



# IASLIC NEWSLETTER

Indian Association for Special  
Libraries and Information Centres



January 2021

A Monthly Newsletter Published by IASLIC

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## Quote of the Month

*"A trained librarian is a powerful  
search engine with a heart."*

— Sarah McIntyre,

British-American illustrator and  
writer of children's books

## 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 29th National Seminar

The 29th National Seminar of IASLIC could not be held as scheduled during October 27 - 29, 2020 due to pandemic. The new dates and venue of the seminar will be announced in due course on IASLIC website and in the newsletter. Papers for the seminar are still being accepted. The last date of acceptance will also be announced in due course. For 'Call for Papers' detailing facets and sub-facets of the seminar theme and those of the themes of SIG meetings, please see *IASLIC Newsletter* April 2020 issue or visit IASLIC website.

## CONFERENCES/SEMINARS/ WOEKSHOPS

### National

#### Virtual Programme on Digital Library

The Central Library, NIT Warangal, in association with Teaching Learning Centre of the institute, is organizing a Virtual Faculty Development Programme on 'Modern Digital Library Science Technologies for Teaching, Learning and Research' (MDLSTTLR-2021) during January 4 - 8, 2021. For details e-mail: to [archem@nitw.ac.in](mailto:archem@nitw.ac.in) or [mlc.nitw@nitw.ac.in](mailto:mlc.nitw@nitw.ac.in)

#### Induction Programme for LI Professionals

Assam Library Association is organizing an online induction programme for Library Professionals during January 18 - 22, 2021. For details visit: <http://www.ala.net.in/2020/12/one-week-ala-online-e-induction-program.html>

#### Webinar on DELNET

The Department of Library, Ponda Education Society's Rajaram and Tarabai Bandekar College of Pharmacy, Ponda, Goa, is organizing a National Webinar on 'DELNET- Network Resources & Services: Discovery Portal and Knowledge Gainer Portal' on January 25, 2021. For registration visit: <https://attendeegotowebinar.com/register/9030474128616158991>

### International

#### Conference on Libraries and Civilization

The 15<sup>th</sup> International Conference on 'Libraries and Civilization' (ICLC 2021) will be held during January 7 - 8, 2021 in Tokyo, Japan. For details visit: <https://waset.org/libraries-and-civilization-conference-in-january-2021-in-tokyo>

#### Conference on Library and Society

The 15<sup>th</sup> International Conference on 'Libraries and Society' (ICLS 2021) will be held during February 8 - 9, 2021 in Lisbon, Portugal. For details visit: <https://waset.org/libraries-and-society-conference-in-february-2021-in-lisbon>

IASLIC wishes all its members a very happy and prosperous New Year 2021

### Conference on Social Media and Libraries

The 15<sup>th</sup> International Conference on 'Social Media and Libraries' (ICSML 2021) will be held during February 8 - 9, 2021 in Amsterdam, Netherlands. For details visit: <https://waset.org/social-media-and-libraries-conference-in-february-2021-in-amsterdam>

### Conference on KRC Management

University Library, University of Agricultural Sciences GKVK, Bangalore, in association with Agricultural Librarians and Documentalists of INDIA (AALDI), is organizing an 'International Conference of Agricultural Librarians and Users Committee (ICALUC-2021)' during February 25 - 26, 2021. The theme of the conference is 'Management of Knowledge Resource Centres in the Networked Digital Environment: Trends, Challenges and Opportunities.' For details visit: <https://uasbangalore.edu.in/index.php/kannada-uas>

### Conference on Books and Libraries

The 15<sup>th</sup> International Conference on 'Importance of Books and Libraries' (ICIBL 202) will be held during June 10 - 11, 2021 in Barcelona, Spain. For details visit: <https://waset.org/importance-of-books-and-libraries-conference-in-june-2021-in-barcelona>

### Conference on Knowledge Management

International Conference on 'Library Science and Knowledge Management' (ICLSKM) will be held during June 21 - 22, 2021 in Vienna, Austria. For details visit: <https://conferenceindex.org/event/international-conference-on-library-science-and-knowledge-management-iclskm-2021-june-vienna-at>

### Conference on Innovation, Knowledge

The 10<sup>th</sup> International Conference on 'Innovation, Knowledge, and Management' will be held in Hong Kong during June 26 - 28, 2021. For details visit: <http://www.icikm.org/>

