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We wish all our readers a joyful, bright, healthy, prosperous & happy New Year.

In our daily life we need to remember that gratefulness makes us happy.

Gratitude is very powerful. It also attracts abundance, especially when we are thankful for the specific area (for ex. health, money, etc) of our life in which there is some lack. This important Life Skill can make us really happy!

Delivering Education through Digital Platform: A Potential way to Bridge Education Deficit in India

India has been successful in raising its literacy rate from 12% at the time of independence to 74% as per 2011 census, but it still lags behind the world average of 84%. Though the flagship programs like SSA (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan) and RMSA (Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan) have definitely proved beneficial to some extent but a lot needs to be done to truly educate India.

Apart from the issues of access and affordability, India needs to work upon the issue of quality of education. Quality of education in government schools, skewed teacher-student ratio lack of basic amenities like library, clean toilets, and playgrounds add to the drop out ratio.

In such a state of affairs of education in India, the ICT revolution has paved the way to introduce some breakthroughs in education sector. The young population in India in the last decade has become increasingly technology-driven, revealing considerable potential and readiness to imbibe and learn using digital media. Needless to mention, digital education is making learning attainable and providing easy access everywhere and every time.

Government's focus is to integrate technology in digital learning for both urban and rural areas and so it is looking at public-private-partnerships to enhance reach to rural and remote areas. With the initiatives such as e-education and e-basta (school bag), government has made it possible to impart education using technologies including smart phones, mobile apps and internet services in remote rural areas. Mishra & Koehler, Source | <http://moderndiplomacy.eu/>

Now, a mobile app for grievances on education

Often, students and parents are afraid of coming out against educational institutions fearing harassment. Forum for Fairness in Education, a non-governmental organization has launched a new mobile application to give fears a backseat by assuring complainants of anonymity.

“We have filed over 40 PILs over two decades but the difficulty is always in getting people to come forward to complain. As a result, it is tough to get evidence to support their claims,” said Jayant Jain, president of the NGO.

The app also allows users to upload videos, photos and documents to support their complaint. There are separate drop down options for every kind of grievance, whether it is regarding fee hike, harassment or school bag weight. They can also elaborate and explain the problem.

On this free app, users can inform the NGO of their problem without being afraid of the consequences or being victimized. They have been assured their identity will be kept confidential except when required to be presented to the court. In that case too, it will be revealed only after taking

their permission, assured Jayant. “Many times there is confusion over which authority to approach or who can address in case problem. If they send us the complaint through this app we will forward it to the concerned authority,” he added.

Users can also check the status of their complaint. The app will also be educating its users on matters such as rules pertaining to fee hike and conducting weekly surveys on issues related to education. “The idea is to expose corruption in the education field,” said Jayant. The app called FFE INDIA is available on play store.

Source | Free Press Journal | 29 November 2016

Mobile Tools for Managers or any Professional to Enhance Productivity

The ability to manage different tasks all at once, is a prerequisite to success as a manager, whatever the field you are in. Right from managing stakeholders to planning tasks, scheduling meetings, brainstorming for new ideas or troubleshooting—multi-tasking is the way to go. The solutions you propose or implement must be flawless! So, how do you manage the onslaught of multiple tasks as a manager? Use technology and your best buddy the mobile phone, to your advantage and sail through your workday!

Managers also need to be ready with answers—a key aspect in relationship building. Expect to work remotely, even at odd hours, to deliver what is desired. Sounds intimidating? Worry not, for mobile phones today come with a slew of organizing and management applications. Some of these are given below:-

Manage To-Dos smoothly

Make Knowledge, share knowledge, secure knowledge: As the subject matter expert, you may find hordes of colleagues flocking to you for advice or experience-sharing. It is a great idea to initiate a knowledge management initiative that allows you a wider reach with streamlined efforts.

Be productive with Office 365: Making and delivering presentations, speech scripts, analyzing the latest balance sheet on Excel—the list of enterprise software-dependent tasks is endless.

Streamline the logistics and operations: Believe it or not, a significant part of our time at work is spent in transactional or operational tasks, which though not value-adding, are equally important.

