



# IASLIC NEWSLETTER

Indian Association for Special  
Libraries and Information Centres



July 2020

A Monthly Newsletter Published by IASLIC

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## Quote of the Month

*"Libraries are the ultimate  
restaurants for brain food."*

— Simon Van Booy  
Anglo-American 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](mailto:chatterjeeamitabha@yahoo.co.in)

## IASLIC ACTIVITIES

### IASLIC Webinars: Brief Report

IASLIC organized a series of webinars during June 2020 on Zoom platform with YouTube link. The first webinar was held on June 10 on the topic *Trends in Use of Technologies in Libraries*. The resource persons were Dr. Shri Ram, Deputy Librarian, Thapar Institute of Engineering & Technology, Patiala; Dr. F R Sumer, Deputy Librarian, NEHU, Shillong; and Prof. N Laxman Rao, former Professor, DLIS, Osmania University, Hyderabad. This webinar was attended by 916 professionals. The second webinar was held on June 17 on the topic *Rejuvenating LIS Education in Changed Environment*. The resource persons were Dr. P R Goswami, former Director, Library & Information, IGNC, New Delhi; and Prof. Abdul Majid Baba, Advisor, Libraries, Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir. This webinar was attended by 1122 professionals. The third webinar was held on June 22 on the topic *Publication Trends of Indian LIS Professionals*. The resource persons were Prof. Amitabha Chatterjee, former Professor, DLIS, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, and Dr. S Ravikumar, Assistant Professor, DLIS, NEHU, Shillong. This webinar was attended by 967 professionals. The last webinar on the topic *Post COVID-19 Changes and Challenges in Libraries* was held on June 29, 2020. The resource persons were Prof. Parthasarathi Mukhopadhyay, Professor & Head, DLIS, Kalyani University, Kalyani, West Bengal; and Dr. Ramesh C Gaur, Dean & Director, Library & Information, IGNC, New Delhi. This webinar was attended by 902 professionals. Prof. Narendra Lahkar, President of IASLIC and Prof. Pijush Kanti Panigrahi, Professor & Head, DLIS, University of Calcutta and Editor of IASLIC Bulletin, acted as coordinators, while Dr. Gouri Sankar Karmakar, Librarian, Pandu College, Guwahati, extended technical support. LIS professionals who attended the webinars were from different parts of India and abroad. A number of issues were identified in the presentations inviting attention of the stakeholders. Need of skill development of LI professionals, restructuring of LIS education with reference to job market and job requirements, need for enhancing quality of publications by LI professionals, preparing the LICs to render effective services by overcoming the challenges posed by pandemic were some of the issues discussed thoroughly by the resource persons and in the open forum by different participants on respective days. Prof. Lahkar expressed his views on different issues and extended sincere thanks to the resource persons and the participants for making the IASLIC Webinar series a success.

## CONFERENCES / SEMINARS / WORKSHOPS

### National

#### INFLIBNET Online Programmes

The training programmes announced by INFLIBNET earlier are now being held online. Two new online programmes have also been announced. These are: (1) *Creation and Management of Digital Library using Open Source Software* (July 27 - 31); (2) *e-Learning: Content Creation and Delivery using MOOCs Platform* (August 26 - 28). For details visit: <https://hrd.inflibnet.ac.in/>

### INFLIBNET Webinars

INFLIBNET is organizing free webinars on the following topics during July - September, 2020: (1) *Metadta for ETDs and Shodhganga* (July 3); *UGC Plagiarism Policies, Penalties and Consequences* (July 17); *Information Security* (July 28); *e-Learning: Content Creation and Delivery using MOOCs Platform* (July 31); *Understanding MARC21 and Dublin Core* (August 4); *Detection of Plagiarism by Using Different Online Tools* (August 7); *Document Submission and Report Analysis in Plagiarism Software* (August 11); *Importance of Academic Identities and VIDWAN* (August 14); *Research Information Management System-IRINS* (August 28); *Research Data Management* (September 8); *Use of Reference Management System and Research Report Writing* (September 11); *Online Data Repository with Introduction to ICSSE Data Service* (September 22); *Data Conversion for SOUL Software* (September 25); *Open Educational Resources for Academicians and Role of Libraries* (September 29). The webinars will be held from 11.30 am to 1 pm on each day. For more details visit: <https://hrd.inflibnet.ac.in/>

### Online Training Programme on e-Learning

Pandu College, in association with Rabindranath Tagore University, Hojai, and IASLIC Zone 5, is organizing an online training programme on 'E-learning in Higher Education' during July 1 – 7, 2020. The programme will be multidisciplinary one in which faculty members and LI professionals from the colleges and universities will participate. It will be conducted on google class room platform.