### Conference on Library Science

The 15<sup>th</sup> International Conference on 'Library Science' (ICLS 2021) will be held during July 8 - 9, 2021 in Prague, Czechia. For details visit: <https://waset.org/library-science-conference-in-july-2021-in-prague>

### Conference on LIS

The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference on 'Library and Information Science' will be held as a part of the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference on 'Social Sciences' during July 26 - 29, 2021 in Athens, Greece. For details visit: <https://www.atiner.gr/library>

### Conference on Library Science

The 15<sup>th</sup> International Conference on 'Library Science' (ICLS 2021) will be held during August 5 - 6, 2021 in Vancouver, Canada. For details visit: <https://waset.org/library-science-conference-in-august-2021-in-vancouver>

### Conference on Asian Libraries

An International Conference on 'Libraries of the Asian Countries: The Road Ahead' (ICLAC 2021) will be held during November 25 - 27, 2021 at Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand. For details visit: <https://higherlogic>

[download.s3.amazonaws.com/SLA/a32f5da2-6c9a-404d-b2e4-59548f805778/UploadedImages/conference/Brochure\\_ICLAC2021.pdf](download.s3.amazonaws.com/SLA/a32f5da2-6c9a-404d-b2e4-59548f805778/UploadedImages/conference/Brochure_ICLAC2021.pdf)

## MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

### Library on Buddhist Literature Proposed

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has proposed to create a library dedicated to traditional Buddhist literature and scriptures, adding that India will be happy to host the facility and provide appropriate resources for it, says a *Hindustan Times* report. The library will collect digital copies of all such Buddhist literature from different countries, it will aim to translate them, and make them freely available for all monks and scholars of Buddhism, he has said. Addressing the 6th Indo-Japan Samwad Conference in virtual mode recently, the PM said that the forum, which was launched five years ago, had done great work in promoting the ideas and ideals of Lord Buddha, especially among the youth. "The forum has remained true to its fundamental values of democracy, humanism, non-violence, freedom and tolerance and carries forward our ancient tradition of spiritual and scholarly exchanges," he said. Addressing the conference, he said that it was time to draw upon our ancient values and keep humanism at the core of our policies. "Discussions on global growth cannot happen only between a few. The table must be bigger. The agenda must be broader. Growth patterns must follow a human-centric approach. And, be in harmony with our surroundings," PM Modi said. "In the past, humanity often took the path of confrontation instead of collaboration - from Imperialism to the World Wars, from the arms race to the space race. We had dialogues but they were aimed at pulling others down. Now, let us rise together.. We must keep humanism at the core of our policies. We must make harmonious co-existence with nature as the central pillar of our existence," he added. For original report visit: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/pm-modi-proposes-setting-up-of-library-of-buddhist-literature-in-india/story-KlgprP71HQhADs4TMRPodO.html>

### Gandhi Gyan Libraries

The Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Department of Rajasthan has identified 33 panchayats in 33 districts for setting up of Gandhi Gyan Kendra Pustakalay evam Vachnalays with the objective of spreading Gandhian values to the people, says a *The Times of India* report. These 33 libraries in the gram panchayats will be a model for other villages in the district to follow and set up libraries in their villages. Each library will have at least 1,000 to 1,500 books. "Around ₹ 2.4 lakh will be spent for buying books in each library. The books will not be bought through government funds. A list of books has been prepared. It has been sent to districts and they will mobilise funds through donations and contributions. Hence, it is a zero-budget initiative," said P C Kishan, Special Secretary, Rural Development Department. "The objective of these libraries will be to spread Gandhian values by collecting books on Mahatma Gandhi and those written by him. Second, knowledge about poultry farming, agriculture, organic farming etc. will also be spread. Third, it will serve as a community place for discussions and meetings. Fourth, it will be

used as a training centre for various rural development schemes.” he added. For full report visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/jaipur/gandhi-gyan-libraries-to-be-set-up-in-33-panchayats/articleshowprint/76930570.cms>

