

# ADINET e-News Digest

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## PAUSE & PONDER

I cannot control everything that happens to me;

I can only control the way I respond.

In my response is my power.

## Hearty Congratulations to Dr. H. Anil Kumar!



## In India, toddlers are starting to write computer codes before they can talk

In today's digital age, most children learn to swipe and click before they can speak coherently or walk. Smart phones & tablets are their digital pacifiers, companions & entertainers. It is but natural, then, that many parents want their children to learn how to create the very technologies that they are dependent on.

[Full Post](#)

## How public libraries can help prepare us for the future

For generations, libraries have helped people explore knowledge, information and culture. The invention of the public library meant more and more people got to use these collections and services. In the digital age, a public library can connect even the most remote community to networks of knowledge and information. Today's public libraries work to engage marginalized communities as users; pioneering projects like Townsville's Murri Book Club explore ways to make the library meaningful to Indigenous people. Despite all this, there is one area in which public libraries are underused. Libraries can also help plan for the future.

[Full Post](#)

## Transforming Healthcare With IT: THCIT-2019 at Hyderabad in Sep 2019

Transforming Healthcare with IT is the annual national conference and the largest healthcare conference and trade show in India organized by Apollo Telemedicine Networking Foundation.

The 9th edition of "Transforming Healthcare with IT" is scheduled to be held on 13-14 September' 2019 at The HICC, Hyderabad, India

More at <https://www.transformhealth-it.org>

## **Education Budget 2019: New NEP, Higher Education Commission, National Research Foundation and Study in India**

**Union Budget 2019 announced by FM Nirmala Sitharaman talked about initiatives to promote and reform the higher education in the country. Focus on NEP, NRF and Study in India.**

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, in her maiden budget speech has laid emphasis on the important of not only providing literacy but improving the quality of education. Union Budget 2019 laid down the roadmap for implementation for the new National Education Policy and has also provided a provision for setting up Higher Education Commission.

Further to the improvement of the higher education in the country, the FM in her speech proposed the setting up of the National Research Foundation. The aim of the NRF is to assimilate the various research funds and provide a consolidated platform for the youth. The infrastructure would focus on funding, coordinating and promoting the various research initiatives in the country.

The government also aims at improving the higher education standards in the country. To become a true hub for higher education innovation and research, Budget 2019 proposes to allocate 400 crores to the world class institutions initiative. This would in turn help the top educational institutes including the IITs and other universities to focus on effective research.

As for the aspirational lookout, the government in Budget 2019 called for the Study in India. The initiative would

focus on attracting foreign students to come and study in India, in turn promoting better diversity and calling to the country innovative thought and cultural amalgamation. The initiative is also expected to improve the revenue and provide funds to the educational institutes.

**Source | [Education Budget 2019: New NEP, Higher Education Commission, National Research Foundation and Study in India | Education News](#)**

## **27% Specially- Abled Children Aged Between 5-9 Years Have Never Been To School in India: UNESCO**

In India, one-fourth or 27% of specially-abled kids aged between 5-19 are not in school says a UNESCO report released on July 3. The report also says that nearly three-fourths of specially-abled five-year-olds are left out of the education system

1. According to a report by UNESCO and the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), only 61% children with disabilities between ages 5 and 19 attend any educational institution. The report is based on 2011 Census data.
2. Report states that 12% of disabled children had dropped out. 27% of the disabled children had never attended any educational institution at all.
3. The report has also noted that there are fewer girls with disabilities in school than boys.
4. Further, there are variations among various types of

disabilities. Only 20% of children with visual and hearing impairments had never been in school. However, 50% of children with multiple disabilities or mental illness never attended school

5. Right of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 mandates that every child with benchmark disability between the age group of 6 and 18 years shall have the right to free education.
6. It further states that Government funded educational institutions as well as the government recognized institutions will have to provide inclusive education to the children with disabilities.
7. The report notes that there is incoherence between RTE Act, 2009 and Disability Act 2016. The Right to Education Act mandates enrolment, but not the provision of resources needed for the actual education of a child with disabilities.
8. Thus, the report has recommended that there should be amendments to the RTE Act, 2009 to make it align with the Right of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.

**Source** | <http://factly.forumias.com/27-of-children-with-disabilities-have-never-been-to-school-unesco/>

### **5% custom duty being imposed on imported books**

To promote Indian Author & Local Publication Government had

introduced 5% Customs Duty imposed on imported books.

**Source** | **Union Budget 2019**  
**(5<sup>th</sup> July 2019)**

### **Maximum weight children should carry in school backpacks – Study**

Scientists have established that school children who use backpacks should avoid loads of more than 10% of their body weight -- and those who use trolleys, 20% of their body weight.

