IASLIC NEWSLETTER

Indian Association of Special Libraries and Information Centres

May, 2026 **A Monthly Publication of IASLIC**

IASLIC 34th All India Conference, 5-7,Jan 26

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Quote of the Month

To learn to read is to light a fire; every syllable that is spelled out is a spark.

—Victor Hugo (French Romantic author, poet, essayist, playwright, journalist, human rights activist & politician).

Appeal to Readers

News from different regions/ states is solicited from library professionals/IASLIC members for inclusion in the newsletter.

Send such news to the Editor.

Email: iaslicnl2023@gmail.com

AN APPEAL FOR DONATION

At the outset, myself on my personal behalf and on behalf of IASLIC, convey my sincere gratitude to the esteemed members of IASLIC for their continuous support and patronage. We are also thankful to the members who made a valued contribution in response to our appeal for donation made in 2012 and 2022. The esteemed members of IASLIC are aware of the escalating prices and hardship in carrying out regular functions of IASLIC. Under these circumstances, IASLIC again makes an ardent appeal to all of its honoured life members to please come for ward to help IASLIC by donating liberally, at least Rs.1000, by DD / Net banking / Multicity cheque duly drawn in favour of IASLIC payable at Kolkata. The payment can also be made through electronic transfer.

The Bank details are furnished below:
Bank Name: State Bank of India
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Account Name: INDIAN ASSO SP LIB AND INFO
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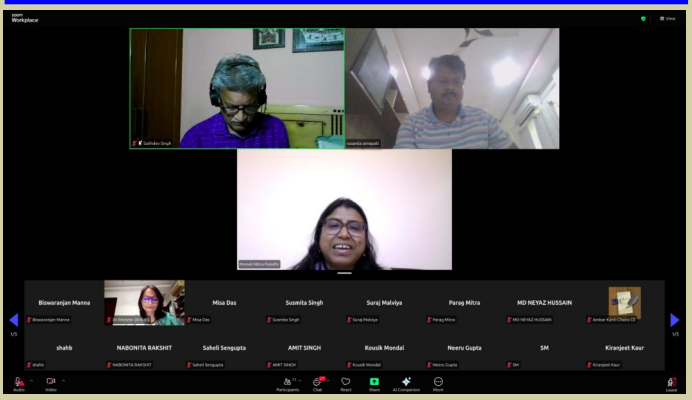
The esteemed members who will donate by bank transfer are requested to kindly share the screen shot of transaction details to IASLIC secretary by email at iaslic.india@gmail.com . The donors' names will be published in the IASLIC Newsletter as well as in the Annual Report of the subsequent year.

General Secretary
IASLIC

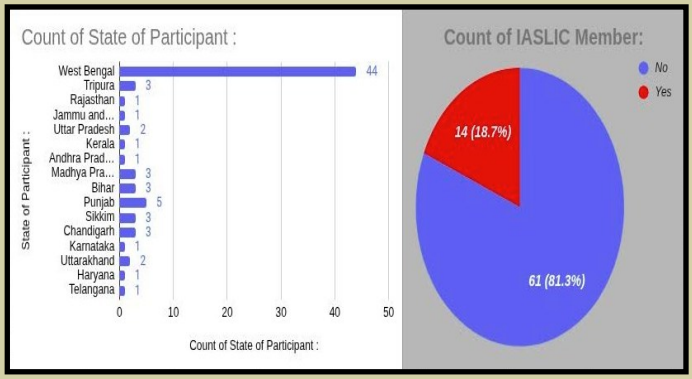
Announcement

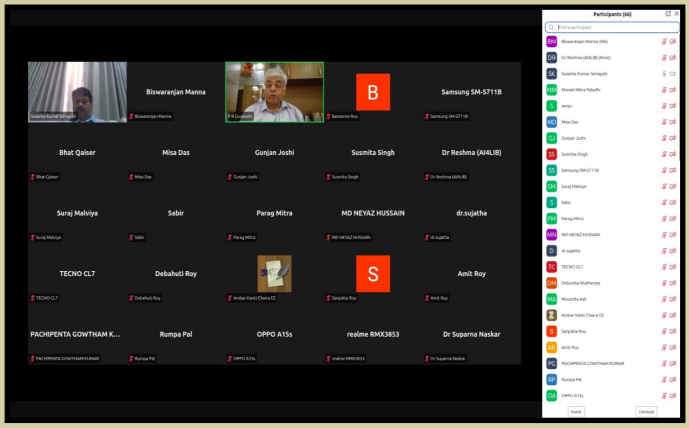
'Application of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in libraries', 26th April 2026 : A report

