



IASLIC NEWSLETTER

Indian Association for Special
Libraries and Information Centres



OCTOBER, 2021

A Monthly Newsletter Published by IASLIC

Editor

Prof. Amitabha Chatterjee

Associate Editor:

Dr. Gurudas Ghosh

Assistant Editor:

Dr. Partha Sarathi Das

Editorial Board

Prof. K P Majumder

Prof. P K Panigrahi

Dr. Nitai Raychaudhury

Quote of the Month

“Librarians have always been among the most thoughtful and helpful people. They are teachers without a classroom.”

— Willard Scott,
American actor and author

Appeal to Readers

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

Email: chatterjeeamitabha@yahoo.co.in

IASLIC ACTIVITIES

Librarians' Day Celebration

IASLIC, jointly with Bengal Library Association (BLA) and West Bengal Public Library Employees Association (WBPlea) celebrated Librarians' Day on August 12, 2021 in virtual mode, with YouTube link, to commemorate Dr. S R Ranganathan's 129th birth anniversary. Welcoming the participants and viewers, Prof. Narendra Lahkar, President of IASLIC, briefly remembered the contributions of Dr. S R Ranganathan towards library development in India. Paying homage to the father of library and information profession in India, Prof. K P Majumdar, General Secretary, BLA, gave a brief account of Librarians' Day celebrations since 1990. He mentioned that Ranganathan was a very good policy maker, a great thinker and organizer, a successful teacher, an excellent writer and an unparalleled leader of library movement - all rolled into one. He also recalled Dr. Ranganathan's association with BLA. Shri Tapas Sarkar, General Secretary, WBPlea, gave a brief account of the present condition of public libraries in West Bengal. He expressed his anxiety over future of public library system in the state. Shri Abhijit Kumar, General Secretary, IASLIC, in his address, mentioned how Librarians' Day Celebration was started in 1990 following a decision at JOCLAI Meeting held at the IASLIC Conference held at Jaipur in 1989. He also highlighted the role played by IASLIC in organizing Librarians' Day in West Bengal, jointly with BLA, and mentioned that WBPlea and RRRLF later joined IASLIC and BLA in celebrating the event.

The inaugural session was followed by a discussion on the topic 'Importance of Library in Present Time'. Dr. R Sevukan, Associate Professor, Department of Library and Information Science, Pondicherry University, spoke on online teaching-learning situation through ppt presentation. Dr. Sevukan expressed the view that training was required for resource persons, learners, audience as well as administrators to make online teaching-learning more effective. He also mentioned about some challenges regarding online teaching-learning, viz. ill-equipped infrastructural facilities, declining strength of LIS manpower in libraries, affordability of devices, and lack of togetherness between LIS departments and libraries. Dr. Sevukan also proposed a model for sustaining all kinds of libraries where public libraries, academic libraries, research and special libraries, management libraries, LIS teachers, librarians, technocrats, information scientists would work together so that entire society was benefited. The second speaker, Prof. Durga Sankar Rath, Professor, DLIS, Vidyasagar University, started his lecture on 'Importance of Libraries' by paying homage to Dr. S R Ranganathan. Presenting the current scenario of library services, Prof. Rath highlighted the role of different libraries, specially university libraries, of our country in delivering services round the clock in COVID pandemic situation. He highlighted the roles that libraries needed to play in lifelong learning and continuing education. He said that library professionals should strive to make their libraries a happening place and a cultural hub. The third speaker,

Dr. Narayan Chandra Ghosh, Librarian, Indian Institute of Management Calcutta, also started his lecture by paying respect to Dr. S R Ranganathan and expressing gratitude to three associations BLA, IASLIC and WBPLEA. He briefly traced the history of libraries since the age of clay tablets. He mentioned that many of today's libraries were the contributions of Rajas, zamindars and Christian missionaries. He said that many important libraries and their documents were damaged by foreign invaders. He also highlighted the contributions of Ranganathan with regard to mobile library services for promoting and developing reading habits. Being librarian of Indian Institute of Management Calcutta, he shared his work experiences about virtual library services being provided in COVID situation and explained how library users were benefited by using digital collection through well-designed website. The last speaker, Shri Amit Kumar Pal, Librarian, District Library, Howrah, mentioned about the services provided by public libraries before the enactment of library law in West Bengal in 1979 and pointed out the present painful situation of public libraries in the state. Shri Pal suggested that a 'Duar-e-Library' scheme be implemented by the state government in the same way as 'Duar-e-Sarkar' scheme was being implemented. He further suggested introduction of some specialized services like 'Own Book Corner' service and 'Women Corner' service in public libraries. The programme was nicely coordinated by Dr. Suparna Sengupta, University Librarian, Pandit Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur, Chattisgarh. Finally the vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. Arun Kumar Chakrabarty, Librarian, The Bose Institute, Kolkata.

