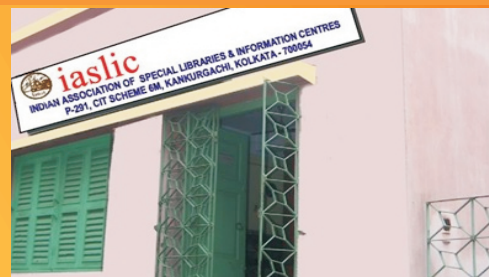




IASLIC NEWSLETTER

Indian Association for Special
Libraries and Information Centres



September 2019

A Monthly Newsletter Published by IASLIC

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Quote of the Month

*"The Library shall find a place
next to basic necessities of
life"*

- Late C N Annadurai

Former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

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

IASLIC 32nd All India Conference, 2019

December 3 - 5, 2019

Organized by

Cochin University of Science and Technology, Kochi

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

SIG 1 - Digital Archiving (Computer)

SIG 2 - Performance Appraisal of Libraries / Information Centers

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The last date for submission of papers has been extended till September 16, 2019

For Call for Papers see May 2019 issue of IASLIC Newsletter or visit:

<http://www.iaslic1955.org.in/fckeditor/userfiles/file/Call%20for%20Papers%202019.pdf>

Nomination invited for different awards of IASLIC

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

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

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

For eligibility criteria and prescribed format of application visit IASLIC website

Indian Library Science Abstracts

Indian Library Science Abstracts (ILSA), the only abstracting journal in the field of library and information science in India, covering literature published in English and regional languages, is being published by IASLIC since 1967. The combined volumes 40 - 44 (2006 - 2010) of ILSA has since been brought out in two versions - print and CD. The prices of the two versions are: Print version - ₹ 2500/\$ 300; CD: ₹ 1000/\$100.

CONFERENCES / SEMINARS / WORKSHOPS

National

Professional Development Programme

Maharashtra Cosmopolitan Education Society, Pune, is organizing a National Level Professional Development Programme for Librarians on 'Traditional to Virtual: Changing Dynamics of Library and Information Services' on September 7, 2019. For details visit: <https://mceslisevent.weebly.com/>

Workshop on Plagiarism

A Workshop on 'E-resources, Research Publications and Plagiarism' is being organized by the Department of Library, Krishnasamy College of Engineering & Technology, Cuddalore, on September 21, 2019. For details email to: librarykcet@gmail.com

Workshop on Koha

A Workshop on Koha is being organized by Kerala Library Professionals Organisation (KELPRO) during September 21 - 22, 2019 at Model Finishing School, Science & Technology Museum Campus, Thiruvananthapuram. For details visit: <http://www.kelpro.in/>

Conference on Public Library Services

Department of Library and Information Science, University of Rajasthan, Jaipur, in collaboration with the Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF), Kolkata, is organising a National Conference on 'Revisiting Public Library Services in Current Scenario' (NCRPLS - 2019) during October 12 - 13, 2019. For details email to: ncrpls.uniraj@gmail.com

Training Course on IT Application

The 16th Training Course on 'IT Application for Information Management in Health Science Libraries' will be conducted by National Documentation Centre of the National Institute of Health and Family Welfare (NIHFW), New Delhi, during October 14 - 18, 2019. For details visit: <http://www.nihfw.org/Doc/Training%20brochure%20of%20NDC.pdf>

Conference on Reaching out Users

The 4th National Conference on Management of Modern Libraries (NACML-2020) is being organized by SEARCH - The KMC Health Sciences Library and Department of Library and Information Science, Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE), Manipal, during January 10 - 11, 2020. The theme of the conference is 'Reaching out Users in the Digital Era: Opportunities and Challenges'. For details visit: <https://conference.manipal.edu/NACML/Default>

International

Conference on KO in Academic Library

The Library Professionals Association (LPA) is organizing an International Conference on 'Knowledge Organisation in Academic Library (i-KOAL 2019)' during September 12 - 13, 2019 at Sardar Patel University, Vallabh Vidyanagar, Anand (Gujarat). The theme of the conference is 'Building Smart Libraries: Challenges and Discovery Tools'. For details visit: <https://st1.ning.com/topology/rest/1.0/file/get/2372699742?profile=original>

