



# IASLIC NEWSLETTER

Indian Association for Special  
Libraries and Information Centres



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## Quote of the Month

*"That is a good book which is  
opened with expectation and  
closed with profit."*

— Amos Bronson Alcott,  
American philosopher,  
educator, and 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 29<sup>TH</sup> NATIONAL SEMINAR, 2020

#### Call for Papers

The IASLIC 29<sup>th</sup> National Seminar will be held at North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong, during October 27 - 29, 2020 (tentative dates). Papers are invited on the following areas of the main theme and the themes of SIG Meetings for deliberation during the seminar.

Digital India is a flagship programme of the Government of India with a vision to transform the country into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. The programme was launched on July 1, 2015. The vision of Digital India centres round three key areas: building digital infrastructure as a utility to every citizen, e-governance and service on demand and digital empowerment of citizens. Libraries/information centres can play an effective role in successfully achieving the mission of the programme. In Digital India, the library and information professionals must acquire sufficient knowledge to develop specialised skills and competencies to satisfy the need of the new-age users. Of late, libraries have also come forward to handle research data by adopting an effective strategy of data management allowing researchers to access research data following ethical guidelines. In this background IASLIC has selected '*Library and Information Centres in Digital India: Present Scenario and Future Strategies*', as the main theme; and '*Skill Development for Modern Libraries*' as theme for SIG01 (Social Science Information) meeting; and '*Research Data Management*' as theme for SIG02 (Computer Applications in Libraries) meeting, to be held at its ensuing 29<sup>th</sup> National Seminar, to provide the library and information professionals a platform to take stock of the role presently being played by libraries/information centres and discuss and decide the future strategies for playing a more proactive and effective role in the emerging Digital India.

#### **Main Theme: Library and Information Centres in Digital India:**

#### **Present Scenario and Future Strategies**

#### **1. Digital India Initiative (DII) and Libraries/Information Centres**

- Vision, pillars, themes and programmes of DII
- Issues and challenges of implementing DII
- Role of libraries/information centres in e-governance and digital delivery service
- Future of libraries/information centres in Digital India
- Reengineering and re-gearing of libraries/information centres

#### **2. National Digital Policy for Libraries**

- Policy for different types of libraries: academic libraries, public libraries, research and special libraries, national library
- Policy for use of social networking in libraries
- National digital preservation policy
- Role of government and professional bodies and associations
- Role of National Mission on Libraries

### 3. Building Digital Infrastructure under DII

- a) Bharat Net and State-wide Area Networks (SWANs)
- b) National Knowledge Network (NKN)
- c) GI Cloud (Meghraj) initiative and National Supercomputing Mission (NSM)
- d) Citizen centric e-services: DigiLocker, e-Health India, etc.
- e) DII initiated information systems/centres: HIS, NCoG, etc.

### 4. Collection Building and Access in Digital Era

- a) Policies, guidelines and best practices in collection building
- b) Use of smart cards for payment of service charges of libraries
- c) Purchases and payments using debit/credit card through payment gateways
- d) E-lending, downloading of e-documents
- e) Open access initiatives, Creative Commons licenses

### 5. Content Creation and Management

- a) Creation of e-contents using CMS
- b) Creation of e-contents in Indian languages
- c) Creation and management of library portals/websites
- d) Involvement of consumers in generation and sharing of content
- e) Cross language access to contents

### 6. Digitization and Digital Archiving

- a) Digitization standards and software
- b) Archiving of tacit, traditional and indigenous knowledge
- c) Digitization and digital preservation of India's cultural heritage
- d) National Digital Preservation Programme
- e) Digital rights management

### 7. Digital Libraries/Repositories and Library Networks in India

- a) Digital library (DL)/institutional repository (IR) creation
- b) DL/IR standards
- c) Digital library projects: NDLI, NVLI, TKDL, NSDL, Census DL
- d) Repositories of INFLIBNET: Sodhganga, SodhGangotri
- e) Library networks/consortia: e-Sodh Sindhu, DELNET, NKRC, FORSA, HELINET, etc.

