



# IASLIC NEWSLETTER

Indian Association for Special  
Libraries and Information Centres



March 2021

A Monthly Newsletter Published by IASLIC

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## Quote of the Month

*“A library, to modify the famous metaphor of Socrates, should be the delivery room for the birth of ideas - a place where history comes to life.”*

— Norman Cousins,  
American Political Journalist

## Appeal to Readers

News from different regions / states are solicited from IASLIC members for inclusion in the newsletter. Send such news to the Editor.

Email: [chatterjeeamitabha@yahoo.co.in](mailto:chatterjeeamitabha@yahoo.co.in)

## IASLIC ACTIVITIES

### IASLIC 29th National Seminar

The 29th National Seminar of IASLIC could not be held as scheduled during October 27 - 29, 2020 due to pandemic. The new dates and venue of the seminar will be announced in due course on IASLIC website and in the newsletter. Papers for the seminar are still being accepted. The last date of acceptance will also be announced in due course. For 'Call for Papers' detailing facets and sub-facets of the seminar theme and those of the themes of SIG meetings, please see *IASLIC Newsletter* April 2020 issue or visit IASLIC website.

### Nominations invited for IASLIC Awards

IASLIC invites nominations for the following awards for the years 2018, 2019 and 2020.

1. Prof. Prabir Roychoudhury and Mrs. Amita Roychoudhury - IASLIC Best LIS Teacher Award, sponsored by Prof. Prabir Roychoudhury and Mrs. Amita Roychoudhury Memorial Trust.
2. Smt. A Satyavathi and Prof. A A N Raju - IASLIC Best Young LIS Teacher Award, sponsored by Prof. AAN Raju.
3. S M Ganguli - IASLIC Award for the Librarian of the Year, sponsored by late S M Ganguli.

Six copies of application in prescribed format should reach Honorary General Secretary, IASLIC, P 291 CIT Scheme No. 6M, Kankurgachi, Kolkata 700054 on or before April 30, 2021.

*For eligibility criteria and prescribed format of application visit IASLIC website.*

## CONFERENCES / SEMINARS / WORKSHOPS

### National

#### INFLIBNET Programmes

INFLIBNET Centre, Gandhinagar, will organize the following programmes during March - May 2021:

- (1) A free Webinar on 'IR and Cloud Hosting' will be held on March 5, 2021 (11.30 am - 1 pm).
- (2) An online training programme on 'Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning' will be held during March 10 - 12, 2021.
- (3) An online training programme on 'SOUL 2.0 Installation and Operations' will be held during March 22 - 26, 2021.
- (4) An offline training programme on 'Research Methodology and Ethics: Plagiarism Issues, Reference Tools and Almetrics' will be held during April 5 - 9, 2021.
- (5) An offline training programme on 'e-Learning: Learning Management System and MOOCs' will be held during April 19 - 23, 2021.

- (6) An offline training programme on 'SOUL 2.0 Installation and Operations' will be held during April 26 - 30, 2021.
- (7) An offline training programme on 'Content Management System using Joomla' will be held during May 10 - 12, 2021.
- (8) An offline training programme on 'SOUL 2.0 Installation and Operations' will be held during May 31 - June 4, 2021.

For more details visit: <https://hrd.inflibnet.ac.in/training2021.php>

## **International**

### **Library Design Conference**

The Changing Spaces Library Design Conference 2021 will be held as part of the Asia-Pacific Architecture Forum, an initiative of Architecture Media and the State Library of Queensland, and in association with the IFLA Library Buildings and Equipment Section, on March 18, 2021. For details visit: <https://www.alia.org.au/changing-spaces-library-design-virtual-conference-2021>

### **Conference on Big Data**

The 2nd International Conference on 'Big Data & Health Informatics' (BDHI 2021) will be held in Chennai during August 21 - 22, 2021. For details visit: <https://aisca2021.org/bdhi/index>

### **Conference on Issues about Libraries**

The 15<sup>th</sup> International Conference on 'Issues about Libraries' (ICIAL 2021) will be held during August 30 - 31, 2021 in Moscow, Russia. For details visit: <https://waset.org/issues-about-libraries-conference-in-august-2021-in-moscow>

### **Conference on Libraries and Civilization**

The 15<sup>th</sup> International Conference on 'Libraries and Civilization' (ICLC 2021) will be held during November 11 - 12, 2021 in Venice, Italy. For details visit: <https://waset.org/libraries-and-civilization-conference-in-november-2021-in-venice>

