At a Glance

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Quote of the Month

"*A book is better than thousands of friends* "

- Late A P J Abdul Kalam,
former President of India

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

28th National Seminar of IASLIC

Venue: Visva Bharati University, Santiniketan

Dates: November 18 - 20, 2018

Theme: L I S Education in India: Present Scenario and Future Strategies*

Themes for SIG Meetings:

S IG1: Rabindranath Tagore's Vision on Libraries and its Relevance in New Era*

SIG 2: Data Management in Libraries*

(*Sub-themes and facets will be announced shortly on IASLIC website and IASLIC Newsletter)

Nominations Invited for Various Awards

IASLIC invites nominations for the following awards for the years 2014 and 2015:

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. A A N Raju - IASLIC Best Young LIS Teacher Award*, sponsored by Prof. A A N 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 September 15, 2018. For eligibility criteria and prescribed format of nomination visit: *http://www.iaslic1955.org.in/Default.aspx?PageId=123*

R C Gupta Lecture on Climate Change

The 29th IASLIC R C Gupta Endowment Lecture 2016 was delivered by Dr. Pranabesh Sanyal, IFS (Retd.) former Chief Conservator of Forests, West Bengal, on April 19, 2018 at the Seminar Room of the Association. The topic of the lecture was 'Coping up with Climate Change, with Special Reference to Sundarbans, and Applying various Information Facilities'. Prof. Anandadeb Mukhopadhyay, former Vice-Chancellor, Vidyasagar University, Medinipur, was in the chair.

Delivering the lecture, Dr. Sanyal expressed concern at continuous subsidence of land in the Sundarbans. He explained, with the help of slides, how accumulated huge sediment load and global warming were jointly responsible for such subsidence. This

was an alarming threat to mangrove forest and its natural ecosystem, he pointed out. Varieties of plants and animals were also declining and inhabitants were moving towards mainland. Though most affected areas of Sundarbans were in Bangladesh, Indian portion of Sundarbans was also losing some land, animals and forest resources, he said. Salt water intrusion was taking place in coastal ground water aquifer. Salinity of water had increased remarkably during last few years. Animals like barking deer, fiddler crabs, fishing cats, Gangetic dolphins, etc. had almost vanished. Tigers were also migrating towards mainland. However, growth of some plants which were comfortable in saline water, had been noticed, Dr. Sanyal said. With the help of beautiful photographs, he explained how people of Sundarbans were coping with the changing circumstances. Rain water was now being stored in reservoirs and ponds and as a result sweet water was now available for a longer time even after monsoon. Some paddy species, which could grow in saline water, were being cultivated. The number of fisheries was also on the rise. Plantation in the newly emerged islands was being given importance. The local people were now being made aware of rare plants and creatures and they were being taught about various useful techniques of cultivation and survival. The inhabitants of Sundarbans were being informed about all necessary aspects of climate change. Various NGOs were also working in the area to help them cope with the climatic change and its effects, Dr. Sanyal added. The lecture was followed by lively interaction.

Prof. Anandadeb Mukhopadhyay, in his concluding remarks, mentioned that Dr. Pranabesh Sanyal, was a specialist in the field of forest conversation in the Sunderbans and was having practical experience for decades. He also pointed out that in spite of proposals made by National Institute of Oceanography long back, due to lack of Government initiative and proper environment protection policy, expected result could not be achieved. At the end, Prof. S B Banerjee, Convener, Education Division, IASLIC, proposed a vote of thanks. A good number of IASLIC members and dignitaries attended the lecture.

CONFERENCES / SEMINARS / WORKSHOPS

National

Workshop on Transforming Libraries

DELNET, in collaboration with PES University, Bengaluru, is organizing a Workshop on 'Strategies for Transforming Libraries: Growing Trends & Technologies' on June 2, 2018. For details visit: *http://delnet.nic.in/wsltrsmb.pdf*

Workshop on Anti-Plagiarism

Madhya Pradesh Library Association and Sage University, Indore, are jointly organizing a National Workshop on 'Anti-plagiarism, Research Ethics and Reference Management' (APRERM 2018) on June 2, 2018 at Sage University, Indore. For details email to: *aprerm2018@sageuniversity.in*

Workshop on Plagiarism

The Kerala Agricultural University (KAU) is organizing a National Workshop on 'Research Publishing and Plagiarism' on June 6, 2018 at the College of Agriculture, Padannakad, Kasargode District. For details e-mail to: *library@kau.in*

