



IASLIC NEWSLETTER

Indian Association for Special Libraries and Information Centres

May, 2022

A Monthly Newsletter Published by IASLIC

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Quote of the Month

“A librarian is a data hound, a
Sherpa and a teacher.”

— Seth Godin,
American author

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

Account No.: 0082010076724

IFSC Code: PUNB0008220

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

General Secretary
IASLIC

An Appeal to Publishers of LIS Literature

Indian Library Science Abstracts (ILSA), being brought out by IASLIC since 1967, is the only national abstracting and indexing journal of India in the field of library and information Science. Due to the phenomenal growth of LIS literature in India in English as well as regional languages and the lack of volunteer professionals it has become a herculean task to collect, organize and compile data for the ILSA. The last cumulative volume (Vols. 40-44, 2006-2010) was published in 2018, the print copies as well as e-copies (in CD) of which are available for sale at IASLIC Office. The editorial team has now undertaken the task of compiling the next cumulative volume covering the period 2011 - 2015 and intends to publish the volume at the earliest. It will cover, besides periodical literature, papers published in conference/seminar volumes, festschrift volumes and other composite works. Due to pandemic situation the editorial team is facing problems in obtaining hard copies/soft copies of published materials in LIS. The team solicits cooperation from publishers, state library associations, organizers of the conferences/seminars/workshops, authors and individual library professionals and requests them to furnish hard copies/soft copies of LIS literature in English and regional languages published by them during the said period at the earliest, to enable it to complete the compilation work and publish the volume in time. The team hopes that with the effective support of the concerned people ILSA will become an authentic and comprehensive surrogate of Indian intellectual output in Library and Information Science.

IASLIC ACTIVITIES

List of New Members

Life Members

1. Shri Amit Tiwari, DRTC, Bangalore
2. Shri Ranjeet Kumar Singh, DRTC, Bangalore
3. Shri Sagar Bhimrao Gajbe, DRTC, Bangalore
4. Ms. Mitali Barman, Kamrup, Assam

List of Donors

The following life members have donated to IASLIC:

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------|
| 1. Prof. Alaka Buragohain | ₹ 4000/= |
| 2. Ms. Bela Mondal | ₹ 5000/= |
| 3. Dr. Purabi Sen | ₹ 2000/= |
| 4. Shri Bhupen Roy | ₹ 1001/= |

CONFERENCES / SEMINARS / WORKSHOPS

National

Programme on DSpace

Knowledge Centre of Digital University Kerala is going to conduct an 'Advanced Level Programme on DSpace' during May 9 - 13, 2022. For details visit: <https://sites.google.com/duk.ac.in/dspace/home>

Conference on Documentation and IM

Department of Library and Information Science, Rajagiri College of Social Sciences (Autonomous), Kochi, is organizing an ICSSR sponsored National Conference on 'Documentation Science and Information Management' during May 26 - 28, 2022. For details visit: <https://rajagiri.edu/national-level-conference-sponsored-by-icssr-26-28-may-2022>

Refresher Courses in LIS

- (1) The UGC-Human Resource Development Centre, Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University, Amravati, is going to organize a Refresher Course in Library and Information Science during September 12 - 24, 2022. For details visit: <http://www.ascsgbau.ac.in/refresher-course-in-library-science/>
- (2) The UGC-Human Resource Development Centre, Mizoram University, is going to organize a Refresher Course in Library and Information Science during October 7 - 20, 2022. For details visit: <https://hrdcmzu.in/index.php>

Short-term Course in LIS

A Short-term Course in Library and Information Science is going to be organized by UGC - Human Resource Development Centre, University of Delhi, Delhi, during October 12 - 18, 2022. For details visit: <http://cpdhe.du.ac.in/home>