Conference on Technology in Libraries

An ICSSR sponsored International Conference on 'Current Technology and Trends in Libraries (CTTL - 2019)' is being organized by the University Library and the Department of Library and Information Science, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli, during December 5 - 6, 2019. For details visit: <http://www.msuniv.ac.in/> or <https://msulibrarytv1.blogspot.com/>

Conference on Application of Digital Information

The 10th International Conference on 'Applications of Digital Information and Web Technologies (ICADIWT 2019)' is being organized by Ramaiah Institute of Management, Bangalore, in collaboration with Opole University, Poland, and Digital Information Research Labs., UK & India, during December 9 - 11, 2019. For details visit: www.socio.org.uk/icadiwt

NGL-2019 Conference

Biju Patnaik Central Library, National Institute of Technology Rourkela, in association with Special Libraries Association (SLA, USA) - Asian Chapter; United Nations, India; and IFLA - Asia and Oceania, is organizing an International Conference on 'Next Generation Libraries (NGL-2019)' during December 12 - 14, 2019. The theme of the conference is 'New Trends & Technologies, Collaboration & Community Engagement, Future Librarianship, Library Spaces & Services'. For details visit: <http://library.nitrkl.ac.in/elpes7/>

ICAL-2020 Conference

The 4th International Conference of Asian Library Association, New Delhi (ICAL-2020), organized by Indian Institute of Management Lucknow, will be held during February, 26 - 28, 2020. The theme of the conference is 'Management Libraries: Sustaining Excellence through Innovation, Technology and Repositioning', For details visit: <http://www.asiala.co.in/> or <http://www.iiml.ac.in/>

Information Behaviour Conference

The 13th ISIC: The Information Behaviour Conference (ISIC 2020) will be organized by the Department of Information Science, University of Pretoria, South Africa, during September 28 - October 2, 2020. For details visit: <http://www.isic2020.co.za/>

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Dewey's Name Removed from ALA Medal

The name of Melville Dewey, creator of the Dewey Decimal Classification and the Lake Placid Club, has been removed from a memorial medal given out by the American Library Association, according to a post on www.adirondackdailyenterprise.com website. The decision to remove his name was handed down by the American Library Association Council at the annual ALA Conference in Washington, D C, on June 23, 2019. In its resolution to rename the award, the council cited allegations of some seriously objectionable behaviour of Dewey, according to the post. "The behaviour demonstrated for decades by Dewey does not represent the stated fundamental values of ALA in equity, diversity and inclusion", the resolution of ALA council said. Dewey was among the ALA's original founders. He served as president of the organization for two years and as secretary for 15 years. For more details visit: <https://www.adirondackdailyenterprise.com/news/local-news/2019/07/controversial-founder-of-lake-placid-club-melville-dewey-taken-off-top-library-award/>

Schools Converted into Libraries

Tamil Nadu has 45 government schools with just one or no students and such schools have been converted into libraries, school education minister A Sengottaiyan told the state assembly recently, says a *The Times of India* report. The libraries are temporary and the premises will function as schools once the enrolment goes up, he said, answering a question about it from DMK MLA Thangam Thennarasu. Reports claimed that government was planning to shut down 1,400-odd government-funded schools with low student enrolment. Minister rejected this claim and asserted that there was no such intention. "Is it possible to manage a school with two teachers just for a single student? So we have transferred them to other schools for now," Sengottaiyan added. *TOI* had reported that the government had cut down funds for some schools and agreed to merge 1,000 other low-enrolment schools with nearby ones. Sengottaiyan denied this before admitting that 45 schools had been 'merged'. Earlier this year, the state school education department had instructed its district-level authorities to collect list of elementary schools with less than 10 students, which showed that 1,800 schools fell under the bracket. Besides schools, DMK MLA Tennarasu alleged that 12,000 libraries, set up at village panchayats under Anna Marumalarchi Thittam, were dysfunctional and they should be revamped soon. For original report visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/45-govt-schools-turn-libraries-its-only-temporary-says-min/articleshowprint/70284750.cms>

Toilets to Turn into Libraries

The Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation is planning to turn abandoned community toilets into libraries and micro composting centres, according to a report in *The Times of India*. Several community toilets, which were constructed to

eradicate open defecation in slum areas, lay useless after the PM launched his ambitious Swachh Bharat campaign, under which thousands of individual household toilets were built. "At many places, abandoned community toilets have turned into dens for criminals. To check such incidents, we plan to demolish them or convert them into libraries or micro composting centres. We have identified two such facilities in Jeeva Nagar near PN Pudur and have written to the office of the Commissioner of Municipal Administration (CMA) seeking approval," a senior corporation official told *TOI*. For more details visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/coimbatore/loo-and-behold-community-toilets-to-turn-into-libraries/articleshowprint/69208703.cms>