### 8. Digital Age Library/Information Services

- a) Digital library/information services and products
- b) Online/web-based/ mobile based/app based/cloud-based library/information services
- c) Preparing users for digital age library/information services, National Digital Literacy Mission
- d) Updating of library/information personnel's knowledge and skill through continuing education programmes
- e) LIS curricula for digital age, E-learning initiatives

### 9. Public Libraries (PL) in Digital India

- a) Collection development strategies of PL in Digital India
- b) Community information service
- c) Public Library Acts: review and amendment in new context
- d) Role of public libraries and community information centres in Digital India
- e) Role of RRRLF in public library networking

### SIG-01 Social Science Information Theme: Skill Development for Modern Libraries

#### A. Skills and Competencies required for New-age Librarians

- a) Managerial skills and communication skills
- b) Information retrieval skills and information filtering and consolidation skills
- c) ICT and networking skills
- d) Preservation and archiving skills

#### B. Specialized Skill Development for Different types of Libraries and Users

- a) Development of skills for different types of libraries: Public Libraries, academic libraries, special and research libraries, national library
- b) Skills required for serving illiterate and neo-literate users
- c) Skills required for serving users with special need
- d) Skills required for serving researcher community

#### C. Development of Literacy Skills

- a) Information literacy skill
- b) ICT and digital literacy skill
- c) Media literacy skill
- d) Transliteracy skill

#### D. Skilled Manpower in India

- a) Present Status
- b) Strategies for the future

### SIG-02 Computer Application in Libraries Theme: Research Data Management

#### I. Research Data (RD)

- a) Forms, types, sources of RD
- b) Open research data: importance and challenges
- c) RD Lifecycle

#### II Research Data Management Landscape

- a) RD curation, organization, storage, preservation, and sharing; RD coordination
- b) RDM Stake Holders
- c) RD sharing policy and barrier

#### III Strategy for Effective RD Management

- a) RD Management policy and plans
- b) FAIR Principles
- c) IPR and Ethical issues

#### IV Role of Libraries and Other Organizations in RDM

- a) Libraries' role in RDM

- b) RDM services
- c) Organizations involved in RDM: Research Data Alliance

**The last date for submission of full paper with abstract is July 31, 2020**

(Note: General Instructions for writing papers and Author's Declaration Format will be available in the first circular of the seminar and on IASLIC website shortly)

**New IASLIC Team**

The elections to different posts of office-bearers, individual governing body members and institutional governing body members of IASLIC for the period 2020 - 2022 were held during November - December 2019 and the results were declared at the Annual General Meeting of IASLIC held on December 4, 2019, at the venue of the 32<sup>nd</sup> IASLIC All India Conference held at Cochin University of Science and Technology, Kochi. The posts, which remained vacant for non-submission of nominations, were later filled by the new Governing Body at its first meeting held at IASLIC office on February 2, 2020. The Governing Body also nominated editors of different serial publications of IASLIC and the conveners of different divisions and sections. The details of the new team are given below.

**President:** Narendra Lahkar (Zone-5).

**Vice-Presidents:** Amrut Sherikar (Zone-1); Medha V Joshi (Zone-2); U C Sharma (Zone-3); Praveen Kumar (Zone-4); Sanjay Kumar Singh (Zone-5); and K P Majumder (Zone-6).

**General Secretary:** Abhijit Kumar (Zone-6). **Joint Secretaries:** Banasree Roy (Zone-6); Nitai Roy Choudhury (Zone-6); and Pradip Kumar Sarkar (Zone-6).

**Librarian:** Moumita Ash (Zone-6).

**Individual Governing Body Members (from different zones):**

T. K. Thiruvengada Mani (Zone-1); R Sevukan (Zone-1); Hemant Kumar (Zone-1); Geeta Girish Gadhavi (Zone-2); Dalbeer Singh (Zone-2); Aditya Tripathi (Zone-3); Suparna Sengupta (Zone-3); Barun Kumar Sarkar (Zone-3); Pardeep Rai (Zone-4); Abdul Majid Baba (Zone-4); P R Goswami (Zone-4); Apurbajyoti Majumdar (Zone-5); Tilak Hazarika (Zone-5); Firstborn Roy Sumer (Zone-5); Gour Chandra Basak (Zone-6); Sajalkanti Goswami (Zone-6); Arjun Dasgupta (Zone-6); Sanjukta Roy (Zone-6); Jogmohan Das (Zone-6); Jatindra Nath Satpathi (Zone-6).

