



IASLIC NEWSLETTER

Indian Association for Special Libraries and Information Centres

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Quote of the Month

“To ask why we need libraries at all when there is so much information available elsewhere, is about as sensible as asking if roadmaps are necessary now that there are so very many roads.”

— Jon Bing
Norwegian writer

Appeal to Readers

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

Email: chatterjeeamitabha@yahoo.co.in

APPEAL FOR DONATION

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

Bank Name: Punjab National Bank

Branch: New Manicktala

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

General Secretary
IASLIC

An Appeal to Publishers of LIS Literature

Indian Library Science Abstracts (ILSA), being brought out by IASLIC since 1967, is the only national abstracting and indexing journal of India in the field of library and information Science. Due to the phenomenal growth of LIS literature in India in English as well as regional languages and the lack of volunteer professionals it has become a herculean task to collect, organize and compile data for the ILSA. The last cumulative volume (Vols. 40-44, 2006-2010) was published in 2018, the print copies as well as e-copies (in CD) of which are available for sale at IASLIC Office. The editorial team has now undertaken the task of compiling the next cumulative volume covering the period 2011 - 2015 and intends to publish the volume in early 2022. It will cover, besides periodical literature, papers published in conference/seminar volumes, festschrift volumes and other composite works. Due to pandemic situation the editorial team is facing problems in obtaining hard copies/soft copies of published materials in LIS. The team solicits cooperation from publishers, state library associations, organizers of the conferences/seminars/workshops, authors and individual library professionals and requests them to furnish hard copies/soft copies of LIS literature in English and regional languages published by them during the said period at the earliest, to enable it to complete the compilation work and publish the volume in time. The team hopes that with the effective support of the concerned people ILSA will become an authentic and comprehensive surrogate of Indian intellectual output in Library and Information Science.

IASLIC ACTIVITIES

NEW MEMBERS

Institutional Members

1. Anna Centenary Library, Chennai, Tamil Nadu
2. Damdama College, Kulhati, Assam
3. Duliajan College, Dibrugarh, Assam
4. I K Gujral Punjab Technical University, Kapurthala, Punjab

CONFERENCES / SEMINARS / WORKSHOPS

National

Conference on Public Library

The Department of Library and Information Science, Maharaja Bir Bikram University, Agartala, Tripura, is going to organize a national conference during March 15 - 16, 2022. The theme of the conference is 'Sustainable and Modern Public Library System: Emerging Trends.' For details email to: sudipbht12@gmail.com

INFLIBNET Training Programmes

INFLIBNET Centre, Gandhinagar, Gujarat, is going to organize the following training programmes during March - April, 2022: IR using DSpace: Basic (online), March 14 - 15; Installation & Operation of SOUL 3.0, March 21 - 25; Research Information Management System, April 11 - 13. For details visit: <https://hrd.inflibnet.ac.in/>

International

Conference on Networking

ASIS&T 24-Hour Global Conference (Online) will be held during April 26 - 27, 2022. The theme of the conference is 'Networking, Sharing, and Learning: Challenges and Opportunities.' For details visit: <https://www.asist.org/meetings-events/asist-24-hour-global-conference/>

Conference on Future Libraries

An International Conference on Libraries of the Future: Emerging Trends' is being organized by KIITS Deemed to be University, Bhubaneswar, during May 5 - 7, 2022 on the occasion of 20th MALIBNET Convention. For details visit: <https://event.kiit.ac.in/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Registration-form-MANLIBNET-2022.pdf>

ISKO Conference

The 17th International ISKO Conference will be held during July 6 - 8, 2022, at Aalborg (Denmark). The theme of the conference is 'Knowledge Organization across Disciplines: Domains, Services and Technologies. For details visit: <https://www.isko2022cfp.pdf>

