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Homage



**ADINET deeply mourns the passing away of Shri R S Sharma, Former Librarian, SAC, Ahmedabad on 05 Dec 2024
May his Soul Rest in eternal Peace
Om Shanti**

Pause & Ponder

“Your work is going to fill a large part of your life, and the only way to be truly satisfied is to do what you believe is great work. And the only way to do great work is to love what you do. If you haven’t found it yet, keep looking. Don’t settle. As with all matters of the heart, you’ll know when you find it.”

– Steve Jobs

Readers Please Note

Tap the Title to read the full article

Why libraries in Finland are free for everyone to use and how these libraries are served as public good



On a maps app, I draw the route, adding destinations till the forking paths form an unsolvable hieroglyphic. I’m in Helsinki for half a day. The city, as befitting the capital of a country dubbed the most literate nation in the world, has over 60 libraries. I decide to embark on a kind of literary marathon, aiming to cover as many as possible.

On the map, Helsinki advances purposefully south, towards the sea, then seems to lose interest, breaking into ever smaller islands, into a landscape of discontinuities. This ambiguous nature, between borders of sea and land, arctic night and polar day, between political blocs, means it lends well as a backdrop to certain genres, such as espionage set during the Cold War. Its parks and lakes also offer convenient spots to hide corpses, and hence is a suitable stage for Nordic noir. To whet my palate, I’ve already binge-read books such as Kjell Westo’s *The Wednesday Club*, Len Deighton’s spy thriller *Billion-Dollar Brain* and Antti Tuomainen’s crime caper *The Rabbit Factor*, all set in Helsinki, ranging from the 1930s to present day...

Source: ***The Economic Times, 22 Dec 2024***

Unpacking ONOS: India's Rs 6,000-cr scheme offers free access, equality in research



India is set to launch the One Nation, One Subscription (ONOS) scheme on

January 1, 2025, a major step in democratising education and research. It is designed to give 1.8 crore students and faculty free access to over 13,400 international journals from 30 major publishers including Elsevier, Springer Nature, and Wiley.

The initiative has been rolled out as a central sector scheme at a cost of Rs 6,000 crore for a three-year period (2025-2027).

Under this, 451 state public universities, 4,864 colleges and 172 institutes of national importance will be among the 6,380 higher education and research institutes getting access to these top journals from various academic disciplines free of cost...

Source: [India Today, 22 Dec 2024](#)

In Bihar, libraries as windows to the world



Harsh Kumar, 22, is studying for a BTech degree in Gaya College, one of Bihar's premier institutions. A resident of Amhara village, on the outskirts of Patna, Bihar's capital. Nearly 45 kilometres from the city centre, Kumar's father is a small farmer, and the family struggles to eke out a living. After he graduated from the government-run Amhara High School, he wanted to work towards a degree in engineering, but there were hardly any books available to crack the Bihar Combined Entrance Competitive Examination for admission

to various professional courses. "I simply couldn't afford the books to study from. If it wasn't for the 'Didi ki Library' I would not be in this course," Kumar says.

Started last year by the Bihar government, Community Library and Career Development Centres (CLCDC), across 100 blocks in the State, are known as 'Didi ki Libraries' (roughly translating to a library run by an older sister). The free-of-cost libraries, in 32 districts out of 38, are a boon for children who come from families who cannot afford books. The library offers free internet services and a quiet space for children to study and for the youth to meet and exchange ideas...

Source: [The Hindu, 21 Dec 2024](#)

Books reshaping reading habits in the digital era



HYDERABAD: An interesting panel discussion on the topic 'Books in the Digital Era' was held on Saturday during the 37th Hyderabad Book Fair. The discussion offered a nuanced look at the evolution of reading habits in a heavily digital driven world. The hour-long session, chaired by Prof. Vijay Kumar, saw readers and book lovers sharing personal stories, insights and some hard truths about how we consume stories today.

Aparna Thakur, who has been running a children's library for eight years, spoke about the challenges she faced during

the pandemic. "I started the library to encourage children to come and read books. When hit by the Covid-19 pandemic, I started an Instagram page, which received an amazing response. After the pandemic, more children began visiting after reading our reviews online," she said and added that parents and children still prefer physical books over digital ones...

Source: [Deccan Chronicle, 21 Dec 2024](#)

Century-old library awaits official celebrations



Kalaburagi: The city's iconic Central Library, established during the Nizam's era, is a testament to the city's educational legacy. Situated at Jagat Circle, the library is a significant cultural landmark. Researchers and avid readers are urging the govt to commemorate its historical relevance with an official celebration.