### **Conference on Libraries and Society**

The 15<sup>th</sup> International Conference on 'Libraries and Society' (ICLS 2021) will be held during November 11 - 12, 2021 in Venice, Italy. For details visit: <https://waset.org/libraries-and-society-conference-in-november-2021-in-venice>

## **MISCELLANEOUS NEWS**

### **World Book Fair**

New Delhi World Book Fair 2021, organized by National Book Trust, India, will be held in virtual mode during March 6 - 9, 2021. The theme of the fair is 'National Education Policy-2020'. For more details visit: <https://www.nbtindia.gov.in/newdelhiworldbookfair/>

### **NBT setting up Library in each Panchayat**

The Ministry of Education has taken the first step in implementing a Knowledge Communication Centre (KCC) through its nodal agency National Book Trust, India, by setting up a library in each Gram Panchayat across the country, according to a news item in *NBT Newsletter*. As a step forward towards this Reading and Library Movement for a knowledge driven society to bring socio-economic change, the setting up of libraries in Gram Panchayats in Haryana has already begun. The highlights of this project are: (1) setting up a library in every Gram Panchayat in the form of a Knowledge Communication Centre with National Book Trust, India, as the implementing nodal agency and knowledge partner of the project; (2) completion of the project in a phased manner as per available infrastructure at the Panchayat level after a detailed survey and creation of new infrastructure at the places where Panchayat Bhawan is not available; (3) optimum utilization of the existing budgetary provisions for books, infrastructure, computers, and other amenities; (4) bringing out special editions for rural set-up and age-appropriate content in local languages and dialects; (5) customization of content as per regional, culture sensitivity and local aspirations integrated with NEP 2020; (6) shaping up the idea of India as a nation through classic collection of books in local languages and dialects; (7) inclusion of Gram Panchayat in mainstream knowledge sharing; (8) setting up of Reader's Clubs in each Gram Panchayat; (9) mentoring of the young budding authors by National Book Trust, India, in order to enhance their reading, writing and oratory skills; (10) publication of select writings by National Book Trust, India; and (11) providing employment to at least one person from every village - creating employment opportunities. National Book Trust, India, through its content development team will interact with Gram Panchayats at these Knowledge Communication Centres (KCC) and will compile the traditional knowledge from the Gram Panchayats and this will be shared with the world and the mainstream media in line with the vision of NEP. The project of KCC is set to be a milestone in shaping the young minds through a better creative engagement of the society in reading, and making the basic unit of Indian society - the Gram Panchayat as an important entity - as envisioned by Mahatma Gandhi as a Mini Republic. For full news item visit: <https://www.nbtindia.gov.in/writereaddata/attachment/friday-january-8-202111-01-55-amjanuary-2021.pdf>

### **Parents build Library in Memory of Son**

A year ago, the death of their son, daughter-in-law and three grandchildren in a tragedy left a huge void in their lives. Exactly a year after they lost them, Krishnan Nair and Prasannakumari have laid the foundation stone for a memorial and are readying plans to set up a charitable trust in memory of their loved ones, says a *The Times of India* report. Praveen Krishnan Nair, his wife and his children were among the eight people, who died in Nepal

on January 21 last year when they fell unconscious due to a gas leak from a heater in their room at a mountainous resort. On the occasion of their first death anniversary recently, Kerala Minister for Tourism and Devaswom Kadakampally Surendran laid the foundation stone of the memorial in a ceremony held at their residence. The memorial - a two-storey building that will come up on the premises of their residence at Ayyankoyickal residential colony at Chenkottukonam near Pothencode - will house a hi-tech library. Krishnan Nair said one floor of the building will function as the office of Ayyankoyickal Residents Association and the other one will house the library. Plans are underway to set up a charitable trust as well to conduct charity works such as free medical camps every month. Praveen Kumar was very actively involved in charity work and hence they made the decision to form a charitable trust, said Krishnan Nair. Praveen Krishnan Nair, 39, who was an engineer by profession, was working in Dubai. He and his family, including his wife and three children were part of a group travelling from Kerala to Nepal when the tragedy struck. They allegedly died of asphyxiation after inhaling poisonous gas leaked from a gas heater in their room in the resort where they were staying. Praveen's friend and family too had lost their lives in the incident. For full report visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/thiruvananthapuram/couple-builds-library-in-memory-of-son-and-family-who-died-in-nepal/articleshowprint/80393161.cms>