### Library on Motorbike

During his leisure time, Mahinda Dasanayaka packs his motorbike with books and rides his mobile library - across mostly muddy roads running through tea-growing mountain areas - to underprivileged children in backward rural parts of Sri Lanka, according to an AP story published in *The Times of India*. Having witnessed the hardships faced by children whose villages have no library facilities, Dasanayaka was looking for ways to help them. Then he got the idea for his library on wheels. He started his programme, called "Book and Me," three years ago, and it has become very popular among the children. "There are some kids who hadn't seen even a children's storybook until I went to their villages," he said. Dasanayaka, 32, works as a child protection officer for the government. On his off days - mostly during weekends - he rides his motorbike, which is fixed with a steel box to hold books, to rural villages and distributes the reading material to children free of charge. "The children are very keen and enthusiastic, they are eagerly waiting for me - always looking for new books," Dasanayaka said by phone. His programme is mainly centred in Kegalle, a mountainous region of the Indian Ocean island nation about 85 kilometres northeast of Sri Lanka's capital, Colombo, with poor villages scattered among tea plantations. He visits the villages once or twice a week to distribute the books. His collection includes about 3,000 books on a variety of subjects. "Boys mostly like to read detective stories such as Sherlock Holmes, while girls prefer to read youth novels and biographies," he said. So far, he said, his programme had benefited more than 1,500 children, as well as about 150 adults. He began the programme in 2017 with 150 books - some of his own and others donated by friends, colleagues and well-wishers. He bought a second-hand Honda motorbike for 30,000 Sri Lankan rupees (\$162). He then fixed a steel box on the bike's pillion seat. "I wanted to do something for children who are burdened with an exam-centred education. ... And to change the way kids look at society, to change their perspectives and broaden their imagination," he said. Apart from giving away books, Dasanayaka also speaks to the children for a few minutes, usually under a roadside tree, highlighting the value of reading, books and authors. He then conducts a discussion on books the children have read, with the aim of eventually forming reading clubs. For full story visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/life-style/books/features/books-by-bike-sri-lankan-man-runs-mobile-library-for-kids/articleshow/79448423.cms>

### Indian Books in Prestigious Catalogue

Two children's books from India - Richa Jha's *The Middle* and Kanak Shashi's *Guthli Has Wings* - have made it to the 2020

edition of *The White Ravens*, a prestigious annual catalogue published by the Internationale Jugendbibliothek (International Youth Library), according to a story by Chintan Girish Modi in *Hindustan Times*. "It aims to promote quality in children's book publishing and has become an increasingly useful tool for anyone interested in looking beyond national borders," writes Christiane Raabe, director of the Munich-based institution, in her preface. This year's catalogue contains a selection of 200 notable children's and young adult's books from 56 countries, published in 36 languages. Jha's book *The Middle*, published by Pickle Yolk Books, revolves around a girl named Azma whose restlessness with not knowing keeps her mind occupied with questions. She seeks answers in books but the quest for knowledge is too urgent to be contained by the act of reading alone. Jha says, "a big part of this is my own story - my unease with the dark when growing up. It would scare me and I could feel creatures lurking around. Like Azma, I would find it difficult to sleep. Books were a constant source of solace at night, and yet, those same books made drifting off difficult because the stories wouldn't let me be." Shashi's book *Guthli Has Wings*, published by Tulika Books, tells the story of a child who struggles to find acceptance in a family bound by conventional ideas about gender. Guthli identifies as a girl but the mother cannot relate to this as she sees Guthli as a boy. How love enables understanding is the theme their story is built around. Shashi says, "I created Guthli to speak about things that I feel should be said. I was addressing issues like gender identity, roles, patriarchy, etc. in my paintings but I wanted to write about them too. I tried the format of an article but I realised soon that it was not my style. Then I tried a story, and it clicked for me." In keeping with the annual tradition, all the books in *The White Ravens* catalogue were meant to be on display at the Internationale Jugendbibliothek's booth at the Bologna Children's Book Fair. However, browsing in person is not possible this year due to public health and safety concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic. For full story visit: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/books/report-two-childrens-books-from-india-make-it-to-the-white-ravens-catalogue/story-1FCtXcQEh5pXcvOagnUDZO.html>

### Craving for Knowledge

The craving for knowledge seems to be so irresistible for the people of Kundri and Anilnatham tribal hamlets in Erode district of Tamil Nadu that they are on a mission to set up a library in their area, says a story published in *The Times of India*. Since they don't have any funds, they are in search of volunteers to donate books. Makkal G Rajan, founder of the NGO Unarvugal Amaippu, said, "the villagers, especially school and college students, currently don't have any facilities to improve their general knowledge. The hamlets are located close to the Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve and people don't even have access to newspapers." Before the pandemic, students could read newspapers at their schools. Now that they

are closed, they are by and large in dark about what is happening around the globe. When he heard about the villagers' plight, Rajan decided to set up a library for them. "We have approached many scholars, officials and businessmen for books. Many people have also come forward voluntarily to donate us books," the NGO founder said. The team had recently approached Erode Municipal Corporation Commissioner M Elangovan, who donated them some books. For original story visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/coimbatore/to-read-and-grow-tribal-kids-in-erode-see-books-to-start-library/articleshowprint/78920310.cms>