**Individual Governing Body Members (Open Zone):** Achala Munigal (Zone-1); Shaikh Muhammed Zuber Abdul Majeed (Zone-2); Intekhab Alam Siddiqui (Zone-2); Prasanta Kumar Deka (Zone-5); Gouri Shankar Karmakar (Zone-5); Sharmila Bose Majumdar (Zone-5); Tuhina Chaudhury (Zone-5); Subir Das (Zone-6); Indrani Bhattacharyya (Zone-6); Nemaichand Saha (Zone-6); Tridib Chattopadhyay (Zone-6); Nausad Kabir (Zone-6); Jayati Ghosh (Zone-6); Amitabha Chatterjee (Zone-6); Pijush Kanti Panigrahi (Zone-6); Sudhendu Bhusan Banerjee (Zone-6); Mriganka Mondal (Zone-6); Sudip Ranjan

Hatua (Zone-6); Mayuri Das Biswas (Zone-6); Monali Mitra Palodhi (Zone-6).

**Institutional Governing Body Members:** Cochin University of Science & Technology, Kochi (Zone-1); Gokhale Institute of Politics & Economics, Pune (Zone-2); Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee (Zone-3); Ministry of External Affairs, GOI, New Delhi (Zone-4); North Eastern Council, Shillong (Zone-5); The Bose Institute, Kolkata (Zone-6).

**Editors of IASLIC Serial Publications:** P K Panigrahi (IASLIC Bulletin); Amitabha Chatterjee (IASLIC Newsletter); Nitai Raychaudhury (Indian Library Science Abstracts).

**Conveners of IASLIC Divisions:** Moumita Ash (Library Service Division); Arjun Dasgupta (Publication Division); S B Banerjee (Education Division); Indrani Bhattacharya (Information Service Division); Banasree Roy (Serials Division); Sudip Ranjan Hatua (Study Circle Division); Subir Das (SIG Division).

**Conveners of IASLIC Sections:** Tridib Chattopadhyay (Academic Library Section); Sajal Kanti Goswami (Public Library Section); Monali Mitra Palodhi (Corporate Library Section); G C Basak (Government Library Section).

**IASLIC All India Conference 2019: Recommendations**

The following recommendations were adopted at the IASLIC 32<sup>nd</sup> All India Conference held at Cochin University of Science and Technology, Kochi, during December 3 - 5, 2019.

1. Considering the importance of libraries and information centres in education and research, the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, be requested to ensure that the New Education Policy of India emphasizes the need for developing and revitalizing libraries attached to educational institutions to enable them to play their vital role.
2. Being concerned at the challenges being faced by the library and information profession at the present time, such as non-filling of vacant posts, appointment of non-professional persons as the heads of libraries/information centres etc., all professional associations in the country be requested to play a more pro-active role by taking up the matter with the concerned authorities so that the libraries/information centres can play their coveted role effectively.
3. Realizing the importance of information literacy and digital information literacy for effective utilization of information resources, the concerned libraries/information centres be requested to conduct programmes to make the users information literate and digital information literate at regular intervals.
4. Considering the fast disappearance of rich traditional knowledge available in different parts of the country, the Government of India be requested to undertake, through appropriate agencies, projects to conserve such



knowledge by creating archives and databases using digital and/or audio-visual technology.

5. Appreciating the need for extending library and information services to the people with special needs, the library authorities be requested to convert their libraries into inclusive libraries.
6. Considering the fact that most of the researches in India are public funded, the Government of India and the State Governments be requested to make it mandatory to make all such research data openly available.
7. Realizing that the present LIS courses are mostly not able to develop all the hard skills and soft skills required for providing efficient library and information services, the LIS schools in the country be requested to incorporate modules for developing all such skills in their syllabi or conduct special programmes to develop such skills.
8. In view of the rise in number of LIS schools without adequate infrastructure needed for quality education, the Government of India and the UGC be requested to urgently constitute an accrediting body for LIS courses and schools in the country.
9. Considering the enormous developments in the field of LIS in recent decades, the UGC be requested to constitute a new curriculum development committee urgently which can formulate new model of LIS course curricula for developing new age library and information professionals.
10. Realizing the importance of regular performance evaluation of libraries/information centres for maintaining quality library and information services, the library authorities be requested to introduce a performance evaluation mechanism in every library of the country.