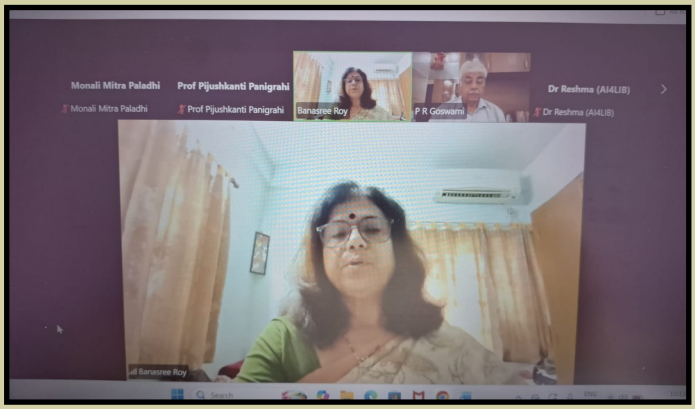
Indian Association of Special Libraries and Information Centres (IASLIC) has organised an online workshop cum training on **'Application of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in libraries'** on 26th April 2026 from 10:00 to 13:00 hrs. The resource person was Dr Sukhdev Singh, Former Dy Director General, NIC, India. He is now an AI expert in India, especially in library applications. Seventy-six participants from across India have registered and actively participated in this workshop. Dr Sukhdev Singh covered the overall application of AI tools and techniques, especially libraries and research. He practically showed how professionals can classify, catalogue documents, and import them into the Koha application in the age of AI. He enumerated the advantages of AI tools and techniques for researchers, ranging from literature surveys to analysis. He also mentioned some drawbacks and cautioned against applying AI tools and techniques.

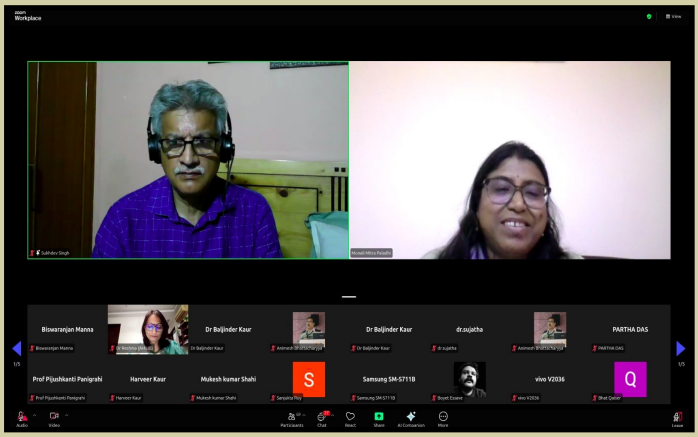


The workshop began with opening remarks from Dr P. R. Goswami, President, IASLIC. Dr Banashree Roy, General Secretary, IASLIC, briefed participants on IASLIC activities and also invited all participants who are not members of IASLIC to join as members. Dr Susanta Kumar Senapati, Coordinator, Education Division, conducted the workshop, while Dr Biswaranjan Manna, Coordinator, Information Division, IASLIC, provided full-fledged IT support for this workshop. At the end, a vote of thanks was presented by Mrs Monali Mitra Paladhi, Jt. Secretary, IASLIC.









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Zone One	Prof B Radhika Rani	4063-L[Z1]
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Zone Three	Prof Shilpi Verma	2656-L[Z3]
Zone Four	Dr Fayaz Ahmed Loan	3723-L[Z4]
Zone Four	Left to President	
Zone Four	Left to President	
Zone Five	Dr Firstborn Roy Sumer	3811-L[Z3]
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Zone Six	Dr Tridib Chattopadhyay	0765-L[Z6]
Zone Six	Mr Biswaranjan Manna	4054-L[Z6]
Zone Six	Prof K P Mujumdar	1300-L[Z6]
Zone Six	Prof Pijushkanti Panigrahi	1510-D[Z6]
Zone Six	Mr Abhijit Kumar	1235-L[Z6]

C Individual Governing Body Members from All Zones [20 Seats]