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Library in a Pump Room

Ever seen a library in a motor pump house? Well, Mandeep Singh, the one who launched the famous campaign - 'Kitabon Wali Gaddi' - has again took it upon himself to come up with another such unique initiative to encourage the habit of reading among the masses, says a story by Ajay Joshi in *The Tribune*. When he failed to get any government help or a private space to set up a library, he didn't lose hope and instead started looking for alternatives. He came up with 'Tera Tera Library', a concept entirely different from a regular library. What's unusual about the place is that it is located in the middle of the fields in Jabbowal village in Sultanpur Lodhi in Punjab. The library has over 350 books. "I was sure of opening a book spot in the village, but didn't know how. One day, I was sitting in the motor house, just when a random thought of setting up a library here crossed my mind. I got it renovated. It took me and my team around two months to install book shelves, paint the motor house with quotes, place books in it, increase the green cover around it and convert it into a good sitting place. Now, the motor house has been renamed as 'Tera Tera Library', said Mandeep, who works as a lineman with the Punjab State Power Corporation Limited. The books kept in the library are in four different languages - Hindi, English, Urdu and Punjabi. From literature of 1980s to books on IELTS, one can find a variety of books here. For students, in the village, there are textbooks, atlases, GK and other books. Books on various topics are also kept for those who are preparing for competitive exams. Apart from that, the library also houses several religious books. Notably, to collect books for his library, he circulated 'Pind di library layi kitabon di madad karo ji'" poster. The poster was widely shared by the Polywood celebrities too, which helped him get hundreds of books from various authors. Mandeep also urges locals to come forward in large numbers to donate books. For original report visit: <https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/jalandhar/he-refurbished-his-motor-pump-room-into-a-library-312892>

Library takes shape in Tribal Hamlet

At a tribal hamlet in Govinda Moola in Sulthan Bathery, Wayanad, Kerala, a small library has taken shape, says a story by Anasuya Menon in *The Hindu*. What was earlier a shack to store firewood at the village head's house, is now a space with shelves containing over 1,000 books in Malayalam and English. The Karinthandan Smaraka Vayanasala, as it has been christened, is a matter of pride for the villagers. Opened on October 31 last year, it is the only library in the village. Open from 9 am to 5 pm, it has been getting a fair share of footfalls. The formation of the library is part of a project, 'Book Farm', by Kites Foundation, a non-profit organization of youth volunteers based in Kerala. Collaborating with the Kerala State Library Council, NGOs and NSS units and local reading clubs, the volunteers have revived/set up 13 libraries in various districts in the State. "We

have been going through tough times and there was a need to have shared reading spaces. The flood of 2018 and the pandemic led to the decline of many libraries across the State. Our aim was to revive them and bring people back to the joys of reading,” says Ajmal Chakkarapadam, founder and chief executive officer of Kites Foundation. The books required for the libraries were collected from colleges across Kerala through NSS units and NGOs. “We roped in community members, local youth groups and college students, as the upkeep and functioning of the libraries would depend on them,” says Ajmal. Volunteers worked tirelessly, coordinating, cleaning and stacking books. After two months of hard work, the Udaya Reading Room and Library at Alappuzha now wears a new look. Free of dust, with a fresh coat of paint, and a colourful mural depicting Kerala, it has got a new life. Ever since the project was kicked off, the volunteers collected over 20,000 books in Malayalam and English that catered to every age group. Though the foundation does not construct library buildings, it renovates existing structures and converts usable spaces into reading rooms. The second phase of the project would be the setting up of micro-learning hubs in these libraries, which would aid in educating children, beyond the scope of the textbook. It would bring in experts to impart knowledge to children. “This can also benefit children from economically backward families,” says Ajmal. The ultimate aim is to convert these libraries into community development centres, which would promote socio-cultural growth. With over 5,000 volunteers, Kites Foundation plans to organize book donation drives and create more reading rooms. For original story visit: <https://www.thehindu.com/society/youth-volunteer-group-in-kerala-revives-libraries-as-part-of-its-book-farm-project/article37676575.ece>