Workshop on Access Management

A National Workshop on 'Federated Identity and Access Management (INFED)' is scheduled to be held during June 13 - 15, 2018 at INFLIBNET Centre, Gandhinagar. For details visit: *http://inflibnet.ac.in/hrd/docs/infed_2018.pdf*

Workshop on Koha

A National Workshop on 'Library Automation Software Koha' is being organized by Ansal University, Gurgaon, during June 15 - 17, 2018. For details visit: *http://ansaluniversity.edu.in*

Training on E-Resource Management

A Training Programme on 'E-resources Management and Usage Analysis' is being organized by INFLIBNET Centre, Gandhinagar, during June 20 - 22, 2018. For details visit: *http://inflibnet.ac.in/hrd/docs/erm_2018.pdf*

Workshop on DSpace

Deccan Education Society's Navinchandra Mehta Institute of Technology and Development, Mumbai, is organizing a Workshop on 'DSpace on Windows Platform' on June 30, 2018. For details visit: *http://nmitd.edu.in/*

Workshop on Joomla

A National Workshop on 'Content Management System using Joomla' is being organized by INFLIBNET Centre, Gandhinagar, during August 1 - 3, 2018. For details visit: *http://inflibnet.ac.in/hrd/docs/joomla_2018.pdf*

Workshop on Creating Digital Libraries

A National Workshop on 'Creating and Managing Digital Libraries using Eprints' is being organized by INFLIBNET Centre, Gandhinagar, during August 8 - 10, 2018. For details visit: *http://inflibnet.ac.in/hrd/docs/eprints_2018.pdf*

PLANNER Convention

Networking in North-Eastern Region (PLANNER) bi-annual convention, organized by INFLIBNET Centre, Gandhinagar, in collaboration with Tripura University, Agartala, will be held during November 15 -17, 2018. The theme of the convention is 'Rejuvenate Academic Library as a Social Hub'. For details visit: *http://planner.inflibnet.ac.in/index.php*

International

Virtual Conference on E-Information Accessibility

The Association for Library Collection & Technical Services, a division of American Library Association, is organizing a virtual pre-conference on 'The Road to Electronic Information Accessibility: How Do We Increase Student Success?' on June 6, 2018. For details visit: *http://www.ala.org/alcts/events/ac/2018/vc*

Web Conference on Blockchain

A free Web Conference on 'Blockchain Applied Impact on the Information Profession' will be held on June 7, 2018. For registration visit: *https://www.eventbrite.com/e/library-2018-blockchain-applied-impact-on-the-information-profession-registration-40098784544*

Conference on Role of Libraries

Pakistan Library Club (PLC), in collaboration with IFLA Asia & Oceania and Special Libraries Association (SLA), is organizing an International Conference on 'A Journey from UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Proactive Role of Libraries' during August 2 - 4, in Karachi, Pakistan. For details email to: *info@pakistanlibraryclub.org*

Conference on Exploring Horizons of LIS

An International Conference on 'Exploring the Horizons of Library and Information Sciences: From Libraries to Knowledge Hubs' is being organized by Documentation Research & Training Centre, Indian Statistical Institute, Bangalore, during August 7 - 9, 2018. For details visit: *http://drtc.isibang.ac.in/*

Conference on Digital Libraries

The 22nd International Conference on Theory and Practice of Digital Libraries (TPDL) will be held at the University of Porto, Porto, Portugal, during September 10 - 13, 2018. For details visit: *http://www.tpdl.eu/tpdl2018/*

Dublin Core Metadata Conference

The Dublin Core Metadata Initiative (DCMI) Annual International Conference 2018 will be co-located with TPDL Annual International Conference, and will be hosted by the University of Porto, Porto, Portugal, during September 10 - 13, 2018. For details visit: *http://dublincore.org/conference/2018/*

Library Marketing Conference

The Library Marketing and Communications Conference 2018 will be held during November 14 - 15, 2018 in St. Louis, Missouri, USA. For details visit: *http://www.librarymarketingconference.org/*

Conference on Govt. Public Libraries: Brief Report

The Central Government Library Association (Kolkata Branch), in collaboration with The Institution of Engineers (India), and in association with the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) - Asia and Oceania, organized an International Conference on the theme '*Recent Trends, Challenges and Innovation in Government and Public Libraries' (RTCI-GPL 2018)* at R N Mookerjee Auditorium of The Institution of Engineers (India) during February 9 - 10, 2018.