Workshop on Library Digitization : A Brief Report

A state-level workshop on 'College Library: Digitization and Beyond in the Context of the NAAC' was organized by the Pub Kamrup College Library, Kamrup, Assam, on April 5, 2022. The workshop was inaugurated by the Principal of the college, Dr. Bhupen Kumar Sharma. In his inaugural address, Dr. Sharma welcomed the delegates from various colleges and highlighted the need for the application of technology in library systems and services. He said that such workshops could show correct path to librarians in this regard. Prof. Mohan Chandra Kalita, well-known biotechnologist and President, Governing Body of the College, who was the special guest, highlighted the changing trend of reading habit, especially among the youngsters, in the modern world as well as the role and challenges of the librarians in digital environment. He appreciated the initiative taken by the librarian, Dr. Nirmal Ranjan Mazumdar, for conducting such a programme in the college. Prof. Sanjay Kumar Singh of Gauhati University and Dr. Prasanta Kumar Deka, Librarian, K C Das Commerce College served as resource persons. They shared their experiences and ideas during their respective technical sessions, which were attended by 25 college librarians and the IQAC coordinator teachers from 14 colleges of five districts of Assam. The Vice-Principal, Prof. Narayan Goswami, and IQAC Coordinator, Dr. Dipen Bezbarua, spoke about the importance of the library in evaluating an educational institution, during this workshop, which was held in collaboration with the Internal Quality Assessment Cell of Pub Kamrup College. At the closing ceremony, the principal of the college and the resource persons of the workshop distributed the certificates among the delegates. Dr. Dadul Dewri, Assistant Professor, offered a vote of thanks.

International

IFLA World Congress Satellite Meetings

The 87th IFLA World Library and Information Congress will be held in Dublin, Ireland, during July 26 - 29, 2022 (*Please See* February 1922 issue of this newsletter). The general theme of the congress is 'Inspire, Engage, Enable, Connect'. The themes for discussions in meetings of different professional units of IFLA, to be held before, during and after the congress have been announced which are mentioned below:

- **Art Libraries Section:** The theme for satellite meeting to be held on July 23 at Chester Beatty, Dublin, Ireland, is 'Challenges of Art Librarianship: 2020 and Beyond'.
- **Science and Technology Libraries with Information Technology Section and Continuing Professional Development and Workplace Learning Section:** The theme for workshop to be organized by HEANet LIR Group in partnership with Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT) and IT Carlow during July 22 - 23 is 'Library Carpentry'

- **School Libraries Section:** The theme of satellite meeting to be held during July 30 - 31 is '*Global Action for School Libraries on Models of Inquiry*'.
- **IFLA Journal, Library Theory and Research Section and Social Science Libraries Section:** The theme for satellite meeting to be held at University College, Dublin, during July 30 - 31 is '*Research Methods in Librarianship: from Measuring Impact to Disseminating Results*'.
- **Environment, Sustainability and Libraries Section (ENSULIB):** The theme for satellite meeting to be held at Cork University Library, Cork, Ireland, during July 22 - 23 is '*Inspired and Engaged on Sustainability*'
- **Public Libraries Section:** The theme for satellite meeting to be held at Maynooth University, Co. Kildare, Ireland, during July 22 - 23 is '*E-books - where are we heading?*'
- **Knowledge Management Section:** The theme for satellite meeting to be held at Centre for Digital Humanities, Trinity College, Dublin, on July 23 is '*Knowledge Management (KM) Principles and Human Behavior: How do we inspire, enable, engage, and connect people in KM?*'
- **Information Technology Section:** The theme for satellite meeting to be held at National University of Ireland, Galway, during July 21 - 22 is '*New Horizons in Artificial Intelligence in Libraries*'.
- **Education and Training Section:** The theme for training school to be conducted at UCD School of Information and Communication Studies, Dublin, during July 29 - 30 is 'IFLASET Training School'.
- **Library and Research Services for Parliaments Section:** The theme for satellite meeting to be held at the House of the Oireachtas on July 22 is 'The Parliamentary Life of Information'.
- **Health and Biosciences Libraries Section:** The theme for satellite meeting to be held at Dr. Steevan's Hospital on July 29 is 'Exploring How Open Science and Open Access Influence the Spread of Health Misinformation and Disinformation'.
- **New Professionals SIG:** NPDIG IFLA Camp#8 will be held at dir Lexicon during July 23 - 24.