Park Libraries in Mohali

The new public park libraries in Mohali may be low on their collection of books or other facilities, but they are high on public participation, says a report by Maheep Dhanoa, in *The Indian Express*. Open from 9 am to 5 pm, these libraries see a steady stream of visitors, young and old. While the elders come to browse through the newspapers, the youngsters use these to sit and study. Rose Garden in Phase 3B-1, which inaugurated its library in the beginning of June, manages to attract 30-odd people every day though it is short of books. Gurpreet Kaur, the librarian, says, "Some books have been donated to us and the government will be providing us more soon as the tender has already been issued, I am sure the library will pick up." Furnished with empty shelves, desks and newspapers, the library already has started getting visitors every day. "There is some disturbance from outside, but overall the library is helpful for people who want to study," says Sarabjit Singh, who has come to the library for the first time. At Phase 4 park library, Councillor Kuldep Kang says, "Our library has all the important facilities. We asked someone to donate a water cooler, most of the books have also been donated by residents whereas a few have been given by the Phase 1 district library." The government, he grouses, hasn't provided any facilities or books. The park library in Phase 6 is also low on facilities. With no AC or books or water cooler, the number of people using it is quite small. Rajneesh Bala, the librarian, says, "The library was inaugurated last month and we are awaiting books and facilities for which the tender has been issued." But the library at Mohali's Silvi Park is nearly packed with people sitting in hushed silence, the only sound being that of a worker's ringtone and a loud fan. One of the oldest park libraries of Mohali, this was inaugurated in 2004 and is fitted with ACs, tables, chairs, and a water cooler. The two-storey building has a vast collection of books from a number of genres along with a plethora of Hindi, English, Punjabi and Urdu newspapers. Books on religion, fiction, health, education, etc. are perched atop shelves that line the walls of the ground floor. "Some of the cupboards are locked but people can read those books once they've informed the librarian. They are locked because in the past, one or two books were stolen," says a worker at the library. As per the entries in the register,

approximately 15-35 people, frequent the library every day. Senior citizens and students make up the primary population in these libraries. For details visit: <https://indianexpress.com/article/chandigarh/books-or-no-books-park-libraries-a-hit-in-mohali/>

Varsity sets up Garden Library

Bharathidasan University in Trichy has set up a 'garden library' facility on the campus to make knowledge acquiring more joyous for students, says a *The Times of India* report. Free Wi-Fi facility has been provided in the garden library so that the students can use their electronic gadgets including laptops. Head of Department of Library and Information Science of the university S Srinivasaragavan said the basic idea of setting up such a facility was to increase library usage among the university students. "We have plans to expand the garden by making additional seating arrangements, swings which could be found in the institutions in north India. The facility will soon be set up on Kajamalai campus of the university, as well," he said. For original report visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/trichy/garden-library-set-up-at-bharathidasan-university-in-trichy/articleshowprint/70790279.cms>

NGOs to set up School Libraries

A group of youngsters of Visakhapatnam belonging to various philanthropic and voluntary organisations has come forward with an initiative to set up libraries in government-aided schools in rural areas and help the students improve their reading habits and knowledge, says a *The Times of India* report. In this context, to raise awareness, the organisations also launched a book donation drive 'Grandhalay 2K19' recently, with poster launch and a flash mob. The book donation drive is a collaborative project by organisations including Alleviators, Let's Live Charitable Trust, Kalpavruksh, Next Generation Organisation and Micra. Elaborating on the project, G Harsha Vardhan, from the organisation, Alleviators, said, "Often libraries in government schools lack in the number of books even though the schools may be of equally good standard like private institutes. We want to do our bit to develop these libraries and want students and future generations to love books rather than staying addicted to smart phones." People can donate old or new books, which would be collected from various drop-in points in the city. For original report visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/visakhapatnam/ngos-take-up-project-grandhalay-to-set-up-libraries-in-govt-schools/articleshowprint/70728967.cms>

