sivakumar, District Library Officer, Trichy. "We may not succeed if we work with conventional ideas and logic. Therefore, it should be developed as a resource centre," he said. Only three libraries in the state - Anna Centenary Library and Central Libraries in Coimbatore and Trichy - have facilities for visually challenged. Close to 150 visually challenged people even from neighbouring districts are making use of audio and braille section of the library. They can access a database of over 3,000 audio books apart from Digital Accessible Information System (DAISY) and Bookshare, from which they can now explore books across the whole world. For original report visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/trichy/deaf-mute-section-to-make-central-library-all-inclusive/articleshowprint/70079418.cms>

#### **Grant for Chandigarh School Libraries**

To improve the reading habits of children, as emphasized in the Union Government's 'Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat', Chandigarh has been asked to ensure a reading space, reading periods, a proper library, proper distribution of books and regular inspections in every government school, says a *The Times of India* report. For this, a grant of Rs 17.99 lakh has been given to 124 government schools in the city by the Union Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD). It has further been instructed that the students should be allowed to select the books which they wish to read. Since most schools in the UT have libraries, the grant is meant for their upgradation and repair and for the replacement of books. Chandigarh has been given various guidelines to follow. The Chandigarh Education Department has been asked to dedicate two periods in a week for reading. In the meeting of the project-approval board, the MHRD stated: "Schools may have the provision of reading room or reading corner or reading space and two periods in a week may be dedicated as reading periods in the school time table. Children should have complete freedom of choosing books and reading from a range of attractively displayed books." It has been clarified that the students and the teachers are collectively responsible for the maintenance of the reading corner. "Children should be given the responsibility of maintaining the books in the reading corner and its usage. Engaging with children's literature should be an

integral part of their classroom processes along with other day-to-day activities of reading and writing. As children develop interest in and engage with literature, they will be encouraged to visit nearby libraries also," the MHRD said. For full report visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chandigarh/centre-grants-rs-17-9l-for-libraries-in-124-schools-says-let-students-select-books/articleshowprint/70612347.cms>

### Rare Documents in Bad Condition

An 11th century Devnagri manuscript written in gold ink, a rare treasure found only at the 228-year-old Sampurnanand Sanskrit University (SSU) at Varanasi, is slowly and steadily losing its lustre, according to a *The Times of India* report. Not these glittering words alone, more than 1.11 lakh ancient documents on palm leaves, parchment and bhojpatra (birch tree bark) are crying for attention at Saraswati Bhawan Library on the varsity campus. A chemically treated cloth is generally used to wrap manuscripts so that they survive the elements, particularly moisture. At the SSU library, this special red fabric is in tatters. Also, pest control hasn't been done for over a decade in the stack-room that houses one of India's oldest, largest and richest collections of manuscripts. Saraswati Bhawan has a collection of ancient documents in 27 different scripts, including 88,808 in Devnagri, 13,736 in Bangla, 1,451 in Maithili and 1,101 Grantha. Under the care of just two employees, this rare collection is battling for survival. "Manuscripts found here are remarkable and unique. Many are written in gold and silver ink on birch bark, wooden tablets and palm leaves. Research scholars from the Americas, Germany and Japan come here to study them, which is why there is a pressing need for conservation," said librarian Suryakant Yadav. According to Yadav, all the manuscripts are around 400 years old and are in a brittle condition. They need and deserve special attention, but are denied the same in the absence of adequate staff and owing to paucity of funds, he said. Manuscript in-charge and deputy librarian Prem Chandra Mishra said the library had another proud possession - the handwritten version of Bhagvad Purana or Shrimad Bhagavatam, dating back to 1134 AD. "It is written in red, black and gold, and is one of our most valuable possessions. But, amid various constraints, we are unable to take proper care of it," he added. The only silver lining is that the collection has been microfilmed with the support of Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, Delhi. However, owing to lack of funds, it has not been digitised yet. SSU Vice-Chancellor Rajaram Shukla said that they had written to the State Education Department and also the University Grants Commission for digitization of manuscripts. "The varsity is reeling under an acute financial crisis and digitisation of such a vast collection is not possible without financial support," he stressed. Once the rare manuscripts get a virtual avatar, they can be easily accessed and read. "In microfilming, the size of the written text cannot be increased or decreased for convenience of reading," Professor Shukla added. For original report visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/varanasi/rare-manuscripts-languish-in-cash-strapped-ssu-library/articleshowprint/70477205.cms>

### Children's Libraries in Gardens

The Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) is contemplating to start libraries and reading rooms in the municipal gardens, says a *The Times of India* report. The Women and Child Welfare

Committee has decided to take this initiative to promote reading habit among children. According to the members of the committee, the initiative has been taken so that mobile phone addiction among the children can be reduced. The libraries in the gardens will have books including comics and educational books. "Recent studies and research have proved that overuse of mobile phones is hampering both physical health and mental health of the children. The initiative of starting the libraries aims at solving this problem. If the facilities are started in the gardens, both these issues can be resolved to some extent," said the members, while speaking to reporters. As per the proposal, the project will be started as a pilot project in one or two gardens. It will be expanded in other gardens after assessing the response to the first initiative. The green signal from the standing committee and the general body meeting will be taken before actually starting the project. "Help from volunteers will be sought to promote the project. NGOs, local citizens group, students groups and readers clubs will be told to join the initiative," said the members. For original report visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/education/news/libraries-for-children-to-be-set-up-in-municipal-gardens/articleshowprint/71020266.cms>