For further details visit: <https://2022.ifla.org/>

Conference on Digital Library Platforms

An International Conference on 'Emerging Digital Library Platforms: Shaping Digital Transformation and National Data Exchange' will be held at DRTC, Indian Statistical Institute, Bangalore, during August 9 - 12, 2022. For details visit: <https://sites.google.com/view/icedlp2022/home>

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

MOU to Digitize Tribal Heritage

New Delhi-based National Tribal Research Institute (NTRI) and Bharatiya Adim Janajati Seva Sangathan (BAJSS) have inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to preserve, protect and digitize rare books on tribe groups, and renovate and digitize a tribal museum, says a *The Telegraph* report. Under the MoU, a digital library with a repository of rare books will be established with BAJSS as a resource centre at NTRI, New Delhi. The MoU was signed in the presence of the Union Minister of Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda recently. S S Tolia, Director, TRI, Uttarakhand, signed the MoU on behalf of NTRI and Nayan Chandra Hembram, president of Bharatiya Adim Janajati Seva Sangathan (BAJSS) signed it on behalf of the institute. An amount of ₹150 lakh has been sanctioned by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for preservation and digitization of rare books in BAJSS Library. The amount will also be invested in developing an e-library and for revamping of the tribal museum, digitization of artifacts and making interactive kiosks to preserve the tribal cultural heritage. Since Independence, several eminent personalities have been associated with BAJSS and Dr. Rajendra Prasad was its first chairman, said Munda. He said that BAJSS was established in 1948 by Thakkar Bapa, an eminent social worker for all-inclusive and all-round upliftment of the tribal communities of India. Social Workers like U N Dhebar and Moraraji Desai had been associated with the organization and had offered their valuable services for the upliftment of the tribal community. He also said that making BAJSS as the NTRI's resource centre would help students, researchers and visitors interested in tribal culture and history to optimally use the facilities available in Delhi. It would also make the coming generations aware of the rich tribal cultural heritage. Anil Kumar Jha, Secretary of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, said that the project had been undertaken under the guidance of Munda, who visited the premises with the officers of the ministry and had advised to develop the unique heritage as the resource centre of NTRI. For full report visit: <https://www.telegraphindia.com/edugraph/news/national-tribal-research-institute-inks-mou-with-bajss-to-preserve-books-on-tribes/cid/1853170>

International Award for NDLI

The National Digital Library of India (NDLI), developed by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur, has received an award in the category of Learning and Education at the World Summit Award (WSA) 2021 for its efforts to make resources available to students during the COVID-19 pandemic, says a story by Agrima Tikadar in *The Telegraph*. NDLI's two pioneering services launched during the pandemic - Study at Home and COVID-19 Research Repository - were taken into consideration for the award. Under the Study at Home service, the library offered free online resources for school students in

various subjects. The digital public library also offered material for CBSE exam preparations. Under the COVID-19 Research Repository, the library offered free resources, such as scholarly publications, documentation and video, and journals and conference papers. The library continues to provide these facilities. The organizational body of the award is the International Center for New Media, Salzburg, Austria. The award system was set up to promote local digital innovation which betters society. For full story visit: <https://www.telegraphindia.com/edugraph/news/ndli-wins-world-summit-award-2021-for-initiatives-during-covid-19-pandemic/cid/1851067>