### Community Library in Trichy

District Collector of Trichy S Sivarasu recently inaugurated the state's first community library launched under the state government scheme announced last year, at Rohini Garden enclaves 'C' block. As the name suggests, it is managed by the community and will be attached to the central library in the district, says a *The Times of India* report. According to the scheme, residents willing to establish a community library have to pay a caution deposit of Rs 20,000 to the local library authority. They must provide the space and furniture while the authority will give books and guide them. Besides encouraging and increasing reading habits among people, the objective of the scheme is to start libraries in gated communities. Though lockdown was imposed soon after the scheme was announced by the state government, Trichy residents have been the first to show interest in starting one. During the inauguration, the collector offered Rs 20,000 from his discretionary fund to the library and appreciated the residents for realizing the importance of libraries. "By establishing the first community library in the state, the residents of Rohini Garden enclaves have become an example for others," he said. Addressing residents, the collector said that though there was a need to learn English language, we should be proficient in our mother tongue. He asked women, especially homemakers in gated communities, to make use of the library. Trichy District Library Officer A P Siva Kumar said that they would circulate books from the central library every month

based on the requirement. "Since people in gated communities may not find time to visit libraries due to their busy life, a community library will help them have access to books," he said. For original report visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/trichy/community-library-opens-in-trichy-first-under-govt-scheme/articleshowprint/80193264.cms>

### Library beside School Gate

A school at Kasba in Kolkata has installed a bookshelf outside the campus, beside the gate, for residents of the locality to pick up books and read - an initiative aimed at encouraging reading. The idea is to make books available to those who don't have, from people who don't need them anymore, says a story by Jhinuk Mazumdar available on *The Telegraph Online* website. The street library, as it is called, is an initiative of Silver Point School and iLEAD, a private institute that offers a host of professional courses. The library was opened recently with an initial collection of 500 books. The books are not under lock and key. Anyone can pick up a book at any time of the day, read it and return. "We want to promote the habit of reading. We will keep replenishing and make books available to those who don't have easy access to books," said Sucharita Roychowdhury, the headmistress of Silver Point School. From pictorial books to stories by Ruskin Bond and travel magazines, there is something for everybody. Chairman of the iLEAD Foundation Pradip Chopra, who started the project about two-and-a-half years back, has set up 20 bookshelves in the city, some of which are in parks and slums. "The exchange of books from those who don't need them to those who need them is happening at the lowest possible cost because there is no manpower required and no rent," said Chopra. "The exchange is unsupervised. Even if a book is stolen for reading, the purpose is served." Each bookshelf has a fibre curtain to protect the books. The concept of a street library also encourages people to keep books on the shelf that they no longer need. Chopra said that he had learnt about street libraries during a visit to Sydney, where he saw book racks outside homes and in public spaces. Silver Point School has also kept two chairs beside the shelf so that one can also sit there and read. "In the locality there are makeshift stalls where vendors sell fritters and children roam around. While we were setting the street library, we noticed that the children were taking interest in it. If these children touch, smell or feel the books, half the work is done," said headmistress Roychowdhury. The COVID pandemic has yanked many children off studies. Not all can afford a personalised device for online class. "The habit of reading is to be encouraged among the children of any community," Chopra said. He said that he had seen rickshaw-pullers picking up books from a shelf that was set up outside Vidyanjali International School. For original story visit: <https://www.telegraphindia.com/west-bengal/calcutta/street-library-outside-kasba-school/cid/1804680>

### School Starts Digital Library for Alumni

A government school in Trichy district has started a digital library to train its alumnae for competitive examinations, according to a story in *The Times of India*. Government Model Girls' Higher Secondary School in Manachanallur has established the library at a cost of ₹5 lakh which has 10 computers, a projector and a multipurpose screen. Asked about the idea behind raising the digital library, S Anbusekaran, headmaster of the school, said that they could find only a handful of students, who had passed out of the school, in a better position. Most of the students come from an underprivileged section of the society who could not take up higher studies either because of poverty or the conservative mindset of the family. "Since a person's identity is always associated with her or his career or profession, we decided to make the students take up government jobs by cracking the competitive examinations. This may encourage many others to take up various other jobs", he said. The school has also expanded its physical library with 14,000 books to a spacious hall which can now accommodate more than 30 students. "We are planning to create a database of books and e-content which will be useful for existing students. The School Education Department website has all the textbooks in the digital format. Viewing textbooks and video content on the big screen will make the learning interesting for the students," said a teacher. For original story visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/trichy/digi-library-set-up-at-govt-school-to-train-alumnae-for-competitive-exams/articleshowprint/80903286.cms>