The conference was inaugurated on February 9, 2018, in the presence of more than 130 participants from over ten states of India and three participants from Russia, Bangladesh and Australia, and a host of guests and dignitaries, by lighting the ceremonial lamp and rendering of Ganesh Vandana by Ms. Gajalakhmi E. Dr. Chittaranjan Patra, Organizing Secretary of the Conference, welcomed

the Chief Guest and other dignitaries. This was followed by the address of the Convener of the Conference, Shri Partha Sarathi Das, who briefed on the Workshop on 'Building of Leadership and Innovative Skills for the Librarians' organized parallelly with the conference, in partnership with MSSRF and INELI-India and South Asia. He welcomed the participants along with two invited resource persons, Dr. Neeza Singh and Dr. Deepak Srivastava. Dr. A K Suman, President, CGLA, mentioned about the objectives and activities of the Association at the national level and the objectives of organizing the conference. In his inaugural address, the chief guest Shri Sisir Kumar Banerjee, President, The Institution of Engineers (India), stressed on the role of libraries in digital era. He also explained the need of digitization of documents in libraries. The Conference Souvenir and Proceedings were also released by him. Prof. Anamika Das, Assistant Professor, Netaji Subhas Open University, was the Rapporteur-General of the Conference. The entire Programme was compered by Ms. Gajalakshmi E and Ms. Mahua Roy.

A 'Best Library Innovator' competition was also organized on this occasion, in which the entry by Ms. Kavita Pujari, Librarian, The Millenium School, Indore, was adjudged as best entry by a panel of jury consisting of Shri Ramesh Kumar Goyel, Dr. Neeza Singh and Dr. Deepak Shrivastava. In her entry, Ms. Pujari showed how she had introduced the method of meditation for inculcating discipline and reading habit among the children. She was awarded the "Best Library Innovator" prize. A press conference was also held on February 9, 2018. Seven recommendations/resolutions were adopted pleading immediate filling of vacancies of library professionals in different central government organizations, equivalence of the pay-scales of librarians working under central government with those of UGC pay-scales, time bound promotion of library professionals working under central government, introduction of all-India library service, adoption of sustainable development goals 2030 with regard to public libraries by the Government of India, constitution of a library cell in the Ministry of Culture and adoption of a proposal for capacity building of library staff for promotion through CGLA.

Workshop on Building Leadership: Brief Report

A workshop based on the global standards on 'Building Leadership and Innovative skills of Librarians' was conducted by three Innovators of INELI (International Network of Emerging Library Innovators) of BMGF (Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation) - cum -Mentors of INELI India and South Asia, as a part of International Conference (ICGLA), organized by Central Government Library Association (Kolkata Branch). The workshop was supported by INELI, MSSRF and IFLA. The first day of the workshop started with an introductory ice-breaking session, wherein the participants and resource persons familiarized themselves with one another. The first session was on understanding self, wherein My River of Life, Wheel of Life and Self Assessment topics were covered. This was followed by very interactive and learning sessions on Time Management and Understanding Role of

Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 2030) of the United Nations and how libraries can play a key role in attaining them. In the last session of the day, a presentation on INELI India and South Asia was made by the Mentors in the conference. The second day started with the reflections on the previous day's learning. This was followed by sessions on Understanding Leadership, Team Building, Innovation, Goal Setting and writing Stories of Change. Exposure to International Libraries was also made through presentations. The workshop concluded with reflections and feedback. This was the first time that such a workshop was held in the region, which created a lot of excitement among the participants as they were exposed to some life skills which they had not been able to gather in the formal courses.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Seven Decades of DLIS, Delhi University

The Department of Library & Information Science, University of Delhi, the first full-fledged LIS Department of the country, which was set up in 1946, as a Pilot Project of UNESCO, with the efforts of Prof. S R Ranganathan and Prof. S Dasgupta, has played a vital role in LIS education and research during over seven decades of its existence. The Department celebrated its 72nd Annual Day function on April 23, 2018, which happened to be the World Book Day, at the Conference Centre of the University. H E Prof. O P Kohli, Governor of Gujarat, was the Chief Guest of the Function, while Prof. Yogesh Singh, Vice-Chancellor, Delhi Technological University, and Prof. Maharaj K Pandit, Dean, Faculty of Science, University of Delhi, were the Guests of Honour. Shri Sunil Ambekar, National Organizing Secretary, ABVP, delivered the keynote address on 'Libraries as Cultural Heritage'. Prof. Tarun Kumar Das, Registrar, University of Delhi presided over the function. Prof. Mohan, Head, Department of Library and Information Science and Dean, Faculty of Arts, University of Delhi, was the host of the function, while Dr. K P Singh, Associate Professor and AC Member, DLIS, University of Delhi, was the coordinator.