### Webinar on Technical Writing

Bengal Library Association, Kolkata, has been organizing a series of webinars on various professional topics. The next webinar on 'Technical Writing: How to Write a Technical Paper' is scheduled to be held on July 4, 2010 during 3.30 pm – 5 pm. The speaker will be Prof. Amitabha Chatterjee, former, Professor & Head, DLIS, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, and Editor, IASLIC Newsletter. For details, registration and information on upcoming webinars visit: <http://weblibnet.blcal.org/mooc/course/index.php?categoryid=3>

### International

#### Webinar on Information Management

A Webinar on 'Information Management in Networked Age' is being organized by Library Association of Bangladesh on July 5, 2010 at 3 pm Bangladesh time i.e. (9 am GMT). The speaker will be Dr. Md. Nasim Iqbal, Information and Record Management Officer, Australian Public Service Commission and former Faculty Member of Department of Information Science & Library Management, University of Rajshahi, Rajshahi, Bangladesh. The moderator will be Prof. Kazi Mostak Gausul Haq, Chairman, Department of Information Science & Library Management, University of Dhaka., Dhaka, Bangladesh. For registration visit: <https://bit.ly/31fbQxH>

### Conference on Libraries in Android Society

The 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Innovation Driven Librarianship (ICIDL) and the International Conference of International Library and Information Science Society (I-LISS), organized by SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST) and co-organized by I-LISS, will be held at the Central Library, Main Campus, SRM IST, Chennai, during August 7 - 9, 2020. The theme of the joint conference is 'Revitalizing the Libraries to the Android Society'. For details visit: <https://easychair.org/cfp/ICIDL-IIC-2020>

### Symposium on Digital Expression

An International Symposium on 'Digital Expressions of the Self' is being organized by the Department of Humanities & Social Sciences, National Institute of Technology Silchar, during December 7 - 8, 2020. A Pre-Symposium Workshop is also being organized during December 5 - 6, 2020. For details visit: <http://www.nits.ac.in/NewsUpdates/DES2020.pdf>

## MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

### Library Visitors' Book Tells Many a Tale

When Sarojini Naidu - the first woman governor of UP and independent India - came to Tagore Library of Lucknow University and was asked to write her name and address in the visitors' book, she just wrote 'India' as her address, says a *The Times of India* report. Like Naidu, a number of eminent citizens recalled their fond association with LU in the historical register that has been successfully restored by INTACH as a gift to the university in its centenary year. "The register is a witness to the visits of British viceroy to India Lord Irwin (1926-1931) and socialist Ram Manohar Lohia," said deputy librarian Jyoti Mishra. Mishra revealed that the visitors' book has, among many gems, an emotional letter from former Punjab C M Surjit Singh Barnala who had recalled his university days at the time of Quit India. "I was a student of Lucknow University from 1940 to 1946. I passed my LLB during the Quit India Movement. After some disturbance and student participation, the university was closed down for an indefinite period but the library remained open. I along with the other students attended the library and reading room very frequently," Barnala's letter reads. For original report visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/lucknow/visitors-book-at-tagore-library-witness-to-british-legacy-freedom-movement/articleshowprint/74466437.cms>

### Emergency Library and Copyright Confusion

The pandemic has required us to reorganise our lives and rethink how several laws operate. While much of the intellectual property rights (IPR) debate has been about patents in the medical context, the boundaries of copyright are being tested as well. With teaching moving online, there have been many questions on how copyright laws and "fair use" provisions extend to online uses, says a report by Aishwarya Giridhar in *The Daily Pioneer*. There