Free Mobile Library Vans

In the next few months, residents of Byculla and Mazgaon in Mumbai may well spot mobile libraries for students in their localities. With the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) stopping distribution of food trucks by corporators as freebies, now the Shiv Sena-led corporation intends to distribute mobile library vans free of cost ahead of the civic elections early next year, says a *The Times of India* report. The BMC's E Ward, which covers Byculla, Mazgaon and Mumbai Central, has moved a proposal to buy and distribute mobile library vans worth Rs 2 crore. One mobile library will cost the BMC around Rs 45-50 lakh. The BMC's E Ward has asked the planning department to fix guidelines for distribution of mobile libraries after a demand from Shiv Sena corporator Yashwant Jadhav, who heads the civic standing committee. Jadhav is a corporator from constituency number 209 of Byculla and Mazgaon. Jadhav said the library vans would be run for poor and needy students by social organizations. “This is an educational initiative and I had taken approvals for it and even got fund provisions made officially. This will benefit thousands of students since we will keep books related to competitive exams such as UPSC and school and college curricula. Students can borrow the books and

it will be a library at their doorstep. Poor and needy students will benefit. Education shouldn't be politicised by the opposition,” Jadhav said. However, the opposition corporators have hit out at the BMC on this latest freebie. “Just like the distribution of food trucks, there is no policy for distributing mobile library vans. We don't know who will run the libraries and who will be the beneficiaries or what kind of books will be kept in these mobile libraries or where they will be parked. The BMC seems to be giving freebies like donations to the ruling party,” said SP corporator Rais Shaikh. BJP corporator Vinod Mishra too opposed it. “This is nothing but a way to give out freebies without any policy,” Mishra said. For full report visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/mumbai-after-no-to-food-trucks-bmc-to-distribute-mobile-libraries/articleshowprint/87725044.cms>

Revival of Libraries in Uttarkashi

Teachers of Uttarakhand have brought to life a 60-year-old library located in Uttarkashi, says a story by Vineet Upadhaya in *The New Indian Express*. Inaugurated recently, the library has a collection of over 45,000 books. It can help students, aspirants of competitive exams, researchers, literature lovers and everyone who wants to read about anything ranging from astronomy to geography, history and math. Uttarkashi district magistrate Mayur Dikshit is the man behind the idea. He said that three more libraries lying dysfunctional would be revived in the state. Over three dozen teachers took three months to revive the library. The district administration allocated ₹ 16 lakh for the work. “These days most of us are hooked on gadgets. Digitization is a good thing, but we should not forget our good old friends - books. Reading must be encouraged,” said the DM. “Once I came to know about the library, I decided to renovate it. The team volunteered and worked hard to make this a reality,” says the IAS officer of 2012 batch. At present, the fourth and final phase is on to digitize the library completely with soft copies of the catalogue, Internet connection and installation of computers in the premises. Akhlanand Bhatt, in-charge of the library, said, “I have heard from elders that this library was a storehouse of books in the district, but with time and negligence, it lost its relevance.” The library came into existence in the 1960s with sanctions from the Uttar Pradesh government. More than one lakh books covering almost every subject adorned the library. Dikshit says, he came up with the idea to set up libraries since it is difficult to get a good network connection to access reading material in remote villages. For original story visit: <https://www.newindianexpress.com/thesundaystandard/2021/sep/12/uttarakhands-uttarkashi-district-on-a-mission-to-build-network-of-libraries-2357399.html>

Child's Handwritten Book on Library Shelf

Writing a book is no easy task, even for adult professional writers. Many would-be authors dream of a day when their work can be found on library shelves, unsure if it will ever