Largest Photography Library for Africa

Since the pandemic forced many U.S. bookshops to close or slash prices, Ghanaian New Yorker Paul Ninson has amassed 30,000 African photo books for a library he hopes will inspire the next generation of photographers back home, says a Reuter story published in *The Indian Express*. Ninson estimates that he now owns the world's largest collection of books with images taken in Africa or by photographers of African descent. Thanks to a \$1 million crowdfunding windfall, he has already started shipping the trove to West Africa. "For so long we've let other people tell our stories and distribute our stories," Ninson said in one of his 16 New York storage units, crammed with ceiling-high stacks of books. "That is the space I want to fill, to be able to give the tools and resources to African photographers and to black people to be able to tell our own stories," Ninson said. He started the hobby shortly after arriving in New York on a photography scholarship in 2019. The COVID-19 pandemic encouraged the obsession as struggling bookshops offloaded their inventories at reduced rates. He acquired around 15,000 books that way, working odd jobs and taking out personal loans to cover costs. The collection now includes every issue of National Geographic from the last 40 years. "Some of these pictures are incredible ... but sometimes I wonder what people in those communities ... contributed to these stories," Ninson said, flipping through the pages of one of the magazines. "Do people in these communities accept how they are being depicted, especially the Africans?," Ninson wondered. His dream of using the books to set up Africa's largest photography library in Ghana became a reality after popular blog "Humans of New York" promoted a crowdfunding campaign for his project that raised \$1 million in a single day. Ninson has doubled his collection since then, travelling up and down the east coast of the United States in search of new acquisitions. More than 18,000 books have already been shipped to Ghana. The funds will help build the library in the capital Accra. Named after the word for 'Take the Lead' in his local language, the Dikan Centre will also offer workshops, equipment hire and studio space to aspiring African photographers. "There are a lot of people in Ghana who are desperate to be photographers, to tell the stories of Africa," Ninson said. "These books are going to be the backbone." For original story visit: <https://www.indianexpress.com/article/lifestyle/art-and-culture/paul-ninson-pandemic-hobby-grows-into-plan-for-africas-largest-photography-library-7637424/>

[indianexpress.com/article/lifestyle/art-and-culture/paul-ninson-pandemic-hobby-grows-into-plan-for-africas-largest-photography-library-7637424/](https://www.indianexpress.com/article/lifestyle/art-and-culture/paul-ninson-pandemic-hobby-grows-into-plan-for-africas-largest-photography-library-7637424/)

Cricketer MP to set up Public Libraries

Paying tribute to freedom fighter Bhagat Singh on his martyrdom day, BJP MP from East Delhi, Gautam Gambhir, announced he would open five public libraries in his constituency that would also have WiFi facilities for poor children to study, says a *The Indian Express* report. The Shaheed Bhagat Singh Jan Libraries will come up at Anand Vihar, Shahdara, Trilokpuri, Viswasnagar, and Mayur Vihar. "These libraries will have seating for 50 people. Besides daily newspapers, books on India's freedom fighters will be part of the special section. Apart from books on subjects like science and current affairs, books on rulers and rajas of India will also be maintained to preserve their history," said Gambhir's office. The libraries would operate every day from 8 am to 8 pm, and would start functioning shortly. Gambhir said, "When I was elected as the representative from East Delhi, I promised to bring a 360-degree transformation. After setting up a network of community kitchens (Jan Rasoi) across the constituency, redevelopment of Yamuna Sports Complex, reducing the height of Ghazipur landfill and setting up smog towers to reduce pollution, I am proud to announce the launch of these libraries. They are named after my idol Shaheed Bhagat Singh because he made knowledge and education a weapon to bring down the colonial British empire." "He was a voracious reader and an even better orator. The vision behind this initiative is to provide access to world-class libraries with computers for young adults, who face a shortage of resources. It will also provide safe spaces for girls to study," he said. For original report visit: <https://www.indianexpress.com/article/cities/delhi/gautam-gambhir-announces-5-libraries-with-wifi-facility-7833636/>

Billionaire saves Auction of Antique Library

With the help of a collaboration between a charity and the wealthiest man in Britain, an antique library containing rare literary works of writers such as Jane Austen and the Brontë sisters was saved from being auctioned, according to a story available on *avitoa.com* website. To save that, a total of £ 15 million (about 15.24 billion rupees) was raised. As a result, the library and rare literary works remain in Britain. The Honresfield Library took its form in the late 18th century and was built by two Victorian businessmen, Alfred and William Law. The library disappeared from public in the 1930s and wasn't seen until early this year. The Honresfield Library is a treasure trove of literary works, including over 500 manuscripts, rare first editions, artifacts and letters, as reported by *The Independent*. Some of the popular works hidden in literary paradise are Walter Scott's Rob Roy, Robert Burns' first popular book, handwritten manuscripts, edits, "small books", and the Brontë sisters. It's a poem. There are also two important letters Jane Austen addressed to her sister Cassandra. It consists