are exceptions to copyright law, which allow the use of materials without the permission of copyright holders in some contexts. While the use of content by teachers solely for education would generally be covered under “fair use” exceptions, what of institutions such as libraries that serve public interest in a broader way? An interesting debate has shaped up in the US in this context. In March, the US-based Internet Archive suspended wait-lists for the 1.4 million books in its catalogue by creating a “National Emergency Library” meant to last until the end of the lockdown. As per the Archive, this was done to give students access to assigned readings and library materials. However, four major publishing houses sued the Archive in early June, claiming that it amounted to copyright infringement and piracy. For the uninitiated, the Archive is an NGO that describes itself as an internet library for “offering permanent access for researchers, historians and scholars to historical collections that exist in digital format.” It uses a system of controlled digital lending that partly relies on the first sale doctrine, which gives the buyer of a book the right to sell, lend or dispose it. The Archive states that it only digitally lends as many copies as it has in its possession and further lends to each user only for two weeks at a time. It maintains an “owned to loaned” ratio and puts in place measures to prevent redistribution or copying. However, the National Emergency Library temporarily amends this system to remove the wait-list, an action that the Archive asserts would be covered by the “fair use” exception under US copyright law. It argues that the lockdown made physical books in libraries inaccessible to the public and it is trying to fill this “unprecedented need” for books. Plus, its catalogue focusses on materials published during the 20th century and not on contemporary bestsellers. On the other hand, the publishing companies argue that the Archive is making books available in full for download without paying any licence fees or other payments, and that its actions exceed legitimate library services. The firms also dispute the Archive's non-profit status and argue that the controlled digital lending system is not permitted under copyright law. Given the differences in physical and digital books, the complaint asserts that the latter are governed by different terms and conditions than the former. The American Association of Publishers also highlighted measures that publishers have already undertaken to enable access to resources, including by providing complimentary passes, flexible licences and other initiatives. The Authors Guild, too, argued that the Emergency Library would divert income from authors by preventing them from introducing their books in digital formats when their books go out of print. It also contested that many of the books on the Archive were in-copyright books that authors/publishers rely on for revenue. For full report visit: <https://www.dailypioneer.com/2020/columnists/digital-libraries-and-copyright-confusion.html>

### Rajasthan to have Panchayat Level Libraries

The Language and Library Department of Rajasthan has proposed to start independent libraries at panchayat samiti level to inculcate reading habit among people in rural areas, says a *The Times of India* report. The state has public libraries in government schools at every samiti level but those function only during school hours. The proposal says that these libraries can be set up either at the community centres or at abandoned government buildings. Visnhu Kumar Goyal, Director of the Language and Library Department (LLD), said the new reformatory plans were in tune with the fast-changing trends related to the reading habits and utility of libraries. “The libraries in schools have a limitation that can only function as per the school hours and its annual calendar. It has restricted the user base giving advantage to the private players. A vast section of users are students, who are preparing for competitive examinations, and requires long sitting hours. They need a comprehensive library,” said Goyal. “For new libraries, which can open as per the requirement, we need land or existing infrastructure,” he said. Officials said the relevance of state libraries is dependent upon the new changes if introduced timely. Officials have said that they wanted a complete makeover of the existing state and district level libraries. “The format of libraries has changed over the years as the users look for small space rather than halls. Secondly, sitting space will also have a provision of keeping a laptop and wifi connection. These facilities have become very basic in the libraries and absence is a reason that enrolment has been static in most of the state libraries,” said an official. State's biggest library Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan Central Library in Jaipur is running full to the capacity. The department is also planning to create some more space in the central library to adjust students who would like to read for long hours. The next phase is digitization of libraries which is one of the measures listed to inculcate the reading habits. “Our direct competition is with private libraries who are charging ₹ 700 - ₹ 1,000 per month from students for providing sitting space,” said Goyal. For original report visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/jaipur/libraries-at-gram-panchayats-proposed-to-inculcate-reading-habits-in-rural-areas/articleshowprint/72301030.cms>

### Rats Digest Court Library Books

The Covid-19 lockdown may have stalled the rat race among humans but not rats racing towards anything edible as a librarian in Small Causes court in Mumbai's Bandra found out to his horror, says a *The Times of India* report. The librarian who resides near the court recently went to check on his library only to see books shredded by rodents. “I immediately moved the remaining books to another cupboard and will be spraying a medicine,” he said. The rats, he said, might have slipped in through a tiny gap in one cupboard. Others were fine, he said. The Bombay High Court judges' library, which has many rare books, is fine and staff under deputy registrar, Library, Uma Narayan, does regular checks during the lockdown. The other two libraries in the HC bar rooms were also fine, said another



staff member. The long extended lockdown which has all establishments shut may need to be checked for such rodent menace, said a librarian from a city college. Lawyers practising at the Small Causes court, Mayank Chandan and Sunil Samant, were aghast. Samant said the librarian looked after the library well and was “adept at finding any book or similar citation when sought within minutes.” “During the lockdown, it is necessary to ensure that libraries are looked after,” he said. For original report visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/rats-digest-some-law-books-in-small-causes-court-library-bandra-during-lockdown/articleshowprint/75304875.cms>