Iconic Book Market Closed

The iconic Sunday book market at Delhi's Daryaganj has shut down after 50 years, says a *Business Today* report. Also known as Sunday Kitab Bazaar, the historic market situated in Old Delhi is now closed after Municipal Corporation's order. Although, the book shops in the area continue to operate, the market put out on roads will not be in function anymore. The Delhi High Court had ordered the market to be shut down in July. The court directive said that no weekly market would be allowed on Sundays at Netaji Subhash Marg

(N S Marg) near Jama Masjid. The court's order came after Delhi traffic police submitted its report to it and proposed to close N S Marg as it is a busy road witnessing high traffic volumes throughout the day. The traffic police added that the booksellers take up the whole footpath leaving no space for pedestrians to walk on and also cause heavy congestion in the area. The North Municipal Corporation followed up with the order and closed the market completely. The historic book market which has been popular amongst book lovers has been running for last several decades. For original report visit: <https://www.businesstoday.in/latest/trends/hc-order-delhi-50-year-old-daryaganj-book-bazaar-sunday-kitab-bazaar/story/370503.html>

Yashoda's Library

A membership card, an address and a phone number are all you need to join this library. Yes, you heard right there's no deposit and no reading charge. This is Yashoda's Library, says a story by Archana Subramanian in *The Hindu*. Twelve-year-old Yashoda D Shenoy, a Std VII student at Thirumala Devaswom High School, Mattancherry, Kochi, opened this library six months ago. Born in the Zodiac sign of Cancer, she celebrated her birthday on July 10. Her brother, Achuthan is a voracious reader like her. Then, one day, he failed to return a library book on time. He was fined for this. Yashoda saw her father paying the fine and this set her thinking. She realised that for many, the prospect of having to pay a heavy fine may be an impediment, putting a lid on their reading. The young entrepreneur decided that no one must be denied the joy of reading simply because there may be a fine at the end of the story, so to speak. Her solution was to start a library. With 3,000 books, both fiction and non-fiction, and 140 members, the library is one of the most talked about ventures in India today. The library was inaugurated on January 26 by K S Radhakrishnan, former Vice Chancellor, Kalady Shankara University. "My library is run professionally. I man the library between 4:00 p.m. and 7.00 p.m. and my parents play librarians in the morning when I go to school. We have a library card where the member's details along with the book details are stored. We work on trust and I'm happy that people have not taken advantage of the fact that the books are free," says a proud Yashoda. Her father, Dinesh R Shenoy posted his daughter's efforts on social media and ever since books, donations and members have been growing. The library is on the first floor of her house, sharing space with her father's art gallery. Family and well-wishers donated racks and books to make her dream come true. The library is open to all age groups. Yashoda says: "My youngest member is a two-and-a-half-year-old, who comes every week to borrow books. I have managed to get books for her with thicker pages, that don't tear. I also have older people coming in to borrow autobiographies and non-fiction books. There are books in English, Malayalam, Konkani, Hindi and Sanskrit. What's more, if you are not mobile, or are unwell, the books will be delivered to you. For original story visit: <https://www.thehindu.com/children/readers-paradise/article28730590.ece>

Mother's Gift of Reading

What do you do with the books that your children have read and are likely to not pick up again? For Archana Manikandan, a resident of Anna Nagar, near Chennai, the answer is simple: Pass it on to others who will need them. Archana has started a home library and thrown it open for others to borrow the books found on its shelves. She says, she runs it on a modest subscription model. According to the story published in *The Hindu*, Archana has been building a collection based on the books she had bought for children. And, this home library which she calls 'Libros Kids Library' has travelled quite a bit. It was in Gurugram before coming to Chennai. Archana explains, "My husband is in a transferable job, and books have always been the first company of my children, and so the library travels with us wherever we go," says Archana, mother of two. Archana says she was a non-reader all her childhood days. Inspired by her daughter, Shreshta, now 12 years old, she started the home library at her housing society in Gurugram five years ago. "My daughter has been an avid reader since her childhood days and I enjoyed browsing various titles for her," she says. "She loved the glossy, touch-and-feel imported books," Archana says, adding "but they were costly." With 200 books, she first started the home library, inviting friends and neighbours to borrow them. "It did well; I had more than a dozen members who patronised it," says Archana, a former banker. In Chennai, she has not found the same patronage but wants to keep it open for those who want to indulge in the exclusive collection of books from two children. Four cupboards are stacked with books, numbering over 2000, and this collection includes books from Indian publishers such as Pratham, Tulika and Karadi Tales and imported titles. Among the rare books are pop-up books of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *The Wizard of Oz* and the hard covers of *Harry Potter series* - first three books. "There are some books that my children have read and re-read many a time and many others have been chosen and bought. Children are sure to like them," she says. Archana has not worked on the logistics of delivering a book at home, which is a challenge she faces. "Delivering books is a problem now," she says. She says, she charges a modest subscription fee, running four plans, with the base price pegged at ₹350. For original report visit: <https://www.Thehindu.com/news/cities/chennai/the-gift-of-reading-from-a-mother/article28731844.ece>