of her very famous work, *Pride and Prejudice*, and a basic note of sense and sensitivity. On the verge of being put on the open market, this precious library was saved by Sir Leonard Bravatonick, Britain's wealthiest man. Ukrainian billionaires have paid half the amount needed to prevent them from being auctioned. The rest of the money was raised primarily by a charity called the National Library Friend (FNL). The National Heritage Memorial Fund (NHMF) has also raised £ 4 million. "This is a unique collection on the market for decades. "We are amazed and delighted by the incredible ambitions of FNL's plan to acquire the entire library," Gabriel Heaton, a specialist in Sotheby's English literature and historical manuscripts, said in a press release: The organization stopped the auction for a while when FNL appealed to Sotheby's. Meanwhile, FNL was able to reach out to private and public donors to raise the amount needed to preserve and store libraries nationwide. Rare literary works found in the library are now offered to various national universities and educational institutions. For original story visit: <https://www.avitoo.com/uk-billionaire-saves-rare-austen-bronte-works-from-auction-by-helping-raise-rs-150-crore/>

Library to be run by Autistic Children

They complete their studies, become graduates, and eventually work in good corporate jobs, but the biggest obstacle for them is the lack of communication and behavior skills. A Vadodra-based charity is establishing a library that will be run by autistic children themselves in the hope of assisting them with their fears, says a story by *The Times Bureau*. The deposit that will be collected for the library's operation will also reward the children who run the library. We have prepared our students with autism to be well organized, have excellent matching skills, computer skills, and are also good at sight reading. We've used their library skills because we have enough library materials, says Lata Iyer, the director of The Reach Centre for Autism, a non-profit organization that supports children with autism and other special needs. We're using this World Autism Awareness Day to introduce the pilot scheme to the special need parents. With the assistance of teachers or counsellors, our special needs students will be able to use this library, she says. According to Iyer, this is just a small step toward improving their technical skills, and the library will be open to everyone. The center will house 14 students, all over the age of 18 years, in a classroom that is initially run twice a week for specified hours, giving each student turns. We pushed them by showing them videos to explain the structure of the library and how it functions, she said. Nearly 6,000 flash cards have been hand-made at the heart of the library. We also have a collection of picture cards and academic papers written by parents of autistic children that are not included in any other items, Iyer says. For original story visit: <https://thetimesbureau.com/autistic-children-will-be-able-to-administer-their-own->

[library-and-will-be-rewarded-for-their-efforts-202204/](https://thetimesbureau.com/library-and-will-be-rewarded-for-their-efforts-202204/)

Library behind Cricketer's Success

Cricketer Kumar Kushagra's father and coach Shashikant were both ecstatic when he set a new record at the Ranji Trophy pre-quarterfinals in Kolkata recently, breaking Javed Miandad's record. The library of cricket books at his Jamshedpur home would be as proud as him if words could express emotions on their own, says a story by *The Times Bureau*. Kumar was not trained in a cricketing academy; it was his father's enthusiasm for the game and determination in passing on the same to his son that laid the groundwork for his mammoth 266 runs against Nagaland in the domestic match. The teenager broke the Pakistan batting legend's record by becoming the youngest cricketer to score 250 runs in first-class cricket, setting a new record. His father, who had never played cricket before, had a dream to make his son a cricketer. To that end, he bought every cricket textbook that he could lay hands on. His father said, at home, "I created a library of cricket books that I could use." Shashikant said recently that everything that the greats had written, be it Lewis, Bradman, or Waugh, I got it somehow. I made a list of at least 60-70 shots and techniques, and each day, I would make Kumar practice". The patient father, who is a district commissioner in the GST department, explained to Kumar where the legs, grip, or eyes had to be, and in what degree the body had to be inclined. Kumar's hard work paid dividends as he made the cut in age-group tournaments, with the 2016 Vinoo Mankad Trophy being his first big foray into the competitive game. In 2019, he became the highest age-group run-getter at the same tournament, registering 535 runs in 7 matches, and he was selected to the Indian squad for the U-19 World Cup. It was a learning experience, he said. For full story visit: <https://thetimesbureau.com/kumar-kushagras-victory-in-the-ranji-trophy-pre-quarters-was-aided-by-a-library-202203/>