One stop shop for all tasks: Do you feel overwhelmed trying to juggle various tasks and staying updated on what needs to be done next? Managed services solution suites are for you.

Being an effective manager, is an art as well as science. Knowing what to use and how to use to get things done, is a critical competency that few possess. Yet, you can fortify this skill by relying on the wonderful world of mobile! Learn to use your smartphone to your professional advantage and be “always on” with a smile!

Source | <http://www.readitquik.com/>

Technology tricks to help kids think reading is fun

More than a quarter of American adults did not read a single book in the last year. That stunning statistic from a recent report from the Pew Research

Center made me sad. While adults aren't required to read as most children are in school, it made me wonder if parents are simply raising kids who are uninterested in reading, and allowing them to become non-reading adults. If that is the case, what can moms and dads do to inspire a love of reading in their children?

Get techie — While the majority of people prefer to read print books, the biggest age group reading electronic books are — unsurprisingly — millennials. So, it would be logical to think even younger readers may also be drawn to e-books. Take advantage of the apps most public libraries use that allow readers to download books and audiobooks on their phones and tablets.

My local library — as well 30,000 others around the country — uses the Overdrive app. Depending on the limitations of each library, users can have several books and audiobooks downloaded at the same time, with others on hold to wait for their availability. One easy way to nudge your kids into more literature is to read books before they show up in theaters. Check the lists of upcoming movies based on books and make a plan. It's great to have all your kids read the same book, if possible. Then, it turns into a friendly competition with each child pushing the others to read, instead of parents having to nag. Use apps — Tons of reading apps are just waiting for kids of all ages to try them out.

For older children who can read but need a fun way to brush up on grammar skills, it's Mad Libs to the rescue. We all loved this word game as kids, and now the free app comes with dozens of stories just waiting for your children to fill in the crazy nouns, adjectives and adverbs.

Research has shown us time and time again that reading benefits children in everything from language skills to emotional stability. Use these tricks and tips to give your children — and yourself — an extra incentive to dive into a good book today.
Link| <http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865666440/Technology-tricks-to-help-kids-think-reading-is-fun.html?pg=all>

Augmented reality gains ground in education

Augmented reality (AR) in education seems to be catching up fast. The augmented reality platform enables students and teachers to visualise three-dimensional models in the real environment, in real time, and at scale.

As part of efforts to widen its reach among the education community, the MBD Group, the leading educational group in India and pioneer of augmented reality in education, will showcase a new line of virtual reality-based content and device at the International Book Fair, scheduled here in January. The group, which has diversified into sectors like e-learning, capacity building, m-learning, skill development and ICT infrastructure, had launched a augmented reality app Nytra in 2014 to provide quality contents for students from Kindergarten to Grade 12 of the formal education system. Augmented reality, bridges the gap between the virtual and physical worlds and changes the way we see, imagine, and learn about the world around us. The group plans to deliver high quality VR content for vocational courses/ skill courses in the informal education sector as well.

“Virtual reality and augmented reality are the new frontiers of education and present an exciting opportunity for the

sector. We will be investing over Rs 50 crore in three-five years towards development and expansion of our AR and VR educational contents portfolio.” said Monica Malhotra Kandhari, managing director of MBD Group. Source | Financial Chronicle | 30 November 2016

BHU introduces audio textbooks for visually impaired students

Varanasi: In a move to assist the [visually impaired](#) students and those with learning disabilities to read without being assisted by other people owing to absence of Braille textbooks, Saiyaji Rao Gaekwad Central Library of Banaras Hindu University (BHU) has started the process of converting books into [audio textbooks](#) that can be heard with just a click of the mouse on a computer.

The conversion of textbooks using a special software and digital format is being carried out as a part of the digitization process underway at the Central Library. All the digitized documents and books are to be kept in a Digital Resource Centre expected to come up in the library within seven to eight months.

According to Prasad, more than 1,000 books had been made ready for use so far. The specially designed software/format will enable the visually-impaired students to navigate from line to line while listening to the audio version on their earphones, he said, adding that a proposal of about Rs 1 crore had been sent to UGC for Digital Resource Centre.