### **Bolero Library on Wheels**

Anand Mahindra, chairman of Mahindra Group, recently took to Twitter to share images of a man in Ludhiana who operates a Bolero library on wheels in order to take the joy of reading to every part of the city, says a story available on [auto.hindustantimes.com](http://auto.hindustantimes.com) website. Known to share both humorous as well as inspirational messages on his micro-blogging profile, Mahindra's tweet once again generated a whole lot of interest from his followers. In the photos tweeted by Mahindra, a modified Bolero with book shelves in glass cabinet can be clearly seen in what is a novel approach to making use of the vehicle. "Books from a Bolero. This is truly a noble 'Off-Road' application. My friend Minnie from Ludhiana shared this pic," Mahindra wrote. "Harjinder Singh does this because he feels that people must hold and read books despite a digital world. The vehicle belongs to the Guru Gobind Singh Study Circle." The tweet attracted praises almost instantly with netizens appreciating the modified Bolero and the man behind the wheels. The vehicle's trunk space appears to have been modified with a large cabinet with sliding glass doors with the books neatly stacked against each other for display. The cabinet can be opened for easy access to any book that needs to be taken out. And while Bolero has indeed been known for its rugged appearance and drive capabilities, its use in a noble cause such as this is notable, eclipsed only by the man and the organization behind it. For original story visit: <https://auto.hindustantimes.com/auto/news/anand-mahindra-shares-photos-of-bolero-library-on-the-move-in-ludhiana-41602657020508.html>

### **Reading List of Protesting Farmers**

Protesting farmers, who have been holding their fort at the Singhu border in Delhi for several days, are keeping monotony and boredom at bay by adding new books to their reading list - day after day, says a PTI report in *The Times of India*. For many, it is a new found love. Thirty-two-year-old Harbans Singh, for instance, who has been camping at the site, said that he couldn't recall the last time he had picked a book for reading. His reasons for doing it now: "to keep tempers down" and "to get inspired by the greats". "There are many like me who have started reading books during the protest only. Currently, I am reading 'Punjab Tera ki Banu' by novelist Jaswant Singh Kanwal. I look forward

to finish this one and read another soon," said Singh, who hails from Barnala district in Punjab and has come with his friends to protest. "Someone suggested me to read one on Fidel Castro. "Kehnde hai bahut bada krantikari si woh (They say he was a great revolutionary)," he said. Several books are seen at the protest site, including biographies of revolutionaries like Bhagat Singh, Che Guevara and Vladimir Lenin in English, Hindi and Punjabi as well. There are also books on farmers' distress, Punjab's rich history and on the teachings of Sikh Gurus who stood for national integration, peace, brotherhood and communal harmony. Encashing on this new tribe of readers, some small time book-stalls have also sprung up at the protest site. According to another report, a group of youngsters has also set up a makeshift library near the protest venue and is encouraging farmers to read books on revolutionaries Bhagat Singh, Baba Sohan Singh Bhakna, Ghadarites and Kartar Singh Sarabha. A basket, in which the books have been kept, is circulated across the venue for people who would want to browse the collection. The service is voluntary and free of cost. For more details visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/life-style/books/features/books-emerging-as-farmers-best-friends-at-singhu-border/articleshow/79795798.cms> and <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/amritsar/spotted-on-haryana-delhi-border-moving-library/articleshowprint/79540335.cms>

### **Child sets up Sunday Library**

When a majority of children got busy with their mobile phones and computers during the Covid-19 lockdown period, a nine-year-old in Kollam in Kerala was setting up a 'Sunday Library'. The aim is to inculcate reading habit in his friends and other children, according to a story by Anu Kuruvilla in *The Indian Express*. And since its launch on October 29 last, in the spare room of his parents' clinic, the library has gained attention from people across the state. Alleyne Eiric Lal, or Allu, as he is fondly called by friends and family, wants to start a Sunday Library in every district in the state. Any child aged between five and 15 can apply for a membership, but on one condition: "The new member should plant a sapling and take care of it," Allu says. His Sunday Library, which was inaugurated by Child Rights Commission member Reni Antony, is open from 2pm to 5pm every Sunday at the Prana Holistic Health Care near the Kollam Collectorate. Allu's mother, Dr. Devi Raj, says that he has been amassing books during his summer holidays and books kept him busy during the lockdown too. Another facet of the library is the reading and interaction sessions. "The library has attracted people of all ages and has become a meeting place where the elderly tell or read stories and give life lessons to youngsters, while the latter bask in their love and affection," says Dr. Devi. A Class IV student of Navdeep School, he is also keen on implementing ideas on environment conservation. And if you want to renew your membership, Allu's condition of planting another sapling has to be met. For