Sl. No.	Name of the candidate with Membership Number	
1	Dr A T Francis	0922-L[Z-1]
2	Dr Sanku Bilas Ray	3111-L[Z-6]
3	Dr Swarup Kumar Raj	1605-L[Z-6]
4	Dr Debabrata Bhattacharyya	0647-L[Z-6]
5	Ms Mayuri Das Biswas	3938-L[Z-6]
6	Dr Nikita Lama	4061-L[Z-6]
7	Mr Satyabrata Sahoo	2480-L[Z-6]
8	Mr Shamim Aktar Munshi	3639-L[Z6]
9	Dr Mriganka Mondal	1320-L[Z6]
10	Dr Nitai Ray Chowdhury	1673-L[Z6]
11	Dr Jayati Ghosh	0967-L[Z6]
12	Mr Arup Roychowdhury	1709-L[Z6]
13	Prof Sanjay Kumar Singh	1912-L[Z6]
14	Prof Durga Sankar Rath	1652-L[Z6]
15	Dr Prangya Das	0831-L[Z5]
16	Dr Bhojaraju Gunjal	0923-L[Z1]
17	Dr Susanta Kumar Senapati	1806-L[Z6]
18	Mr Meera Shaik	2487-L[Z1]
19	Mr Abhijit Choudhury	0794-L[Z1]
20	Dr Deepthi	4035-L[Z1]

D Institutional Governing Body Members (Zone 1 to 6) (Six Seats)

Zone	Name of the Candidate with Membership Number
Zone One	Serials Librarian Library and Documentation Facility **Indian Space Research Organization** SDSC SHAR Sriharikota - 524 124, Nellore, A. P.
Zone Two	Librarian **Malaviya National Institute of Technology** J L Nehru Marg, Jaipur 302017, Rajasthan
Zone Three	Library and Information Officer - I **Indian Institute of Forest Management** Nehru Nagar, Bhopal 462 003, M. P.
Zone Four	Librarian Nehru Library **Chaudhury Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University** Hisar 125004, Haryana
Zone Five	The Librarian **North Eastern Council Secretariat Library** Nongrim Hills, Shillong 793 003, Meghalaya
Zone Six	Librarian **S N Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences** Block JD, Sector III Salt Lake City, Kolkata 700106, W. B.

Name of the convener of the different division

Division	Name
Library Service Division	Ms Sanjukta Roy
Education Division	Dr S K Senapati
Information Service Division	Mr Biswaranjan Manna
Publication Division	Mr Abhijit Kumar
Study Circle Division	Dr Tridib Chatterjee
SIG Division	Dr Nikita Lama
Serials Division	Dr Banasree Roy

Report of Seminar / Workshop/ Program/ Activities

ASLIP WELFARE FUND (AWF)

A unique and humane hallmark of the Association of Senior Library and Information Professionals (ASLIP) is the creation of Aslip Welfare Fund. This is one of the most compassionate initiatives of ASLIP. The mission behind its establishment is to provide financial assistance to retired library professionals who are in the dire need of help. Dedicated professionals have contributed to this fund according to their capacities. It reflects the collective commitment of ASLIP family to stand by those who devoted their lives to build the profession and enriching society. In this context, professionals contributions are invaluable. We appeal to every professional to contribute according to their capacity and be a part of this noble cause. Your contribution, big or small, will bring dignity and care to the needy professionals. Together, let us strengthen the spirit of solidarity.

You may send your contributions:

Account number: 110113330551
IFSC: CNRB0002881
Branch Code : 2881
Bank : Canara Bank, Dwarka, Sector 6, New Delhi
Name: Association of Senior Library and Information Professionals

For further information, please contact:

Dr. Raj Kumar, Secretary ASLIP Mob.: 9417461789 OR
Dr. Seema Parmar, Convenor AWF Mob.: 9896825445.

Two-Day National Conference on Transforming Academic Library Services in the Digital Era

The Central Library of Ananda Chandra College, Jalpaiguri, in collaboration with the National Digital Library of India (NDLI), IIT Kharagpur, successfully organized a Two-Day National Conference on "***Transforming Academic Library Services in the Digital Era: Challenges, Opportunities, and Prospects for the Future***" on 9–10 April 2026.