The highlight of the function was felicitation of 14 renowned alumni and/or former teachers of the department, who had made commendable contributions in the development of LIS education and/or LIS profession in different parts of the country. Those who were felicitated were: **Prof. S Parthasarathy** (b. 1917), who was a teacher of the department along with Prof. Ranganathan; **Shri Girija Kumar** (b. 1925), former Librarian, Jawaharlal Nehru University; **Shri Makhan Lal Kachroo** (b. 1930), former Scientist, INSDOC (now NISCAIR) and former General Secretary of ILA; **Ms. Heera Kapasi** (b. 1933), former Library Director, American Library, New Delhi; **Prof. S Ansari** (b. 1935), former Chief Librarian, Jamia Millia Islamia; **Prof. P B Mangla** (b. 1936), former Professor & Head, DLIS, University of Delhi and former President of ILA; **Prof. K Navalani** (b. 1936), former Professor, DLIS, Punjabi University, Patiala; Prof. **C P Vashishth** (b. 1936), former Professor, DLIS, University of Delhi, and former President of Delhi Library Association; **Prof. R G Prasher** (b. 1937), former Professor & Head, DLIS, Dr. Harisingh Gaur Viswavidyalay, Sagar; **Prof. B K Sen** (b. 1938), former Visiting Professor, University of Malay, Malaysia; **Prof. Alaka Buragohain** (b. 1940), former Professor, DLIS, Gauhati University; **Prof. Amitabha Chatterjee** (b. 1943), former Professor & Head, DLIS, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, and present editor of *IASLIC Newsletter*; **Prof. K S Raghavan** (b. 1948), former Professor, DRTC, Bangalore; and **Prof. S P Singh** (b. 1949), former Professor & Head, DLIS, University of Delhi. Each of them was presented with a shawl and a memento (with citation) by the chief guest.

Genesis of Mobile Library

According to a story by Suganthy Krishnamachari published in *The Hindu*, the Theosophical Society, Mannargudi branch in Tamil Nadu, held a meeting in 1925 to decide how best it could serve the country. Rao Sahib S.V. Kanakasabhai Pillai felt that the best service was to provide education to villagers. He said that the Society should organize classes for those who had not had an opportunity to go to school. It took two years for Pillai's plans to materialise. Classes began in Mannargudi town in July 1927. The first batch had only 25 students and classes were held in the garden of a property belonging to the Theosophical Society. Gradually, other villages in the district caught on. Kanakasabhai Pillai felt that without fostering reading habit, teaching people to read and write was not going to take them far. But remote villages did not have libraries. So Kanakasabhai Pillai came up with a plan for a mobile library. Pillai, who was an assistant engineer with the PWD, designed a bullock cart, to carry books to the villages. Thus was born the mobile library, which was inaugurated in Melavasal village, Mannargudi taluk, on October 21, 1931 by Dr. S. R. Ranganathan, father of library science in India. Books in the mobile library's collection gave the villagers tips on gardening, bee-keeping, cottage industries and on ways to augment their income. The Kaumara Mutt in Mannargudi supplied many books to the library, including didactic stories. The Theosophical Society had a library, which in 1929 had 947 books, valued at 2,000 rupees. Some of these too became a part of the mobile library, which toured 95 villages. Villagers could borrow books and return them when the cart came next to their village. A gramophone and 78 rpm records too were taken around in the cart to attract the villagers with music. Kanakasabhai Pillai's mobile library was a huge hit with the villagers, but it grounded to a halt after many years of serving the rural areas of Mannargudi. The bullock cart is now housed in Tamil University, Thanjavur, and the books that were a part of the mobile library have been donated to the Tamil University. For full story visit: *http://www .thehindu.com/society/history-and-culture/genesis-of-the-mobile-library/article23759904.ece*

Reading as Punishment

A Virginia judge handed down an unusual sentence last year after five teenagers defaced a historic black schoolhouse with swastikas and the words "white power" and "black power", according to a story by Christine

