



IASLIC NEWSLETTER

Indian Association for Special Libraries and Information Centres

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A Monthly Newsletter Published by IASLIC

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Quote of the Month

“Walking the stacks in a library, dragging your fingers across the spines it's hard not to feel the presence of sleeping spirits.”

— *Robin Sloan,*
American fiction 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

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 those members who made valued contribution in response to our appeal for donation made in 2012. The esteemed members of IASLIC are aware of the escalating prices and hardship in carrying out regular functions of IASLIC in the present pandemic situation. Under these circumstances, IASLIC again makes an ardent appeal to all of its honoured life members to please come forward to help IASLIC by donating liberally, at least Rs.1000, by DD / 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: Punjab National Bank

Branch: New Manicktala

Account Name: IASLIC

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The donors' names will be published in the *IASLIC Newsletter* as well as in the Annual Report of the subsequent year.

General Secretary
IASLIC

CONFERENCES / SEMINARS / WORKSHOPS

National

Conference on Innovative Librarianship

The Central Library of Central University of Tamil Nadu, Thiruvavur, is going to organize an RRRLF sponsored National Conference on 'Innovative Librarianship: Accelerating of Open and Digital Convergence' during June 9 - 10, 2022. For details visit: sites.google.com/view/ncil2022

INFLIBNET Training Programmes

INFLIBNET Centre, Gandhinagar, Gujarat, will conduct the following training programmes during July - September 2022: (1) Research Information Management System, July 11 - 13; (2) Bibliometrics and Research Output Analysis (Advanced Training), July 18 - 22; (3) e-Resource Access, Management and Usage Analysis, August 3 - 5; (4) Installation and Operation of SOUL 3.0, August 22 - 26; (5) Cloud Technology for Library Professionals, September 7 - 9; (6) Research Information Management System, September 12 - 14; (7) IR using DSpace - Basic, September 13 - 19. For details visit: <https://hrd.inflibnet.ac.in/>

Workshops on Sanchi Manuscripts: Brief Report

A workshop was organized by Pub Kamrup College Library and the Department of Assamese of that College, in collaboration with the K K H Library, Gauhati University, on May 13, 2022. The Workshop was held at the Archival Section of the KKH Library, where Shri Dhanjit

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Talukdar, Archival Assistant of the Library, acted as a resource person. He explained various aspects of ancient and rare manuscripts, specially the Sanchi Manuscripts, to the participants. The technique of manuscript preservation was shown practically as well. The workshop was inaugurated by Prof. Sanjay Kumar Singh, Head, DLIS, and University Librarian I/c of Gauhati University. In the opening ceremony, Dr. Barnali Deka, Assistant Professor of Assamese, welcomed the University Librarian, Assistant Librarian and the Resource Person with traditional Fulam Gamocho and with some college publications. In his inaugural address, Prof. Singh stressed on the importance of ancient manuscripts and need for their proper preservation and conservation. Assistant Librarian Nityananda Pathak mentioned about the initiative of KKH Library in the field of preservation of manuscript. It is to be noted that KKH Library has already been recognized as Manuscript Conservation Centre and Manuscript Resource Centre by the National Mission for Manuscripts. Dr. Nirmal Ranjan Mazumdar, Librarian of Pub Kamrup College, compered during the opening ceremony. The university library authority appreciated the initiative taken by Pub Kamrup College Library for training the students in ancient Assamese script reading and manuscript preservation.

International

Conference on Innovation, Knowledge

The 11th International Conference on 'Innovation, Knowledge, and Management' will be held in Hong Kong during June 25 - 27, 2022. For details visit: <http://www.icikm.org/>

Conference on Digital Library Managing

An International Conference on 'Digital Library Managing' (ICDLM) will be held in London during June 27 - 28, 2022. For details visit: <https://waset.org/digital-library-managing-conference-in-june-2022-in-london>

Conference on Knowledge Storage

An International Conference on 'Knowledge Storage and Digital Library Technology' will be held in London during July 26 - 27, 2022. For details visit: <https://waset.org/knowledge-storage-and-digital-library-technology-conference-in-july-2022-in-london>