come. But for 8-year-old Dillon Helbig, that day has already arrived in truly unconventional fashion - thanks to his own determination to make it happen. Dillon wrote his 81-page graphic novel, "The Adventures of Dillon Helbig's Crismis" (written by "Dillon His Self") in a hardcover journal with colored pencils over the course of a few days. He even put a label on the back of the book that reads "Made in Idaho" [sic] (Idaho, USA) and put an illustrated spine label on it as well. Then, without telling anyone, he brought it to his local library in Boise, Idaho, and slipped it in among the books in the children's section, says a story by Annie Reneau available on <https://www.upworthy.com/> website. The library Facebook page shared that it had officially added the book to the collection at the branch, writing, "Imagine our surprise yesterday when Dillon's mom called to tell us that her son had authored an entire book, shelved it at the Lake Hazel Branch, then announced to his family later that he had written a book and it could be checked out at the library." The library also announced that Dillon's book had won the first-ever Whoodini Award for Best Young Novelist - an award created in his honour. Dillon told local news station KTVB that the book features him, his mom, Santa, a bomb, a portal and a giant carnivorous turkey. Because of course, "I've been wanting to put a book in the library since I was five," Dillon told the station. Nearly half his life, in other words. Dillon said there were a lot of librarians he had to sneak past with his book to surreptitiously put it on the shelf, but he did it. "I'll always be sneaky, like how I get chocolate," he explained. Classic! The adults on every front handled this kid's creativity and determination the best possible way. His mom called the library to let them know that the book was there so it wouldn't get lost or taken. And rather than just returning the book, the librarians actually put it into circulation. "His parents were worried we would find his book and we would get rid of it," Lake Hazel Branch Library manager Alex Hartman told KTVB. "Which was an unfounded fear because if there's ever a place a book would be safe, it would be here." The librarians loved Dillon's book. "It deserves a spot on our library shelves," said Hartman. "It's a good story." At the time of this local news report, the book had a handful of people in line to check it out. But *The New York Times* reports that as of the end of January, the waiting list has grown to a whopping 56 people. If each person kept the book for the maximum four-week checkout period it would take four years to get to the people at the bottom of the list. "The experience has made Dillon decide to become an author," his mom said, and he even had some career goals laid out. "I'm going to stop writing when I'm 40," Dillon said. After that, he will switch to game creation. In the meantime, he has a sequel to his first novel in the works. "My next book is going to be called 'The Jacket-Eating Closet,'" he said, "based on actual events." Amazing. Kudos to Dillon for following his dream and making it happen, kudos to his mom for encouraging him and kudos to the librarians who saw an opportunity to support a

child's creativity and ran with it. For original story visit: <https://www.upworthy.com/8-year-old-handwritten-book-waiting-list?rebelltitem=1#rebelltitem1>

Free Library Membership to needy Students

A Ranchi social outfit will provide free library memberships to children to help them prepare for various examinations to ensure that poor students do not drop out of school for want of resources, says a *The Telegraph* story. Rotary Ranchi Central (RRC) office-bearers recently said that they had tied up with International Library and Cultural Centre (ILCC) located at Club Road for their endeavour. They have asked people to recommend needy children. Students can also independently contact them and get enrolled for the scheme. Atul Gera, a member of the outfit, said the idea to provide library memberships to poor kids for free for a year struck them after seeing the problems many were facing. "During the Covid-19 pandemic, the poverty index and scope of earnings have shrunk for many people. As schools remained closed for 22 months, many poor parents are considering discontinuing school education of their wards because of poverty. Not many have access to a library with good facilities. To begin with, we thought of facilitating poor kids with books to pursue their studies," he said. He said that ILCC provides good ambience and atmosphere for students to sit and study at a central location in Ranchi. "Books are available for students of all streams. The place can accommodate more than 100 students. There are many students who are already preparing for competitive exams from there. Hence, we tied up with this library to provide free membership for all those needy," he said. Gera said that Rotray was also tying up with individual donors and was in discussions with more institutions to help with providing free library memberships to needy students. "Donors will also be approached to donate books to keep the library updated," he said. For original story visit: <https://www.telegraphindia.com/jharkhand/ranchi-rotary-to-give-free-library-memberships-to-needy-students/cid/1852305>