Floods Turns Rare Books to Pulp

Thousands of books wet and torn are lying on the first floor of the Sangli Nagar Vachanalay, one of the oldest libraries in Maharashtra. The unprecedented floods that ravaged Sangli city and district wrecked havoc in the 150-year-old literary establishment that has nurtured many a book lover, says a *The Times of India* report. Located in the Khanbhag area of old Sangli city, the library was started by the royal family of Sangli province, the Patwardhans, as a book club. It is maintained through a charitable trust of the royal family. When the Krishna river was in spate, it entered the basement

and ground floor of the building and damaged many rare manuscripts and books. Most of the old paperbound books have turned to pulp. Over 60,000 books were completely under water for nearly eight days. After the water level receded this week, book lovers and citizens were heartbroken to see the waste, silt and residue covering selves of many literary works. The books on the first floor have been spread out on the floor under fans and heaters in a desperate bid to save them. Sambhaji Danekari, a retired textile engineer, remembers joining the library at the tender age of seven. "I was stunned when I saw the scene at the library. It was devastating to see the valuable books turning into pulp," he told *TOI*. For original report visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kolhapur/floods-turn-rare-books-to-pulp-in-sanglis-150-year-old-library/articleshowprint/70719455.cms>

Stories of Beneficiaries of Library

Suhaana Saifi lost her mother a few years ago. Deeply affected, her father stopped going to work, leaving the responsibility of feeding the family solely on the shoulders of her brother. When it became difficult for Saifi to manage her studies, she approached the Shah Waliullah Library the famous Old Delhi haunt for researchers and the young alike to read, mingle and discuss on the insistence of some friends. The library, which has been funding admissions, managing studies and counselling students and parents for decades, assisted Saifi by providing her free books and holding doubt-clearing sessions, attended by some 500 other girls, says a story published in *The Times of India*. Saifi secured 94.5% marks in Class XII examination and recently got admission to Delhi University's Daulat Ram College. Sitting in the library, surrounded by newspapers and magazines, Saifi and her two other schoolmates, who are now fellow DU students, recalled how the library was a big boon for them. "We could pick up books from here and get our doubts cleared as our parents could not afford tuitions for us," she said. When she isn't busy with her studies, Saifi likes to read Urdu couplets. For her love for the language, she credits her brother. "I was keen on studying Urdu at the UG level, but teachers at Daulat Ram College suggested that I go for history as I wanted to become an IAS officer," Saifi told *TOI*. Sana Niaz, her schoolmate from RKV No. 2, Jama Masjid, and the Delhi government school topper of 2019, is also a beneficiary of the library. Daughter of a cook, she has secured admission to Hindu College. Not only did the library offer her a scholarship to gain admission, but also helped her fill up the form and complete other formalities. Niaz scored 97.6% in Class XII. "It was only after a call from deputy CM Manish Sisodia that her achievement really sank in," said Asma Parveen, her mother. Almost everyone recognises Niaz in the Jama Masjid area where she resides with her family. "It was all because of (Mohd) Naeem Sir's guidance," said Asma of the man in charge of the library and its education programmes. It wasn't all plain sailing for Niaz, though. "Even though I would always get good marks in school, I was nervous about boards," she said. Competition began at home. One of her sisters is studying political science at Zakir Hussain College while the other is pursuing

the BA programme at Hindu College - the college of Niaz's choice too. "I have made sure that all my daughters study as I dropped out of school in Class XII," said Parveen. Like her, Saima Ali dreams of a better future for her daughter, Nuzhrat, who will now study BSc Home Science at Lady Irwin College. Nuzhrat scored 92.2% in Class XII. Naeem sir, as the co-founder of the library is fondly called, said: "This year, 16 of our underprivileged children got admission at DU. We provided them free books, helped them fill their forms and paid their registration fees." For original report visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/delhi/how-this-library-helped-3-girls-realise-du-dream/articleshowprint/70666964.cms>