### Library Movement to Stop Cyber Crime

A library movement developed in a short span of time in Jharkhand's Jamtara district is receiving a steady flow of students and helping them turn a new page, according to a story in *The Hindu*. The district's love for books assumes huge significance as it has the dubious distinction of being the "phishing capital of India". Many youth, mostly drop-outs in the 15-35 years age group, have been turning to cybercrime to earn a few quick bucks. Police personnel from 22 out of 28 Indian States have visited the tiny district in search of cyber fraudsters in the past few years. It's said that the majority of online fraud calls received by people across the country emanate from the district. Online fraud is almost seen as a cottage industry in the district. In 2020, Netflix's crime drama 'Jamtara' was based on phishing activities in the district. "Now we have taken initiative to change the identity of Jamtara, where educator and social reformer Pandit Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar had once worked, through a community library movement," Faiz Aq Ahmed Mumtaz, Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Jamtara, told *The Hindu*. Mr. Mumtaz said that the district had 45 functional public libraries. Unused government buildings had been renovated and converted into public libraries. "Studies of students preparing for Class X and Class XII exams were disrupted during the COVID-19 infection period. But the community library proved to be a boon for such students. The

State Government is conducting classes for mathematics and science at these campuses," he added. Instead of learning tricks in phishing, students can now follow books like 'Discovery of India', 'Indian Economy' and 'India after Gandhi' in their own village. "Every Sunday, teachers are reaching out to students and clarifying their doubts in various subjects, so that students do not face trouble in the upcoming examination. Two teachers have been given charge of each library," Mr. Mumtaz said. The Jamtara DC said that the public libraries would be made functional in 100 more panchayats by next year. Mr. Mumtaz said, "With people using digital platforms more often than before, cyber crime incidences are only going to increase. In pursuit of easy money, youth were found resorting to online fraud. We need to divert them into studies." For full report visit: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/jamtara-turns-a-page-with-public-library-movement/article33759958.ece>

### Old Jaina Library Opens to Public

In a bid to connect the oriental world with the modern world, one of the oldest libraries of Vadodara will now be open to public once every week, says a *The Times of India* report. The Mukti Kamal Mohan Jain Gyanbhandar which is housed above the Kothipol Jain temple in Raopura was until recently a members-only library. But now anyone can walk into this 92-year-old library on a Sunday and read any book from their collection of around 14,000. "The purpose of a library is to spread knowledge and knowledge has no boundaries; so we have decided to keep the library open for everyone on Sundays," said Prakash Sheth, the managing trustee. The library has books on subjects of religion, history, philosophy, animal science, among others, in Hindi, Gujarati, Sanskrit, English, Marathi and Prakrit languages. There are also some rare handwritten manuscripts dating back to several centuries. To help the tech-savvy readers search for titles before visiting the library, the trust has shared its catalogues on a website [shrutsangam.org](http://shrutsangam.org). The library has still maintained its old-world charm as the readers have to browse the collection from its wooden racks with carvings dating back to previous century. "I used to come here with my father as a child and the habit of coming here to read books and share the knowledge has continued over the decades," said 83-year-old Suresh Shah. For original report visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/vadodara/92-yr-old-jain-library-opens-doors-of-learning-for-all/articleshowprint/80589881.cms>

### Internet Libraries in AP Villages Soon

The government plans to establish a new university to adopt and promote new technologies, announced Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy during the review on IT and technology at his Tadepalli camp office in Vijayawada recently, says a *The Times of India* report. The chief minister emphasised the need to promote technology in everyday life across the state. He told officials to focus on introducing

technology, extend mobile technology and mobile network coverage in villages. Officials were also told to open Internet libraries in the villages within the next three years. The chief minister asked officials to construct in every village a separate building that could be used as an Internet library. The technology provided by this library should help the youth start working online, including a work-from-home option, he said. The library should also connect the village secretariat and Rythu Bharosa Kendras (RBKs) and ensure uninterrupted network supply. These libraries should also provide network facility to every house on demand, the chief minister said. The chief minister directed officials to plan an integrated technology park in Visakhapatnam. The park should comprise a high-end skill university, incubation centre, laboratories, IT towers, data centres and other facilities. For full report visit: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/vijayawada/govt-plans-internet-libraries-across-villages/articleshowprint/80712699.cms>