### Story of a Village Library

Graduate student Shashi Madawi hastens to unlock the Devrai Gram Granthalaya (village library) door because she knows that the dozen-odd kids standing behind, are getting restless. Small heads in the queue keeping bobbing up and sideways trying to check the progress she's made, getting their feet ready like launch pads, since grabbing the prized story book depends on who gets to it first. This is Koyanguda, a blink-and-you-miss-it village located a few kilometres off the main road in Naxalite-infested Gadchiroli district in Maharashtra, says a story in *The Times of India*. With school closed since lockdown in March, and no smartphones or OTT platforms, the village's library is the only 'happening' place for these kids from poor tribal families. The library was started in an abandoned Gotul (village community hall constructed by government) this March, but its glory was cut short quickly due to the lockdown. But by then the children had been exposed to a world they had never known. With no end in sight to the lockdown, parents reached out to principal Vinit Padmawar, currently in his native village, asking for the locks to be opened. He consented after varsity student Madawi volunteered to handle everything. The library now daily hosts all 23 students of the only zilla parishad school in the village plus half a dozen university students who are now back due to lockdown. Over 800 books of varying topics ensure that there's something for all age groups. The school's principal, Vinit Padmawar, who helped start the library said, “This proves that children's zeal to learn and gain knowledge does not need online teaching and hi-tech gadgets. For every book they read, kids prepare a one-page synopsis. This way, it just won't be about turning pages but also about comprehending the treasure that lies within them,” said Padmawar. The library too, is truly a labour of love. The Gotul was cleaned up, painted, fitted with electric appliances all through community contributions plus efforts of social worker Dr. Aniket Prakash Amte. “A businessman from Satara donated hundreds of books. Many others came through similar route and finally our dream of building a library became a reality,” said Padmawar. And with young children queuing up everyday to make the most of it, Padmawar knows all the efforts were worth it. For original story visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/nagpur/community-library-only-ray-of-sunshine-for-tribal-kids-in-gadchiroli-village/articleshowprint/75856017.cms>

### Twosome Starts Reading Renaissance

In an age where our faces are often glued to screens, a duo from Kerala is leading a revolution to get us to swap our phones for a book, according to a story by Ronnie Kurikose available on *onmanorama.com* website. Christened 'The Like Minded' club, this innovative library aggregator platform aims to not only instil the habit of reading but also encourages the formation of a book-lovers' community. Four years ago, when Soumya Manoj Kumar moved back to Thiruvananthapuram after spending long years abroad, she felt something was missing in Kerala's capital city: people's reading habit. There was no dearth of libraries, but almost all of them were unable to cope with new challenges or adapt to modern takes. Only a skeletal structure remained of these iconic establishments, once the agents of progress. These libraries were now kept alive by only a handful, but their numbers were fast declining with the increasing difficulty of having to weave through lanes of traffic to get to the library and back. That's not all. People, now caught up in the notion that 'being busy is equal to success', no longer have enough time to read, let alone visit the library. This plight rekindled an old idea nestled in Soumya's mind - to start a library. Soumya, who had always been passionate about books, hoped to instil the habit of reading among her friends and family circles. For this, she knew that not only must she overcome some of the challenges that these old libraries were facing, but also needed to augment the service with new experiences. “My initial idea was to open a brick-and-mortar library. But I knew that would run into the same challenges that these libraries and readers were facing. I wanted a radical alternative,” Soumya told *onmanorama*. Along with her friend and neighbour Alvin Raj, Soumya conducted a market study in Thiruvananthapuram. They noticed that most libraries had more or less similar stocks. However, a large portion of it was not catering to any audience and therefore remained disused, they found. Library schedules were another big hurdle, as highlighted by regular visitors. Most libraries, now understaffed, were unable to work the hours that most people found themselves free. This lack of sync prevented their best utilization. The duo sought to resolve this. After many conversations with regular library-goers, Soumya learned that home delivery was perhaps an easy and immediate fix to two of the biggest problems that readers raised - traffic and schedule. With 60 books in their initial collection, the two began their journey, delivering books to the readers' homes. For the first couple of months, it was just their friends and close family who were availing the service, but it gradually grew. “Now we have a collection of over 4000. A lot of these were donated by avid readers themselves who wanted to share books they read and cherished with others. We also have a few libraries making available their collection of books with us,” Alvin, who oversees the operational side of the venture, said. The membership options too are tailored in a way that it encourages reading. “We are not in it to make money. We are not a business. We want to promote the reading culture in the city. That's our aim,” Alvin clarified. For full story visit: <https://www.>

[onmanorama.com/news/kerala/2020/03/03/like-minded-mobile-book-lending-library-thiruvananthapuram.html](http://onmanorama.com/news/kerala/2020/03/03/like-minded-mobile-book-lending-library-thiruvananthapuram.html)