Study Circle Meeting on Library Service in Pandemic

The 336th ISALIC Study circle meeting was held on August 27, 2021 on Google Meet virtual platform. A lecture on 'Continuing Library Services in COVID-19 Pandemic with Special Reference to Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan Library' was delivered by Shri Shivanand Mishra, Librarian KVS, IFFCO, Gandhi Dham, Gujarat. In his welcome address, Dr. Sudip Ranjan Hatua, Convener, IASLIC Study Circle, explained why no meeting of the study circle could be arranged for a considerable period of time after 335th meeting held in November 2019. In his speech, Prof. Udayan Bhattacharya of Department of Library & Information Science, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, and the Chairperson in this meeting, highlighted how COVID-19 pandemic had affected the students and education sector nationally and globally. He also pointed out the importance of such practical approach of the topic. In his lecture, Shri Shivanand Mishra explained how their library adopted vary quickly the new normal situation and learnt so many technology and

tools for providing the uninterrupted services to the users during the lockdown period. He pointed out that library should always learn new technology and tools to help the users and age should not be the factor to learn new technology, otherwise the library and the librarian would fall behind and nobody would respect the librarian. He gave live demonstration of how to build blog, how to curate digital data and provide information as well as how to create content and provide the same to the users online by using very well-known tools like Wordpress and Wakelet.

The lecture was followed by an interaction session. Prof. Lahkhar commented on the utility of such tools in libraries. He stressed that the students should also be trained to enable them to handle such tools efficiently. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks given by Shri Joydip Chandra, Librarian, Barrackpore Rastraguru Surendranath College, Kolkata.

Around 230 participants listened or viewed the programme in Google Meet and YouTube streaming. Among them were 100 librarian, 30 other library professionals, 75 students and 10 faculty members. One student participated from Namibia. The post programme feedback received from many participants showed that: 60.4% participants listened the programme through Google Meet, while 39.6% viewed the same in YouTube Streaming; 75.5% participants felt that the programme was excellent where 22.6% felt that it was good; only 1.9% said that the programme was fair. Interestingly 54.7% participants liked to have an opportunity to deliver a lecture in IASLIC Study Circle Meeting and remaining 45.3% were hesitant or did not want to do so. Around 65% participants were from outside West Bengal, which indicates that online lecture draws more listeners.

CONFERENCES / SEMINARS / WORKSHOPS

National

INFLIBNET Training Programmes

INFLIBNET will organize following training programmes in December 2021:

- (1) Training on 'RMarkdown: Authoring Framework for Scholarly Communication' (December 8 - 10, 2021)
- (2) Training on 'SOUL 3.0 Installation and Operations' (December 13 - 17, 2021)

For details visit: <https://hrd.inflibnet.ac.in/training2021.php>

Conference of LIS Academy

LIS Academy, Bengaluru, is planning to hold the fourth Conference on 'Open Scholarship and Libraries' during December 9 - 11, 2021 at Gulbarga University, Kalaburagi, Karnataka. Details will be available soon at: <https://www.lisacademy.org/>

International

Conference on Knowledge, Information

Knowledge, Information, and Librarianship International Conference (KILIC 2021), organized by Library and Information Science Department, Padjadjaran University, Bandung, Indonesia, will be held in online mode on October 7, 2021. For details visit: <http://kilic.fikom.unpad.ac.id/>

Conference on Knowledge Discovery

The 26th Pacific-Asia Conference on 'Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining (PAKDD2022)' will be held in Chengdu, China, during May 16 - 19, 2022. For details visit: <http://www.pakdd.net/>

Conference on KM Systems

The 5th International Conference on 'Knowledge Management Systems (ICKMS2022)' will be held at the Silicon Valley, CA, USA, during May 27 - 29, 2022. For details visit: <http://www.ickms.org/>

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Ranganathan Library Committee Award