Looted Artefacts to be Returned

Looted ancient artefacts from Iraq and Afghanistan seized in Britain will be returned to their country of origin after appraisal by the British Museum, says an AFP report published in *The Hindu*. The London-based museum revealed that it had been working with law enforcement agencies including the UK Border Force and the capital's Metropolitan Police to return the works smuggled out during recent periods of conflict. "Sadly, this work is more essential now than ever," said Hartwig Fischer, its director. Among the artefacts to be sent back to Afghanistan are sculptures illegally exported to Britain in 2002. Another important haul to be returned to Iraq features 154 Mesopotamian texts written on clay in cuneiform script - one of the earliest systems of writing - seized on entry in 2011. They were created between the 6th and 4th centuries BC, with many belonging to the administrative archives from a place called Irisagrig, which was unknown until artefacts referring to it first surfaced in 2003. "The British Museum has worked extensively with... law enforcement agencies to identify and return items looted from Iraq and Afghanistan during recent conflicts and these are just wonderful examples," Fischer said of the rare tablets. They will be handed over to the Iraq Museum in Baghdad, part of the State Board of Antiquities and Heritage of Iraq. For original report visit: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/british-museum-announces-return-of-looted-iraqi-and-afghan-artefacts/article28323586.ece>

Art Auction for a Cause

Marking its 25th year of presence in India, Christie's will auction 20 donated artworks to support the Library of Bengali Literature, an open-ended bilingual collection of 1000 years of the texts of Bengal area, says an IANS report. Published by Columbia University Press, the Library of Bengali Literature is a new series of English-language translations of the masterpieces of the Bengali literary tradition. It is driven by Jnanpith recipient poet Sankha Ghosh and Professors Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak and Thibaut d'Hubert. It is currently raising an endowment of \$2 million to support the project, part of which will be raised by the Christie's auction on September 11 in New York. "The editors have established a working list of fifty volumes, but in fact, this project is to be seen as open-ended and entries will be welcomed from all sources, on all kind of subjects and

researched as well as edited to the highest standards of the Columbia University Press. The first two volumes are ready to be published as soon as funds are secured," Christie's said in a statement on August 7. On auction will be works by artists Jamini Roy, Jogen Chowdhury, Tyeba Begum Lipi and Rina Banerjee, among others. For Christie's, 2019 marks the 25th year of opening its first representative office in Mumbai. For details visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/life-style/books/features/christies-to-auction-donated-art-to-aid-bengali-literature-library/articleshow/70572474.cms>

TECHNOLOGY NEWS

New Design for News Tab

Google has revealed that it will be soon rolling out a new design for the News tab on the search results page, says a post on <https://gadgets.ndtv.com> website. The revamped design will be limited to the desktop version of Google Search and will be a major departure from the existing look that is mostly a list of stacks with grouped links on various news items about the search term. Although not much is known about the new look, it seems cleaner and packs more emphasis on the publisher and their branding. Google announced the upcoming change in a tweet via Google News Initiative account. Google wrote in the tweet: "The refreshed design makes publisher names more prominent and organizes articles more clearly to help you find the news you need." The company has published a before and after look of the News tab and it shows the redesigned News tab will now feature a new "People Also Search For" carousel. The carousel will be followed by news results cards that will highlight the publisher name on top, headline in the middle, and the description and publish time at the bottom. The news story image will be present on the right side in the card. It is unclear if the new design will favour larger publishers. Still, the redesigned News tab is going to impact publishers as it will feature limited number of links, unlike the current version, which highlights a significant chunk of stories. Google has made several changes to the Search page design. One of the major changes was in the search menu on the results page and it now includes category icons. For original post visit: <https://gadgets.ndtv.com/internet/news/google-search-news-tab-redesign-rollout-coming-weeks-2068630>