Police opens Library for Students

The Hathras police in Uttar Pradesh have opened up a library for students in the Chandpa police station. Known as the 'Malkhana of Books', it is one of its kind initiative, says a *Deccan Herald* story. The library offers Wi-Fi facility to students and can accommodate 35 children at a time. Vineet Jaiswal, Superintendent of Police (SP) Hathras, said that the library had been built with the help of the district magistrate. The library is well equipped with above thousand books on all subjects, ranging from literature, science, spirituality and law. There are relevant books for those appearing in different competitive examinations. This initiative by Hathras Police aimed to facilitate the young talent to nurture themselves alongside bolstering the police-community relationship in a big way, the SP said. For original story visit: <https://www.deccanherald.com/national/north-and-central/this-police-station-in-uttar-pradesh-has-library-wi-fi-for-students-1079646.html>

Girl Opens Library for Girls

A girl from Rajasthan's village, Bassi, took it upon herself after families in the village refused to let girls travel to the nearest library, which was 13-14 Kms away amidst fear of molestation, and opened a library herself in the village, says an ANI story available on *indiatoday.in* website. She undertook this task to make learning more accessible to the girls in the village. Who undertook the initiative and why? Kavita Saini, who undertook this initiative, told the news agency ANI, "Women in our village did not have access to a library and the nearest library was 13 to 14 km away. In such a situation, they had to travel far for studies." "Families refused to let the girls travel for fear of molestation. So, I opened this library in the village itself," she added. Giving more details about her library, Kavita said that there were currently a total of 398 books in the library and that "the library remains open from 9 am to 5 pm and the books are free." For original story visit: <https://www.indiatoday.in/education-today/news/story/rajasthan-girl-opens-her-library-after-villager-refuse-to-let-girls-travel-to-faraway-library-1897892-2022-01-09>

Mobile Library on Camel

At a time when the Covid pandemic has left millions of children confined within the forewalls of their home, a novel initiative of a camel-borne mobile library is drawing laurels across Rajasthan, according to an IANS report published in *Lokmat Times*. This is the first mobile library to start operations in the interiors of Jodhpur district where vehicles find it difficult to operate due to sandy terrain. Started under the International Reading Campaign 2021, the library has a total of 1500 books of which most are story and drawing books. The initiative is a result of joint efforts taken up by the State Education Department and 'Room to Read' under the International Reading Campaign 2021 and has been started to ensure that students can read and write at their homes. The mobile library travels to far-flung areas to provide access to books to the kids residing there. Officials said that Room to Read has launched campaign under the themes of 'India gets reading at home' and 'Nahin rukenge nanhe kadam, Ghar pe rah kar bhi sikhenge hum'. For full report visit: <https://www.lokmatimes.com/international/first-of-its-kind-mobile-library-on-camel-starts-in-rajasthan/>

Book Stands at Bus Stands

The Dakshina Kannada zilla panchayat chief executive officer Kumar launched 'Pustaka Goodu' at a bus stand at Kombaru village in Kadaba taluk recently. Under the programme, book stands will be put up at various public places, mainly bus stands, of every gram panchayat, says a *The Times of India* report. The books will be placed in a glass case for the public to use. Meanwhile, notebooks were distributed to 285 government school students from Siribagilu and Kombaru. The programme was undertaken as part of CSR activity of Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Ltd (KIOCL) in association

with the District Working Journalists' Association (DWJA). The ZP CEO said in January, DWJA held a village-stay programme and was able to find solutions to several problems of Siribagilu and Kombaru. The association's concern towards social needs was laudable, he added. "Government school children from these remote villages do not receive government facilities on time. When classes went online due to the pandemic, many children here were not able to get access to online classes due to poor Internet connectivity. Some parents have no cellphones. In such a scenario, government school teachers have a major responsibility to teach them. The scene here is quite different compared to urban areas, where parents take interest in their child's academic performance," he said. For full report visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mangaluru/pustaka-goodu-initiative-launched-at-kadaba-taluk/articleshowprint/87787576.cms>