Dr. Kaushal Kishor Choudhary, President of Dr. Ranganathan State Library Committee (Bihar) recently announced Dr. Ranganathan State Library Committee Award - 2020. Dr. Choudhary, said that on the basis of the recommendation of the selection committee, the award of all the ten categories were announced, in which the work, contributions and activities of the applicants for the year 2020 had been considered. The awardees are: *Life Time Achievement Award* - Dr. Prem Kumar Jaiswal, Retired Director General, Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation; *Dr. U M Thakur Best University Librarian Award* - Dr. Manish Kumar Bajpai, Deputy Librarian, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia National Law University; *K P Sinha Best Public Librarian Award* - Dr. Deepak Srivastava, Divisional Librarian and Chairman, Government Public Libraries, Kota Division, Rajasthan; *Shri Barun Sarkar Best Library Science Teacher Award* - Prof. Manoj Kumar Sinha, HoD, DLIS, Assam University; *Dr. S N Das Best Library Professional of Bihar Award* - Shri Ajit Kumar, Librarian, Government College Mazgawa, Satna; *Dr. Aniruddha Prasad Best School Librarian Award* - Shri Shivanand Mishra, Librarian, Kendriya Vidyalaya IFFCO Gandhidham; *Dr. Kaushal Kishore Best Young Library Professional Award* - Shri Santosh Kumar Kori, Librarian, Government College, Chandla, Chhatarpur; *Best Young Library Professional of Bihar Award* - Shri Vikash Kumar Singh, Librarian, Sainik School Tilaiya; *Library and Information Precious Gem Award* - Dr. Amit Kishore, Librarian, Kendriya Vidyalaya Samastipur and *Library and Information Pinnacle Award* - Shri Ravi Ranjan, Coordinator e-Granthalaya Library Automation Software, Bihar Region, National Informatics

Centre, Patna. All the selected awardees were felicitated on Librarian's Day (August 12) 2021.

Report on LIS Refresher Course

Jawaharlal Nehru Library and DLIS, Dr. Harisingh Gour Vishwavidyalaya, Sagar organized a Refresher Course in Library and Information Science under the aegis of UGC-HRDC on the theme 'Changing Trends in the Library Services and LIS Education' during August 26 - September 9, 2021 through virtual mode using Google Meet platform. Prof. J D Ahi, Vice-Chancellor of the university inaugurated the course on August 26. He welcomed the chief guest and delivered a short but inspiring speech. Dr. Sangeeta Kaul, Director, DELNET, delivered the keynote address on 'Innovative Ways to Enhance the Effectiveness of Library Services for Next-Gen Library Users.'

Prof. Narendra Lahkar, Prof. Parthasarathi Mukhopadhyay, Dr. K C Satpathy, Prof. Laxman Rao Nagubandi, Prof. Bhaskar Mukherjee, Dr. Nihar Patra, Dr. Shivpal Singh Kushwah, Prof. K.P. Singh, Prof. Mahender Pratap Singh, Dr. Manish Kumar Singh, Prof. Harinder Pal Singh Kalra, Dr. Shuchita Singh, Dr. Nabi Hassan, Dr. Sunil Gorla, Prof. R K Choudhary, Dr. S T Kolle, Prof. J. N. Gautam, Prof. Ramesh C Gour, Prof. Shilpi Verma, Dr. Sandeep Pathak, Dr. Sharad Shonker, Dr. Manish Bajpae, Dr. Vijay K Malappa, Prof. Jeetendra Shrivastava, Prof. VPKhare, Dr. Dharmraj K Veer, Dr. Sonal Singh, Dr. Bhupendra Kumar Singh, Dr. Devendra Kumar Singh, Prof. M P Satija, Prof. K L Mahawar, Dr. Mukesh Sahu, Dr. Neelam Thapa, Dr. P K Tripathi delivered lectures on different facets of the theme of the refresher course.

The valedictory function was held on September 9, 2021. Prof. J. D. Ahi, Vice-Chancellor of the university welcomed the Chief Guest Prof. Roshan Lal Raina, Vice-Chancellor, Jaipur National University, Jaipur, and delivered the welcome address. Dr. Anurag Shrivastava, Assistant Librarian, JLN Library, Dr. H S Gour Vishwavidyalaya, Sagar and Dr. Mahendra Kumar, Assistant Professor, DLIS, Dr. H S Gour Vishwavidyalaya, Sagar, presented the report on the proceedings of the refresher course. The Chief Guest, Prof. Roshan Lal Raina delivered the keynote address. Concluding remarks were given by Prof. R T Bedre, Director, UGC-HRDC. The function concluded with vote of thanks proposed by Shri Santosh Sohgaora, Registrar, Dr. H S Gour Vishwavidyalaya, Sagar. Four sessions (two before lunch and two post-lunch) of 90-minute duration were held each day. Participants from seventeen states successfully completed the course.