WhatsApp Adding New Shortcut

WhatsApp is adding a 'Quick Edit Media Shortcut' feature that will allow you to quickly edit media files you have sent or received on the instant messaging app, according to a post by Jagmeet Singh on gadgets.ndtv.com website. The new feature is said to be in the pipeline for both Android and iOS platforms. However, a concrete release date of the development is yet to be revealed. WhatsApp earlier was spotted adding a 'QR Code Shortcut' to enable easy scanning and sharing of QR codes. Beta tracking site for WhatsApp WABetaInfo reports that the Quick Edit Media Shortcut will provide editing of media files you have sent or received in an

individual WhatsApp chat or a group conversation. Some screenshots have also been provided to showcase the presence of the feature that is yet to be available publicly. As per the screenshots, a button called Edit will be available next to the share and favourite buttons on the WhatsApp for iPhone and WhatsApp for Android once you tap the media file you've sent or received on the app. The dedicated button will bring the editing window to enable quick editing of the media content. Through this process, WhatsApp would reduce the steps that are currently required to edit a media file that you've sent or received in a chat or a group conversation. WhatsApp at present doesn't provide a native option to edit a media file that has been sent or received in chats and groups. However, you can download the media file first and then use the original media editing feature that is meant for tweaking the photos you send over WhatsApp. Notably, the Quick Media Edit Shortcut won't replace the existing media editing feature that is available only for the images that you're set to send using WhatsApp. The new addition is also not likely to bring any new editing features. The leaked screenshots suggest that users will continue to have usual controls to crop, add text, and draw doodles. WABetaInfo claims that while the new feature isn't available yet, it will be a part of future WhatsApp for Android and iPhone versions. The new change reported just days after WhatsApp spotted developing a 'QR Code Shortcut' for easy scanning and sharing of QR codes. The WhatsApp beta for Android version 2.19.189 was found to include the evidence for the shortcut. For original post visit: <https://gadgets.ndtv.com/apps/news/whatsapp-quick-edit-media-shortcut-android-iphone-update-2067712>

SPECIAL FEATURE

A Man with a Mission

Have you heard the name of Pradeep Lokhande? If not, ask a rural school student of Maharashtra or even Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh or Telangana. You can also send him a postcard with just one-line address - Shri Pradeep Lokhande, Pune 411013 - and believe it, it will not be returned to you by the Returned Letter Office with remarks 'insufficient address'. Indeed it is difficult to introduce Lokhande in one word. He is not just a rural entrepreneur of Pune, he embodies many avatars in one.

His major contribution is that he is opening three rural school libraries every working day. But how did it all start? As an entrepreneur working on research for companies wanting to market in rural areas, something like this had never crossed his mind. But in 2009, feeling an urge to give back to the society, he travelled around rural areas of Maharashtra to ascertain what he could do to bring change. He found that children desperately wanted to read books other than their textbooks. Most of the rural schools had no libraries as they ran on shoe-string budgets. And that was it; he knew what he wanted to do.

In 2010 he took upon the onerous task of setting up libraries

in secondary schools in rural Maharashtra under a project that he named as 'Gyan-Key' i.e. key to knowledge. Subsequently, he has replicated the same in seven other states. Till now 3910 Gyan-Key libraries have been installed in Maharashtra, 67 in Karnataka, 76 in Telangana, 49 in Andhra Pradesh, 148 in Rajasthan, 21 in Madhya Pradesh and one each in Tamil Nadu and Jharkhand with the help of non-resident villagers. The project has benefited over 10 lakh students and the number is on the rise. The ultimate target is to set up "94,000 Gyan-Key libraries in rural secondary schools across India". According to Dr. A Mashelkar, former Director General of CSIR, it is the world's largest rural reading initiative. Lokhande feels that "reading is a habit everyone of us should encourage. Be it your own child, or school children, your domestic help or even the rickshaw driver, if all of us pick up a book to read, our lives will change". Lokhande also believes that "the right time to inculcate values is when the students are in their early years. Reading makes a great difference".

What is the modus operandi? Lokhande started motivating people to donate just ₹5000 that could buy 183 carefully selected books with messages and could go into a new library. It was not difficult to find donors as the idea was liked by many. Just as Lokhande himself, they too felt that this would transform the atmosphere in poor schools where students came from impoverished families, but had aspirations of growing with India. The inspiring books, he felt, would also instil in them values, perspective and critical thinking. By making a survey of the book markets in Pune, Lokhande identified many reasonably-priced interesting Marathi books on values, personality development, self-help, communication skills, inspiring life stories as well as fiction. He put together a bunch of 183 such books costing ₹ 6,300. But as he was buying in bulk, booksellers offered the bunch at a discounted price of ₹ 5000.