## CONFERENCES / SEMINARS / WORKSHOPS

### National

#### **INFLIBNET Training Programmes**

INFLIBNET Centre, Gandhinagar, will organize the following workshops/training programmes during April - June 2020: Creation and Management of Digital Library using Open Source Software (April 27 - May 2); SOUL 2.0 Installation and Operations (May 11 - 16); Research Data and Statistical Analysis using R Programming (June 1 - 6); Metadata Management and Open Source Discovery Systems for Libraries (June 22 - 27). For more details visit: <https://hrd.inflibnet.ac.in/>

### International

#### **Conference on Information Systems**

The 4th International Conference on 'Information System and Data Mining (ICISDM2020)' will be held at the University of

Hawaii at Hilo, Hawaii, United States, during May 15 - 17, 2020. For details visit: <http://www.icisdsm.org>

#### **Conference on Knowledge Networking**

BSA Crescent Institute of Science and Technology, Chennai, and SALIS are jointly organizing 2nd International Conference on 'Knowledge Networking in ICT Era' during June 12 - 13, 2020. For details visit: <http://www.knict2020.in/>

#### **Conference on Information Research**

The 14th International Conference on 'Research Challenges in Information Science' will be held at Limassol, Cyprus, during September 23 - 25, 2020. For details visit: <http://rcis-conf.com/>

## MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

#### **Library in Salon**

Deprived of a good education, P Ponmariappan, a hairdresser at Millerpuram in Tuticorin, is determined to ensure that youth inculcate the habit of reading. In the salon he set up after he dropped out of school, he has a collection of more than 800 books and offers a 30% discount to customers who read the books and provide genuine feedback, says a story by Padmini Sivarajah in *The Times of India*. Ponmariappan, 38, could not study beyond Class VIII due to poverty. But his thirst for knowledge made him set up an audio system in his shop, in which he played speeches by renowned Tamil orators, including Sugi Sivam, Nellai Kannan, Tamilaruvi Manian and Bharathi Baskar. He cultivated the habit of reading books and it was after reading 'Puthagamae Thunai' (book is a good companion) that he got the idea of collecting books and displaying them in his shop. "I did not have the opportunity to pursue higher education, but I realised that books can help you go a long way in enriching your knowledge. So, I started collecting books and encouraged school students and youngsters to read them," said Ponmariappan. He made sure that they read books while waiting for a haircut. Many youngsters, who used to be hooked to their cellphones, at first got annoyed with his requirement. To ensure that the students read at least a few pages of a book, he makes them write the gist of what they have read in a small book he keeps in his shop. "This encourages others to read the same book," he said. Ponmariappan set up his collection six years ago with 250 books; now he has about 850 books, mostly Tamil, and a few autobiographies of great leaders in English. Appreciated much for his efforts, Ponmariappan says he plans to start lending books soon. For full report visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/life-style/books/features/this-hairdresser-has-a-library-in-his-salon/articleshow/72995786.cms>

#### **Newton's Groundbreaking Book Found**

A first-edition copy of Isaac Newton's groundbreaking book laying out his three laws of motion, which became the

foundation for modern physics, has been found at a library on the French island of Corsica, says a PTI report quoting AFP published in *The Hindustan Times*. Vannina Schirinsky-Schikhmatoff, director of conservation at the Fesch public heritage library in Ajaccio, said she discovered the copy of the 17th-century work while studying an index from the library's founder Lucien Bonaparte - one of Napoleon's brothers. "I found the Holy Grail in the main room, hidden in the upper shelves," she told AFP recently. "The cover has a little damage but inside it's in excellent condition - this is the cornerstone of modern mathematics," she said. The Latin text, "Philosophiae Naturalis Principia Mathematica" (Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy) was first published by Newton in 1687. The renowned physicist was famously inspired by seeing an apple fall from a tree in his garden in Grantham, England, which sparked his elaborations of the classical laws of gravity, motion and optics. English translations were published later, but the original editions remain prized by collectors. "A Latin edition sold for \$3.7 million at an auction held by Christie's a few years ago, and that's the one at the Ajaccio library," Schirinsky-Schikhmatoff said, referring to a December 2016 sale in New York to an undisclosed buyer. It is not the first rare find at the Fesch library since an in-depth review of its holdings began a few years ago. In 2018, Schirinsky-Schikhmatoff unveiled a "Thesaurum Hieroglyphicorum" study of Egyptian hieroglyphics dating from 1610 -- some 200 years before France's Jean-Francois Champollion deciphered parts of the Rosetta Stone. For original report visit: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/the-holy-grail-of-modern-physics-rediscovered-in-a-library-in-corsica/story-kHDDHzW4bwBTqRyBJS9vt7M.html>