Distance Library Services Conference

Distance Library Services Conference 2022 will be held at Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana, USA, during July 26 - 28, 2022. For details visit: <https://commons.erau.edu/dls-conference/2022/>

Conference on Digital Library Managing

International Conference on 'Digital Library Managing and importance of Securing Information' (ICDLMISI) will be held in Paris, France, during August 30 - 31, 2022. For details visit: <https://waset.org/digital-library-managing-and-importance-of-securing-information-conference-in-august-2022-in-paris>

Overdue Book Returned with Cheeky Note

In a rare turn of events, a Latin book that was borrowed from University College London (UCL) Libraries in 1974, has now been returned roughly 50 years later, says a *The Times of India* story. What's more, the book was accompanied by a cheeky note by the anonymous person who returned it. The note read, reports Evening Standard, "Dear Librarian, I fear this book is some 50 years overdue! Please don't just throw it out, now that I've taken the time and trouble to return it. It must be an 'antique' by now." The news was shared by UCL News on Twitter with the caption: "Dear Librarian, I fear this book is some 50 years overdue!": Anonymous borrower finally returns their book to UCL Libraries which was due in 1974 and could have racked up fines of £1,254 - alongside a hand-written note. The book which was returned is an 1875 edition of a play titled 'Querolus'. A fifth-century comedy, it is the story of a magician who tries to dupe the inheritance of a poor man. The book which was returned is a hard copy of the original edition from 1875. Talking about the book, the university's librarian Suzanne Traue told Evening Standard that she found the book in a post when she returned to work after 18 months of working from home. "I was pleasantly surprised to discover that this book came with a note, but I think my jaw may literally have dropped when I read it," she said. The library charges a fine of 10p per day for a late return. Considering that this book was returned almost 50 years later, its fine would have been £1,254 (INR 1,24,022). But since it was returned anonymously the fine cannot be collected. For original story visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/life-style/books/features/book-returned-to-london-library-after-50-years-with-a-funny-note/articleshow/90661721.cms>

Court imposed Fine to be Spent on Library

Days after a bench led by Justice Sunil B Shukre of the Bombay High Court remarked about insufficient number of books available at Taloja jail library, while hearing a plea filed by Elgaar Parishad case accused Gautam Navlakha, the court recently imposed costs worth ₹15,000 on two litigants that would be used on the jail library, says a *The Indian Express* report. A division bench of Justice Shukre and Justice Govinda A Sanap recently told Additional Public Prosecutor Sangeeta Shinde - who appeared before the court in another case - that it had imposed costs of ₹5,000 and ₹10,000 in two civil matters earlier in the day and directed that the proceeds be given to Taloja jail. "...Now, ensure it is utilized appropriately," Justice Shukre told the government lawyer who represented the prison department in Navlakha's case. Calling it a "security risk", the Taloja jail authorities had twice refused to hand over a P G Wodehouse book to Navlakha. Navlakha only got the book after the trial court's order. The HC had said that this was "really comical" and showed "the attitude of the jail authorities". The bench had asked the prison department, "Why wasn't he given

the book? Is humour banished from jail?” As the state counsel said that Navlakha was given books available in the jail library, the court sought to know how many and what kind of books were available in the jail library. In reply, the state counsel had said that the jail library had around 2,800 books. Justice Shukre then remarked that even a secondary school would have more books in its library. For original report visit: <https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/mumbai/bombay-hc-imposes-rs-15000-fine-on-two-litigants-taloja-prison-library-7858857/>

Over 6,500 Books for Gutted Library

Over 6,500 books collected through a donate one-book campaign on social media by political science professor Muzaffar H Assadi were donated to Mysuru's 'Library man' Syed Ishaq recently, says a *The Times of India* report. After Syed's library in Rajivnagar was destroyed in an accidental fire a year back, the professor launched a campaign to support the cause. Syed Ishaq was running the library on his own since a decade and he encouraged reading habit among the residents in the northeast of Mysuru. His library had hundreds of Kannada books, including religious scriptures and magazines, but all were destroyed in a fire on April 9, 2021. After accepting the books, Syed said: “I am an uneducated person, but my love for Kannada motivated me to open a library. There have been several attempts to evict me from the place, but I stood my ground. I am happy that people are supporting me for this cause.” Professor Muzaffar told *TOI* that people from different walks of lives had donated books responding to the 'donate one-book campaign' started to help Syed to reopen the library. For full report visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mysuru/ishaq-s-library-gets-6-5k-books/articleshow/90673367.cms>