In absence of Braille textbooks, we felt helpless. Even the audio books did not have clear speech and demanded extreme concentration. Things will come easy

with modern audio textbooks," another student Ravi Kumar said. A sociology student said that the library did not have more than two audio textbooks and now he would request to get audio version of more books.

Source | <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/varanasi/BHU-introduces-audio-textbooks-for-visually-impaired-students/articleshow/55480609.cms>

Your life is becoming more digital, some ways to keep yourself safe

As the move towards reducing cash deals gains ground and volumes of card transactions increase, we lists some basic — but frequently overlooked — steps to protect your digital life.

- ❑ Choosing the right password
- ❑ Saving details in Contacts
- ❑ WiFi security: public, at home
- ❑ Two-factor authentication
- ❑ Clicking on phishing links

Link | <http://indianexpress.com/article/explained/digital-safety-data-theftpassword-demonetisation-onlinepayment-4381425/>

Kerala Vigilance ties up with libraries for anti-graft drive

Local libraries are set to play a significant role in anti-corruption drive in [Kerala](#) under an innovative initiative of the state Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau to sensitise local community against graft.

Under the initiative, titled 'On-site On-line vigil visit', regular readers of libraries, known as 'vayanasalas' in local parlance, could report about corruption in their respective areas to the VACB. A top VACB official said the objective of the initiative

was to evolve a good methodology of creating a culture of zero tolerance to corruption at the grassroot level, with local library as the medium.

"Our mission is to nurture a zero-tolerance-to-corruption culture in the society. It should be visible and felt or experienced by everyone in the state. Joining hands with local libraries is one of the steps to achieve this goal," Vigilance Director Jacob Thomas told PTI.

A library action group would be formed with selected libraries, which are very active, vibrant and doing socially useful activities, as members and the Research and Training team of VACB would visit them libraries and develop joint plans and activities appropriate for each area. Posters, urging people to take part in anti-corruption drives, would also be displayed in these libraries. Thomas said libraries played a significant role in cultural life and the plan was to leverage the regular readers and active members of these vayanasalas to fight against corruption in their respective areas. The members of libraries can utilise the 'Arising Kerala' and 'Whistelenow', the mobile apps developed by VACB, to document corruption and anti-corruption practices that they observe, hear or learn during their 'on-site and on-line vigil visits'.

(This story has not been edited by Business Standard staff and is auto-generated from a syndicated feed.)

Source | Business Standard | 1 December 2016

15 libraries chosen for 'Small Libraries Create Smart Spaces' project

DUBLIN, Ohio, December 2016—Fifteen small U.S. public libs. have been selected to participate in the 'Small Libraries

Create Smart Spaces' project led by OCLC in partnership with the Association for Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL). The libraries, chosen from 106 completed applications, are located in 12 different states and serve communities ranging in size from 1,000 to 21,000 people.

Each library will be represented by a staff member, who will be guided through a training program designed by WebJunction, the learning program of OCLC Research. Participants will apply what they learn to reimagine and reconfigure library space to support socially engaging and active learning programming that addresses a defined community need.

"These libraries were chosen based on a well-articulated understanding of their communities, commitment to championing economic and educational success, and an enthusiasm for bringing the voice of community members to their planning process," said Sharon Streams, Director, WebJunction. "We are excited to work with these libraries as they create spaces that will encourage people to explore, play and learn together."

Over an 18-month period, participants will be introduced to the principles of placemaking, community engagement and human-centered space design. After conducting community input, action planning and prototype activities, the libraries will implement a learning space using a starter set of materials.

Learn more about the project on the [Small Libraries Create Smart Spaces](#) section of the WebJunction website, and stay tuned as more information on the individual libraries, their Smart Spaces projects and the principles they learn are shared. Source | <https://www.oclc.org/>

New PubHub website helps students hone research-publishing skills

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. — For students struggling with writing manuscripts for refereed journals, or even those who just want to hone their research-writing skills, help has arrived in the form of more than 50 online learning modules, collectively called [PubHub](#) and made available last spring by the Penn State Council on Engaged Scholarship.