Library Teaching Inclusivity and Diversity

The library is also the most democratic of spaces, often the birthplace of great ideas that have changed the world. What is better than a library is a free one, especially when it is set up in small towns, providing people — children primarily — free access to hundreds of books that are bursting with ideas,

stories and knowledge. So what 32-year-old Banupriya Jagadeesan accomplished when she set up her own little library for children in her hometown of Cuddalore to give young minds the opportunity to drench themselves in words that perhaps could change their lives and lead them to change others, says a story by Johanna Deeksha available on [www.edexlive](http://www.edexlive.com) website. Banupriya runs the Belongg Library's Cuddalore chapter called 'Reading Space' from her own home where she houses about 400 books. Belongg Library is a network of cultural and literary spaces across India that seeks to promote diversity and inclusion and so, besides offering children's books, Banupriya also offers books that bridge gaps between communities and raise awareness on how we can create a more diverse and inclusive world. While she was mostly exposed to only Western children's book authors growing up, it was only during her Arts Management course at Dakshina Chitra Museum that she discovered children's books by contemporary Indian authors. The young lady facilitates weekly story sessions for children in an NGO in Puducherry that works with underprivileged communities. Thus came the idea of starting a children's library. For details of interview with Bhanupriya visit: <https://www.edexlive.com/happening/2021/apr/14/how-this-little-cuddalore-childrens-library-is-teaching-lessons-on-inclusivity-and-diversity-19787.html>

'Library Man' of Jharkhand

A tribal official in the Agriculture Department in Jharkhand has earned the moniker of Kolhan's 'library man' for establishing as many as 25 libraries, including 12 digital libraries, in over a decade to help underprivileged students pursue their dream of higher education, says a story by Animesh Bisoe in *The Telegraph*. Sanjay Kachyap, a 40-year-old market secretary of the Agriculture Produce Market Committee (APMC) in Parsudih (Jamshedpur), has used his own experience of struggles in pursuing higher education to provide the benefits of libraries to poor students in rural hinterlands, mostly in rebel-hit areas. "I had to forgo my ambition of joining the civil services (after two attempts) due to paucity of funds back in 2002. Completing graduation (honours in history from Tata College in Chaibasa) was itself a struggle. I somehow got through the railway recruitment board exam for train guard in 2004. But I could not devote much time to my inner calling to do something for poor students while on duty. I left the job in 2008 after succeeding in the Jharkhand Public Service Commission examination for market secretary in the Agriculture Department and started preparing a blueprint for my philanthropic activities," said Kachyap, who hails from remote Pulhatu village in Chaibasa in West Singhbhum. His parents were manual workers. Kachyap got support from like-minded tribal academicians from districts of Kolhan region (comprising East Singhbhum, West Singhbhum and Seraikela-Kharsawan districts) and started the Digital Library Kolhan Group in 2008. He set up the first digital library at a community hall in his native village and in over a decade he has set up digital libraries in

extremism-affected areas like Manoharpur, Kharsawan, Gudabandha, Dumaria and Mosaboni. "I want poor but meritorious students do not face the same problems which I faced, while pursuing their dream of higher education and getting through competitive examinations. So far through crowd-funding we have managed to install computers and LCD projectors in 12 libraries. Books have been stocked in all the 25 libraries established so far. The books pertain to school and college syllabuses and for competitive examinations for banks, railway, Staff Selection Commission and the UPSC," Kachyap added. He has been contributing half of his salary to this cause since 2008 while the rest is generated through support from sympathizers to his cause. The passion for providing books to remote areas in the Kolhan region has made Kachyap convert his five-year-old hatchback into a mobile library. "I decided to convert my car into a library on wheels on December 8 which marked the death anniversary of tribal scholar Kartik Oraon. The car will be stocked with old and new books. I will drive it on my off days and Sundays to remote villages to create awareness about reading books and education amongst children," said Kachyap. The Digital Library Kolhan Group does not spend much on infrastructure though. "We use the community halls, abandoned schools (closed after merger of schools during the previous BJP government in Jharkhand) and even rooms in private houses of sympathetic villagers for our library," said Kachyap. Nearly 100 students have bagged government jobs taking help of rural and Mohalla libraries. Two of the libraries are fully Wi-fi enabled providing free Internet to marginalized students. For original story visit: <https://www.telegraphindia.com/jharkhand/library-man-tribal-official-in-jharkhand-establishes-25-libraries/cid/1826680>