The inaugural session was graced by several distinguished dignitaries whose presence added immense value to the event. Among them were Honourable Sabhadhipati Smt. Krishna Roy Barman, Jalpaiguri Zilla Parishad; Prof. Abhijit Bhattacharjee, Principal, Jalpaiguri Law College; Dr. Samapti Saha, Principal, P. D. Women's College; Dr. B. Sutradhar, Librarian, IIT Kharagpur and Convener & Chief Advisor of the

conference; Prof. Parthasarathi Mukhopadhyay, Department of Library and Information Science, University of Kalyani and Conference Director; Dr. Ananda Gopal Ghosh, President; and Dr. Debashis Das, Principal of the college. Their insightful deliberations set a visionary tone, highlighting the evolving role of academic libraries in the digital age. Notable speakers included Prof. Manoj Kumar Verma (Mizoram University), Prof. Durga Sankar Rath (Vidyasagar University), Prof. Udayan Bhattacharya (Jadavpur University), Prof. Parikshit Mondal (University of Calcutta), Dr. Anamika Das (Netaji Subhas Open University), and Mr. Koushik Sarkar (Sukanta Mahavidyalaya), among others.

The conference was conducted under the able leadership of Prof. Parthasarathi Mukhopadhyay as Conference Director and Dr. B. Sutradhar as Convener & Chief Advisor. Prof. Saptarshi Ghosh, Department of Library and Information Science, University of North Bengal, served as the Rapporteur General. Dr. Shamim Aktar Munshi, Librarian, Central Library, Ananda Chandra College, Jalpaiguri, served as the Organizing Secretary of the conference and played a key role in its successful execution. A total of 175 participants from different states, including Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Assam, and Mizoram, attended the conference. Over the course of two days, 65 research papers were presented, reflecting contemporary issues and innovations in library and information science.

The conference concluded on a successful note, providing a vibrant platform for knowledge exchange and professional interaction. The organizers expressed their heartfelt gratitude to all dignitaries, speakers, participants, and collaborators for making the event a grand success.

Recommendations

Based on the deliberations, presentations, and discussions held during the conference, the following recommendations emerged:

- Academic libraries should actively adopt emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning, and data analytics to enhance user services and resource management.
- Strengthening digital infrastructure and ensuring seamless access to e-resources should be prioritized to meet the evolving needs of users in the digital environment.
- Continuous professional development and capacity-building programmes for library professionals are essential to keep pace with technological advancements.
- Greater collaboration among academic institutions, libraries, and national-level initiatives like the National Digital Library of India (NDLI) should be encouraged to promote resource sharing and knowledge dissemination.
- Libraries should focus on user-centric services, including information literacy programmes, research support services, and personalized digital assistance.
- Institutional repositories and open access initiatives should be strengthened to enhance the visibility and accessibility of scholarly outputs.
- Emphasis should be placed on developing policies for digital preservation and long-term access to electronic resources.
- Libraries should play a proactive role in supporting research, innovation, and academic integrity through advanced services and tools.
- Networking and consortia-based approaches should be expanded to optimize resource utilization and reduce duplication of efforts.
- There is a need to bridge the digital divide by ensuring inclusive access to information resources for users from diverse socio-economic backgrounds.

Successful Completion of 30-Hour Value-Added Course on Smart Searching in the Digital Age

The Central Library, in collaboration with the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of Ananda Chandra College, successfully organized a 30-hour value-added course titled *"Smart Searching in the Digital Age: From Library Shelves to AI-Powered Discovery Tools."* The course, coordinated by Dr. Shamim Aktar Munshi, librarian, was conducted from mid-November 2025 to the end of March 2026 and witnessed the active participation of 40 enrolled students.

This comprehensive programme aimed to equip learners with essential skills for navigating both traditional and digital information environments. The course was delivered by practicing librarians from various institutions across North Bengal, ensuring a strong blend of theoretical knowledge and real-world expertise. Their practical insights, combined with interactive teaching methods, hands-on training sessions, and engaging discussions, made the course highly impactful and

learner-centric.

The curriculum was thoughtfully structured into seven modules. It began with foundational concepts of information, its types, sources, and the evolution of library services. The course further expanded into digital information ecosystems, familiarizing students with platforms such as National Digital Library of India, SWAYAM Prabha (ePG Pathshala), Shodhganga, and other online databases and repositories. The integration of Artificial Intelligence tools formed a key highlight, where participants explored platforms such as ChatGPT, Perplexity AI, Elicit, and Microsoft Copilot, along with practical exposure to prompt engineering techniques for academic and research purposes. The course also emphasized ethical aspects of information use, covering plagiarism, copyright issues, Creative Commons licensing, and responsible digital practices. The final module involved practical applications and mini-projects, enabling students to apply their learning in real -life information retrieval scenarios.