original story visit: <https://www.newindianexpress.com/good-news/2020/nov/15/boy-in-kerala-sets-up-sunday-libraryhe-reads-and-wants-others-to-read-too-2223707.html>

### Library for Visitors to Police Station

Kitchipalayam police station in Salem, Tamil Nadu, has set up a library to keep the visitors utilize the time that they spend waiting to meet officials more efficiently and inculcate the habit of reading among them and police personnel, says a *The Times of India* report. The library is equipped with tables and chairs. It can accommodate 10 people at a time. The library has general knowledge books, newspapers and psychology books, among other categories. It is equipped with drinking water and fans. Its walls feature drawings of Mahatma Gandhi and former President Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam and sceneries to lighten the ambience. Assistant Commissioner A Manikandan inaugurated the library recently. Talking to *TOI*, police inspector Sivakumar said people visiting the police station were often sitting idle while officers were busy with petitioners and other duties. "It will help them read some books and relax as they wait," he said. For original report visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/coimbatore/police-station-gets-library-to-keep-visitors-engaged/articleshowprint/79105826.cms>

### Open Library for Slum Children

Children living in different slums in Lucknow got a chance to explore the joy of reading thanks to an open library set up by city-based NGO Swatantra Talim as part of the activities planned for Daan Utsav observed recently, says a story in *The Times of India*. The open library has been put up to inculcate the habit of reading among children. Organized with the aim of spreading joy and happiness, Daan Utsav celebrates the spirit of humanity. A host of events and charitable activities were organized on this occasion in the city to raise awareness among citizens about the importance of lending a helping hand to the needy. During an interactive session with Innerwheel Club of Lucknow, members of Mother Teresa Old Age Home distributed hygiene kits. NGOs like Robinhood Army and LIVE Foundation and, community kitchens like 'Haare ka Sahara' helped several citizens avail dry ration and food in slums severely hit by the pandemic. For full story visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/lucknow/open-library-introduces-kids-in-slums-to-joys-of-reading/articleshowprint/78503364.cms>

### Tribal Women set up Library

A group of 20-odd tribal women in Malkangiri district have taken it upon themselves to inculcate a reading habit among youngsters, who they feel spend more time engrossed in their phones and less in books, says a *The Times of India* story. Hoping to wean away the youth from their phones, the women have opened a roadside library near Arts College in Malkangiri. The library, which has been stocked with books

that the women donated, as well as those given by local residents, was inaugurated on Diwali. It has been modelled on a similar initiative in Arunachal Pradesh's Nirjuli, which, in turn, was inspired by the bird-box libraries of Mizoram's Aizawl. The Malkangiri library was inaugurated by a 70-year-old woman, Puspanjali Choudhury, who contributed a few books herself. Currently, it offers only on-the-spot reading facility. "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 reading in the open," said Jayanti Buruda, a member of Bada Didi, the group behind the initiative. "Reading books builds our patience and influences us in a positive way," said Buruda. Agreed eminent writer Dash Benhur. "Book reading sharpens our focus, which is bound to be hampered while reading from a cellphone. The blue light emitted by the screen leads to eye strain. We are traditionally more attuned to reading from books, as our ancestors would read from palm-leaf manuscripts," he said. Currently, the library has 80 books in Odia, English, Bengali and Assamese, neatly stacked on a stand and protected by a shed. The money to build the library has been given by the group members, who have set up two benches for the readers. The women have also started fashioning some seats from used tyres. The library is kept open from 6 am to 11 am and again from 3pm to 9 pm, and is manned by four girls. For full story visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bhubaneswar/malkangiri-women-set-up-roadside-library-for-kids/articleshowprint/79257624.cms>