Libraries for Village Students in East Singhbhum

The East Singhbhum district administration is going to set up as many as 30 libraries shortly for enhancing educational standards among students living in rural areas of the district, says a story by Kumud Jenamani in *The Telegraph Online*. The proposed libraries will have books donated by steel city residents. With the intention of accumulating as many books as possible, the deputy commissioner Suraj Kumar has instructed the civic body, Jamshedpur Notified Area Committees (JNAC), to start a campaign for collecting old books and depositing them at the district development office. For this noble cause, the deputy commissioner has roped in all the government departments not only for providing logistic support but also to ensure donation of as many old books as possible. District Mineral Foundation Trust has been assigned to reconstruct or modify dilapidated government buildings for developing them into libraries. The JNAC special officer, Krishna Kumar, recently made the civic body's city manager, Ravi Shankar Bharti, nodal officer for the old book collection campaign. "The kind of books that we intend to collect include old course books beginning from class I to class XII, books and periodicals

meant for competitive exam preparation, story and poem books and reference books," said Bharti to *The Telegraph Online*. The city manager said that the libraries would be set up in 10 of 11 blocks of the district for which they would require a huge number of books. "Hence we will have to mobilize support among the educated masses living in the city so that they come forward for this noble cause," the JNAC official said. The district administration had recently launched a campaign for collecting donation of used smart phones at various police stations so that it might offer them to the poor students for carrying out their online classes during the ongoing pandemic. For original story visit: <https://www.telegraphindia.com/jharkhand/east-singhbhum-to-establish-libraries-for-village-students/cid/1823856>

Schools setup e-Libraries

A WhatsApp link takes you to a shelf of books. Titles like *The Cherry Tree*, *The Wind on the Haunted Hill* and *The Blue Umbrella* pop out. Clicking on the book covers takes one to the story inside. Welcome to an e-library project initiated by the Asian International School (AIS) in Howrah for classes V to XII to mark the birth anniversary of Ruskin Bond in May, says a story by Chandreyee Ghosh in *The Telegraph Online*. Thus, most books of the growing library are dedicated to the author. The junior section of the Birla High School in Kolkata has also come up with a same initiative in June to keep boredom at bay for their students. Built on similar lines, the school will be adding around 10 books for each class every month. The selection includes a range of classics and popular authors, Ruskin Bond and Roald Dahl being universal favourites. "The e-library project aims to encourage the children to read. Many students have shared with their teachers how much they are missing their school library. That's when I decided to start an e-library. We plan to dedicate a month to each author and stock up on his books," said AIS principal Vijaylaxmi Kumar. As of now, the AIS library is stocked with Ruskin Bond books, the Harry Potter series and worksheets for students. The link is being sent to their WhatsApp groups as well as on the school portal. The principals and teachers at the AIS are working hard at stocking up their e-library with textbooks as well as fiction. "It will be very useful if more study material is available online, through the e-library. We plan to add more magazines and non-fiction. That way the senior students will not have to search too far for their reference materials, now that the school library is off limits for them," added senior science teacher Anita Shaw, who also co-ordinated the project. "We are getting used to holding lessons, activity classes and even inter-school events virtually. Our reading classes are enjoyed by all, but students still miss the school library a lot. To satiate this hunger and fuel the passion for reading we set up the e-library for our children from classes I to V. Each month the collection will be updated by our librarian and language teachers, so that students have a wide variety of reading material to choose from," said Birla High headmistress

Farida Singh. For full story visit: <https://www.telegraphindia.com/west-bengal/calcutta/young-metro-kids-take-a-detour-to-the-world-of-fiction/cid/1823902>

Nagaland Brothers set up Mini Library

In an attempt to revive the dying art of reading books, Akho Phira (25) and his elder brother Thepfukelie Phira (33) from Kigwema village in Nagaland have set up a small "community library" in their village — about 18 km from state capital Kohima, making books more accessible to the people, says a story by Medolenuo Ambrocia available on www.eastmojo.com website. "As a child, we used to exchange *Tinkle* comics and story books with friends. But now we see that with smartphones all around, reading books has become rare. So, we wanted to revive this dying art of reading books," Akho told *EastMojo*. Akho, who found his interest in reading books while pursuing his post-graduate studies in Chennai, said that in order to encourage the youth and children to read books, making books accessible to them was a significant step which gave him an idea to set up the mini street library. "The idea to set up a library struck me. So, I shared the idea with my brother and the library took shape in about a week's time," said Akho, who is currently working as a programme associate of North East Network (NEN) based in Chizami, Phek district. The street library, which came to be known as the "community library", was formally launched by Village Development Board (VDB) secretary Ruokuovikho Chale and dedicated to the people by Razukhele Phira on July 23. The library was set up at a small community outdoor sitting space called "Nepi Tsekhwe", making it more accessible to the people. Currently, the library hosts nearly a hundred books across a range of genres. He informed that some books and monetary aid were also received from their well-wishers. "This was a very personal project. We hope that it will drive positive action and change. Although a small initiative, we really hope to engage with the youth towards community development," he said. To create more awareness to the people about the library, Akho and his brother also started an Instagram page to promote its activities. Over a week after the launch of the library, he said, it was observed that often children who came to play around the area now tended to read the story books as well. "People have started to borrow novels as well," he gladly said. In the days to come, the duo hope to give more information to the residents in the village — even the older generation — through the library by subscribing to local dailies. "We want to tap the space to its maximum potential and not just use it as a regular Library. But as it just took off, we wish to wait for some time and if it flourishes, we will be working on the next step," he added. Even as some are apprehensive about the library fearing theft of books, Akho is optimistic that such a situation may not arise. He informed that a database of the books that are kept at the library is also maintained to track the books. For full story visit: <https://www.eastmojo.com/nagaland/2021/08/02/these-2-brothers-set-up-a-mini-library-in-nagaland-to-revive-the-dying-art-of-reading/>