Hauser in *The New York Times*. Instead of spending time in community service, Judge Avelina Jacob decided, the youths should read a book. But not just any book. They had to choose from a list of ones covering some of history's most divisive and tragic periods. The horrors of the Holocaust awaited them in "Night," by Elie Wiesel. The racism of the Jim Crow South was there in Maya Angelou's "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings." The brutal hysteria of persecution could be explored in "The Crucible" by Arthur Miller. A year has passed since the youths spray-painted their hateful messages on the side of the Ashburn Coloured School, a one-room, 19th-century classroom that had been used by black children during segregation in Northern Virginia. The swastikas and words were long ago covered with paint. The teenagers have read their books and written their reports. The charges, destruction of private property and unlawful entry, were dismissed in January. Alejandra Rueda, a deputy commonwealth attorney, who had suggested the reading sentence, said. "I hope that they learned the lesson that I hoped that they would learn, which was tolerance," Ms. Rueda said. So, did they? The juveniles who vandalized the old schoolhouse in Ashburn, a community of about 43,000 people northwest of Washington, D.C., could not be identified because of their ages. But the commonwealth attorney's office has said they were public school students aged 16 and 17. Two were white, and three were non-white. For full story visit: *https://www. nytimes.com/2018/04/05/books/racist-graffiti-sentenced-read.html?smprod=nytcore-ipad&smid=nytcore-ipad-share*

NE Regional Centre of NDLI

The North-East Regional Centre for National Digital Library of India was inaugurated at the Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati (IIT- G) on April 20, 2018. Dr. Tamal Guha, Librarian, IIT-G, presided over the inaugural function. Prof Mihir Kanti Chaudhuri, Advisor (Education Department), Government of Assam, was the Guest of Honour. IIT-G Director Gautam Biswas also graced the occasion. This Regional Centre will support all the academic institutions in the region to integrate with and gain free access to quality education. NDLI has been continuously working for digital advancement in the education sector in India. The NDLI Pilot Project initiated by Union Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) has been started at IIT-Kharagpur.

Chennai's Oldest Lending Library

Eloor Library in Chennai might have put up its books on sale because it is closing down (See IASLIC Newsletter, March 2018), but the city's oldest lending library is still going strong, says a *The Times of India* report. Started as a waste paper dealership business 55 years ago, Easwari Lending Library has managed to stay apace with technological advancement and changing reading behaviour over the years. Owner and proprietor, T Palani, and his sons, P Sathish and P Saravanan, who have now taken charge of the library spread across eight locations in the city, have seen the rise and fall of readership. But they say the reason their franchise remains popular is because the smell of books is irreplaceable to those who love

reading. "My father used to lend books to those who liked to read for free from the scrap shop. It then occurred to him that charging a nominal fee would not be a bad idea," says Saravanan. But to keep up with the Kindles and e-books, the library management has made efforts to remain accessible and relevant. The head office in Gopalapuram, where the three work throughout the week, remains open to customers every day, unlike the other seven branches which are closed on Sundays. "We are upgrading our website. Borrowers can take books from one library and return it to another," said Sathish. Not only going online, the three have started 'Soulful Homes', a concept under which they set up libraries at residences for people at a cost of Rs 1,000 per month. "We provide 40 books and 20 magazines at a house for a month. Next month, the set of magazines and books are changed," Sathish said. The library has also tied up with resident associations in townships and gated communities to run a library at their clubhouses at a monthly cost of Rs 12,000. For more details visit: *https://timesofindia. indiatimes.com/city/chennai/how-the-citys-oldest-lending-library-turned-over-a-new-leaf/articleshow/ 62435600.cms*

Library to have Café to woo Readers

With patronage of libraries showing a dip owing to sundry other distractions in the digital age, Sampath Gopi of Bookworms in K K Nagar of Chennai has decided to offer readers some food for thought, quite literally, in a bid to woo them back, says a report by Shruti Suresh in *The Times of India*. The library is set for a revamp with the opening of a cafe where book lovers can bond over a cup of coffee or a plate of waffles. Driven by his passion for books, Gopi, a former manager with Higginbothams, started the quaint library back in 2001. "We started small with may be 3,000 books bought on credit. When the membership started going down, we spoke to readers and found that many of them did not have the time to visit a library. So, in 2007, we started a mobile van-based library that would go to neighbourhoods on the weekend to enable people to read or borrow books," recalled Sampath. The idea of corporate membership followed suit, with books being made available to employees of firms from Monday through Friday. These two initiatives helped to stem the exodus of readers and the library has around 3000 members now. It is equipped with nearly 35,000 books in Tamil and English, across myriad genres and catering to several ages. Sampath wanted to create an experience where people could come and hang out with friends and also read if they wished to. "With the rents, electricity costs, and salary of employees increasing, and a number of library members not renewing their memberships, we couldn't see the idea of the library sustaining itself. When the Eloor Library closed down, it came as a shock to my family, especially my son who grew up reading books there," he said. Against this backdrop, he and his son had been chewing over the idea of a cafe themed on books and reading for several months. "Any visitor to the cafe will also have access to the library. They can sit down and enjoy some snacks over a book and later walk out with some books too. They can also just come to borrow books and leave if they don't want to hang out at the cafe," said Sampath. "People for several reasons fail to visit libraries