### Library Khidki for School Children

The Basic Education Department in Uttar Pradesh has collaborated with the Tata Trust, for a concept of an e-magazine for children in primary and upper primary classes, says a *The Times of India* report. UP is the second state, after Rajasthan, to take up this alternative innovative solution, with an aim to ensure all-round development of children. The e-magazine will reach students and teachers twice a week. Each edition is divided into four parts — three for children and one for teachers. Named as 'Library Khidki', the e-magazine will have e-material such as poetry and stories for children aged between 3 and 14 years. The e-learning material, available in the form of text, audio and video, will be made accessible to children, parents and teachers mostly through social media platforms and the Diksha app. The first edition of the e-magazine was released on June 30 last. According to Tata Trust's education officer Vishambhar, who is overseeing the e-magazine project in UP, the idea of this innovation is to ensure all-round development of children of government schools using Information and Communication Technology (ICT) platforms. He said, "through this innovation, e-material for subjects like library, arts, life skills education will be shared for children. For teachers' capacity building, useful e-material and academic

papers will also be put online". Additional Director (Education) Lalita Pradeep said, "It's a very innovative concept to reach out to children and their environment with such rich material. This will engage them in age-appropriate stories and content. Teachers and parents will have something very interesting to interact with their children." For original report visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/education/news/library-khidki-for-primary-students-in-up/articleshowprint/76747211.cms>

### Enterprising Librarian

Researcher Irene Shabnam desperately needed a book on the history of the freedom movement by R C Majumder for her thesis paper during the lockdown. Abhishek Mahinta, a bookworm, wanted to re-read his favourite author Maupassant's stories even as he worked from home. With the Malda District Library having shut its doors, both were left disappointed. But not for long. Thanks to Tushar Mandal, the enterprising district librarian, they soon had PDF versions of the books sent on their WhatsApp, says a story in *The Times of India*. Mandal, who joined his post a few days before lockdown started, kept coming to the library and interacted with regular readers. He realized that avid readers would have to take the e-route since the library was to shut down. With the help of a small section of book-lovers, he created a WhatsApp group and started making PDF files of books. "Initially, I had contacts of only a handful of readers, who took on the responsibility of inducting more people and the group got bigger," said Mandal. The district librarian started by uploading e-versions of daily newspapers in the group. Within a week, Mandal started scanning books, converted them into PDF versions and uploaded them in keeping with readers' requests. "We never supply rare books or those with copyrights," he clarified. The initiative that began with 40-odd readers in May now involves more than 150 active members in the group. Of the library's 4,500 members, more than 300 are regular readers. Mandal aspires to reach out to them all; even those who are not members are welcome to the group, he says. "If I don't have the title available in our library, I get them from other libraries. I have been collecting PDF versions from some libraries of Bangladesh as well," he said. The Malda District Library has a collection of more than 72,000 books, of which a mere 8,000 have been converted into PDF versions. More than a thousand of these have been contributed by members. District Library Officer Prabodh Mahata is encouraging Mandal's initiative. "Our primary aim is to encourage the reading habit. We don't want anyone to lose interest in reading because he or she doesn't have access to a library," he said. For full report visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kolkata/malda-librarian-takes-pdf-route-to-readers-in-lockdown/articleshowprint/76930569.cms>

## TECHNOLOGY NEWS

### Twitter's New Feature

Twitter is testing a new feature that will help filter graphic media shared in your Direct Messages (DM), says a report available on [tech.hindustantimes.com](https://tech.hindustantimes.com) website. Spotted by reverse engineer Jane Manchun Wong, the filter appears with a toggle button to enable/disable the graphic content, most likely photos and videos. "Twitter is working on an option for filtering graphic media, making sure you always have the freedom to look at the dicit pics unfiltered without warning if you want," said Wong in a tweet. Note that the feature does not block the graphic media but hides it from view. It requires users to tap on the toggle to view the media. The feature is quite similar to the filter on Facebook and Instagram for graphic photos and videos. "Display warnings over messages detected to potentially containing graphic media (like nudity, sexual content, or violence). You'll always the option to view the media if you want," reads a prompt for such content in DMs. As of now, there is no word on when or whether the feature will arrive for end-users. That said, it's likely to help users, especially women, receive unwanted graphic content in their direct messages. Separately, Twitter is also testing a new feature that is aimed at curtailing the spread of misinformation on its platform. The feature essentially shows a prompt when someone likes content that is labelled as misinformation. A similar prompt appears when someone retweets such content. This feature was also spotted by reverse engineer Wong. Social media platforms have come under the scanner for struggling to contain the spread of misinformation, fake news, abuse, and sexual content. For full report visit: <https://tech.hindustantimes.com/tech/news/twitter-s-upcoming-feature-to-filter-graphic-media-in-your-dm-71605160287596.html>