TN Temple Libraries being refurbished

Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments of Tamil Nadu P K Sekarbabu recently said that libraries situated inside temples in the State were being refurbished, says a *The Hindu* report. A sum of ₹10 crore had been allocated for this purpose and work was on in 114 libraries. These facilities were getting furniture, fresh coat of paint and books, wherever needed. Briefing reporters during a review meeting at the department's head office in Nungambakkam, he said that four libraries with books related to Hinduism were coming up in Chennai in areas, including Triplicane and Mylapore, where temples witnessed large crowds. Fire audits were being conducted in all temples and associated buildings to ensure the safety of lives and properties. Lightning conductors atop temple *gopurams* were being checked and those needing replacement were getting new ones installed, he said. For full report visit: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/libraries-inside-temples-being-refurbished-minister/article38059212.ece>

Fridge Library at Bhubaneswar Hat

The refurbished Ekamra Haat in Bhubaneswar has an added attraction of an open library for the visitors. People hanging out at the Haat have books for company now, according to a story available on *odishabytes* website. An out of the box idea, the library has been created in an old refrigerator with a glass door. It has been decorated with attractive Pattachitra motifs to promote the idea of reading. The refrigerator library has about 200 books in Odia and English for children as well as adults. Anyone can pick up a book from the unmanned library and sit down on the grass or on the seats in the area. The visitors can enjoy the food stalls serving different cuisines from across India and also indulge in shopping at over 50 craft stalls. The library also accepts books donated by anyone at the spot. This library has been set up by BAKUL Foundation in partnership with the State Institute for Development of Arts and Crafts under the guidance of the Department of Handlooms, Textiles and Handicrafts. It was inaugurated by R Balakrishnan, chief

advisor to the Chief Minister on last Children's Day. Shubha Sarma, Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Department of Handlooms, Textiles and Handicrafts, Sisir Kumar Rath, Member Secretary, SIDAC and Sujit Mahapatra, founder, Bakul Foundation, were present. Bakul Foundation has been running a library movement in the state to promote reading with public contributions. It has been attempting to bring books to public spaces and has set up a library inside Biju Patnaik Park also. For full story visit: <https://odishabytes.com/ekamra-haat-in-bhubaneswar-now-has-an-open-library-for-book-lovers/>

TECHNOLOGY NEWS

WhatsApp Profile to have Cover Photo

Meta-owned messaging platform WhatsApp is reportedly working on a new feature that will allow its users to set a cover photo on their WhatsApp profile, says a story available on www.india.com website. According to WhatsApp beta tracker WABetaInfo, the instant messaging app is working on a new way to manage the WhatsApp catalog, "WhatsApp is now working on another feature for WhatsApp Business accounts: the ability to set a cover photo, in a future update." WABetaInfo has further informed that it was not planned for standard WhatsApp user accounts but the new feature was currently being developed on WhatsApp Business. "When this feature is enabled for beta testers, there will be some changes to your Business Profile settings," WABetaInfo said. The latest feature on WhatsApp will be enabled through the addition of a camera button in the business settings. "WhatsApp is planning to introduce a camera button in your Business Settings: you can select a photo or take a new one to use as the cover photo." This will allow other users, including the standard WhatsApp users visiting the new business profile, to view the cover photo. This will work even if the screenshot has been taken from WhatsApp Business for iOS, "WhatsApp is planning to introduce the same feature on WhatsApp Business for Android as well." As the new feature is still under development, no release date has been revealed yet. Meanwhile, the messaging platform is also reportedly working towards releasing the 'Community' feature in a future update. As per WABetaInfo, Community is a private place where group admins will have more control over some groups on WhatsApp. The report said that WhatsApp Community was like a group chat and group admins were able to link other groups in the Community. For original story visit: <https://www.india.com/technology/whatsapps-new-feature-will-now-allow-users-to-set-cover-photo-for-whatsapp-profile-soon-5238170/>