Students turn Masons to build Library

In the remote India-China border town of Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh, young people believe that the pen is mightier than the sword and they put their minds at work. To inspire the locals to read books, they turned masons and carpenters and built a community library by dismantling an old and dilapidated government structure, according to a story by Prasanta Mazumdar in *New Indian Express*. In the tribal societies of Northeast, the youths are usually very skillful. Chief Minister Pema Khandu, a local, was effusive in his praise of the students. “Students from Tawang worked together to build this beautiful Community Library. The entire construction work of reinforcing, shuttering, carpentry, masonry, roofing, etc. were all done by students. Due to hardworking environment, average youths here possess such work skills,” he tweeted sharing some photos of the library. The work was executed in 40 days under the watchful eyes of the All Tawang District Students' Union (ATDSU). Some 15 university, college and school students had lent their service. There is a “district library” in the town but, the ATDSU said, it could not cater to all citizens. “Tawang being a remote district, books are a rarity here. We also observed that not many people read books these days. So, we wanted to inspire them to get back to their reading habit and develop it among youth,” Pema Tsering, who is a student leader and in-charge of the library construction committee, told this newspaper. Built at a cost of around ₹ 6.5 lakh, the library is half concrete and half wooden with its roofing done with CGI sheets. “We spent from the union's fund and received assistance from well-wishers. We had approached people for help. As work progressed, help started pouring in,” Tsering said. “It will not be like any other library in the state. It will primarily have inspirational books, comics etc for children. Many students have started donating used books. Some social media users and others expressed the willingness to donate books,” Tsering said. “We have no doubt the youth will get inspired and develop the habit of reading books. We will hand the library over to the state's education department for its better management,” he added. It was decided that the library will be named after former Chief Minister, the late Dorjee Khandu, as a tribute to him. For original story visit: <https://www.newindiaexpress.com/good-news/2020/nov/08/inspiring-people-to-read-arunachal-students-turn-masons-carpenters-to-build-community-library-2221077.html>

Migrant Labourers set up Library

Unlike many libraries, the Haadibadi Community Library located in Roopena Agrahara, Bengaluru, is not enveloped in silence. Instead, it bursts with colour, chatter and curiosity — on the pages of books, on the walls and in the pictures that the children draw. Established at the start of 2019, the Haadibadi library intended to provide free access to books to the community of migrant labourers in the area. Three years later, it has not only become home to 3,000 to 4,000 book

titles (primarily in Kannada and English), newspapers and magazines but also proved to be a safe space for many to explore and access books, read and participate in discussions and attend specialized classes and events, says a story by Varsha Gowda in *Deccan Herald*. Geetha M, a co-founder and executive director of the library and an educationist, explains that such spaces foster independent learning. To encourage children to develop the habit of reading, Geetha explains, a network was set up with three schools in the area — Round Table School, Sadhguru Saibaba School and Government Higher Primary School, Kodichikanahalli. The purpose was to utilize the existing library systems and improve them by generating interest in children by engagement during the 'library period'. Going to the library has meant that 11-year-old Anushka Devangi's every day is chock-full of stories. When asked about her favourite book, she brims with many options. Finally, she settles on the story of two dogs — one belonging to a rich family and another to a poor family helping each other out. She is equally animated about all the other activities that happen in the library. “I love drawing, painting, playing and also made new friends here,” she says. Her mother Prema is delighted with the stories her daughter is reading and she is not only charmed by the library but can also understand how integral such initiatives can be for children. “Our area didn't have such facilities. After school, many children would just while away time with mobile phones or televisions. Now I am happy that they are reading different books and building knowledge,” she says. The library is free for all visitors. Children are free to borrow the books they want to read. They are even encouraged to read and keep up with the news. The books are mostly donated through book donation drives in colleges or residential areas while the activities conducted in the space are driven by volunteering. For full story visit: <https://www.deccanherald.com/spectrum/spectrum-top-stories/in-bengaluru-migrant-labourers-have-a-library-of-their-own-1009425.html>