### Read Books Initiative in Afghanistan

The old woman, hunched and leaning heavily on her stick, grips Idress Siyawash's hand firmly in her own. "Keep doing what you are doing," she says. "You are the future of this country." Siyawash's voice cracks as he recounts this scene from a small village in Afghanistan. Siyawash, a student at Jahan University in Kabul, is founder and chief of a small organization called Read Books (in Pashto: Ketab Lwast), a mobile effort to improve youth literacy rates in Afghanistan by providing books and reading instruction to children in rural areas, according to a story by Alex Fusco in *American Libraries Magazine*. Years of war have left Afghanistan with some of the lowest adult literacy rates in the world — about 45% for men, and about 17% for women. Siyawash, who launched Ketab Lwast with the help of some fellow students in 2018, is determined to change this. Together with volunteers from universities across Kabul, he and his team travel to rural regions on a weekly basis, bringing both books and enthusiasm. "Our idea is to show that reading can be fun, and to explain why education is so important," says Siyawash. "If we give the children books, even simple books, they can start to

learn the language and enjoy the stories. But it might also help them see the world in a different way and help end the way of thinking that is holding this country back." Afghanistan has a proud literary tradition that includes contemporary writers such as Reza Mohammadi and Khaled Hosseini. However, under the Taliban regime (1996-2001), books considered un-Islamic were burned. Many libraries, including the entire library of Kabul University (which had also served as the national library) were looted or shut down. In total, 15 of Kabul's 18 public libraries were closed during the Taliban's reign. In recent years, efforts to encourage reading and education have increased, but much work remains to be done. A 2016 survey of 324 Afghan libraries by library consultant Rebecca L Miller found that the typical collection size was 1,000 - 2,500 volumes, with only four libraries having more than 20,000 volumes. Sixty-four per cent had no computers, 55% did not have library training, and only one (the American University of Afghanistan) offered access to online journal databases such as JSTOR. "In some regions, children don't go to school," says Siyawash. "The madrasas (schools) were taken over by the Taliban, and some have remained closed. Many parents still don't want to send their daughters to school, and because of poverty, even some of the boys don't finish primary school. We want to change that, and we believe teaching children to read is the first step." The Kabul-based team works mainly in remote towns and villages as far as 250 miles away. They contact the village maleks (elders) by cell phone and promote their visits on local radio before arriving by car. The organization is also active on social media. Though many of the people it is trying to help do not have Internet access, online posts help raise awareness and secure funding from wealthier, urban Afghans (Ketab Lwast is funded via a membership model in which donors pay 100 afghanis, or about \$1.30, per month). On the day of the visit, Siyawash and his team arrive by car. Siyawash pulls out his electric-blue bicycle, complete with a basket of books, and rides around the village to drum up interest. As he cycles, he announces via a megaphone and loudspeaker attached to his handlebars that Ketab Lwast has arrived and will soon be distributing books. He is sometimes accompanied by Javed Amirkhel, a local singer and close friend who acts as a Pied Piper: Children hear his songs and follow, either on their own bikes or on foot. The team then sets up camp at a school or mosque and distributes learn-to-read books and stationery to the assembled children, while explaining to them the importance of education. Siyawash instructs the children to copy out letters and words from their new books. "Literacy is not just about passively reading, but also about writing, being familiar with letters, learning new words, and eventually, creating new stories," he says. The female members are tasked with a more sensitive role: speaking to local mothers and encouraging them to send their daughters to school. For full story visit: <https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/2020/02/25/bikes-books-mobile-library-afghanistan/>