### Lowest Number of Public Libraries in MP

If you are a lover of books, then Madhya Pradesh is certainly not the place that would suit your dreams! Shockingly, there is only one library for every 17 lakh people in the state. The national figure is way better with one library for every 30,000 people. This data was revealed in an RTI query, says a *The Times of India* report. The year-on-year investment by the government on these libraries remained low and it has even decreased. When it comes to Madhya Pradesh, the state has only 42 public libraries, and fares the worst with states like Bihar having 192 public libraries, Rajasthan has 323 public libraries and even small states such as Goa and Uttarakhand have 136 and 47 public libraries respectively, which is way more than the state. Statistically speaking, there is only one library for every 17 lakh people in MP and there are at least 10 districts in the state which do not have any library, since there are 52 districts in the state, but the number of public libraries remains at 42. "The state government should take the issue of building new public libraries on a priority basis. There should be public libraries even at the tehsil level. Specially in cities such as Indore, Bhopal, Gwalior, where students come from all over the state for attending coaching classes, the government should open more public libraries," RTI activist Gaur told *TOI*. "The state government should seek funds from the Union Government to establish a central library in the state. Despite being such a big state, it is a shame that MP does not have a central library," Gaur added. For original report visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bhopal/mp-has-lowest-no-of-public-libraries-reveals-rti-query/articleshowprint/70833221.cms>

### Residents set up Village Libraries

In a unique initiative residents of 38 villages under Julana town of Jind district in Haryana have established libraries in each of these villages for students and book-lovers. The libraries named Bharat Mata Pustakalay was scheduled to be inaugurated on



July 30 after social activist Anna Hazare's visit to one of the villages, Budha Khera Lather. Around 700 books, featuring subjects of primary classes to graduation, will be available in each library. Besides, books for various competitive examinations, including medical entrance tests, Staff Selection Commission (SSC) tests, Combined Defence Services (CDS) tests, National Eligibility Test (NET), Railways test and Haryana Teachers Eligibility Test (HTET) will be kept in each library to help the aspirants from these villages. People can visit the libraries from morning till midnight. The panchayats have hired a class XII pass caretaker for each library and electricity supply has also been ensured for the readers. The panchayats of these villages have provided land for setting up the libraries. Some of the villages where libraries have been set up include; Budha Khera Lather, Akalgarh, Anupgarh, Brhmanwas, Buwana, Deshkhera, Kamach Khera, Karela, Khema Kheri, Kila Jafargarh, Kinana, Jai jaiwanti, Gosai Khera, Dewrar, Hathwala, Jhamola, Dighana, Bura Dahar, Karsola, Khera Bakhta, Brar Khera, Hathwala, Motawala, Pauli, Lizwana, and Lizwana Klan. Among those who worked for establishing libraries, Yogi Sanjeev, a volunteer, said getting these libraries established was the combined effort of the residents of 38 villages, panchayats and professionally successful persons from the area. "A total of 14,304 persons have donated so far to set up libraries in villages. We have not accepted more than Rs 51 from each contributor. We have been going to every village to invite people to come forward and provide education to their children as real India lives in villages," Sanjeev said. For original report visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/gurgaon/residents-get-together-to-establish-library-each-in-38-villages-of-jind/articleshowprint/70415246.cms>

### **Classroom Libraries in Thiruvanthapuram**

The district panchayat has promised to help government schools in the Thiruvanthapuram district to set up libraries in each classroom, according to a *The Times of India* report. The announcement was made by district panchayat president V K Madhu while inaugurating the district-level school 'praveshanolsavam' (admission festival) at Government Higher Secondary School in Palayamkundu, Varkala, recently. "The scheme to start library in every classroom in government schools will be launched soon. Climate study units will be established at every school and green parks will be set up in selected schools," he said. For full report visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/thiruvananthapuram/now-a-library-for-each-classroom-in-schools/articleshowprint/69682548.cms>

## **TECHNOLOGY NEWS**

### **Google to Block Heavy Ads on Chrome**

Google is found to have a new feature in the pipeline that would enable its Chrome browser to block resource-intensive ads by default, according to a story by Jagmeet Singh available on <https://gadgets.ndtv.com> website. The search giant is internally calling the new feature "Heavy Ad Intervention" that is