Stolen Darwin Notebooks Returned

Twenty-two years after a pair of notebooks filled with Charles Darwin's early musings went missing from the Cambridge University Library, they were anonymously returned in good condition recently along with a note to the elated librarian: “Happy Easter,” says a story by Daniel Victor in *The New York Times*. “Happy” scarcely begins to describe the reaction of Jessica Gardner, the university librarian who spearheaded an international publicity blitz in 2020 to recover the notebooks. Filled with Darwin's scrawled handwriting and sketches from 1837, including the famous “tree of life” drawing, the notebooks recorded his thought process as he began sketching out ideas that would later develop into world-famous theories still revered and studied today, including the theory of natural selection. On March 9, outside her office in an area of the library with no cameras, someone placed a bright pink gift bag. Dr. Gardner and her colleagues first recognized the original blue box that had been taken from the archives. Then, inside a brown envelope, they found the notebooks they had long sought inside tightly wrapped cling wrap, along with the typed note wishing

her a Happy Easter. “I still feel shaky,” she said in an interview recently, when the university announced that the notebooks had been recovered. “It's really hard to express how overjoyed I am.” After waiting a few days the police, who are continuing an investigation, instructed the university to wait before removing the notebooks from the plastic wrap the university's conservation experts delicately unsheathed them. Along with a team of experts, they looked through every page of both the books, searching for damage or missing pages. Jim Secord, the director of the university's Darwin Correspondence Project, which has assembled the scientist's writings, was among those who handled the notebooks, having also handled them in the 1990s before they went missing. He said it was immediately apparent that they were genuine, and that they had been kept in good condition with no missing pages. Forgery was not a concern, he said it would have been far too difficult to forge the several types of ink, the aged paper or the clasps on the leather binding, let alone the box it came in from the archives. “There's no question, I think, they are the real notebooks,” he said. The notebooks had been held in the library's Special Collections Strong Rooms, where the rarest and most valuable items in its collection are stored. They were taken out to be photographed in September 2000. During a routine check a month later, the small box that contained the two notebooks was found to be missing, the library said. Years of fruitless searching led the library and national experts in cultural heritage theft to conclude that they had most likely been stolen. For original story visit: <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/04/05/world/europe/charles-darwin-notebooks-cambridge-library.html>

Heritage Status for Mobile Library

One of the oldest libraries on wheels of Jharkhand at Dumka, Bhramanshil Pustkalaya, Santhal Pargana, established way back in 1956 which has travelled altogether 76000 km will soon get the heritage status, says a story by Praduman Choube in *The Tregraph*. Dumka District administration has decided to carry out renovation of the library and create a shed for it so as to preserve it for future generations to learn about the educational initiative of our forefathers. An open discussion titled, *Kitaben naukri se pahle, naukri ke baad bhi* was organized as part of an ongoing awareness drive in this regard at Dumka State Library during which the participants discussed the significance of books in human life, in steering the society, bringing social changes, upliftment of the society, women empowerment etc. Rabibal Hansda, one the participants in the discussion, while addressing the gathering, said, “Libraries being the repository of knowledge in the form of books play important role in shaping the thought process of individuals and society and thus play the role of change agents” He emphasized on the significance of books at different stages of life including during the childhood, during schools, during the course of preparation for recruitment exams and also after getting jobs and said, “Books are equally important at every stage of life as

it allows a person to understand and learn about our past, heritage etc. during the early stage of life and makes us aware about the happenings across the world at the later stage.” Rabilal who quoted a Sanskrit Verse highlighting the significance of libraries lauded the district administration's initiative to give the Library on Wheels of Dumka State Library heritage status. Notably, the library on wheels, which is part of the Dumka State Library, was aimed at providing books to different town, sub-divisional, and block level libraries and even residential schools of different districts of Santhal Pargana Division. Brij Kishore Jha, a government school teacher of Dumka, who is the son of the founder librarian of the Dumka State Library, Nilkanth Jha, said, “The state library of Dumka, one of the five state libraries of the undivided Bihar era, plays key role in stirring the educational process in the remote areas of the state through its library on wheels as many of the people of the remote areas who could not afford to visit the state library at Dumka availed the facility of library through the library on wheels.” For original report visit: <https://www.telegraphindia.com/jharkhand/oldest-library-on-wheels-to-get-heritage-status/cid/1855822>