Andhra Youth's Bike Library

Reddi Ramana, a youth from Cheepurupalli of Vizianagaram district, had to discontinue his schooling midway soon after the death of his father. Emerging stronger from his passion for education, he completed his class X, Intermediate, several degrees and even a postgraduate programme in distance education mode later. From this pain of life, Ramana, who is currently working as a record assistant in a private college, floated the idea of a mobile bike library to cultivate the habit of reading among the children and youth and to further their knowledge, says a story by Umamaheswara Rao in *The Times of India*. According to him, books are the ultimate mentors and will have the same effect as parents and teachers in transforming the children for the better. On weekends, his bike doubles up as the mobile library to tirelessly cover the nearly 70 villages around Cheepurupalli. Ramana has created a special

structure on his two-wheeler to accommodate nearly 400 books. His initiative particularly came in handy for parents during the Covid-19 crisis to prevent complete disconnect from education of their wards. Speaking to *TOI*, Ramana said that the themes of the books in his mobile library cover personality development, technology, history, eminent personalities, science and environment, etc. "Book reading has taken a back seat with the emergence of smartphones and social media. Unfortunately, several children attending their primary classes are also spending a huge time on mobile phones. Reading is the habit of all highly successful people," said Ramana. "Our mobile library serves the purpose of providing equality and access to good books to all sections as well as promoting reading habits. For the needy children, academic book sets are being distributed. More than 20,000 books have been distributed so far. As it takes hours of bike ride to cover all the villages, I frequently experience back and body pains," said Ramana. The youth added that they had launched door-to-door book distribution at the request of the public. "We deliver books to the callers in the evening after work, while the mobile library works on weekends. With the help of some volunteers at the village levels, we collect the books after a week from the readers," said Ramana. About 8,000 students and learners in 70 villages have benefited from the mobile library. Ramana is also running an NGO in the name of 'Asaya Youth Association'. He has set up stationary libraries in 25 villages. For original story visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/visakhapatnam/in-digital-era-youths-bike-library-inculcates-the-reading-habit/articleshow/90694954.cms>

A Library in Every Ward of Kannur

Kannur in Northern Kerala is one such district with the most number of public libraries in the state, with 1,010 libraries affiliated to the District Library Council. But, there were exceptions to the district's well-known culture of people's libraries and reading rooms. For instance, Kelakam Grama Panchayath, located at the slops of Western Ghats, despite having a population of over 16,000, had only one public library in the Panchayath. After a people's initiative to ensure neighbourhood access to books and knowledge, the farming village now has a library in its 13 wards, says a *Newslick* story. Similarly, a total of 114 libraries have been built and opened to the public prominently in the tribal, coastal, and backward regions of the district, as part of 'Network- People's Mission for Social Development.' Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan declared the libraries open recently in a ceremony decorated with dignitaries, including T Padmanabhan and M Mukundan, two of the stalwart authors in Malayalam. Libraries form a strong socio-cultural movement in the politically spirited Kannur district by organizing literary events, gatherings, and

debates. Conceived as a 'common-space' for the people to socialise, the 114 new libraries are expected to integrate into the web of cultural centres in the district. Besides a good collection of books and periodicals, they are also equipped with advanced communication technologies to gather information and knowledge. Some of these libraries are also involved in skill development programmes and livelihood training, as per the local requirements. Facilities for sports and leisure are also included. Declaring the opening of new libraries, CM Vijayan underlined the role of the libraries in developing a critical approach to the information we come across daily. "In the times we live in where the prospects of fake news propagation are massive, libraries would help us critically analyze the mainstream media's economic interests. Thus, a people's initiative to transform libraries into centres of production and dissemination of knowledge gains significance," Vijayan said. For full story visit: <https://www.newslick.in/kerala-people-initiative-library-every-ward-114-new-public-libraries-opened-tribal-backward-regions-kannur>