Mobile Bus Library in Kashmir

The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir will soon get 20 buses designed as mobile libraries, equipped with all technological amenities like computers and other allied services, Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF) Director-General Prof. Ajay Pratap Singh said recently. The Department of Libraries & Research, Government of Jammu & Kashmir, and RRRLF will be part of the novel initiative - Library-on-Wheels - in J&K. Prof. Singh said that the bus libraries would be launched in all districts to make quality reading material accessible to everyone, especially in areas sans public libraries, says a *The Times of India* report by M Saleem Pandit. Prof. Singh said that the resources to purchase the buses would be arranged from corporate houses and philanthropic organizations under their corporate social responsibility initiative. The recurring cost for these vehicles - including fuel, maintenance and other charges - would be borne by RRRLF.

The books and other reading materials, meanwhile, would be provided by J&K's Libraries & Research Department, with the district libraries serving as the base libraries for the initiative, Prof. Singh added. On the recommendation of the UT-Level Library Advisory-cum-Purchase Committee, two public libraries from J&K — Srinagar's Gani Memorial Central Library and Samba District Library — would be upgraded under the centrally-sponsored National Mission on Libraries. District libraries would be digitized and digital libraries established at the gram panchayat level across J&K under Mission Youth. Besides, the Tribal Affairs Department of the Union Territory would arrange online/offline coaching for competitive exams including IAS/JKAS, NEET, JEE, AIPMT, CET, UPSC/JKPS, NET/SLET, NDA/CDS, SSB, GMAT, CLAT, CAT etc. through public libraries in Srinagar city as well as remote areas of J&K. The committee also approved setting up of IT hubs at Jammu's SRS Library and Srinagar's SPS Library in convergence with the Smart City Mission project in the respective cities. The committee was informed that the Jammu Smart City Ltd. had already formulated ₹ 4.3 crore DPR for upgrading SRS Library and setting up an IT hub while a similar proposal is under consideration for Srinagar Smart City as well. For original report visit: http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/85637721.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst

TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Features of Facebook's Smart Glasses

Facebook Inc. unveiled its long-awaited smart glasses in partnership with Ray-Ban, entering a nascent wearables market with a focus on capturing photos rather than augmented reality (AR), says a report by Bloomberg News in *The Indian Express*. The social network recently showed off the glasses, called Ray-Ban Stories — a direct rival to Snapchat's Spectacles. The \$299 Facebook glasses, which use Luxottica Group SpA-owned Ray-Ban's classic Wayfarer frame style, let users take photos and video, listen to music and answer phone calls. While they lack AR, the technology that overlays digital content on the physical world, Facebook says that it eventually plans to embed that functionality. "We are building towards AR glasses as the next computing platform," Monisha Perakash, a product director at Facebook, said in an interview. "We see it as a very important first step towards that vision." Facebook is entering an increasingly crowded market. Snapchat parent Snap Inc. first released the Spectacles in 2016 with a built-in camera for shooting video. In 2019, Amazon.com Inc. launched smart glasses to take calls and use Alexa, but those also don't include AR. In May, Snap also announced a version of Spectacles that feature AR capabilities, although those aren't available for consumers. Apple Inc. plans to enter the glasses space later this decade with an AR-capable offering, Bloomberg News has reported. To the naked eye,

the glasses don't look much different than classic Ray-Bans. But the plain appearance conceals an array of smart features: dual 5-megapixel camera sensors; embedded Bluetooth 5.0 and Wi-Fi to synchronize with a phone; a battery; enough storage for 500 pictures; and speakers. A user can snap a photo by pressing and holding a button on the right side of the glasses, or can record video by pressing it once. There's also a touch area on the right side of the glasses for controlling music, a voice assistant and calls. A user can swipe left or right to adjust volume, tap to play, pause and skip music, or double tap to answer and end phone calls. A basic Facebook voice assistant is also present. Facebook didn't say when it would have true AR glasses on the market, but such a device is part of the company's long-term strategy to build out what Chief Executive Officer Mark Zuckerberg has been calling the metaverse — digital worlds where people spend time together using devices powered by virtual reality. Zuckerberg has said that he thinks virtual and augmented reality-powered devices are the next major platform for human communication, after mobile phones, eventually replacing some in-person interactions. If Facebook is successful in the device market, it will be able to build out its advertising and messaging business without having to rely on operating systems and gadgets created by competitors such as Apple Inc. and Google. For full report visit: <https://indianexpress.com/article/technology/gadgets/facebook-smart-glasses-ray-ban-7499654/>

SPECIAL FEATURE

Flying Books!