“As part of the Council on Engaged Scholarship, we were looking at ways to expand opportunities for undergrads to engage in research experiences,” said Khanjan Mehta, director of the Humanitarian Engineering and Social Entrepreneurship Program. “One of our observations while talking to faculty members and students was that while a sizeable number of students were engaged in research, only a fraction of those experiences led to publications.”

Publishing one’s work in a refereed journal is the pinnacle of participation in the professional academic culture. It provides students with a window into a professional career as a researcher and enhances their competitiveness in graduate school applications and the job market.

To help students advance their research writing and publishing abilities, Mehta and more than 30 additional Penn State faculty and staff members designed PubHub, a collection of four sets of learning modules in the form of downloadable PDFs that relate to navigating the publication process, preparing strong manuscripts for refereed journals, developing research-writing skills, and making the most of professional conferences. WPSU created

a [video](#) describing the modules available through PubHub. The modules are available to all students, regardless of their major or area of study.

“Research & publishing are important aspects of student engagement,” said Mehta. “Through these activities, students develop skills such as communication, persistence, creativity, judgment and organization. They also gain greater autonomy and self-efficacy.”

In turn, he added, having undergraduate students participate in research and publishing helps faculty members increase their research productivity and ultimately enhances the visibility of the University as the volume of high-quality publications grow.

“There is an ethical imperative to publish & make knowledge public, especially when the research is supported by taxpayer dollars,” said Mehta. “And students are best served by Penn State if they understand the ins and outs of this process. That’s why we created PubHub.” Learn more about PubHub [here](#) and watch the video [here](#). Source | <http://news.psu.edu/story/439937/2016/12/01/new-pubhub-website-helps-students-hone-research-publishing-skills>

AICTE - Collaboration & Partnerships between Indian and Foreign Universities / Institutions in the field of Technical Education, Research and Training

AICTE has issued guidelines on Collaboration and Twinning Programmes between Indian and Foreign Universities / Institutions in the field of Technical Education, Research and Training. As per the guidelines, accredited

FEIs & AICTE approved IEs with prescribed quality can enter into a bipartite agreement/ MoU) after getting necessary approvals from AICTE and fulfilling other conditions as laid down in the guidelines. Eligibility parameters, conditions and approval procedure for such collaboration, as contained in the AICTE Collaboration & Twinning Programme Guidelines, are available at www.aicte.org

Seven Twinning/ Foreign Collaboration proposals have been approved for the Academic Year 2016-17. List of Institute-wise AICTE approved Twinning/ Foreign Collaboration proposals for the AY 2016-17 is as under:

Sl. No.	Indian Institute	Foreign University
1.	Gandhinagar Institute of Technology, Ahmedabad	DE Montfort University, Leicester, U.K.
2.	Daly College Business School, Madhya Pradesh	DE Montfort University, Leicester, U.K.
3.	Universal Business School, Maharashtra	Cardiff Metropolitan University
4.	Institute of Hotel Management, Maharashtra	University of Huddersfield, U.K.
5.	GMR School of Business, Telengana	Schulich School of Business, York University, Toronto, Canada.
6.	S.R. International Institute of Technology, Telegana	University of Massachusetts

7.	Ansai Technical Campus, Uttar Pradesh	Valiparaiso University, USA.
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Source Link <http://www.aicte-india.org/foreignuniversities.php>

Over 9 Lakh books in the Underground Library at Jaisalmer

Library is a place that has a vast collection of books, some of which may not be affordable by means of money and most of which may be a rare collection. A place where you can go and sit in complete peace and consult books on various topics, topics which can be general and also extremely unheard of...

I have the pleasure of introducing one such library here that I had visited almost 20 years back. It happens to be Asia's biggest library, and I would like to bring to your notice that it is in such an area which you might never have thought of, may be very few countable numbers know about it. The exact date of the establishment of this library is not yet known but it is almost 25 years old.

It is almost 128 k.m. before Jaisalmer(Rajasthan) in a village by the name of Bhadariya in Pokran district. This library is an underground library and is 16feet below the ground level. On the top is a temple of Devi Bhadriya Mata who is believed to be one of the seven sisters and the most known sisters are Karni Mata and Tanot Mata.