Libraries in Mumbai Slums Soon

To make books easily available to slum residents, especially schoolchildren and youths, and encourage them to take up reading, the Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation (NMMC) has decided to implement 'Zopadpatti Tithi Library', a project under which a library will be set up at every slum pocket in the city, says a story by Vallabh Ozzarkar in *The Indian Express*. In the first phase of the project, according to the NMMC, it will start building libraries in ten slums with the aim of stimulating an interest for reading in school-goers. An NMMC official said that the implementation of the concept would be done in a phase-wise manner. A survey of the 10 slums, which have been earmarked for the first phase of the project, was recently conducted by the social development department of the corporation. NMMC Commissioner Abhijit Bangar has instructed the civic administration to start the structural work as well as painting, both interior and exterior, at locations earmarked for the libraries at the earliest and has also sought creation of an attractive ambience at the libraries, which will lure children and the youth to these places and encourage them to take up reading. While instructing civic officials concerned that each library should have an interior design and decoration with respect to the dimensions it was built on, the NMMC commissioner also directed that computers and printers should be arranged for proper management of the library. The civic chief has also directed that each library should have a clean toilet. The commissioner said that the work on libraries at all the 10 earmarked slums would be carried out simultaneously over the next one month and the books would be selected keeping in view the population of each slum area. “At present, there are a total of 19 libraries at different locations in Navi Mumbai and this initiative has been undertaken in order not to

deprive the children and youth living in slums of libraries and the joyful habit of reading. The idea is that quality books should be made easily available for them at a place close to home,” an official said. “Land has been allotted in the 10 designated slum areas, which are Indiranagar, Hanuman Nagar, Turbhe Store, Gautam Nagar and Panchsheelnagar, Katkaripada and Bhimnagar, Nosil Naka, Ramnagar, Ilthanpada, Ramabai Ambedkar Nagar and Shivaji Nagar. Libraries will open at these places in the first phase of the project,” the official added. For original story visit: <https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/mumbai/soon-libraries-in-slums-to-encourage-reading-7924667/>

e-Library Initiative in J & K

Chief Secretary of Jammu and Kashmir, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, recently launched the e-Kitab Kosh, an e-library initiative of the Information Technology Department, according to a *Cross Town News* report. The e-Kitab Kosh is envisioned as an online library for providing access to a virtual repository of learning resources in five languages viz. English, Hindi, Urdu, Dogri and Kashmiri. The Chief Secretary directed the Department to make available all e-books of JK BOSE and NCERT on the website for assisting students with easy access to the learning material in the spirit of Digital India Mission. The e-Library is easily accessible on 'anytime-anywhere' basis through both computer and mobile devices. The interface is user-friendly and allows the readers to easily surf through its content. The said platform is designed on GIGW guidelines with mobile-friendly architecture and stretches its access to diverse content on various fields of Science, Art, Literature etc. The accessible content also includes books, journals, newsletters, magazines, newspaper, audio and video recordings, etc. The e-Kitab Kosh can be accessed at www.elibrary.jk.gov.in. For original report visit: <https://www.crosstownnews.in/post/76537/-e-kitab-kosh-an-e-library-initiative-by-it-dept-launched-in-jak-by-cs-.html>

Kerala School Libraries get Books worth 20cr.