### Cops set up Library for Public

With an aim to promote the habit of reading among youths and also provide a calm atmosphere for those preparing for different examinations, Osmanabad police have established a library-cum-study centre for commoners as well as policemen in Tuljapur —260km from Aurangabad city, says a *The Times of India* report. The library is the first in the region to be operated by the police that will remain open for all. The facility has been started in a spacious hall provided by the Tuljapur temple trust to Osmanabad police. Superintendent of police Raj Tilak Roushan told *TOI*, “The huge space was lying idle for a long time. Hence, we decided to put it to good use by setting up a library, thereby creating a win-win situation for everyone, especially the youths. This initiative is also helping us in our outreach programmes.” Roushan, who is an IIT alumnus and an author himself, said there were several options for initiating different welfare programmes. “However, considering the addiction of youths to smartphones and social media, we were compelled to take the initiative of promoting reading culture and providing serene space to those preparing for school, college and competitive exams,” he said. As a part of the initiative, several books sourced from different educational institutes and obtained from book enthusiasts have been made available for those visiting the library. Some academicians have been roped in for preparing a detailed list of books to be kept at the library. The books will include the ones required for preparing for state and national-level competitive exams, apart from the professional courses, so that the youths who are unable to purchase these books can read them at the library. An officer said that as for now, the library was being operated only during the day and an assistant sub-inspector had been deployed for supervising the day-to-day affairs at the library. Police said with the examination season drawing close, they were thinking of making the library available round the clock. For original report visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/aurangabad/showing-the-way-cops-open-library-to-promote-reading-habit-among-youths/articleshowprint/74142394.cms>

### e-Library Cafeteria at Patna Varsity

Patna University's vice-chancellor Rash Bihari Prasad Singh recently laid foundation stone for construction of first-of-its kind e-library cum cafeteria in order to facilitate better academic culture among students, says a report by Megha in *The Hindustan Times*. The e-library cafeteria will remain open 24 hours for the students where they can read books online and enjoy tea, coffee and snacks. Prof. Ravindra Kumar, in-charge of Patna University Library, said, “The e-library will be constructed with an estimate expenditure of Rs.12 lakh. It will have 20-25 computers in the first phase and sitting arrangements for the students. It will be connected to National Academic Depository (possibly he meant NDLI – Editor) which will allow the students to access millions of books. The library would remain open for 24 hours which will benefit hostel students particularly to access and prepare study material in the night as

well.” “The e-library is expected to get completed within five months and become fully functional from the new academic session. No other university in Bihar has such a library till date,” he added. Patna University has 100-year-old central library which has a rich collection of 4 lakh volumes including textbooks, journals and periodicals. For full report visit: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/education/patna-university-to-have-e-library-cafeteria-soon-vc-lays-foundation-stone/story-FKUY0JcadyxWfcdx17gpLO.html>

### Books Amassed for Class Libraries

The Thiruvananthapuram district panchayat, which initially set a target of collecting five lakh books for class room libraries in schools in the district, has now amassed over eight lakh books, says a *The Times of India* report. The project will be officially launched by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan. District panchayat initially aimed to establish over 10,000 classroom libraries in the district by January 2020. Initially, they collected over five lakh books as part of the project. District panchayat president V K Madhu said that although the initial target was collecting five lakh books, the good response prompted them to revise the target to 10 lakh books. As many as 10,600 classroom libraries will become fully functional in schools in the district. “There is another plan by which public libraries near a school can contribute books to classroom libraries for a period of one month. Once new books arrive, they can take back the old ones and give new stock. Thus our kids would get to read new books every month,” said Madhu. The library council has also joined the collection drive and had contributed 5,000 books at the collection counter set up in front of district panchayat office in last November. The project titled 'Sargavayana Sampoornavayana' aims to reach out to 5.58 lakh students in 988 schools in the district. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan had launched the initiative. The book collection drive began on November 1, 2019, with school level committees organizing door-to-door visits to collect books. District panchayat allots Rs. 1,000 per class room for setting up library. The rest of the amount is mobilized by school PTA. Shelves are also being readied in schools for storing books. The panchayat aims to implement the project in 141 public schools. Each class will receive 100-200 books. Kallara Vocational Higher Secondary School showed example by collecting over 15,000 books. Many schools launched 'book vans', which toured the locale and collected books from households and cultural institutions. For original report visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/thiruvananthapuram/8-lakh-books-collected-for-classroom-libraries/articleshowprint/74166040.cms>