### Library Makes Door-step Book Delivery

For bibliophiles who crave reading the old fashioned way but find getting hold of a book difficult during the nationwide lockdown, there is hope, says an ANI report available on [www.business-standard.com](http://www.business-standard.com) website. 'Pusthakakkood', a library in Thrikkuttisseri of Balusseri, in Kozikode, delivers books right to people's homes. The library registers the names of people in a household and books are then lent to them for two to three days. Those who borrow books are supposed to write a book review on the tomes they read with the best review getting rewarded suitably. Library president K K Mohanan was upbeat about the responses he has received. "We are getting good response from people and we get many calls to change their books after they finish reading their books," he said. He added that parents were also happy that their wards were using their time productively at the time of the lockdown. "Parents are also happy because it's the time of vacations and their children have to do nothing because of lockdown, so books are a good substitution. We ask readers to give back a book review also with the book when they give it back so that it becomes more enthusiastic for children," he added. He announced that the library workers also have arranged gifts for those who write a good review after reading each book, "which will be distributed in a function post the lockdown". On the issue of taking precautions while handling books in the library, Princy, the librarian, said that all the precautions were being taken. "We are taking all the necessary precautions advised by the health department--we use masks and gloves while issuing books," said Princy. P K Gangadharan, an avid reader, said: "To the people who are fed up at their homes, this is very good to get books at their doorsteps. It is also good that we are getting a lot of time to read a lot of books now," he said. Shruti, another reader, said that it was a good thing that the library came up with such an initiative. "In this time of Coronavirus crisis, it's very useful to get books at our doorsteps. It's far better to open a book page than looking always into smartphones. The library people's idea is very good and useful," she added. For original report visit: [https://www.business-standard.com/article/printer-friendly-version?article\\_id=120041100683\\_1](https://www.business-standard.com/article/printer-friendly-version?article_id=120041100683_1)

### Chennai Private Libraries' Dial-a-Book System

Next time you drop in a neighbourhood library, the visit may be limited to collecting books reserved for you. The pandemic has changed the experience of readers associated with private libraries in Chennai as such institutions are gradually reopening. Private libraries are beginning to introduce dial-a-book system or reserve titles- online method whereby a member can call a library and reserve a book or visit the institution's portal online to reserve a title, says a *The Times of India* report. Later, the member can pick up the books at counters and need not have to spend more time on library premises. The outbreak of pandemic has brought in new challenges to ensure the safety of readers. Chennai and its

suburbs have 45 leading lending libraries besides several small ones with a collection of titles ranging from 8,000 to 10,000 and active membership of 200 to 400. R Sasikala of 'Read n Rejoice', a library at Medavakkam, said that a feature to reserve titles would be introduced on their library's portal. "We already have a catalogue online. Now, our members can reserve their choices on our website and collect them at the library counter," she said. Books returned will not be circulated for three days as part of safety measures, she added. Some libraries may still allow members to search titles from racks but trim their timing. P Sathish Kumar, Managing Director of Easwari Lending Library, said that to maintain social distancing only three members were being allowed for a span of five minutes to search books at their library branches. For original report visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/chennai-private-libraries-offer-dial-a-book-system/articleshowprint/76228580.cms>

### Rural Library's Effort to Encourage Reading

A library run by a rural club is providing books for its villagers to encourage reading habit among them during lockdown period in Alappuzha, says a *The Times of India* report. It is Sree Kesavaguru Library at Puthanambalam in Cherthala, which has placed over 300 books close to shops that sell essential commodities to people in the village. There is also a register near the books. The villager who takes a book should write the name of the book they took, their name, address and phone number in the register. They should return the book after lockdown period. Library president M Prakassan said that earlier the people in the village had complained that they were busy with job and didn't have time to read. He said, "But now all of them have a lot of time to read books. So, we have decided to start this initiative. It is not possible to deliver the books at the door steps of the people during the lockdown. So, we have placed books at four places close to shops that sell essential commodities. Villagers can take books from there." The library member Deepa Sudheesh is coordinating the activities of this initiative with the help of local body members. The library is also distributing sanitizers to its villagers free of cost. This library has been making remarkable contributions to the society for the past 56 years. This library, which has been selected as the best reference library in Cherthala, has three wings reserved for public, women and students pursuing higher education. The public wing is having as many as 15,000 books. The women wing conducted door-to-door delivery of books in a bid to encourage reading habit among women till lockdown was declared. The student wing carries rare collection of over 3,000 valuable books which are inevitable for higher education. For original report visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kochi/cherthala-library-encourages-reading-among-villagers-during-lockdown/articleshowprint/75119790.cms>