The library book distribution to the schools in Kerala, announced as part of the 100-day action programme of the Pinarayi Vijayan government, had been completed, the Education Department said, says a story available on english.mathrubhumi.com website. The programme titled 'Vayanayude Vasantham' (Spring of Reading) started in 2018-19. This year, it had an allocation of ₹10 cr. The book fests were conducted at the district level from where the school authorities purchased the books. The tender process and auditing were transparent, claimed the department. In the first year, ₹6 cr was allotted for buying books for government schools affected by the 2018 floods. In the next year, government-aided schools were given books worth ₹4 cr. This year, schools that did not benefit from the project in the previous years were chosen. The Chief Minister and the Education Minister showed special interest in the continuation of the programme. General

Education Minister V Sivankutty inaugurated this year's distribution at the programme held at Thiruvananthapuram Manakkad High School. It ended on March 22 at Kasaragod. As many as 6,73,621 books were distributed to the selected schools. For original story visit: <https://english.mathrubhumi.com/education/news/kerala-distributed-library-books-worth-rs-20-cr-in-three-years-to-its-schools-vayanayude-vasantham-1.7375382>

Telangana Move to Help Job Seekers

Extensive study materials are being arranged in 100 libraries across the state, said Telangana Education Minister P Sabitha Indra Reddy. She held a meeting with officials of the Education Department in Hyderabad recently, according to a story available on www.siasat.com website. "Apart from study materials, all other amenities should be provided in libraries for candidates preparing for the recruitment exams," she told officials. She also directed Library Department officials to arrange study materials for recruitment exams in 100 libraries at the earliest on the onset of state recruitment exams. The Minister along with Education Department Secretary Sandeep Kumar Sultania visited Aliya School to inspect the school's infrastructure under the *Mana Orru Mana Badi* welfare scheme. For full story visit: <https://www.siasat.com/telangana-100-libraries-to-accommodate-those-appearing-for-govt-jobs-2297457/>

TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Instagram's New Look

In a bid to give a visual refresh to its app, the Meta-owned photo-sharing platform Instagram has announced that it is introducing a brighter icon along with its own typography. The company said that its new design system puts content at the centre, with a focus on simplicity and self-expression, says a story quoting IANS available on dnaindia.com website. "We are bringing new energy and purpose to our colours, typeface, logo, and other brand elements with a refreshed visual identity. Our new system is designed to embrace continued evolution to help us create more immersive and inclusive experiences for our community," Instagram said in a statement. The platform mentioned that its new typeface, Instagram Sans, was designed with heritage in mind and included multiple global scripts. "Our vibrant gradient was reimagined using an innovative 3D modelling process to make it feel illuminated and alive. The Instagram gradient, made up of our brand colours, is the foundation of our complete colour system." "Through illumination, the gradient signals moments of discovery in our marketing, logo, and even in-app as seen in Create mode,

stickers and Instagram Story rings. We are excited to bring life to the Instagram experience through the energy of our reimagined gradient," it added. Instagram Sans is a new way for the company's global community to express themselves on Instagram in places like Stories and Reels. For original story visit: <https://www.dnaindia.com/technology/report-instagram-dons-brand-new-look-rolls-out-new-logo-typography-2955505>

Instagram Allows to Pin Posts to Profile

Instagram is exploring a new feature that lets users pin specific posts to their profile above their photo grid, says a story available on india.com website. The new Instagram feature is currently in the testing phase and is available only for select users on the platform. Users who have access to the feature can see a "Pin to your profile" option that can be selected from the three-dot menu next to posts. "We are testing a new feature that lets people pin posts on their profile," a spokesperson was quoted as saying by TechCrunch in an email. The ability to pin a specific post to a user's profile could be a welcome feature for users who want to highlight their favourite posts that may have been buried somewhere further down in their photo grid. The feature could also be useful for creators who post frequently but want to highlight a specific post. At present, users only have the option to pin stories to their profile, but this new feature would expand this ability to post. As per the Tech Crunch report, the pinned posts test comes roughly a week after Instagram announced that it's removing the "Recent" tab on hashtag pages for some users as part of a small test. The Meta-owned photo-sharing platform recently announced Enhanced Tags on Reels, which is a way to make it easier for creators to receive credit for their work. Enhanced tags allow a creator's self-designated profile category on their professional accounts to be displayed in their People Tag, so that people can share and view a creator's specific contribution to a photo or video post. "Proper creative credit and recognition is a starting point for discovery, new opportunities and economic empowerment. This is especially relevant as more creators collaborate with each other," the company said in a statement. For original story visit: <https://www.india.com/technology/instagram-latest-feature-that-allows-users-to-pin-posts-to-their-profile-5361436/>