designed to limit "heavy ads" that often affect the Web browsing experience. Notably, the new development emerges in the midst of the ongoing changes that have been implemented to restrict third-party ad blockers on Chrome. The changes are planned through the Manifest V3 standard that projects the new DeclarativeNetRequest API as a replacement for the existing WebRequest API and aims to regulate ad blocking capabilities of browser extensions. According to a new Chromium commit, Google is building the Heavy Ad Implementation that is currently planned to block ads that use more than 4MB of bandwidth or consume CPU resources for at least 60 seconds. "This intervention unloads ads that are in the 0.1 per cent of bandwidth usage, 0.1 per cent of CPU usage per minute, and 0.1 per cent of overall CPU time," Google engineer John Delaney described the feature in the commit that has been marked as "Work in Progress" and last updated on June 28. Instead of simply blocking resource-intensive ads, the planned feature on Chrome informs users through a dedicated notice and provides a "Details" link to let the users learn more about the intervention, as noted by 9to5Google. The notice also specifies that the particular ad has been blocked because of its heavy resource-consuming nature. It is not clear whether Google will bring the new feature to the next Chrome update. However, the commit certainly confirms that the company is concerned about the ads that put a lot of load on system resources. That being said, the planned feature isn't something that would block every single annoying ad on your browser. You would still need a separate ad blocker for such experience. Google, however, has its Manifest V3 standard in progress that is so far believed to restrict third-party blockers on Chrome. As we mentioned, the new standard is aimed to replace the existing WebRequest API with the DeclarativeNetRequest API to limit ad blocking capabilities of browser extensions. Google faced outrage from extension developers for building the restrictive API, though it recently claimed that instead of "killing ad blockers" entirely, it is set to "make them safer." For original story visit: <https://gadgets.ndtv.com/apps/news/google-chrome-heavy-ad-intervention-feature-update-chromium-commit-2064742>

## **SPECIAL FEATURE**

### **A Lady with a Mission**

How many of our children read beyond their textbooks? The percentage is surely very low. Even those who read often do not continue reading once they are settled in life. Fortunately, there are a few people among us who make efforts, in spite of all odds, to create lifelong readers out of school going children, though their number is very small. We have heard of Pradeep Lokhande - one such man with a mission to create thousands of school libraries in rural areas of different states to transform the school children into lifelong learners (See September 2019 issue of Newsletter). Another such person is Dalbir Kaur Madan - a lady with a similar mission.

It was in April 2011 when Ms. Madan initiated her noble mission. She set up a centre known as 'One Up' in Amritsar,

consisting of a Children's Library, a Learning Lab, and a Book Studio, with an aim to “revitalize the idea of libraries from a traditional, quiet, cobwebbed repository of knowledge to a dynamic, inviting and child-centered learning space designed for the 21st century child”. Collaborating with different schools in the city Ms. Madan tried to transform the school library, which she found to be mostly static space with no addition of new books on the shelves, into a dynamic one by designing attractive reading programmes for children and ever-expanding stock of books.

Ms. Madan recalls, “I was not born into a family of readers and I picked up reading because of a friend. But my children always grew up around books and our conversations, even today, often start with, 'So what books are you reading right now?' I thought if my family reads this way, I'm sure everyone else does too. With that in mind, I set up the library (i.e. One Up) expecting it to be an immediate success”. And her expectation came true. However, as she further recalls, “it was hard to sell the concept of a library when I first set up One Up. .... This is also because people don't see the value in books and simply look at them as some sort of bargaining commodities. So ours is a library where facilitators read out to children. We encourage the parents of our members to accompany them and read out to the toddlers themselves. As the children grow older, they not only develop a thirst for reading but also the stamina to stay focused. What I try to emphasise through One Up is the fact that reading like any other activity or hobby needs practice and focus”.

Describing its activities, the official website of One Up says, “we offer library services and books to individual parents and school systems, where we help create curated collections of books and reading programmes. Our Learning Lab curriculum is designed for the whole child and provides equitable physical and intellectual access to the

resources and tools required for learning in a warm, stimulating, and safe environment”. Incidentally, to carry out its functions effectively One Up maintains collaborative relationships with several international and national publishing houses, educators, libraries and authors.

After the success of her endeavour in Amristar, Ms. Madan moved to New Delhi and set up a unit of One Up in the affluent neighbourhood of Vasant Vihar in August 2017. Interestingly, through her centre Ms. Madan helps children as young as 7 months to build a relationship with books. Besides, One Up has also helped set up a community library in a South Delhi slum area. It has been named after late Bandana Sen, who had been the librarian of American Embassy School in New Delhi and a guiding force behind One Up. “I have taken children from One Up to visit this space and even that I feel was a learning experience for them”, she says. Further, as a tribute to late Bandana Sen an award has been instituted “to recognize and honour Librarian/Teacher Librarian and school heads, who nurture the readers in their learning ecosystems” as, according to Ms. Madan, they are “the unsung heroes of our education system and have a mammoth role to play.”

Kudos to Ms. Madan for her unique endeavour! Let there be more such entrepreneurs like Ms. Madan so that we can develop a reading generation in our country.

[Sources: <http://www.nihfw.org/Doc/Training%20brochure%20of%20NDC.pdf>, <http://oneuplibrary.com/about-us.html>, <https://m.dailyhunt.in/news/india/english/thehansindia-epaper-hans/empowering+children+with+the+power+of+books-newsid-129747426?pgs=N&pgn=5&tk=0&mode=&s=a&ss=fb>, <https://www.thehansindia.com/featured/womenia/empowering-children-with-the-power-of-books-553116>]

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