these days. So, this initiative is intended to draw readers and provide them access to books. It is a cafe that centres round the library," he added, saying the library will be rebranded to be called #Stories cafe. "It is difficult to accept that people don't want to read anymore. We want to give them the opportunity to rekindle their love for books," he said. For original report visit: *https://timesofindia. indiatimes.com/city/chennai/library-to-give-its-readers-some-food-for-thought/articleshow/63863393.cms*

TN Schools to get Mobile Libraries

The School Education Minister of Tamil Nadu K A Sengottaiyan has said that schools across 12 districts in the state will get mobile libraries which will travel to two schools in a day, according to a report by Vinayashree J in *The Times of India*. The initiative would be launched very soon with one hour per week for library in schools and a Government Order regarding the same would be issued, the minister said. "In the morning and evening, these mobile (buses) libraries will visit schools so that students can read the books in the library. To improve reading habits, we will begin an initiative through which, with approval from the headmaster, we will conduct a one-hour reading session every week," Sengottaiyan said. The minister was speaking during a national conference on 'Global Trends and Innovations in Libraries and Information Centres', which was inaugurated by him at the Anna Centenary Library recently. He also said that of the 312 full-time libraries, 119 were set to be soon digitized. Funds had been allotted and work had begun on this, he added. Also, in all major libraries in 32 districts, the government would soon begin training for IAS, IPS aspirants, he said. For more details visit: *https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/ education/news/schools-across-12-districts-in-tn-will-get-mobile-libraries-minister-k-a-sengottaiyan/articleshow/ 62760222.cms*

Delhi School Libraries to be Rejuvenated

The libraries of the government schools under the Directorate of Education (DoE) of Delhi are all set to get a new lease of life, says a report by Krittika Sharma in *The Times of India*. A mega book fair was recently organized for procurement of books for libraries. The DoE is also starting a three-tier library system, which will bring a library to every pre-primary and primary class, separate libraries for class 6 to 10, and modernization of existing libraries. In his budget speech, Finance Minister and Education Minister Manish Sisodia had proposed this three-tier system. Towards this, an amount of Rs. 17 crore has been earmarked for new books, and another Rs. 100 crore to work on current library infrastructure. Under the three-tier system, every pre-primary and primary class will have one library each, separate libraries will be set up for class 6 to 10 in 400 schools, and all existing libraries will be modernized. For more details visit: *https://timesofindia.indiatimes. com/home/education/news/delhi-govt-school-libraries-to-get-new-lease-of-life/articleshow/62582820.cms*

Story Vending Machine

Stories are shared in many ways. They are recounted in books and magazines. They are read aloud around the campfire at night. They are randomly dispensed from stand-alone kiosks, doled out on strips of paper like grocery store receipts. Wait, what was that last one? Leave it to the French, with their love of Voltaire and Simone de Beauvoir, to revive literature in the era of hot takes, fast news and smartphone addiction. Short Edition, a French community publisher of short-form literature, has installed more than 30 story dispensers in the United States in the past year to deliver fiction at the push of a button at restaurants and universities, government offices and transportation hubs, according to a report by Laura M Holson in *The New York Times*. Francis Ford Coppola, the film director and winemaker, liked the idea so much that he invested in the company and placed a dispenser at his Cafe Zoetrope in the North Beach neighborhood of San Francisco. Last month public libraries in four cities Philadelphia; Akron, Ohio; Wichita, Kan.; and Columbia, S.C. announced they would be installing them too. There is one on the campus at Penn State. A few can be found in downtown West Palm Beach, Fla. And Short Edition plans to announce more, including at Los Angeles International Airport. "Everything old is new again," said Andrew Nurkin, the deputy director of enrichment and civic engagement at the Free Library of Philadelphia, which is one of the libraries that got funding from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation to install the dispensers. "We want people exposed to literature. We want to advance literacy among children and inspire creativity." For full report visit: *https://www.nytimes.com/2018/04/16/ books/short-story-vending-machine.html?rref= collection%2Ftimestopic%2FLibraries%20and%20 Librarians&action=click&contentCollection=timestopic s&region=stream&module=stream_unit&version=latest &contentPlacement=7&pgtype=collection*