WhatsApp Allows Heavy File Transfer

Meta-owned WhatsApp has now allowed groups to accommodate 512 people, to whom they can send files as heavy as 2 GB, and react to their messages with emojis. The instant messaging app has been introducing a slew of new features at

regular intervals. The latest to join its upgrade efforts is an emoji response to messages, says a story available on *india.com* website. WhatsApp had previously announced that some new features - including emojis to react to messages - would be arriving soon, and it is here now. In a blog post, WhatsApp announced the inclusion of this new feature and said, "We're excited to share that emoji reaction are now available on the latest version of the app. Reactions are fun, fast, and they reduce overload in groups too. We'll continue improving them by adding an even broader range of expressions in the future." WhatsApp also announced that it would now allow up to 512 people to be added in a group chat. "One of the top requests we've consistently received is the option to add more people to a chat, so now we're slowly rolling out the ability to add up to 512 people to a group. Building private, safe, and secure communities takes work and we think this series of improvements will help people and groups stay close to one another," said the company in its blog post. Apart from Emoji feature, the company has facilitated another exciting feature. The users can now send files within WhatsApp up to 2GB in size at a time, protected by end-to-end encryption. This is a massive upgrade given that the previous limit was 100MB. For original story visit: <https://www.india.com/technology/whatsapp-new-update-allows-file-transfer-as-heavy-as-2-gb-facebook-instagram-twitter-social-media-5380793/>

WhatsApp's Reaction Feature

WhatsApp has started rolling out 'WhatsApp Reactions' feature, says a story available on *india.com* website. The feature will enable the users to react on WhatsApp messages. According to the instant messaging platform, in the initial stage, there will be six - like, love, laugh, surprise, sad, and thanks - though in the future all emojis will be available, testing has tipped. With this, the company has finally matching up with its rivals such as Telegram and iMessage, besides productivity apps such as Slack, and even the sister company Instagram. For original story visit: <https://www.india.com/technology/whatsapp-starts-rolling-out-reactions-feature-mark-zuckerbergs-instagram-story-reveals-5376017/>

WhatsApp Bans 18 Lakh Bad Accounts

WhatsApp recently said that it had banned over 18 lakh bad accounts in India in the month of March in compliance with the new IT Rules 2021, says a story available on *india.com* website. The platform had banned over 14 lakh such accounts in the country in February. The company said that it also received 597 grievance reports in the same month from the country, and the accounts "actioned" were 74. "In accordance with the IT Rules

2021, we've published our report for the month of March 2022. This user-safety report contains details of the user complaints received and the corresponding action taken by WhatsApp, as well as WhatsApp's own preventive actions to combat abuse on our platform," a WhatsApp spokesperson said in a statement. "WhatsApp banned over 1.8 million (1,805,000) accounts in the month of March," the spokesperson added. The company said that data shared highlights the number of Indian accounts banned by WhatsApp between March 1 - 31 using the abuse detection approach, which also includes action taken in furtherance to negative feedback received from users via its "Report" feature. "Over the years, we have consistently invested in Artificial Intelligence and other state of the art technology, data scientists and experts, and in processes, in order to keep our users safe on our platform," the company added. Under the new IT Rules 2021, big digital and social media platforms, with more than 5 million users, have to publish monthly compliance reports. For original story visit: <https://www.india.com/technology/whatsapp-bans-over-18-lakh-bad-accounts-in-india-in-march-5371045/>