### **CRPF sets up Library for Students**

Arunachal Pradesh Director of Secondary Education, Marken Kadu, inaugurated a 'Student's Library' established by the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) - 138 Battalion under 'Civic Action Plan' (CAP) at Senki-View near Itanagar recently. The library has sufficient number of books for the student community. Speaking on the occasion, Marken Kadu said that it was a matter of great concern that the student community nowadays had been avoiding the habit of reading books and were wasting their precious time in other activities which were ineffective. "There was a time when we were only dependent on the libraries to read; and for that purpose, we had to travel several kilometres to other cities and towns. The students of today's generation are very fortunate to have such a library at the closest proximity of their houses," he said. He said that the student community must continue their reading habit, adding that this habit provided lots of mental refreshment, references and knowledge besides supporting them in their academic and other competitive examinations. "The library is a treasure of books and knowledge. It must be preserved and the students should keep it clean and make use of these treasure troves of knowledge," added Kadu. Commandant of CRPF-138Bn, H S Kales informed that other initiatives like providing a water filter, solar lantern, and medical health camp, providing books and other necessary items to the needy students of the area would continue in future too. "We have determined to serve the society right from law-and-order issues and all other fronts," said Kales, adding that around 250 books with all necessary sitting arrangements and cupboards had been installed in the library. He hoped that the student community of Itanagar would make the best use of the library by also taking care of the library, the books and the

surroundings. He further appealed to the students to concentrate in their studies; and also remain fit and fine to serve the society. For original report visit: <https://www.sentinelassam.com/north-east-india-news/arunachal-news/central-reserve-police-force-crpf-sets-up-library-for-itanagar-students-525150>

### **Mobile Art Library in Nepal**

Siddhartha Arts Foundation, in collaboration with the Asia Art Archive (AAA), officially launched 'Mobile Library: Nepal' recently in their bid to promote art literature, says an *Online Khabar* report. The foundation's founder and Director Sangeeta Thapa states that the project will be resourceful for art students in Nepal. According to the organizers, this library already contains around 600 books, exhibition catalogues, periodicals, and monographs. They say that the project aims to democratise and increase access to art literature. Furthermore, they hope to increase research regarding the socio-cultural and political impacts on folk and contemporary art sectors. "The bookshelves are designed in such a way that they can be boxed and moved around. We have invited universities and galleries to host the books; we will start as soon as we get confirmation," informs Director of Kathmandu Triennale 2077, Sharareh Bajracharya. The project had its soft launch in the first week of February and the mobile library is currently housed in Bikalpa Art Centre, Pulchok. Works of popular Nepali art writers like Madan Chitrakar, Yam Prasad Sharma, Ram Dayal Rakesh, Mukesh Malla, Laya Mainali, and Ramesh Khanal are there. During this project, a series of educational discourses and programmes will be organised till November 2021, along with a range of online and on-site activities including archive-building workshops, teacher-training programmes, and pop-up exhibitions. For original report visit: <https://english.onlinekhabar.com/mobile-library-promoting-art-literature-in-nepal.html>

### **PLs to be set up in Haryana Districts**

Under the orders of the state government, public libraries will be set up in 14 districts of Haryana on behalf of the State Higher Education Department. For this, the Director of the department recently conducted a meeting of all the district nodal officers through video conference, in which this proposal was approved, says a *Dainik Jagran* report. Information about the number of libraries and grants to be available for opening such libraries were provided in the meeting. All these libraries will be dedicated to the public. But it will be supervised by the Department of Higher Education. The government has allocated funds for opening the libraries district-wise. Work on implementing the scheme will be started soon. These libraries will be opened not only in public places but also in other places from where students or other people are not able to come out to study in a library such as Baal Ashrams and Open Shelters. Under this scheme libraries will be built in 30 villages in Kaithal district. For this, a grant of ₹ 90 lakh has been approved by the government. So far, only the number of libraries to be set up and

amounts of grants in different districts has been reported. The names of the villages have not been announced. For original report visit: <https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=en&sl=hi&u=https://www.jagran.com/haryana/kaithal-public-library-to-be-set-up-in-fourteen-districts-of-the-state-higher-education-department-gave-permission-21253315.html&prev=search&pto=aue>