### Bail Amount to be Spent for Library

After a man gave an undertaking to pay Rs 30,000 to a government school in Theni district, the Madras High Court

granted anticipatory bail to him in a river sand theft case. The petitioner, Esakkimuthu, apprehended arrest in a case that was registered against him by the Nazareth police in Tuticorin district in 2019. Hearing the plea, Justice G R Swaminathan said that considering the current Covid-19 pandemic situation, this court was inclined to grant relief to the petitioner since he undertakes to remit a sum of ₹ 30,000 to the bank account of a government higher secondary school at Lakshmiapuram, Periyakulam in Theni district. The judge said that this amount would be an unconditional payment and would not be refunded. The judge further observed that, "The amount shall be utilized for the library of the school. Theni Principal District Judge (PDJ) shall personally monitor the utilization of this amount. The PDJ will ensure that all books that meet the needs of the students are purchased. The books should motivate and inspire children." For original report visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/madras-high-court-grants-anticipatory-bail-to-man-after-he-agrees-to-pay-rs-30000-to-govt-school/articleshowprint/76279837.cms>

## TECHNOLOGY NEWS

### Twitter to let Scheduling of Tweets

Twitter is all set to roll out the much-needed feature that would let you schedule your tweets. The company has recently announced that Twitter users can now save their tweets as drafts and schedule for a specific time. All this can be done from Twitter's web app, says a post by Ankita Chakravarti on <https://www.indiatoday.in> website. Twitter has introduced a host of new features recently and this is one of the most important features. Sometimes you may not want to post something on the app immediately or you might want to wish your friend/colleague or favorite star sharp at twelve. Well, you won't have to stay up late at night to post a wish as Twitter would now let you schedule the tweet. So here's how you can schedule a tweet on Twitter:

- While composing a tweet, you will find a calendar on the row of icons below
- Just click on the icon and decide the time and date, you want your tweet to go up.
- After entering the details, you can click confirm and schedule the tweet.

Users can also save the tweet for later by clicking on the close window icon, which will first ask whether you want to save the tweet or not. If you click on save, you can find the tweet in the drafts section later. Announcing the new feature, Twitter posted a video of how the feature works and also wrote, "Not quite ready to send that Tweet? Now on <https://twitter.com> you can save it as a draft or schedule it to send at a specific time all from the Tweet composer! Twitter had earlier revealed that it would soon release features that would prohibit people from replying to tweets and also allow users to check who retweeted their posts with comments. Twitter will let users protect their tweets from

unwanted and unnecessary harassment on its platform. The tweets can still be viewed and retweeted but a person who has not been given permission to comment, cannot reply to the tweets. This could prove to be a boon for public figures as they are subjected to hate and slander on Twitter on a regular basis. Currently, the feature has been made available to a handful of people globally but Twitter is planning to roll out the feature for all its users soon. Another new feature by Twitter will allow its users to see how many people have retweeted posts with comments and how many have done that without comments. For original post visit: <https://www.indiatoday.in/technology/news/story/twitter-will-now-let-users-schedule-tweets-from-its-web-app-here-is-how-1683133-2020-05-29>

### New Feature of Google Maps

Google makes it easier for people to share addresses on Google Maps, even when you don't have the address. Google is introducing a new feature called the Plus Codes, which would allow users to share their location, says a post by Ankita Chakravarti on <https://www.indiatoday.in> website. Imagine getting stuck at a location you know nothing about, well the plus codes will now help you share your location. In other words, the Plus Codes are an alphanumeric version of your address. Some of the addresses are very hard to find even when you share the exact location of a place. Sometimes you just don't get there. Google has launched the Plus Codes to tackle situations like this. Announced way back in 2015, "Plus Codes are simple, easy to use digital addresses derived from latitude and longitude coordinates. They can be used to uniquely identify any location, from a rural home out on a prairie to a small shop stall on a nameless street", as per Google blog. With Plus Codes, users are not required to reveal their complete address, they can simply share the unique codes with either their delivery boy or their cab drivers. People who are familiar with Google Maps can tap on the blue dot that shows their current location. To get the Plus Code of your location simply tap on the blue dot that denotes your address. Once you get the code, you can share it with anybody just like you share other stuff such as pictures or phone numbers. You can either search the code on Google Maps or Google Search it to reach the location, without having to type out the entire address. "A Plus Code is a simple alphanumeric code which can be combined with a locality (for example: FWM8+V9, Ibadan, Nigeria). They look like a regular address, but with a short code where a street name or number would be. Beyond using the blue dot, you can also find the Plus Code for a location by tapping and holding the map to drop a pin at a location you want a Plus Code for," David Martin, Director of Program Management, Google Maps, said in a blog. He also said that the Plus Codes were free to use and people could use them in their sites, flyers, advertisements to share their location. "The technology to generate Plus Codes is also open source, which means the technology is easy and free to use, so anyone can see how the technology works and develop their own applications for any use case," he wrote in the blog. The feature is currently