WhatsApp Safety Resource

WhatsApp recently launched a dedicated 'Safety in India' resource hub highlighting a host of safety measures to help people stay safe online, says an IANS story available on india.com website. The launch of the resource hub comes after WhatsApp's week-long campaign, 'Take charge to promote the

safe use of the Internet. "Safety of our users is at the core of everything we do at WhatsApp and launching a dedicated 'Safety in India' resource hub is a way of reiterating our commitment to educating and empowering users to take control of their online safety," Abhijit Bose, Head of India, WhatsApp, said in a statement. "Over the years we have made significant product changes to help enhance user security and privacy. Besides continuous product innovations, we have also consistently invested in state-of-the-art technology, artificial intelligence, data scientists, experts, and processes, to support user safety," Bose added. The resource hub explores several important topics around online safety, privacy and security, debunks common myths, in addition to creating awareness on how users can safeguard themselves from potential cyber scams in today's digitally connected world. Through the 'Safety in India' hub, WhatsApp's goal is to build awareness about the various safety measures and in-built product features that empower users to take control of their safety while using the service. The resource hub also highlights advanced technology that WhatsApp deploys along with India-specific processes that help prevent the spread of misinformation and any form of abuse on the platform. "We hope this resource will equip users with the information they need to safeguard their privacy and navigate the Internet safely," Bose said. For original story visit: <https://www.india.com/technology/whatsapp-launches-safety-in-india-resource-hub-for-online-safety-5252931/>

WhatsApp Voice Calling Interface

WhatsApp has started to roll out a new interface for voice calls for select beta testers on iOS, says a story by Sourabh Kulesh available on gadgets360.com website. It also carries waveforms for group voice calls. This feature was previously rolled out for select Android beta testers, and was first spotted in last December. The news comes a few days after an update for iOS devices including iPhone and iPad models allow users to play voice messages in the background. The update lets users play voice messages and audio files outside of the chat window. As per a report by WhatsApp beta tracker WABetaInfo, WhatsApp for iOS beta 22.5.0.70 has brought the updated voice calling interface to some beta testers. "The Meta-owned instant messaging app will have a redesigned interface of a group call, and once the new interface is enabled, people can also see real-time voice waveforms to inform users about the active speakers during the call," WABetaInfo said. The redesign is also said to include a wallpaper to voice call interface, which cannot be edited at the moment. As mentioned, the new voice calling interface was rolled out for select beta testers on Android in February. The feature is quite similar on both the platforms. WhatsApp was first spotted working on a new voice calling interface back in December. Recently, WhatsApp released an update for iOS devices that allows the iPhone and some iPad users to play voice messages in the background. The update lets users play voice messages and audio files outside of the chat window. There is no information when this update will be

available on Android devices or the Web app. For original story visit: <https://gadgets360.com/apps/news/whatsapp-voice-calling-interface-update-beta-rollout-wabetainfo-ios-2779887>

SPECIAL FEATURE

Sari Library!

“No cash or time for shopping? No worries. Walk into this Sari Library” - says a newspaper heading. Sari Library! Never heard of? But now it is a reality, specially in some parts of Gujarat. The concept of Sari Library was conceived about a decade ago by Vandana Agrawal, a trustee and Board Member of Ahmedabad based NGO Gramshree Trust, established by Anarben Patel in 1995 to encourage the empowerment of underprivileged women through self-reliant activities. The project was initiated with a sari collection drive and response was overwhelming. Many resourceful women have overflowing wardrobes of colourful and richly decorated saris, which they have worn only once, and had no opportunity to do so again. They happily parted with some of them. And Gramshree started setting up sari libraries in different parts of the state, mainly in rural areas.

The first sari library was inaugurated in the winter wedding season of 2011 at a Gramshree center in Ahmedabad. Though it was originally launched just for the women working with Gramshree, word of mouth spread quickly, eventually leading to the libraries' doors opening to the wider public. Happily, the trust by now has opened around 20 libraries in places like Lilapur, Pundara, Narshinapura, Kada, Chadotar, and Rahpurs. Libraries are set up at Gramshree's centers, village temples and people's homes. Each of these libraries has a stock of 30 to 50 saris and more are being added through donations. They provide access to top-end saris to women who cannot otherwise afford such pieces and help them to participate fully in social life.