The programme concluded with a certificate distribution ceremony on 30th April 2026, celebrating the dedication and achievements of all participants. The Central Library extends heartfelt gratitude to all contributing librarians whose expertise and commitment ensured the success of this initiative. This course marks a significant step toward empowering students with critical information literacy skills, preparing them to confidently navigate the evolving landscape of digital knowledge and AI-driven discovery tools.

Announcement of forth upcoming Conference

A Two-Day International Conference on "Librarianship in Transition: Problems, Challenges and Prospects" on 27–28 June 2026

A Two-Day International Conference on "***Librarianship in Transition: Problems, Challenges and Prospects***" will be organized by the ***West Bengal College Librarians' Association (WBCLA)*** in collaboration with Vidyasagar Metropolitan College and in association with Vidyasagar College, Kolkata.

The conference will be held on 27–28 June 2026 at Vidyasagar Metropolitan College and Vidyasagar College, Kolkata.

For online registration:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeb0XaEaPQk09C8MCodH2tUzeHuKl1fQPBpiIwr3JL3BqtOvQ/viewform

Contact :

wbcla1962@gmail.com,

wbclaconference@gmail.com (for paper submission)

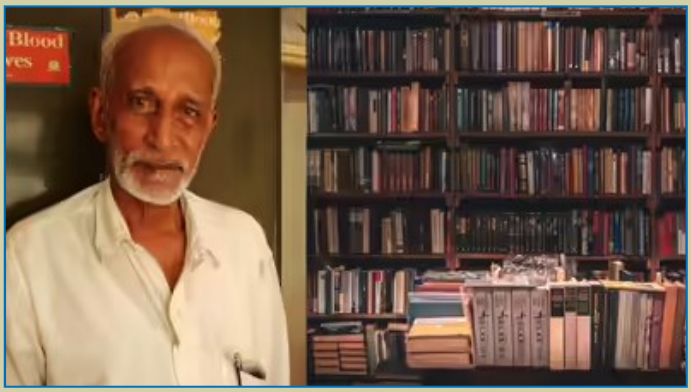
Mobile Nos.:

6290336041 / 9831462016 / 8348017157 / 8961028475

Personalia/ Award

The man who never kept his salary: This librarian donated his salary for 35 years for a reason so heartwarming