If you are a book lover but are unable to visit your library in pandemic or due to advancing age or illness, don't feel depressed. Or if you are a librarian who are feeling disappointed for not being able to reach your readers in difficult times like pandemic or extreme weather, though you want to do so, don't be disheartened. There is a good news for both of you: Days are not far away when you will find library books flown by drones to the readers. No, it is not a joke nor a day dream! It is already a reality in a few countries, specially in the aftermath of COVID pandemic.

Drone, which is a remote controlled unmanned flying vehicle equipped with infrared camera, laser, GPS (Global Positioning System), navigator, sensor and state-of-the art hardware and software, has been in use for quite sometime for different military purposes and even civilian purposes like delivery of food, grocery, medicines and so on. Several studies mentioned about possibility of using this vehicle for delivering of library books at user's doorstep. But its actual use by libraries was prompted by the ongoing pandemic and is, therefore, a recent phenomenon.

Edmonton Public Library in Canada is reportedly the first library to employ drones for delivering books to its users in 2019. It launched four drones to perform the task. Before delivering the books, a message is sent to the user who has

made a request for a book. The message instructs the users to clear all the pets from the area so that the drone does not fly into or startle animals.

In USA, Kelley Passek, a librarian working for Montgomery County Public Schools in Christianburg, Virginia, who, being impressed by drone delivery of essential household items by a company called Wing Aviation, a subsidiary of Alphabet, parent company of Google, thought of adopting a similar service to deliver library books to the students of her school system as she was concerned about how students would get their required resources after her school system, so also other schools, in her country adopted distance teaching-learning mode in the pandemic situation. She obtained the services of Wing for this purpose and drone delivery service of books started in June 2020. Passek herself coordinates the delivery process and does most of the preparatory work: She receives requests from the students through a Google Form filled by them, picks up the needed books from district libraries, does necessary packaging and ultimately brings book-packets to Wing's delivery center. The Wing's drones then deliver the books to the students by lowering them to the ground on a string. About 600 school children, who live in Wing's delivery zone, are very happy to enjoy the service.

Incidentally, it may be mentioned that even before drones were drafted to carry library books to the users, Zookal, an Australia based textbook rental service, in partnership with Fliety, an unmanned air vehicle (UAV) delivery company, made first demonstration of book delivery through drones in 2013, thus raising the hope of employing drones by libraries for the purpose of book delivery.

Now that Edmonton Public Library and Kelly Passek have shown the way, many libraries must be thinking of taking help of drones to reach library books to their users in

difficult situations. Many companies are now operating delivery drones for delivering various items in different countries, such as Amazon Prime Air, whose help may be sought to introduce this service. Can we expect such a service in our country too?

[Sources: <https://in.pcmag.com/drones/136753/googles-wing-drones-deliver-library-books-to-virginia-students>, <https://www.popularmechanics.com/technology/infrastructure/a32840540/google-wing-drone-delivery-library-books/>, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-usa-tech-feature-t-idUSKCN24L1OI>, <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/librarian-uses-drone-to-deliver-books-to-kids-stuck-at-home-due-to-coronavirus/>, <https://www.forbes.com/sites/jlim/2014/09/08/drone-startup-flirtey-partners-with-the-university-of-nevada-reno-to-push-uav-delivery-forward/?sh=766af25469d8>]

PERSONALIA

Ms. V Sajitha, Reference Assistant, University Library of Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Kalady, has been awarded Ph D degree by Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, for her thesis entitled 'Research Productivity of Faculty Members in Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Kalady: A Bibliometric Study'. Dr. Sajitha pursued her research work under the guidance of Prof. G Devarajan, former Head and UGC Emeritus Fellow, Department of Library and Information Science, University of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram.

Shri S L Faisal, Librarian, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Pattom, Thiruvananthapuram, has been honoured with National Teacher Award 2021. He received the award from the honourable President of India on National Teachers' Day, September 5, 2021. Shri Faisal is a life member of IASLIC.

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

BOOK POST

If undelivered please return to :

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

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