### Children's Food 4 Thought

The children of Dogra Nagar in Jammu often wake up to sounds of shelling. On days like these, they gingerly find their way to the house of an elderly couple because it means escape in more ways than one. The house, which doubles as a community library, is stacked with books that tell stories about children like



them in lands away from theirs. And the books had been brought from homes of children their age, living over 2,000 kilometers away in Hyderabad. The books made the journey from Hyderabad to Jammu thanks to the efforts of Hyderabad based couple, Srinivas Rao and Shefali Rao, according to a story published in *The Times of India*. The duo that run a consultancy firm in Banjara Hills, are book-lovers who wanted to revive the dying art of reading. In less than four years, the couple and their team of volunteers have managed to spread the reading bug to villages and semi-urban areas in 22 states. With 303 libraries, Food4Thought Foundation has reached prisons, schools and hospitals across India. "Stories deserve to be heard more than once. We source books through donations or buy them, segregate them into genres and identify locations that need books but have no access to them," says Srinivas, founder of Food4Thought. Shefali says that they work like a corporate, with pie-charts to record their progress, a tracker to gauge the reception of books by readers and an extended network of volunteers who are committed to story-telling. "There are areas such as Nongshken Village in Meghalaya that courier companies refuse to deliver packages to. So we have volunteers who carry books on their backs and scale hilly terrains to deliver books," Shefali says, stressing that the spine of the foundation is its well-connected bunch of volunteers. The curation of each library by founders and volunteers takes into account the age of the reader, the setting of the library and readers' exposure to the language. The foundation also receives monthly feedback from all 303 libraries to assess progress being made by readers. Strategies are developed for libraries that record lesser footfall. "For instance, in a school in Khammam, children were scared to touch the new books. So the principal hung the books on a clothesline, to make books less intimidating," says Madhavi Sharma, co-founder of Food4Thought. The economics of running the foundation has been a constant challenge, says the team. The foundation sends books to five libraries every week, costing them close to half a lakh per month in courier charges alone. Established four years ago, the organization only recently qualified for CSR status. But over 70% of funds come from the founders' pockets. The rest is collected through donations. For full report visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/hyderabad/city-couple-has-a-story-for-every-child/articleshowprint/74309509.cms>

#### **Uttarakhand Town to have 210 Block Libraries**

Uttarakhand Higher Education Minister Dhan Singh Rawat recently announced to make one public library in each block of his constituency in Srinagar town of Pauri Garhwal district. The minister said this would be a pilot project and after analysing the response, each block of the state would have a library, says a *The Times of India* report. Talking to *TOI*, Dhan Singh Rawat said due to lack of proper public libraries, the students in hills had been deprived of basic reading materials like newspapers and magazines that are informative and beneficial in terms of

getting information on jobs and careers. "We are planning to start public libraries in all blocks of my constituency, which are almost 210 in number. The libraries will have basic books and regular subscription of newspapers and journals that are helpful for both students and common people," said the minister. For original report visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/dehradun/higher-education-minister-announces-to-open-210-libraries-across-srinagar-town/articleshowprint/74069592.cms>

#### **Public Library as Coaching Centre**

Visakhapatnam MP M V V Satyanarayana recently felicitated aspirants who have got jobs after having studying long and hard at the Visakhapatnam Public Library at Dwarkanagar. The public library doubles as a coaching centre for job aspirants especially for people coming from poor backgrounds. Speaking on the occasion, Satyanarayana announced Rs. 35 lakh grant for furniture of the second floor of the building and to procure books from the MPLAD funds, says a *The Times of India* report. Inaugurated in 2003, the library started functioning from July 2004 with the objective of providing reading space to booklovers. Currently, another floor is being added to the two-storied building. The library already houses 55,000 books. Authorities want to increase the total book-count to 1 lakh soon. All study material related to competitive examinations is being made available in the library. Two air-conditioned meeting halls, one with a seating capacity of 180 and another with a seating capacity of 50 are recent additions to the library. D S Varma, secretary of Visakhapatnam public library said, "Apart from newspaper clippings which are provided to aspirants on a daily basis, TED talks are screened every day. We have also provided Internet facility to students so that they can use it to take mock tests. Every month, we organise quiz competitions and guest lectures." For full report visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/visakhapatnam/felicitations-at-public-library-mp-announces-rs-35-lakh-grant/articleshowprint/72929235.cms>