### Change in Google Search Page soon

Google, earlier last year, rolled out dark mode in its Search app on Android and iOS platforms. Now, the company is bringing dark mode to Search on the web, says a report available on [tech.hindustantimes.com](https://tech.hindustantimes.com) website. As per a report by 9To5 Google, Google has started A/B testing dark mode for Search on desktop web. As of now, when you search for anything on Google Search, you see a White background on which text appears in Black colours while the highlights, like the name of a website, appears in Blue. In the dark mode, which is being tested now, the White background is replaced by a dark Gray background that is similar to what we see in a number of Android apps. While the highlights remain Blue, the text that appears in Black, such as names and links, appears in a lighter tone of Grey in the dark mode. Apart from this, Google's multi-coloured logo that appears on the top left corner of Search appears in White. The microphone and the search icons, on the other hand, remain unchanged. Another thing that remains

## SPECIAL FEATURE

### A Library by and for Children

It's a lazy Saturday afternoon. The children are home from school by 12.30 pm. After having their lunch, they rest for a while. And when the clock strikes 4 pm, they walk out promptly and make a beeline for the Chagaletti Makkala Granthalaya (Chagaletty Children's Library), observes Rashmi Patil in a post on *edexlive.com* website. Chagaletty is a village located 25 kilometres away from Bengaluru. Ask anyone the way to Chagaletty and they will direct you with practised ease. Some places are famous for temples. Others for ancient relics. The villagers say that it was the library that made this village famous. You might wonder what is so special about this library. The answer is that it was started by the children for the children, Ms. Patil further observes.

The foundation of this library, which has just completed a decade of its existence, was laid by six children aged between 10-20, viz. Shalini CV, Meghana CV, Vedashree CK, Vanishree CK, Manasa V and Karthik N, way back in August 2010. Recalling how the library was started, Shalini says, "in 2006, the Child Rights Trust came to our school to create awareness on children's rights. We took up this programme seriously and formed a club called the Chagaletty Child Rights Club. Initially, there were 30 members in this club but people dropped out along the way. Finally, only six of us were left in the club. We would go door to door creating awareness about pulse polio, child marriage, etc. During our summer holidays, we used to walk all the way to Marenahalli Panchayat Library (about one kilometre away) to read books. As we loved reading, it became tough for us to go that far to borrow books from that library. We felt the need for a library in our village, and so, we approached the Child Rights Trust (CRT) for help. They agreed on the condition that children should be allowed to run it."

Nagasimha G Rao, a well-known child rights activist, who happens to be the uncle of one of the founders, viz. Karthik N, actively helped the group in this matter. He attended a training session conducted by Hippocampus Reading Foundation on how to run a library on behalf of the group and later trained the children to do so. He also got a room for them in his brother's house to set up the library. The foundation also donated 250 books to their library. Talking to Deepika Burli, a *The Times of India* journalist, another founder member of the library Manasa V said: "The idea behind this library was to engage children in constructive activities, and inculcate in them a healthy reading habit. Reading books and playing interactive games also help children enhance their social abilities. We were among the first ones to benefit from this concept".

The library started with only 400 books collected through donations. Today the stock has crossed 6000 mark. Most of the books received through donations were either novels or books

unchanged is the icons representing various filters such as All, Images, News, Videos, etc. They appear in Grey in both, the light and the dark modes. As far as the desktop web pages are concerned, the company says that very few of these web pages feature a dark theme. The list includes Google Keep, YouTube Music and YouTube among others. All said and done, this feature is still in the testing phase and hence available to a select bunch of users. So you shouldn't worry if you are unable to see a setting to enable this feature yet. For original report visit: <https://tech.hindustantimes.com/tech/news/google-s-iconic-white-coloured-search-page-is-finally-changing-71607872430908.html>

### Vanish Mode in Chats

Some time ago WhatsApp got 'Disappearing Messages' and now the other two apps with messaging abilities in the Facebook family are adopting it, says a post on *gsmarena.com* website. Both Messenger and Instagram will get Vanish Mode which will delete messages upon closing the conversation window. Vanish Mode is activated with a swipe from the bottom of the chat. Once a message is sent, it will stay on the screen until it is turned off or the app is switched. Of course, you can always screenshot the message before it disappears. The new feature will work both in group chats and personal conversations. While they are instantly disappearing, Facebook revealed conversations can be reported, meaning they will remain in the system for up to 14 days, so they are not instantly deleted. Such features aren't entirely new in the Facebook universe - there still is "Secret Conversation" for Messenger but it is rather tedious to set up and use and nobody has the time for that. Instagram also has something of a disappearing feature - currently, photos can be sent and set up to disappear once seen but nothing on messages unless you Unsend them. For original post visit: [https://www.gsmarena.com/facebook\\_and\\_instagram\\_are\\_getting\\_vanish\\_mode\\_in\\_chats-news-46270.php](https://www.gsmarena.com/facebook_and_instagram_are_getting_vanish_mode_in_chats-news-46270.php)