This library has a seating capacity of 4000 people and the temperature down there is so low that you don't need an AC even in summers. It is taken care of by the devotees who live there and take care of the temple as well. 7-8 lakh rupees per

year are spent on this library for the purpose of maintenance.

It houses more than 9 lakh books. Scholars from all over the world visit this library for research purposes as this has books which include topics in various languages for science, astrology, astronomy, epics, history, various dictionaries, atlas and a lot more.

Source | <http://udaipurtimes.com/over-7-lakh-books-in-the-underground-library-at-jaiselmer/>

Combating the flaw of rote learning

The 21st century learner finds herself/himself growing up in an era where knowledge, while an important component, isn't going to be the only element that determines a smooth transition into university education and thereafter a workplace. Problem solving, trouble shooting, applying skills etc become far more impactful when young leaders, who take their place in the industry become challenged with rapidly changing paradigm shifts (everything old is being repositioned), and therefore, as educators we need to question our approach to this 'learning teaching' process carefully. We cannot afford to focus on facts alone, those can be sourced and researched, we need to focus on the process, the cause effect, the alternative techniques...in short, create 'thinkers'.

Let's begin with asking some basic questions — 'Are we 'moulding' the children to become effective exam takers or should we instead be equipping them with knowledge, skills and attitudes that enables them to adapt, 'think out of the box' which leads to creation. Memorising and defining your answers as per models suggested to gain optimum marks in examinations leads to very little benefits.

Also, don't forget entrance examinations are based on logic and critical thinking more than content.

Group work, project work, assigning children to tasks that they enjoy while achieving the bigger picture will go a long way in getting the children to stay motivated on the task. Educators must enjoy this opportunity to redefine the teaching and learning process.

Source | Daily News Analysis6 December 2016

Museum on wheels to roll into Mumbai's civic schools

Municipal school students will no longer have to visit a museum to learn about the country's rich heritage and culture. A Museum on Wheels will reach every school and will teach students through a display of artifacts, workshops and demonstrations.

The initiative by the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (CSMVS), formerly known as Prince of Wales museum, the Museum on Wheels will first roll into NA Sawant municipal school in Colaba on Thursday.

Started in 2015, the CSMVS Museum on Wheels project is a bus with exhibitions on different themes that are changed every six months. According to the CSMVS website, the bus is equipped with display cases for objects, interactive demo kits, art supplies, audio-visual equipment and digital media such as touch screens and digital tablets.

"The project has already started at private schools. Now, it will include municipal schools students who do not get to visit museums regularly. The museum will reach them through the initiative," said

Jadhav.

“We will also try to screen documentaries, have talks and workshops for students through this project.” The project will give preference to schools which has a big compound.

Source | Hindustan Times | 7 December 2016

Use of technology in education: Myth vs reality

Most schools and especially parents are still very iffy when it comes to technology based learning. Is it as disruptive as you think? Not at all! Read on and bust the myths regarding edtech once and for all.

Education is the single most powerful tool that can shape a child's perspective on almost everything. It is critical that children have access to quality education irrespective of their proficiency levels or where they are located. Digital revolution and boom in smartphone adoption in India has brought in a lot of changes in sector in the last few years. Technology is moulding the way children learn across age groups. It has charted out a whole new way of learning for the younger generations. Education through technology thus has become vital for children of all grades.

While the recent developments in the edtech space in India have started addressing the major concerns, the real impact of technology in education, which can truly be phenomenal, is still to be realised. Available@ <http://indiatoday.intoday.in/education/story/myth-vs-reality-in-edtech/1/819770.html>

FindLectures is curated database of free, mind-expanding talks

The Internet has fundamentally democratized education. Now if you want to, say, become fluent in a new programming language or brush up on a new machine learning algorithm, you're just as likely to head to [YouTube](#) or Coursera than step foot in a classroom.

There are an insane amount of lectures and talks online ripe for the downloading, many of which are free. The problem is that they're spread across literally hundreds of disparate platforms, like university websites, YouTube, Video, Coursera, and so on.