### DM setting up Panchayat Level Libraries

What comes to your mind when you think of administrative work? Lots of documents to sign? Lots of meetings to attend? Ensuring law and order in your area? All these are correct. But what about thinking out of the box to solve a problem? It is not often that administrative work, or the officers, get the time and the inclination to do so. Which is why Vishwasree B is not just a 'regular' district magistrate and collector. This 2014 Tripura cadre officer, presently deputed as Sepahijala district magistrate and collector, has set up panchayat level libraries across all 169 gram panchayats / village councils to improve education in her area. And how she did it is as interesting as to why she did it, says a story by Chandan Pandey available on [eastmojo.com](http://eastmojo.com) website. Speaking with *EastMojo*, Vishwasree explains how she arrived at the idea. "During the field visit, we expect that developmental works are happening in various panchayats. I came across many buildings and many rooms which were lying unutilised. They needed some amount of maintenance and small repairs," she said. "There was a requirement for students and youngsters to have a place for interaction and study. So, we started renovating the unused rooms as well as the unused Panchayat buildings and converted them into panchayat level libraries," Vishwasree added. She also pointed out that this was being done to encourage the reading habit among the children, especially youths. These libraries would work as spaces for interaction, for discussion and for knowing others. "We have started with newspapers and a few books. Later, competitive exam preparation books, books on great people and their biographies will be added. We are also looking to develop these places where there will be computers with Internet facility so that the youths can apply for different exams online or get some additional information if they need", the Sepahijala district magistrate added. For full story, visit: <https://www.eastmojo.com/news/2021/01/24/tripura-why-this-magistrate-is-setting-up-panchayat-libraries-across-her-district>

### Librarian develops App for Students

A Durga Prasad, a tech-savvy librarian of Nagarjuna Degree College, Nalgonda, has developed a mobile app 'E-Library Telangana' spending money from his pocket to make e-books, e-journals and education related information and subject matter accessible to students, according to a story by Srinivas P published in *Telangana Today*. Students can now access thousands of e-books and e-journals and recorded subject lessons through the mobile app. Subject e-books available in the app are not only useful but also come as a boon to the students since they don't have to spend money on purchasing textbooks.

Through the app, students can access two lakh e-books and 9,000 e-journals free of cost, besides information on competitive examinations and scholarships. NG College Principal Dr. Rahath Khanam recently launched the mobile app in the college. Speaking to *Telangana Today*, Durga Prasad said that he had earlier run a weblog with the same concept and 1.82 lakh people from 50 countries visited the weblog. Encouraged by the overwhelming response, he decided to develop the mobile app 'E-Library Telangana' that ensures that the students and youth get access to information without having to spend any money. "The highlight of the mobile app is that the study material uploaded on it is useful for school, college and university level students. Video lectures of subjects of degree and PG courses are also available in the mobile app besides material that helps students prepare for competitive examinations", Prasad said. For full story visit: <https://telanganatoday.com/nalgonda-librarian-develops-unique-app-for-students>.

## TECHNOLOGY NEWS

### Change in Windows App

Microsoft pulled out all the stops when it said its Windows 10 platform was the most advanced one. This also meant that the company would not launch successive OS versions. Instead, it would keep pushing several changes - both big and small - to polish the Windows 10. Among these changes is the design upgrade that has kept Microsoft busy for a long time now. And we are now seeing what could be some of those changes that Windows 10 will likely have going forward. The company is changing how apps look in their dynamic state, along with several other changes to small elements in the design, says a story by Shubham Verma available on [indiatoday.in/technology](http://indiatoday.in/technology) website. According to the proposal document posted by Microsoft on GitHub, spotted by WindowsLatest, the big UI refresh in Windows 10 might arrive sometime in 2021. There will be changes to the ListView, GridView, and majorly to the XAML apps that are available from the Windows Store. The biggest reason is the "inconsistency" between the controls meant for XAML apps and their counterparts on web and mobile apps. Microsoft may be planning to redo how the toggle switch, slider, and rating controls look right now in the XAML apps, according to the proposal document. All in all, the company is looking to weed out any inconsistency between how different app versions look with this UI overhaul. There will be more design changes that Microsoft will keep adding to the document, including rounded windows, buttons, toggles, sliders, dialog boxes, ListView, GridView, and selection menu on Windows 10. Moreover, there will be elements from the Fluent Design that Windows 10 currently has in hover effects or any other non-rest state. Microsoft is also addressing the interface issue in the fly out mode. Of course, for now, this is just a proposal and Microsoft may discard these design trinkets. It is equally possible this UI change is finalised and undergoes testing before Microsoft begins rolling it out to Windows 10

users globally. For full story visit: <https://www.indiatoday.in/technology/news/story/windows-10-apps-may-get-big-design-change-this-year-1755782-2021-01-04>