So far Gramshree's sari libraries have served around 5000 women across Gujarat. Due to high demand, Gramshree's sister organization Manav Sadhna has also opened three such libraries in Ahmedabad. Gramshree has a sari collection centre at Ahmedabad, where individual donors can submit their saris. Besides, some other NGOs also help them in this job. For example, Share and Care, supports Gramsree Trust in its endeavour by operating sari collection drives. Even in 2020 which saw difficult time due to pandemic, they collected 4,289 saris and a good number of other dress accessories.

In October 2021 a Vadodra housewife Hema Chauhan, and her seven friends - Neela Shah, Rita Vithlani, Parul Parikh, Sadhna Shah, Gopi Patel, Nilima Shah and Twinkal Patel - opened a sari library at a property owned by Hema's husband. Named Ashta

Saheli, the library offers a collection of more than 400 saris, ranging from Kanjivaram silk, *Banarsee*, Kota checks, *Bandhani*, to chiffon and georgette. Its collection also boasts of 30 *chanya cholis* and 60 other ethnic 'dresses' such as palazzos, *lehengas* and blouses. Talking to *The Better India* about an incident that inspired her to open the library, Hema said: “Last summer, my house help said she'd be leaving town for a few days to attend her brother-in-law's wedding. She mentioned how she wanted to wear something nice but didn't have the money to buy anything new. I ended up lending her a *chanya choli*. She said everybody in her family was impressed with her attire and kept asking where she'd bought it. She liked it so much that I never asked for it back.”

Ashta Saheli library being run by the eight friends in 'shift' system served over 100 women by December last year. It has a daily footfall of around 20. A borrower is required to deposit ₹ 500 while borrowing a piece of sari or other material, which is refunded when it is returned. Only dry-cleaning charge is deducted from the token deposit. Around 350 Vadodara-based women, most of whom are homemakers, are presently associated with Ashta Saheli as 'live members'. The group plans to keep donated purses, jewellery and footwear alongside these clothes.

There is also reportedly a retail shop in Kerala which loans out free designer wedding wear. A sari library was started in Kolkata also as early as in 2005, but possibly as a business organization and not as a free service organization. It provides saris against rent.

It is interesting to find that the concept of 'Library' has spread in other fields too giving rise to the concept of 'Library of Things'. Libraries have been built with collections of arts and crafts, electronic goods, musical instruments, kitchen equipments, toys and other things. And now we have library of saris. It has proved a boon to people having low income who are unable to spend money on purchase of costly saris for attending different social functions.

[Sources: <https://reasonstobecheerful.world/the-purposeful-beauty-of-indias-saree-libraries/>, <https://www.onlygoodnewsdaily.com/post/the-beauty-of-india-s-saree-libraries>, <https://shareandcare.org/news/blog/sari-drive-success-more-than-4-200-donations-for-sari-libraries-will-help-indian-women-with-limited-finances>, <https://www.movedbylove.org/projects/?pg=saree>, <https://www.thebetterindia.com/271160/ashta-saheli-saree-library-in-vadodara-rents-low-cost-donated-ethnic-wear/>, https://www.justdial.com/Kolkata/The-Saree-Library-Near-Goabagan-Beadon-Street/033PXX33-XX33-150211124905-Y7C1_BZDET, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Library_of_Things]

PERSONALIA

Dr. Ravinder Kumar Chadha has been awarded the prestigious Tagore National Fellowship for Cultural Research by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India. Dr. Chadha superannuated as Additional Secretary (Library), Parliament of

India. The Tagore National Fellowship for Cultural Research is awarded by the Ministry of Culture to a scholar who has made a significant contribution to knowledge. During his two-year Tagore Fellowship, Dr. Chadha will work on the proposed Project FAIR (Free Access to Indian Information Resources), i.e. creating an Indian Publications Data Repository.

Form IV

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