[FindLectures](#) is an effort to centralize the vast quantities of free online lectures and talks into one searchable repository of knowledge. It pulls from a number of reputable sources, including Oxford University, TalksAtGoogle, TED, the Library of Congress, and more. At the time of writing, it boasts a catalog of over 25,968 lectures.

What makes FindLectures special is that it's curated for quality, so talks that are misleading, or are simply not all that good are excluded. Most of the content on the site is shorter than 60 minutes, so you can hypothetically fit one into your lunch break.

To find what you're looking for, the site lets you refine your search with a number of filters, including by age, speaker, and category. Handily, it also lets you drill down into its catalog to find videos with closed captioning, which will undoubtedly be welcomed by those who are deaf or hard of hearing.

It's a commendable effort. In the coming months, it plans to expand its catalog with even more talks and lectures. If you're looking for something productive to do on

a lazy Sunday, you could do worse than check out [FindLectures](http://thenextweb.com/insider/2016/12/04/findlectures-curved-database-free-mind-expanding-talks/). Source | <http://thenextweb.com/insider/2016/12/04/findlectures-curved-database-free-mind-expanding-talks/>

The Changing Role of Libraries

Report from McGraw Education indicated that librarians are 7% less likely than faculty to respond that their employers fully support the library. Librarians commented that they must continuously prove and document their value. Yet, value is in the eye of the beholder. What can librarians do?

Monitoring usage is not enough. Librarians must have a keen sense of what key stakeholders value in their library (read the full report to see how faculty ranks library services). Close the feedback loop: Keep reporting on changes in usage, and educate faculty and administrators on future trends likely to give libraries a competitive advantage, such as makerspaces. Librarians can also do a better job of actively promoting the resources and services they offer (see [10 Ways to Publicize Your Library](#)). Above all, constant communication between libraries and the administration is crucial to making sure the library isn't viewed as a cost center.

Link to Download the White Paper | https://learn.mheducation.com/rs/303-FKF-702/images/Whitepaper_AccessEducation_RoleofLibraries_10-2016_v4%20%283%29.pdf

Hear2Read @ App for visually impaired

App lets visually impaired in India hear books in their native language

For the millions upon millions of visually impaired people in India, it can be difficult getting hold of the audiobook they want in the language they need it in. A project from Carnegie Mellon University and partners aims to fix that with a free, easily extensible Android app that can be quickly trained to read texts aloud in local languages.

The app, Hear2Read, had its first release today, supporting Tamil, with Hindi, Bengali, Punjabi, and other languages and dialects coming over the course of the year. A few hours of talking from a native speaker is the raw data, which is then fed into a machine learning system.

“Each language is different and historically TTS systems have been done one at a time. We looked at commonalities of Indian languages and developed tools to apply the same technology to multiple languages,” said Suresh Bazaj, an IIT Alumni and founder of the project, in a [CMU blog post](#).

The resulting language database is small enough that it can be stored on the phone, meaning no internet connection is needed to translate texts. It'll run on low-end phones, as well, an important factor in a country where budget devices and spotty connectivity are the rule. (You'll need Android 4.1 or higher, though.)

The Hear2Read software also integrates with Android's built-in accessibility functions, letting browsers, email apps, and others integrate text to speech. More info on Hear2Read, the app, and the partners that helped make it possible can be found at the company's website.

Source | IIT Alumni Newsletter Dec 2016

93% parents say learning apps improve children's performance

However, most city schools continue to have zero tolerance for smart phones in classrooms

A new survey by a private education solutions provider has revealed that students might learn faster via technology such as smart phones, as it helps them understand complex topics better. But most parents and schools in Mumbai prefer devices such as tabs or laptops as they fear phones might distract students.

Close to 93% of the 1.8 lakh respondents to the survey reported an improvement in their scholastic performance after using mobile applications for studying. While 92% respondents said the children studied on their own using the apps.

Schools and parents, however, are divided over the benefits of using mobile phones in the classroom. RN Podar School, Santacruz, for instance, follows a flipped model of learning in which lectures are delivered through short videos — on their own devices including smart phones — to be viewed before or after school. But students are not allowed to use them in class.