Prospective donors were told that for this small amount, they would actually be able to help about 200 students in small schools enabling them to read books that could influence their lives. Initially, not many believed that a school could set up a library that would ignite interest in students with such a small investment of ₹ 5000. To allay the doubt of the donors Lokhande introduced a mechanism of feedback by inserting a postcard with the address of the donor in every book. The first child to read the book was supposed to write his impressions about the book and what he learnt from it. The letters impressed the donors. Word spread and more donations poured in. "Till date (May 2019), we have received 8.5 lakh postcards from students who have read the books and written to the donors," says Lokhande. "We have succeeded in our movement as we get rigorous feedback and follow it up immediately," he says. Incidentally, Lokhande's initiative has succeeded in donating 9.4 lakh books, worth ₹ 3.91 crore till date.

Lokhande has introduced an effective system of running the libraries. Each library is managed by a girl student, who is trained to serve as Gyan-Key monitor. She maintains a register recording issue and return of books. "The girl monitor learns management skills, becomes a leader and an icon for others with poor communication skills. She gets

other students to similarly network with her. As this monitor evolves, it will change the perception of the girl child in rural India and will show them what a girl can do," says Lokhande.

Nevertheless, it is not that everything went on smoothly. At the initial stage Lokhande identified the schools needing libraries and went to the concerned authorities and explained his intension. But all were not interested for reasons known only to them. One school did not respond to the 39 letters that he wrote, asking them if they wanted to have a free library. But there were many schools that were thrilled to get a library. Lokhande ensured that he set up a library only in schools that wanted it. The principal also had to give a written assurance that if the library was not used for the students, the books would be returned. Strangely, some schools took the books and kept it locked in cupboards. The concerned school administration argued that the books would get spoiled if students were allowed to take them home. Unfortunately, it was the students who lost out. When students wrote to Lokhande about it, he got the books back so that it could be given to more serious schools.

This is not all. Lokhande has successfully conducted 41 programmes and contests in which 2.38 lakh students have participated. Rural Relations, the organization set up by him, has built up a databank of key information of each village and launched several other social initiatives. These include the 'Non-Resident Villager' movement - an effort to encourage Indians to give back to their roots and 'villagewiKY' - a novel concept that makes data about Indian villages easily accessible. Recently his organization has also initiated a project to make villagers of the country computer literate by providing 20,000 computers to schools.

For his significant contribution to the society, Lokhande has been honoured with Maxell Foundation's Social Entrepreneurship Award, 2014; D S Kulkarni Foundation's DSK Self-made Man Award, 2015; and

Suryadatta Group of Institutes' Suryadatta National Award, 2016 and he has come to be known as Library Man. And since he keeps in touch with his people through the simple communication medium - the postcard - sending and receiving a large number of letters on postcards everyday, he is also known as Postcard Man.

Kudos to Shri Lokhande for his unique endeavour! Let there be more Library Men in the country.

[Sources: <https://www.ruralrelations.com/>; Menon, Ramesh, <http://www.indiatogether.org/pradeep-lokhandes-rural-school-libraries-in-maharashtra-education>; Iyer, Meena, Building a Library a Day, From Postcard Man to Library Man, <https://www.dnaindia.com/lifestyle/report-from-post-card-man-to-library-man-the-incredible-journey-of-maharashtra-entrepreneur-pradeep-lokhande-2748596>; Pune International Centre, Mr. Pradeep Lokhande, <http://puneinternationalcentre.org/innovators/mr-pradeep-lokhande/> ; <https://punemirror.Indiatimes.com/pune-talking/hero-of-the-day/pune-heroes-pradeep-lokhande/articleshowprint/60009873.cms?prtpage=1>; <https://punemirror.Indiatimes.com/pune-talking/hero-of-the-day/pune-heroes-pradeeplokhande/articleshowprint/60009873.cms?prtpage=1>]

PERSONALIA

Shri Partha Sarathi Das, Assistant Library & Information Officer, National Library, Kolkata, has been awarded Ph D degree by University of Kalyani, Kalyani, on June 14, 2019. Dr. Das has pursued his research work under the supervision of Dr. Asitabha Das, Librarian, University of Kalyani. The title of his thesis is 'Designing a Framework for Conservation of Library Materials in the National Library, Kolkata'. Dr. Das is the assistant editor of *IASLIC Newsletter*.

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