### Change in Google Photo Storage System

Google has announced a major change to storage in Photos that will surely disappoint users. Google Photos will not support free storage for high quality (compressed) photos from June 1, 2021, according to a story on *tech.hindustantimes.com* website. All photos and videos backed up post this date will be added to the free 15GB storage that comes with every Google account. Google has been offering unlimited storage on Google Photos for compressed but high quality photos. Google said that over 4 trillion photos are stored in Google Photos till date, and 28 billion new photos and videos are uploaded every week. "Since so many of you rely on Google Photos to store your memories, it's important that it's not just a great product, but also continues to meet your needs over the long haul," Shimrit Ben-Yair, Vice President, Google Photos said in a blog post. For full story visit: <https://tech.hindustantimes.com/tech/news/google-photos-will-stop-offering-free-storage-next-year-71605152797411.html>

on history. It did not get much books suited to children. Fortunately, once some private publishers got to know about the library, they came forward to help the library by donating story books and books having lots of illustrations. The founder sextet took initiative to attract other children to the library, but they encountered with a peculiar problem. About this Shalini said: "Whenever we asked our friends to visit the library, either their parents would stop them or they would say it's boring to read books." They then invited the parents of the children to make them understand that reading books immensely helped developing the minds of children and that those children who had the hobby of reading had an upper hand over others. They also conducted various programmes in the library to attract children such as organizing sports and games events, painting competition, quiz contest, etc.

Interestingly, the library follows the GROW-BY (Green, Red, Orange, White, Blue, Yellow) reading model for children. It is a reading technique in which children engage in reading books suited to their age. While Green is meant for children who can identify pictures and drawings, Red, Orange and White indicate readers who can read the book with fewer pictures in it and Blue and Yellow indicate books that are novels, literature, drama, prose and books that explain particular concepts elaborately. The idea is to ensure that each child understands what he or she reads. With each level, pictorial content in the books decreases and textual content increases. At the end of the week, senior members of the library evaluate the children by asking a few questions about the books they have read. "It's obvious that the younger ones will need pictorial references to understand the text. Once they pass the simpler levels, they are able to read more complex books," explains Shalini.

To help the children, who are unable to visit the library personally, every month, the library members go to nearby villages and government schools. They give books to the

children who are interested in books. After a few days, they collect the previous books and give them new books to read. The library has now got two computers obtained through Corporate Social Responsibility scheme, where children learn how to create a word document, how to use calculators and use Microsoft Excel. The founding members, who are still very active, are now training some younger members so that they can be handed over the responsibility of running the library.

The Chagaletty Children's Library served as a model in the state. Many people approached the founders to help them understand how to start a children's library and soon libraries were set up in Mangala, Chamrajnagar, Gadag, Sidlaghatta, Sindhagi Doddaballapura and a few other places. Being impressed by the way the Chagaletty Library had been set up and was being run, Maggi Foundation gave funds to start a few similar libraries in the state of Karnataka and consequently around 25 such libraries have come up. In 2011, this library received Best Library Award from Hippocampus Reading Foundation. The library was selected for the award from among 125 libraries across India as it was found to be one of very few well-maintained libraries in the country.

It is indeed an emulative story. Let this story inspire the youngsters in other states too.

[Sources: Patil, Rashmi: How a group of kids started a library 10 years ago and put this Karnataka village on the map. <https://www.edexlive.com/beinspired/2020/feb/05/how-a-group-of-kids-started-a-library-10-years-ago-and-put-this-karnataka-village-on-the-map-10162.html> ; Burli, Dipika: Town of bookworms: a library of kids, by kids and for kids. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bengaluru/Town-of-bookworms-A-library-of-kids-by-kids-for-kids/articleshow/52779641.cms>; Children build a treasure trove in Bangalore. <https://www.dnaindia.com/bangalore/report-children-build-a-treasure-trove-in-bangalore-1531361>]

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