TECHNOLOGY NEWS

WhatsApp Bans Large Number of Accounts

WhatsApp recently submitted its compliance report and said that it had banned 1,426,000 bad accounts in India in the month of February, says a report available on *india.com* website. The platform further added that it had banned 1,858,000 accounts in January. "In accordance with the IT Rules 2021, we've published our ninth monthly report for the month of February 2022," a WhatsApp spokesperson said in a statement, as reported by IANS. In the compliance report, WhatsApp further added that it received 335 grievance reports in the same month from the country and took action on 21 of those in January. "As captured in the latest Monthly Report, WhatsApp banned over 1.4 million accounts in the month of February," the spokesperson added. The company also added that the data shared highlights the number of Indian accounts banned by WhatsApp between February 1 and February 28 using the abuse detection approach, which also includes action taken in furtherance to negative feedback received from users via its "Report" feature. "WhatsApp is an industry leader in preventing abuse, among end-to-end encrypted messaging services," the spokesperson said. "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 report visit: <https://www.india.com/technology/banned-over-1-4-million->

[bad-accounts-in-india-in-february-whatsapp-in-compliance-report-5315278/](https://www.india.com/technology/instagram-rolls-out-option-to-control-feed-with-favourites-following-here-how-to-do-it-step-by-step-guide-5301331/)

Instagram rolling out Choice Option

Instagram said it was rolling out options to choose what users can see in their feed. Apart from the regular Home view, the users can control feed with two options - Favourites and Following, says a report available on *india.com* website. The company said it wanted users to be able to shape Instagram into the best possible experience and give them ways to quickly see what they were most interested in. "Your Instagram feed is a mix of photos and videos from people you follow, suggested posts and more. Over time, we are going to add more recommendations to your feed based on your interests. Favourites and Following are new ways to catch up on recent posts from the accounts you follow," the company said in a statement. Favourites show users the latest from accounts that they choose, like their best friends and favourite creators. In addition to this view, posts from accounts in Favourites will also show up higher in home feed. Use Favourites to see the most recent posts from the accounts you have added to your favourites list. You can add up to 50 accounts to your list, and make changes to this list at any time people are not notified when they are added or removed. Posts from accounts on your favourites list will also show up higher in your home feed, as shown by a star icon. Following shows users posts from the people they follow. Both Favourites and Following will show users posts in chronological order to quickly catch up on recent posts. Following is the step-by-step guide to rearrange home feeds:

1. Go to home on Instagram
2. Select Instagram branding at top left
3. You will get two options to select - Favourites and Following
4. Select either one of the option and you are done

For original report visit:

<https://www.india.com/technology/instagram-rolls-out-option-to-control-feed-with-favourites-following-here-how-to-do-it-step-by-step-guide-5301331/>

SPECIAL FEATURE

The Unlettered Librarian!

On a sunny, cold February afternoon, I make my way along narrow lanes and over a bridge to the shores of Dal Lake, one of the most picturesque in Kashmir, with 360-degree views of the Himalayas. The sun-dazzled waters attract photographers, filmmakers, and visitors from all over the world. Houseboats

for tourists form rows on the banks of the lake. Nestled far down the shoreline is a double-story wooden house, home to a library founded by Muhammad Latief Oata, who can hardly read or write, says a story written in first person by Safina Nabi available on the website of *The Christian Science Monitor*, an independent international news organization.

As we open the compound's tall gate, Mr. Oata's wife Zainab greets me. Originally from Chennai, nearly 2,000 miles to the south, she welcomes me in halting Kashmiri: "*Salam-u-alaikum, walew b asewtuhepyaraan* (Hello, I was waiting especially for you)." After climbing a stiff wooden stair, we reach the "Traveler's Library," its walls painted white and windows open on three sides. The front overlooks Dal Lake's houseboats and other boats for everyday use. Next to an old green sofa is a woven wicker table. And on the right are Mr. Oata's books. With about 600 volumes, this library may not look like much. But for years, this room has been a place where Kashmir - a beautiful but long fought-over Muslim-majority region, tucked at the top of India - has touched the wider world. It's been an oasis for visitors, and readers; but most of all, for one book-lover who can't read. "Ask as many questions as you can to get the information you require," Mrs. Oata says, before her husband comes in. "He will not explain things on his own." She laughs and leaves the room.