available for Android users and to get the feature, users are required to download the latest version of the Google Maps from Play Store. For original post see: <https://www.indiatoday.in/technology/news/story/now-you-can-share-location-on-google-maps-using-plus-codes-1684160-2020-06-01>

### Google Meet Video Call Facility

Ever since most office employees started working remotely and social distancing has become the new norm, the popularity of video conferencing tools has seen a huge surge. While Zoom's success story is a case in point, tech giants like Google, Microsoft and Facebook too have taken notice and improved/enhanced their offerings. Continuing this, Internet search giant Google is adding the shortcut to start a Google Meet video call to its Gmail app for both Android and iOS users, the company announced in a blog post, says a *The Times of India* report. The feature will be rolled out shortly to all smartphone users. Once it is made available to them, users will be able to see a new Meet tab on their smartphone's Gmail app. This tab will show all the scheduled upcoming Google Meet calls in a calendar that they can easily join through a single tap, said Google in the blog. Not only that, the shortcut in Gmail app will also allow smartphone users to start a new Google Meet call by tapping on "New meeting." Doing this will create a meeting link that can then be shared with people that they want to invite to the call. They will also get the option to an already created video call setup using a "Join with a code" option. For those Gmail users who do not wish to make use of this feature, the app will allow them to remove it too. All they need to do is open the Settings section from the hamburger menu in the top left corner of their inbox, tap on account and scroll down to uncheck Meet. For those unaware, the company already offers Google Meet shortcut on the desktop version of Gmail, which it made freely available for everyone with a Google account. Earlier, it was available only to the G Suite users. For original report visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/gadgets-news/google-brings-meet-to-gmail-on-smartphones-to-take-on-zoom-heres-how/articleshowprint/76417367.cms>

## SPECIAL FEATURE

### Wind of Change!

The social evil of dowry is still prevalent in most parts of our country in one form or other even after seventy years of independence. Dowry prohibition law was enacted as long back as in 1961, but even today a sizable number of brides get tortured and even murdered by the members of their husbands' families every year on the pretext of not bring dowry as per their demands. In this dismal background, reports of some incidents in recent years have indicated that wind of change has at last started blowing though very slowly.

The place of one such incident, reported by *The Telegraph* in May last year, was Sonarpur in South 24 Parganas district of West Bengal, where the groom Suryakanta Barik, a school

teacher by profession, had declared in no uncertain terms that he would not accept any kind of dowry from the family of his would-be bride Priyanka Bej. But as the 30-year-old arrived at the wedding venue his in-laws surprised him with a gift. And what was the gift that they offered to their book-lover son-in-law? It was a bunch of around 1000 books costing around ₹ 1 lakh. "I had made it clear that I would not accept any dowry. When I arrived for the wedding, I was pleasantly surprised to find a huge pile of books as a gift," the groom, Suryakanta, told *The Telegraph*. The bride Priyanka, a 21-year-old final year student of music in a college, too is a book-lover. She expressed her happiness at getting married to a man who was against evil system of dowry. "My family knew that I don't like the concept of marriages that involve giving or taking dowry. So I am very grateful to have a husband who understands that. My father also knew that I love to read. That's why he gave us this gift," she told *The Telegraph*. The in-laws had also requested the relatives and friends not to bring any gifts, except flowers or books. Suryakanta's in-laws - father Asit Bej (a music teacher) and uncle Mahadeb Manna (a high school teacher) - collected the books from Kolkata's famous book-heaven College Street and Udbodhan Karyalay in north Kolkata. And the collection included the complete works of Rabindranath Tagore, Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, and Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay. The collection, which was shipped 150km away to Khejuri in East Midnapore (Suryankanta's village) in a truck, also included a few Harry Potter books. Suryankanta's plans with all these books are just as noble as him. He said, "I want to build a small library at my home that will be accessible to my neighbours too."