Village Library dedicated to Kalam

The tribal village Ashakiranwadi in Maharashtra, where the former president late APJ Abdul Kalam had visited on October 15, 2005, will soon have a small but well-equipped library dedicated to the life and works of Kalam, according to a story by Sumita Sarkar published in *The Times of India*. Space educator Apurva Jakhadi, president of Rotary Club, Nashik West Seema Pachhade and a local corporator Rohini Naidu some time back visited the hamlet, around 30 kms from Nashik city. The village that was known as Vaitagwadi was renamed as Ashakiranwadi after Kalam's visit when he suggested this name. 'Vaitag' in Marathi actually translates to 'fed up' in English. "I was curious to know the fate of the village that the late president had visited. The village school is not in a very good condition and there is no library. We interacted with the students, teachers and the sarpanch. We decided to set up a small library dedicated to Kalam, through Rotary Club, so that students can spend more time in the library and get exposure to his life," Apurva said. She said that the library would help in moulding their thoughts and would help in shaping their lives. "In this manner we hope to contribute in realising Kalam's dream of Re-igniting Young Minds," Apurva said. For original story visit: *https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/education/new s/nashik-ashakiranwadi-to-get-a-well-equipped-library/articleshow/62841573.cms*

TECHNOLOGY NEWS

New Internet Domain Name

Just like *.com* or *.org*, Google has now rolled out ".*app*" top-level domain (TLD) for app developers who can book the domain name from Google Registry, according to an IANS report in *Financial Express*. A TLD is the last part of a domain name, like *.com* in "*www.google.com*" or *.google* in "*blog.google*". ".*app* that comes with added security is the first top-level domain (TLD) to require HTTPS encryption," Google said in a blog post. A key benefit of the *.app* domain is that security is built in. "The big difference is that HTTPS is required to connect to all *.app* websites, helping protect against ad malware and tracking injection by ISPs, in addition to safeguarding against spying on open WiFi networks," Google said. Till May 7, users could register ".*app*" domains through Google's "Early Access Programme." Users could also pay more to secure other domains before the general public could get to them, the search-engine giant confirmed. Google acquired the top-level domain (TLD) ".*app*" in 2015 for $25 million. For original report visit: *https://www.financialexpress.com/world-news/now-book-google-domain-name-in-app/1152973/*

SPECIAL FEATURE

Library - not a place for study alone

A library is a place of serious study or for spending some free time in light reading. It is a calm and quiet area where chattering or talking among the users is not allowed. This is the common perception of a library and also a common practice. In such an environment when a user wants some relaxation in between his study or have a cup of tea, he has to go out of the library and come back after having a cup of tea to resume his study which is not only inconvenient but also time consuming. It also often causes distraction among the users. Realisation of this fact is changing the age old perception of a library.

Today there are libraries which have provided space for a small canteen where users can get refreshed, while some have provided smoking rooms or discussion rooms where small groups can study or work together. Such discussion rooms can be found in many libraries not only in USA, but also many other countries. For example, in Singapore, National University Library has several discussion rooms. Each discussion room has a whiteboard with power points and the size is such that it can seat about eight people comfortably. In India too some libraries have adopted this idea. For example, the library of Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, has a group discussion room. Similarly, Vivekananda Library of Flame University at Vadzai, Pune, has three discussion rooms as also a café and a lounge for refreshment, breaks and relaxation of users. New Horizon College of Engineering in Bangalore has separate discussion rooms for students and teachers and also a coffee and tea point. The famous Bishop Heber College in Tiruchirapalli too has discussion rooms in its library. There are many other college and university libraries which have made such provisions.

However, the most interesting development in this regard is provision of a room for meditation, yoga, prayer and the like. According to *American Libraries Magazine*, academic libraries, specially college and university libraries, in USA are now experimenting with 'meditation rooms'. Students and faculty use these rooms for various purposes, such as religious needs, yoga, and meditation. The Tulsa Community College's West Campus library in Oklahoma proposed the idea in the summer of 2016 and received positive feedback since creating such a room. The idea of having meditation rooms has also caught the fancy of many other higher educational institutions in that country. Ohio University Library, for example, has provided a quiet neutral space open to all students, staff, faculty and visitors, where they can meditate, pray, or just enjoy a few peaceful moments to melt away stress. Similarly Duke University has earmarked a room for the purpose of meditation and prayer by library users. The reflection room or meditation room, as it is known, of Humboldt State University, is used by the students for prayer, yoga, scripture study, or simply for an escape between tough classes. The Columbia College Library in Chicago also has a dedicated interfaith prayer and meditation room. There are many such examples in almost all parts of that country.