WhatsApp Allows 32 Participants in Group Call

In a bid to make group calling better, WhatsApp will now reportedly support up to 32 participants in group voice calls, says a story available on *india.com* website. According to 9To5Mac, with version 22.8.80 of the app, users will now be able to participate in group voice calls with up to 32 people. This update includes a redesigned interface with a social audio layout, speaker highlight, and waveforms. In addition, this new version of WhatsApp for iOS has an updated design for voice message bubbles and info screens for contacts and groups. There's also a new tweak when accessing your favorite media in the gallery. The messaging platform is readying a lot of new features for the coming months, such as Reactions, increased size files users can send, community function, and more. WABetaInfo recently discovered that the developers were readying Reactions 2.0 to its desktop version. "This means that in a future update users will be able to react to a message with any emoji they want," the report said. The report mentioned that WhatsApp was working on the ability to remove the expiration date of a disappearing message. For original story visit: <https://www.india.com/technology/whatsapp-rolls-out-ability-to-add-32-participants-to-group-calls-5354812/>

Snapchat Introduces Drone Camera

Popular social media platform Snapchat has introduced its first-ever drone camera called Pixy which is said to be a pocket-sized device and can help you create better, says an IANS story

published in *National Herald*. The company claimed that the drone camera, which was now available in the US and France, could automatically crop into portrait and apply quick Smart Edits, like Hyperspeed, Bounce, Orbit 3D and Jump Cut. And then users could share it to Chat, Stories, Spotlight, or any other platform. “We first created Snapchat as a new way to use the Camera for self-expression and communication. From lenses to spectacles, there are so many ways to share your perspective. Today, we are taking the power and magic of the Snap Camera to new heights,” the company said in a blogpost. “We are introducing Pixy, your friendly flying camera. It is a pocket-sized, free-flying sidekick that's a fit for adventures big and small,” it added. According to the company, the drone can fly in four preset flight paths. It can float, orbit, and follow wherever the user will lead, without a controller or any set-up. It will land gently at the end of the flight. “Everything you need to capture the moment from a new perspective is right in the palm of your hand. With the simple tap of a button,” the company added. Videos from flights can be wirelessly transferred and saved into Snapchat Memories. From there, users can use Snapchat's editing tools, Lenses, and Sounds to customize what they capture. For original story visit: <https://www.nationalheraldindia.com/international/snapchat-unveils-its-first-ever-drone-camera-pixy>

SPECIAL FEATURE

Big Repository of Little Treasures!

Kolkata has the distinction of being the cultural and educational capital of India. It is also the seat of the country's national library and a host of public libraries set up by library enthusiasts. But many people do not know that it has a rare repository of little valuable treasures - little magazines which are alternative and experimental literary magazines - usually avant-garde and brought out without a profit motive - and which contain valuable literary compositions mostly by unknown writers. Little Magazine Library and Research Centre, as it is called, is a privately owned organization located in college street area which is popularly known as Boi-Para (the locality of books) in view of the fact that innumerable book stores and roadside bookstalls dot the area.

An article in Wikipedia on this library mentions that “Kolkata has a prominent place in the history of Little Magazine Movement in India which was largely dominated by Bengali language magazines. This goes back to the foundation of *Sabuj Patra* in 1914 and *Kallol* in 1923. The tradition continued with the advent of Post Modernist writing in Bengali Literature. With the arrival of *Krittibash*, Hungry Generation and periodicals like *Kourab* many little magazines started to flourish. But there was never a comprehensive preservation attempt made for these immensely valuable cultural items either in the academic or public libraries.”

It was sometime in 1972 when a young little magazine enthusiast of the city Sandip Dutta visited National Library in search of some little magazines. He was aghast when he was “shown a heap of books tied in bundles, with more dust and worms in them than pages”. He was pained at the sight and took up a vow to set up a library of such little treasures himself and started collecting whatever titles were available and did not even hesitate to pay for the same. In September that year he organized at his residence an exhibition of 750 such magazines collected by him. It was in a way his protest against the poor upkeep of such magazines in the National Library. This was indeed the starting point of his library. “I am proud not only for keeping my vow but also for doing my bit to make available these books to the needy. They are 'little' only by name. Their contribution to society has been and continues to be immense,” said Dutta, who retired as a school teacher a decade ago, at a press interview. In 1976 when Kolkata International Book Fair was started, Dutta along with many publishers of little magazines participated in the fair. Even now the fair has a special pavilion every year for accommodating exhibition of little magazines.