Kalaburagi, once ruled by the world's richest monarchs of the Asaf Jahi dynasty, made remarkable contributions to the field of education. Artist and researcher, Rehaman Patel, notes that particularly during the seventh Nizam, Mir Osman Ali Khan Bahadur (1911–1948)'s rule, the city transformed into an educational hub. "The Kutub Khane Aam, a public library, now known as the

Central Library, was inaugurated during the Nizam's era and continues to hold a special place," he added...

Source: [The Times of India, 20 Dec 2024](#)

As Bengal Library Association turns 100 today, a look at the flag bearer for libraries in the state



A century ago, some of India's most recognised political leaders came together to organise library movements, believing that the knowledge and education acquired and facilitated through these institutions would help their fight against the British. This thought led to the formation of the Bengal Library Association in 1925.

Today, as the association headquartered in Kolkata turns 100, its members are gearing up to host a series of events to celebrate its centenary year – and reflecting on the neglect and administrative apathy that West Bengal's oldest libraries have been experiencing for the last several years.

"We need to save our libraries," says Dr Joydeep Chanda, general secretary of the Bengal Library Association, and librarian at Gurudas College in Kolkata. Chanda points out that the library movement has considerably weakened over the past 12 years and approximately 50 per cent of the libraries in the state are fully or partly closed...

Source: *The Indian Express*, 20 Dec 2024

BHU's Central Library gets 700 more seats



Varanasi: In another significant step towards enhancing student facilities at the Banaras Hindu University, the iconic Sayaji Rao Gaekwad Central Library now boasts of having 700 additional student seats.

The addition has been made to upgrade the Central Library with state-of-the-art modern facilities under the Institution of Eminence – BHU, initiative of the govt of India.

With this addition, the total capacity of the library has increased by three-folds than to what it was in 2021. BHU VC Prof Sudhir Kumar Jain on Friday dedicated the newly constructed extension building of the central library.

The G+5 block will now have the seating capacity for over 700 students. Additionally, the library has more space to keep over 50,000 more books. The extension of the library is a part of ensuring state-of-the-art student amenities and strengthening the teaching-learning infrastructure at the university...

Source: *The Times of India*, 20 Dec 2024

Reduced hours for libraries and museums considered



Reducing the opening hours of libraries and museums is being considered by a council to cut costs.

Wakefield Council said the change would mean venues opening slightly later or earlier to try and minimise the impact on visitors.

Hannah Appleyard, the council's cabinet member for culture, leisure and sport said the authority needed to "make some changes to help us deliver a balanced budget".

Two surveys asking residents how they use the facilities will run until 14 March, before a final decision is made by councillors.

The authority said it had to review the opening hours "as the funding we're receiving from the government isn't keeping up with how much it costs to run the services".

One survey is focused on library services and asks how often people visit, what time of day they go, why they visit the library and which of the districts libraries they use most often.

The second survey focuses on the council's three museums and Pontefract Castle and asks how many times

residents have visited any of them in the last year, which they have visited most often and what time of day the visit took place....

Source: [BBC, 20 Dec 2024](#)

Delhi authority planning to turn community centres into libraries for students



The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) is launching a transformative initiative to convert under-utilized community centres across the city into modern libraries and reading rooms. The move comes in the wake of the tragic Rajendra Nagar flooding incident in July, which claimed three young lives at a private coaching centre's basement reading room.

Spurred by the incident, Delhi's Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena, who also chairs the DDA, directed officials to identify community centres in key student areas for the project...

Source: [India Today, 19 Dec 2024](#)

Can ONOS transform Indian research?

India's research ecosystem stands on the cusp of a seismic shift with the impending rollout of the One Nation, One Subscription (ONOS) scheme, a Rs 6,000-crore initiative aimed at dismantling the long-standing barriers to accessing global academic resources.



India's research ecosystem stands on the cusp of a seismic shift with the impending rollout of the One Nation, One Subscription (ONOS) scheme, a Rs 6,000-crore initiative aimed at dismantling the long-standing barriers to accessing global academic resources. Boasting the promise of providing 13,000 international journals to over 6,300 institutions and nearly 18 million researchers and students, ONOS seeks to upend the narrative of restricted knowledge, which has long hampered Indian academia.

Yet, amidst the applause, one cannot help but ask: can this scheme genuinely revolutionize the Indian research landscape, or will it remain another incomplete policy, leaving many behind? The promise of ONOS is indeed significant. For institutions that currently cannot afford subscriptions, this initiative has the potential to level the playing field. It aligns with India's growing aspirations to enhance its research output, which saw a 54 per cent rise between 2017 and 2022, more than double the global average of 22 per cent. India now ranks fourth globally in terms of research publication volume, producing over 1.3 million academic papers...

Source: [The Statesman, 09 Dec 2024](#)

**This issue has been compiled by the
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