Examples of similar rooms in libraries can also be found in some other countries too. For example, in Kingston, Canada, Queen's University Library's Education Library has a space for contemplation and collaboration by the users. University of Toronto also has a Multi-Faith Room for quiet meditation, prayer and other spiritual practices. In the central library under Coventry City Council, in UK, there is a multi-faith and quiet contemplation room, which can be used by people of all faith groups, beliefs and those for whom religion has no particular significance in their lives. The room may equally be used as a quiet space for people to sit and contemplate, to pray, to take a few moments to de-stress from a busy day, or to recover from a traumatic life event, such as bereavement. The city centre library of Surrey also has a cafe and meditation room. In University of Sheffield, Information Commons - a joint venture between Corporate Information and Computing Services - and the University Library, provides two separate rooms for prayer and meditation by male and female students and staff. Interestingly even if some libraries in that country do not have meditation rooms, they run regular meditation sessions.

Realizing the importance of prayer and meditation spaces in academic libraries, Association of College and Research Libraries, a division of American Library Association, is organizing a session on 'Studying and Spirituality: Prayer and Meditation Spaces in Academic

Libraries' during ALA Annual Conference and Exhibitions to be held in New Orleans during June 21-26, 2018. ACRL has observed: "Academic libraries at secular and public institutions are accommodating students' spiritual lives through transformation of library spaces. Former study rooms and other library nooks are re-purposed to provide space for prayer, meditation and other reflective practices that support student well-being and success". In this session, there will be discussions on how some libraries have created these spaces, how they manage them and the feedback they have received from their campus communities. The participants will be able to discover the benefits and challenges of library prayer spaces.

In our country, which is known for meditation and yoga, existence of meditation rooms in libraries is not heard of though it has many advantages, specially from health point of view. American Heart Association has expressed its utility. It said: "setting aside quiet rooms in college and university libraries allows for its users to "take time out" from studying and the daily stressors of college life, thus contributing to healthier hearts". So, why not we also think of allocating a quiet enclosure in the library for meditation, yoga and reflection? The users will surely love this idea.

[Sources: *https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/ 2018/01/02/library-meditation-rooms-space-apart/*, *https://library.duke.edu/using/policies/prayer-and-meditation-room*, *https://www.library.ohio.edu/about/ administration/policies-and-procedures/meditation-room/*, *https://www.ebsco.com/blog/article/libraries-getting-to-the-heart-of-the-matter*, *http://libfaq. nus.edu.sg/faq/71236*, *http://www.flame.edu.in/research/ resources/library*, *http://newhorizonindia.edu/ nhengineering/library-new/*, *http://bhc.edu.in/ library/index.php*, *http://www.coventry.gov.uk/info/ 126/libraries/48/library_services/8*, *http://newtobc. ca/2015/02/surreys-city-centre-library/*, *https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/infocommons/visitors/ facilities*, *https://onesearch.library.utoronto.ca/faq/where-can-i-pray-or-meditate-library*, *https://library.colum. edu/services/spaces/meditation-room.html*]

PERSONALIA

Dr. D K Srivastava, Divisional Librarian (I/C), Government Divisional Public Library, Kota, Rajasthan, has been honoured with 'Best Young Librarian Award 2018' on the occasion of 143th Anniversary of Master Motilal Sanghiji, at a function held on April 25, 2018 at Sanmati Pustkalay, Sethi Colony, Jaipur. This Award is jointly sponsored by JAILIS and Sanmati Pustkalay Administration, Jaipur.

Shri Adwaita Kumar Das has been awarded Ph D degree in Library & Information Science by University of Calcutta, Kolkata, for his thesis entitled 'Information support for the development of disabled persons with special reference to the people of East Midnapore, a district of West Bengal (India)'. Dr. Das has pursued his research work under the guidance of Prof. Arjun Dasgupta, former professor, DLIS, University of Calcutta. He is at present serving as Librarian, Kabi Sukanta Mahavidyalaya, Bhadreswar, Hooghly.

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