#### **Collection of Indian Prayer Books at NY Institute**

The Parker Jewish Institute in New York is building a collection of Indian prayer books, thanks to the donation from members of the community, says an IANS story quoting a media report. According to the story published in *The New Indian Express*, Parker's Indian Cultural Unit now features a burgeoning collection of prayer books and religious poems. Carefully selected, the books bring residents and patients a sense of spiritual wellness, India-West news said in the report recently citing the institute as saying. In December 2019, Asa'Mai Temple in Hicksville, New York, donated seven religious books, and members of a Long Island family recently published, printed and donated 12 small books of religious poetry, in memory of their late father, the institute further said. Sujata Seth, an Indian-American marketing associate at the cultural unit, arranged for the books' wire-binding, making the

texts easier to handle. "These remarkable donations truly make a difference for residents and patients on their path to wellness at Parker's Indian Cultural Unit," the India-West report quoted Michael N. Rosenblut, President and CEO at Parker Institute, as saying. "The library of books is just one example of how the unit meets the growing needs of the local South Asian community." Parker's Indian Cultural Unit provides specialized care to the increasing population of older Indian-Americans in Nassau and Queens. The unit is staffed by Indian physicians, nurses and other associates who are fluent in Indian languages, including Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi and Punjabi. For original story visit: <https://www.newindianexpress.com/world/2020/feb/03/new-york-jewish-institute-builds-collection-of-indian-prayer-books-2098411.html>

### Digital Library in Karnataka Schools

Samsung R&D Institute Bangalore (SRI-B) and Government of Karnataka recently announced the launch of 'Digital Library, which will be implemented across 100 plus government schools of the state wherein more than 2000 Galaxy Tab A and e-education content along with training to nearly 25,000 students, says a report in *The Daily Pioneer*. "Through this partnership with the state government, we are hopeful that the students can adopt more engaging methods of learning with new age technology," Dipesh Shah, Managing Director at Samsung R&D Institute Bangalore said in a statement. In the first phase of the initiative, 20 tablets per school will be distributed across 50 government schools of Tumakuru and Ramnagar. Tumakuru is also a smart city and this collaboration will further the government's initiative towards digital education. The second phase is slated for the month of August this year. "The Samsung tablets will be an ideal way to engage these kids in an interactive manner and we hope this to be fulfilling association", S Suresh Kumar, Karnataka Minister of Primary and Secondary Education, said. For original report visit: <https://www.dailypioneer.com/2020/technology/samsung-launches-digital-library-for-100-govt-schools-in-k-taka.html>

## PERSONALIA

**Prof. Shabhat Husain**, former President, Indian Library Association (2016-19) and former Chairman, DLIS, Aligarh Muslim University, has been honoured with Lifetime Achievement Award by Asian Library Association for his outstanding contribution as an academic and library professional spanning more than 40 years. The award was conferred upon him at the inaugural function of the '4<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Asian Libraries' held at Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow, on February 26, 2020. The award carried a shawl, a memento and a citation in addition to the cash money, which Prof. Husain gifted back to the Association, as his token contribution. Prof. Husain started his distinguished carrier in 1976 at Aligarh Muslim University, where he served in various capacities, besides as Chairman, DLIS, viz., as Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences; as University Librarian; as Provost; and as Acting Vice-Chancellor. He retired from the same department in 2017. He has been earlier honoured with Prof. S P Narang Research Promotion Award of Indian Association of Teachers in Library and Information Science' (IATLIS) in 2014 and Lifetime Achievement Award-2017 of Satija Research Foundation for Library and Information Science. Prof. Husain is a life member of IASLIC. He delivered the keynote address at the 28<sup>th</sup> National Seminar of IASLIC held at Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan, during November 27 - 29, 2018. Hearty Congratulations to Prof. Husain!

**Ms Chriss Thomas**, Librarian Jubilee Mission College of Nursing, Thrissur, has been awarded Ph D degree in Library and Information Science by Bharathiar University, Coimbatore, for her thesis entitled 'Formulation of Library Consortium for Medical Colleges in Kerala: An Initiative'. Dr. Thomas pursued her research work under the guidance of Dr. M D Baby, Professor & Head, School of Library and Information Science, Rajagiri College of Social Sciences, Kochi, Kerala.

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