As Mr. Oata, dressed in a warm shirt and vest, walks with me through his library I scan the names on the shelves. "Only Time Will Tell" and "The Sins of the Father," by English novelist Jeffrey Archer. Next to them is Paulo Coelho, from Brazil. There are books by Jane Austen, Dan Brown, and Majgull Axelsson, a Swedish journalist. He speaks hesitantly, in a soft voice. But once he starts chatting about books, his voice overflows with enthusiasm.

Born in Kashmir, the eldest son of a plumber and a housewife, he left home at 16 in search of work to support his family. He moved across India, from one tourist destination to the next, selling Kashmiri arts and crafts. He still regrets not completing his formal education. Now and then, he noticed tourists at his stall holding books. One day, a man handed one to Mr. Oata, who asked him to summarize its contents. From then on, he asked book browsers if they'd be willing to swap, and tell him what the story was about - "and they would do it happily." Over the years, he moved to India's southeast, then west to Karnataka, selling jewelry, shawls, rugs, and hand-embroidered bags. Over time, he collected hundreds of books, mostly by international authors, and created his first small library. But he yearned to come back to the Kashmir Valley. So after much deliberation, he packed his books and went home in 2007.

"I feel writers are always alive forever through their books, even after death, and for me that is such an interesting aspect," Mr. Oata says, adding that his books are his "most precious

possession.” “Though I cannot read, I can remember most of the books: their theme, the name of the author, and the country that the author belonged to,” he says. “I have remembered it all by remembering the colour of the book, its cover page, and symbols.” Take the very first book he received: “The God of Small Things,” by Indian writer Arundhati Roy. Mr. Oata still vividly remembers the messy story of a family, tangled over decades. He picks up another. “This is about a brave man, who is at war with injustice,” he says. “The theme of this book reminded me of my birthplace, Kashmir, and so it is embedded in my memory.” The book is “Asking for Trouble: The Autobiography of a Banned Journalist” by Donald Woods, a South African persecuted by the country's apartheid government.

Back in Srinagar, Kashmir's largest city, Mr. Oata started a travel agency and a handicrafts store. Space at home was tight, and his family griped about all the books in the way. One day his mother offered to sell them to a scrap dealer; Mr. Oata rushed home to stop her. He realized that if he wanted to keep them they needed a permanent home, so he put a library in his store and opened it to visitors. It was a success, and he became a popular stop in the area for tourists who would read, leave a gift, or exchange a book. One French tourist helped organize the books in alphabetical order. But challenges also came. In 2014, the Kashmir valley flooded and inundated the shelves. “When I saw my library, I cried like a child,” Mr. Oata says. For months, the whole family dried and cleaned the books, then

shifted the library to the second floor. Then came August 5, 2019. The Indian government scrapped the special status of Jammu and Kashmir and imposed direct rule from New Delhi. Authorities imposed a media blackout, cutting the region off from the rest of the world.

With no tourists, Mr. Oata had no visitors. As Kashmir endured months of curfews, shutdowns, and blackouts, he lived on savings - only to see COVID-19 restrictions imposed last spring. To make ends meet, he began working as a wage labourer, when there was work; his wife did the same. They aspire to provide their children with education and opportunities. Their daughter is a first-year medical student, and their son is a senior in high school.

With Mr. Oata working away from the library, his wife “takes care of it really well,” he says, a half smile on his face. “But whenever I get time I come here, touch, feel, and smell [the books], with this constant hope that things will become normal again, and my library will once again thrive with people.”

[As this interesting story may be liked by the readers of this newsletter, it is being reproduced here with due acknowledgement to the writer and the news organization concerned. The original story may be found at: <https://www.csmonitor.com/World/Asia-South-Central/2021/0312/In-this-Kashmiri-library-the-power-of-books-goes-beyond-words-forest-fringe-in-kerala-2423043.html>, <https://english.mathrubhumi.com/news/kerala/library-in-kerala-1.6146256>]

Published by the General Secretary on behalf of IASLIC, P-291, CIT Scheme No. 6M, Kankurgachi, Kolkata - 700054.
Printed at Microprint Graphics, 1A, Raja Lane, Kolkata 700 009.
Editor: Prof. Amitabha Chatterjee

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