In most workplaces, payday is a private moment of relief or quiet celebration, but for ***Mr. Palam Kalyanasundaram*** it became a ritual of outward generosity: month after month, year after year, the modest sum that arrived in his hands was not banked for his own comfort but quietly handed over to someone who needed it more; for thirty-five years the librarian from Tamil Nadu treated his paycheck as a lifeline for others, a deliberate act of solidarity that began as a personal vow and grew into a lifetime of service that reshaped how many people thought about duty, sacrifice and the meaning of wealth. A scholar by training— ***gold medallist in library science*** with master's degrees in literature and history from the University of Madras—Kalyanasundaram might easily have chosen a life of quiet academic contentment, yet he instead built a reputation not on titles or administrative power but on an almost austere devotion to helping others, spending decades at Kumarkurupara Arts College in Srivaikuntam where his professional identity was inseparable from his moral one: the librarian who refused to keep his salary. What makes his story so arresting is the depth of that refusal; it was not a symbolic gesture made from abundance but a sustained discipline practiced even when his own means were meagre—profiles recount that at one point his monthly pay was as little as ₹140, and yet he persisted in donating it, supplementing his own needs with odd jobs and part-time work so that the money he formally earned could be redirected to children, the destitute, and those struck by calamity. His explanation for this life of giving is disarmingly simple and direct: a donation acquires real meaning only when it costs the giver something tangible; by that logic, charity that leaves the donor untouched is charity in name only, whereas the sacrifice of one's own comfort transforms an act of giving into an ethical commitment that reshapes both giver and recipient. Over time his private discipline became public service: after retirement he founded Paalam—Tamil for "bridge"—an organisation designed to connect donors with people in need, and through it he channelled support for education, orphan care, clothing, books, disaster relief and emergency assistance during cyclones and earthquakes, turning episodic kindness into an institutional conduit that could outlast any single paycheck. The scale of his impact has been described in media accounts with figures that are striking—some profiles cite cumulative donations reported to be in the crores—yet the precise total is less important than the pattern: repeated, organised, and principled giving that included not only salary but later pension arrears and prize sums, all directed toward sustaining other lives. He remained unmarried and deliberately kept his personal needs minimal so that more of his resources could be diverted outward, a choice that underscores the moral clarity at the heart of his life: success, for him, was not accumulation but circulation, not possession but distribution. For years his story circulated mainly within social-service circles and among readers who stumbled upon it, but recognition eventually widened; in 2023 the Government of India named him for the **Padma Shri** in the social work category, and the President of India formally presented the honour, bringing national attention to a life that had long been quietly devoted to giving. That public acknowledgement mattered because it validated a countercultural ethic in a society that often equates achievement with personal gain: Kalyanasundaram's life suggested an alternative metric, one where the worth of a career is measured by how many people it lifts rather than how much it secures for the individual. The human stories behind his donations—children who could continue schooling, families who received emergency relief, communities aided after natural disasters—give texture to what might otherwise read as an abstract moral experiment; his philanthropy was not random largesse but targeted, practical and sustained, designed to meet immediate needs while building longer-term support systems through Paalam. Even as journalists and admirers debated the exact sums involved, the enduring lesson of his life remained unmistakable: generosity that costs the giver something real has a different moral weight, and when organised with care it can become a bridge between those who can give and those who must receive. In an era when headlines often celebrate spectacular wealth and personal accumulation, the librarian who never kept his salary stands out as a quiet corrective, a reminder that dignity can be preserved and uplifted through modest, steady acts of sacrifice; his story travels because it is both simple and radical—simple in its premise that a paycheck can be a tool for survival rather than a private reward, radical in its insistence that one person's disciplined refusal to hoard can ripple outward to change many lives.



Academic Achievements and Digital Initiatives in Library and Information Science

Mr. Imteyazul Haque, Ph.D. research scholar in the Department of Library & Information Science, Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), Aligarh, has made notable contributions in the field of Library and Information Science through his academic and professional engagements.

He was recently honoured with the "*Best Social Media Influencer in LIS Education Award 2026*" in recognition of his impactful contribution to LIS education and outreach activities.

Mr. Haque also launched his edited book titled "*Artificial Intelligence in Libraries: From Automation to Augmented Intelligence*" during the INTELLIB 2026 International Conference on Emerging Trends in Libraries, organized by the Department of Library & Information Science, AMU, on 27–28 March 2026. The book highlights the evolving role of Artificial Intelligence in transforming library services and information management practices.

In addition, he is the founder of INSIGNIA (https://insignialis.com/), a free e-learning platform dedicated to supporting Library and Information Science aspirants. The platform has created a significant impact in the LIS community, with over 500 students qualifying UGC-NET, more than 100 achieving JRF, and many others successfully clearing various LIS competitive examinations. INSIGNIA provides accessible academic resources, structured guidance, and mentorship to learners across the country.

Through his academic work, publications, and digital initiatives, Mr. Haque continues to contribute actively towards strengthening LIS education, research visibility, and professional development in India.

Abinash Panda Honoured with Brahmavak Research Award – 2026

Mr. Abinash Panda, Librarian at ICONIC OAV, Bhubaneswar, was conferred with the ***Brahmavak Research Award – 2026*** for his outstanding contributions to Library and Information Science research. The award was presented by Swami Sibachidananda Saraswati, Chief Guest of the Programme, in the presence of distinguished ignitaries including Prof. Arun Ranjan Mishra, Prof. Subash Chandra Dash, Shri Narendra umar Mishra, and Shri Nihar Ranjan Dash. The honour was conferred during the one-day national seminar organised by the Brahmavak Educational & Charitable Trust, Bhubaneswar, held at Buddha MandiraHall, Unit -4, Bhubaneswar, on 15 March 2026.

Brahmavak Educational and Charitable Trust

Brahmavak Research Award - 2026

Mr. Abinash Panda

Librarian of ICONIC Odisha Adarsha Vidyalaya (OAV)

Andharua, Bhubaneswar, Odisha

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