Principal Avnita Bir, said that they found the 'bring your own device' policy to be distracting and time consuming. "You lose cohesion and time in the classroom if everyone is immersed in their own device," she said. Addiction to technology and misuse of phones are other concerns keeping schools from embracing mobile phones. "The chances of students misusing the phones are more than they learning anything from it," said Albin Anthony, chief operating officer, Sacred Heart School, Kalyan.

Schools said that using smart phones even affects the writing abilities of the students. "We face a lot of problems such as students unable to spell words correctly or follow grammar. They use mobile lingo in exam," said Kavita Aggarwal, chief academic advisor, JBCN International School, Oshiwara, which doesn't allow mobiles for students or teachers. Most schools, however, continue to sport a 'zero tolerance' policy to smart phones. At Bombay Cambridge School, Andheri East, only senior students are allowed to carry mobiles to the classrooms but they can't be used during lessons.

"Students do not get authentic information online and so it cannot be used for studying," said Savita Venkat, principal of the state board and international sections of the school.

Source | Hindustan Times | 21 December 2016

Medical entrance test in 8 languages @ English, Hindi, Marathi, Gujarati, Tamil, Telugu, Bengali & Assamese

NEET used to be held only in English and Hindi. Next year, it will also be held in Marathi, Gujarati, Tamil, Telugu, Bengali and Assamese.

NEW DELHI : The Government has decided to hold the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET-2) this time in eight languages, including six regional languages, for admissions in the MBBS courses across the country.

Some states were allowed early this year to conduct their own entrance tests, but henceforth all admissions will be only through NEET and will be conducted by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) as ruled by the Supreme Court.

So far NEET used to be held only in English and Hindi. It will be held the next year also in Marathi, Gujarati, Tamil, Telugu, Bengali and Assamese.

Source | Free Press Journal Dec. 2016

The Largest Digital Survey Of The Visible Universe Is Now Publicly Available

Over the past four years, astronomers associated with the Panoramic Survey Telescope and Rapid Response System (Pan-STARRS) project at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa have repeatedly scanned three-quarters of the sky in visible and infrared light. Now, these images, which show up to 3 billion stars, galaxies and other celestial objects, are freely available for download — if you have 2 petabytes of spare space, that is.

Video

Link

| <https://youtu.be/xxmsi8r1yTg>

Link <http://www.ibtimes.com/largest-digital-survey-visible-universe-now-publicly-available-2463612>

Academic Librarians: Adding Value beyond the Library

By helping make college more affordable for students and helping faculty gain new insights from Humanistic Research, Academic Librarian can showcase the skills & value they provide.

Link To Access

<http://digitalio.sla.org/?issueID=24&pageID=5>

Source | Information Outlook –Dec. 2016

Second WhatsApp Writeup on Life Skills

Interpersonal Skill includes core skills like: Communication Skills, Assertiveness Skills, Cooperation Skills & Empathy.

Let's look at each one briefly...starting with **Communication Skills...**

Effective Communication means that we are able to express ourselves, in ways that are appropriate to the situation. This means being able to express opinions, desires, and also our needs and fears without any hesitation. And, it would also mean being able to ask for advice and help in the time of need. These skills are essential in every sphere of human interaction. The ability to communicate is vital to the success of any activity. It includes verbal and non-verbal communication, active listening, and the ability to express feelings and give feedback.

Managing conflict is also a key Interpersonal Skill. It is the ability to listen and understand others' needs. **Development of these Interpersonal Skills provides the foundation for adult social behavior which is an indispensable element of our LIS profession.**

Some of the basic conditions necessary for good communication are:

1. Listening carefully and responsibly with patience & empathy
2. The speaker must express himself clearly and completely.
3. The words used should specify carefully the purpose of the conversation.
4. If questions are asked, they should be creative and open ended i.e. they should not require answers in "yes" or "no".

Key Message of the day:

Effective communication is the most important component for a successful life & successful communications skill can solve complex problems.

We are sure that you find this interesting & useful. If you have any comments or suggestions pl. do let us know.