### Battery-free Cell Phone!

Phone manufacturers are constantly striving to create new products that can run longer on a single battery charge but a team of engineers at the University of Washington (UW) has gone the extra mile: They built a cell phone that doesn't need a battery at all, says a post by Jonathan Strickland on [electronics.howstuffworks.com](http://electronics.howstuffworks.com) website. It doesn't look like a typical cell phone. It's a simple printed circuit board with the bare basics to make phone calls possible, including a microphone, number pad and a headphone jack. But while it might not hold up to the aesthetic appeal of an iPhone, you don't have to worry about the phone's charge dying without warning. The phone still uses electricity - it just harvests energy from other sources such as sunlight and radio waves. The team used photodiodes to absorb photons from light sources and generate electricity. To squeeze electric juice out of radio waves, the phone just needs an antenna. (The details were published in a paper in the Proceedings of the ACM on Interactive, Mobile, Wearable and Ubiquitous Technologies.) When radio waves interact with an antenna, the waves induce electricity to flow through the antenna. You can actually harvest electricity through radio waves on your own cell phone. For full post visit: <https://electronics.howstuffworks.com/scientists-have-invented-battery-free-cell-phone.htm>

### New Feature of MS-Word

Microsoft will roll out text predictions for Word by this month, according to an *India Today Tech* story. The text prediction will use machine learning to predict a word or phrase the user would want to type or will be likely to type the next word in a Microsoft Word document. It will work similarly to Smart Compose on Google Docs. Users can accept suggestions or text predictions that will appear in the grey font by using the Tab key and can reject them by pressing Escape. Word users can also completely disable the text predictions. Microsoft Word's ability to predict text in real-time is aimed at helping users type fast that will save their time and effort. According to Microsoft, "Text predictions help users write more efficiently by predicting text quickly and accurately. The feature reduces spelling and grammar errors and learns overtime to give the best recommendations based on your writing style". Microsoft notes that the service will improve with time as it picks up on the user's linguistic preferences and writing style, minimising grammar and spelling errors. Microsoft had rolled out the feature for 50 per cent of Windows Beta Channels last year. An update on the Microsoft 365 roadmap spotted by Neowin shows that the software giant now aims to extend the functionality to all users. Microsoft also noted that the predictions feature will also be introduced in Outlook for Windows, making it easier for users to compose their mails.

Microsoft notes that data collected by the feature to learn writing styles and behaviour will not leave the tenant boundary and no human will ever be able to see or analyse it unless the data is donated as part of the feedback mechanism. According to a report by CNet, Microsoft is yet to announce if it plans to allow its text prediction to suggest gender like "him" or "her". Google Smart Compose in 2018 decided to drop gender-based pronouns in predictive text altogether to avoid potential bias. Word users can navigate to Help > Feedback to send any complaints or suggestions to Microsoft. As per reports, the feature is still under development and should roll out to users by the end of next month. However, it is not clear as to when Microsoft will make text predictions available for macOS or the web client. Microsoft is also slated to roll out a new version of Microsoft Office 2021 with a range of upgrades later this year, as per reports. Users will have to buy the new version that will give users 5-year support. Microsoft has a criterion wherein MS Office, in this case MS Office 2021, will be sold as a one-time purchase, which means that users pay a single, up-front cost to get Office apps for one computer. One-time purchases are available for previous versions of Office for both PCs and Macs. However, there is no upgrade option, which means that if users plan to upgrade to the next major release, they will have to buy it at full price. For original story visit: <https://www.indiatoday.in/technology/news/story/microsoft-word-to-roll-out-text-predictions-for-all-users-by-march-2021-1772213-2021-02-23>

## SPECIAL FEATURE

### The Boat Library for the Young

We know about the largest floating book store - cum - library operated by a German charitable organization GBA Ships, which travels round the world promoting good literature, undertaking community projects and fostering cultural exchange during its global voyage. We also know how floating library services on boats were organized in Andhra Pradesh by Dr. Paturi Nagabhushanam between 1935 and 1942 and the efforts made by Southern Health Improvement Samity, an NGO, to start a free floating library on motorized boat for the residents of mangrove islands of Sundarbans, in collaboration with the West Bengal Sarva Siksha Mission in 2011. Besides, it is also known that in USA a floating library aboard Lilac Museum Steamship, a steam powered ship decommissioned in 1972 and converted into a museum, berthed at Hudson River Park, New York, was launched in September 2014 (see *IASLIC Newsletter* August 2014 issue). Bangladesh reportedly is also having a floating library on Gumani River, which primarily serves the underprivileged people and students.