Another incident occurred in February this year in Rajkot, Gujarat, where there is a system of giving lavish gifts to the bride by the bride's family in marriage, that is known as "Kariyavar". But the bride Kinnari Ba, who had been fond of reading since childhood and has a library of 500 books at her home built up by his father, did not like jewellery, clothes, gems, vehicles or cash as gifts. So when she got engaged to a Canada based engineer Poorvjeet Singh, son of Bhagirath Singh Sarawaiya of Vadodara, Kinnari pleaded with her father to give her books equal to her weight in Kariyavar. Her father Hardev Singh Jadeja, himself a teacher, was too happy to hear this and pledged to the daughter that he would do so, which brought tears of joy in the eyes of the daughter. Being an educated person Kinnariba's husband also strongly supported her decision. To fulfil the wish of her daughter, Hardev Singh first prepared a list of books that his daughter might like and then collected altogether 2200 books from several cities across the country, including Delhi, Varanasi and Bengaluru, for six months. The collection included English, Hindi and Gujarati language books by authors starting from Maharshi Vedavyas to modern authors. It also included 18 Puranas, besides the Quran and the Bible. All these books were filled in the car when the bride started for her in-laws' house after the marriage. Considering the broadness of her outlook, it can be expected that Kinnari too will set up a library of her own at her

husband's place and give others access to her treasure.

Earlier in October 2019, when a 24-year bookworm Muslim bride in Kollam, Kerala, Ajna Nazim, was engaged to Ijas Hakim, a civil engineer by profession, she handed over a list of books to her would-be husband that she wanted as Haq Mehr (i.e. gifts given by the groom to the bride at the time of marriage) instead of jewellery or cash that are normally demanded by other brides. The would-be groom was impressed and pleasantly surprised to get the wish-list from his would-be wife, who is a B Ed student in a college. He added a few favourite titles of his own to her list making the total of 100 titles which included the Quran, the Bhagavad Gita, and the Bible. He then set on a mission to collect all the titles by December 29, when the wedding took place. But in spite of his best efforts he could collect 96 books till his wedding day and handed them over to his bride. And within next three weeks he collected three more titles. The hundredth book 'Constitution of India', was added a few days later. As expected, everything did not move smoothly. At first people around them did not like the idea, but fortunately they got the support of their parents and they could proceed as they wanted. The couple has reportedly fixed a big bookshelf in their bedroom and placed all the titles in that shelf. "We try our best to dedicate a fixed amount of time to reading books. We will also be gifting more books to our friends and relatives," Ijas has said.

Nevertheless, this is not the first time that books were demanded in Mehr in a Muslim marriage. Even in 2016, in Mallapuram district of the same state, i.e. Kerala, Sahala Nechiyil, a 27-year old PG student of Political Science at University of Hyderabad, asked from his would be groom

Anees Nadodi books - instead of gold or cash - as Mehr in their marriage. She handed over a list of 50 books to him, who was more than happy to fulfil her demand. He went all the way to Bengaluru to collect the books and they were happily married on August 11 that year. The relatives from both the sides were not happy with her decision, but Sahala justified her decision with forceful arguments.

These are certainly some welcome happenings. Offering books in dowry or Mehr is indeed a great idea since "there is no greater gift than the gift of knowledge". Let the wind of change blow more vigorously and the menace of dowry is replaced by welcome gift of knowledge.

[Sources: <https://www.indiatimes.com/trending/human-interest/bride-s-family-surprises-groom-with-1000-books-worth-rs-1-lakh-after-he-refuses-to-take-dowry-367765.html>, <https://www.bollywoodshaadis.com/articles/brides-family-gave-the-most-amazing-dowry-of-1000-books-13172>, <https://www.popxo.com/trending/brides-family-gave-books-worth-rs-1-lakh-after-groom-refused-dowry-821216/>, <https://english.newstracklive.com/news/daughter-asks-for-unique-dowry-will-be-surprised-to-hear-sc108-nu-1070136-1.html>, <https://english.newstracklive.com/news/daughter-asks-for-unique-dowry-will-be-surprised-to-hear-sc108-nu-1070136-1.html>, <https://thestateindia.com/2020/02/14/gujarat-daughter-asked-for-books-equal-to-her-weight-in-dowry-father-raised-2200-books-in-6-months/>, <https://www.scoopwhoop.com/Instead-Of-Gold-This-Kerala-Girl-Asked-For-50-Books-As-Mehr-For-Her-Wedding/>, <https://www.indiatoday.in/fyi/story/kerala-muslim-bride-goes-against-tradition-demands-50-books-as-mehr-for-her-wedding-335260-2016-08-15>]

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