Dutta's dream child was finally born on June 23, 1978 and it was named 'Library and Laboratory for Bengali Little Magazines.' On May 8, 1979 i.e. birth anniversary of poet Rabindranath Tagore, the library was thrown open to the public. The library began its journey with a modest collection of around 1500 little magazines at the ground floor of two-story residence of Dutta. It was officially registered in 1996 and renamed "Kolkata Little Magazine Library and Research Center". In around two and half decades the collection of little magazines has grown to around one lakh. The collection includes many rare titles which are found only in this library. The collection now also includes about 2000 books of poetry and another 2000 on other subjects ranging from politics, sociology, philosophy and religion to art, theatre and cinema. Most of the titles are in Bengali, but there are some in other languages too like English and Hindi. Now almost all the rooms of Dutta's house are full of stacks overflowing with magazines and books. The library is now in search of more space to accommodate its ever increasing number of resources.

Evidently, the library's collection is very rich from researchers' point of view. The young researchers visit this library for resources that are not often found in other libraries. Every year around 150 researchers become members of the library to get access to this treasure trove. More than 80 researchers have obtained PhD degree by working in this library. Besides, there are many regular members who belong to different sectors of the society - students, writers, editors and professionals. The library has a reading room where up to 15 people can study together. Daily attendance in the reading room is not less than 10.

Dutta has written 20 books, including three on little magazines, and published several articles on the evolution and history of little magazines. He has also delivered many lectures and organized many seminars and exhibitions on little magazines to spread awareness about the importance of little magazines.

Dutta has helped many authors to recover their lost writings which were published in some little magazines long time ago. He has also created a platform to help budding writers to publish their writings in little magazines. The library itself publishes a little magazine titled *Ujjwal Uddhar* which reprints old and rare compositions from older little magazines. One author, who has been a regular visitor to his library, has mentioned that "Dutta's contribution and dedication is indescribable. You think of any magazine and he has it. He is not a librarian but an encyclopaedia himself."

Interestingly, since the beginning Dutta himself has been funding his dream project in spite of financial constraints. For this purpose, in the beginning when Dutta was only a college student, he made a piggy bank and named it "Three Penny Opera" after Bertolt Brecht's famous play of the same name. After he became a school teacher he regularly set aside a part of his personal income for his library. Currently the library has an annual budget of approximately ₹15,000. The amount looks to be small, but since little magazines are low priced and many publishers send their publications free to this library, acquisition of required titles/issues of existing magazines does not hamper. Fortunately, the library received a grant of ₹500,000 in 2008 to digitize its valuable collection. This will ensure digital preservation of library's priceless resources for the posterity.

The library is now being managed by a committee, with Dutta as its secretary. The library has instituted annual awards and honours of different categories - Little Magazine Award, honour for researchers, honour for literary personality. A convocation is organized every year where these awards/honours are conferred upon the recipients. The magnificent and valuable work done by Sandip Dutta is indeed

praiseworthy. But effort should be made to develop a mechanism so that his library can continue to help the researchers, budding writers and litterateurs even when Dutta will not be there to look after his dream child.

[Sources: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kolkata_Little_Magazine_Library_And_Research_Center, <https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Library/Kolkata-Little-Magazine-Library-O-Gabeshna-Kendra-366711716861846/>, <https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/kolkata/little-valuable-treasures>, https://www.hmoob.in/wiki/Kolkata_Little_Magazine_Library_And_Research_Center, <https://web.archive.org/web/20120423162300/http://www.indiatalkies.com/2011/08/kolkatas-big-library-magazines-feature.html>]

OBITUARY

Smt. Priti Mitra, Retired Librarian, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, passed away on February 19, 2022. She was 88. Born on March 18, 1934, Smt. Mitra obtained Diploma in Library Science from University of Calcutta and passed Associateship in Library Science examination of DRTC, Bangalore, in 1971. She worked in the Central Library of Jadavpur University for a long time. She was in-charge of Reference Section of the library, before being appointed as Librarian. She served as a teacher of Certificate in Library Science course of Bengal Library Association and as a Guest Lecturer in the Department of Library & Information Science of Jadavpur University. Smt. Mitra was a life member of IASLIC and attended many seminars/conferences of this association. IASLIC deeply mourns her death.

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