Another floating library worth mentioning is The Floating Library in Minnesota, which, according to [popuplibraries.com](http://popuplibraries.com) website, started as an interactive public art project by Sarah Peters."It is a floating raft on a lake, with bookshelves, and is accessible by boat. The Library hosts a collection of artist-made

books and printed matter and visitors are invited to paddle up to the Library in their boat and browse the shelves". But unfortunately, this initiative had to take a hiatus in 2019. There is also a boat library in Sweden, which ferries books to the remote islands of Stockholm's archipelago. According to an article on *Atlas Obscura*, the Stockholm Library Service rents a boat for a week and brings books to 23 inhabited islands.

Nevertheless, Kolkata too can now boast of a regular floating library which has set sail on the last Republic Day on River Hooghly (also named Ganga or Ganges) that passes by the city, where only a few months ago India's (and possibly the world's) first and only Tram Library started its journey (see *IASLIC Newsletter* October 2020 issue). Young Readers' Boat Library, as it is named, on-board a decommissioned steamship MV Hemlata, has been set up by West Bengal Transport Corporation, in association with city's heritage book store, Oxford Book Store, and in collaboration with Apeejay Anand Children's Library managed by Apeejay Surrendra Group, one of India's oldest business conglomerates.

The Young Readers' Boat Library presents a collection of over 500 books in Hindi, English and Bengali across several genres, perfectly-curated by Oxford Book Store, in a pleasant reading ambiance. It also has wifi facility. The library is located on one side of the lower deck of the two-deck vessel. There is sitting arrangement in the remaining area and also a counter selling biscuits, potato chips and packaged water. There are also sitting arrangement on the upper deck too. One can pick up a book from the library and sit at any corner and enjoy reading the book and also enjoy the outside panorama. The boat library takes visitors on a trip along the river from Millennium Park to Belur Math and back to Millennium Park. The library is also a wonderful place to enjoy the beauty of the river and the views of the ghats on the riverside, and get a glimpse of the landmark

bridges on the river, viz., Vidyasagar Setu (i.e. second Hooghly Bridge), the famous Rabindra Setu (i.e. Howrah Bridge), and Vivekananda Setu (i.e. Willingdon Bridge or Bally Bridge) and Nivedia Setu near Dakshineswar Temple. The adults will be able to enjoy a trip on board this boat library by paying ₹100 and children and 'Kanyashrees' (girls aged 18 or below) can do so by paying ₹50. The boat library makes three trips on weekdays. According to a transport department official, longer trips are being planned on weekends.

According to Rajanvir Singh Kapur, Managing Director, West Bengal Transport Corporation, the library will have round the year creative activities such as storytelling, dramatised reading, book launches, poetry and music sessions and much more. In the words of Priti Paul, Director of Apeejay Surrendra Group. "this initiative is one of our efforts to celebrate the river that has immense cultural significance" and "children will be able to discover our roots and history on board this floating library".

The city of joy has thus added one more feather to its cap. Kolkatans, who have not yet seen this unique venture, must try to enjoy a trip on board the boat library and visitors to this city must include a ride on this boat library in their itinerary. It will indeed be a great experience!

[Sources: <https://www.telegraphindia.com/west-bengal/calcutta/floating-library-sets-sail-on-the-hooghly/cid/1804934>, <https://www.deccanherald.com/national/in-a-first-kolkata-gets-boat-library-943715.html>, <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/travel/things-to-do/indias-first-boat-library-launched-in-kolkata-along-river-hooghly/as80507594.cms>, <https://www.outlookindia.com/outlooktraveller/explore/story/71128/have-you-been-on-the-young-readers-boat-library-in-kolkata>, <http://popuplibraries.com/the-floating-library/>, <https://lifestyle.livemint.com/relationships/raising-parents/in-kolkata-children-can-now-visit-a-floating-library-111611733941748.html>]

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