As an overall conclusion, the study corroborates that schoolchildren who use backpacks should avoid carrying loads greater than 10% of their body weight. Furthermore, in a new finding, when pulling a school backpack trolley, the child should avoid carrying any load greater than 20% of their body weight.

**Study Published at**  
| <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/07/190702112708.htm>

### **Story in numbers: The 'poor' state of public libraries in India There is one rural library for every 11,500 people, and one urban library for over 80,000 people**

The first public libraries Act, the Madras Public [Library](#) Act, was passed in 1948. Its goal was to introduce legal provisions for offering public [library](#) services, for the public and funded by the public

India's public [library](#) movement, which was pioneered by the likes of Maharaja Sayajirao III Gaekwad of Baroda, American library administrator William Alanson Borden, and mathematician and librarian S R Ranganathan, began in the late 19th century. The movement was part of

pre-Independence social movements for literacy development that took place in several states, such as Kerala and Andhra Pradesh.

After Independence, there have been a few government initiatives for public libraries, such as the [National Mission on Public Libraries](#) for improving school library services as part of five-year plans for education and assistance, and provision of grants by the Raja Rammohan Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF) for library programs aimed at training and development. A few public libraries in villages and talukas have also been given financial aid in the construction of buildings and upkeep of facilities. However, these programs have been ad-hoc and not administered with concerted efforts by the ministry of culture.

There were 70,817 libraries in rural areas and 4,580 in urban areas serving a population of more than 830 million and 370 million, respectively, according to the 2011 census where libraries were notified for the first time. These numbers roughly translate to one rural library for every 11,500 people, and one urban library for over 80,000 people.

However, there is no precise information on the functionality and level of service capabilities of these libraries—the rural libraries could be a room with a few books, while others could be running through the support of private donors or NGOs.

**Source | [Business Standard](#) | 30 June 2019**

**Digital detox for a day? Make it possible**

MUMBAI: SP Jain Institute of Management and Research (SPJIMR) in Andheri recently highlighted the need to reduce students' overdependence on smart phones by calling for a 'digital detox day' on campus. Students and staff were asked to switch off their mobile phones and laptops for one day and connect with each other without the use of technology.

The institute disconnected their campus WiFi for 10 hours and encouraged everyone to participate in discussions, sports activities and karaoke sessions. "The challenge to refrain from using any form of digital technology is a step in the right direction. We could always debate on finding better alternatives, but the problem of smart phone addiction is only going to worsen unless we act now," said Dhruv Bhola, a student of the institute.

"Technology is a positive force in our lives. However, many of us know there are aspects of addiction which intrude into our ability to have a deep and meaningful conversation and connection and can create excessive dependence on devices. The detox helps to make us aware of this dependence," said Ranjan Banerjee, dean, SPJIMR.

Taking a break from technology is a concept that city colleges have been adopting slowly.

Psychologist Seema Hingorrany calls digital dependence an "addiction" that most students are prone to, and which also affects all strata of society. "We see someone as young as a seven year-old to someone in their forties who cannot survive without their phones or laptops, and most don't

even realize it's an addiction," she said.

"Of late, many parents have agreed to sit for family-therapy sessions where both parents and children encourage each other to keep away from the internet, especially social media. It is important for educational institutes as well as parents to draw the line, and call for time-off."

Experts said youngsters behave aggressively or even resort to self-harm if parents snatch their devices away. "Youngsters form this compulsive behaviour for many reasons—loneliness being the main one. Many also use social media to feel wanted by peers," said Dr. Manoj Kumar Sharma, who runs the Service for Healthy Use of Technology (SHUT) clinic. Located at the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS) in Bengaluru, SHUT helps deal with technology-based addictions.

**Source | Hindustan Times | 8<sup>th</sup> July 2019**

### **Redefining libraries in digital world**

Inculcating reading habits and making libraries a vibrant place is the prime focus of the Delhi government. As part of the initiative, it is involving school teachers, librarians and the state government authorities. "We aim at breaking the misconception that a library is not a place for those who cannot read," said Swaha Sahoo, head, Parag Initiative, Tata Trusts on the sidelines of Children's Library Unconference held recently.

Parag, an initiative of Tata Trusts began supporting the publishing of literature in Indian languages in 2005. "We worked with non-profit publishers and sponsored the production of

books. In the last 10 years, we have supported more than 700 original books in 7-8 regional languages," said Sahoo.

Merely publishing books was not enough, it was important for children to have access to these. "We started working with organisations to promote children's libraries that offered books in multiple formats including audio, braille, animated, e-books etc. We developed a three-pronged model of sourcing, publishing and disseminating children's literature," added Sahoo while speaking to Education Times.

In order to train the educators and librarians, the trust also launched a seven months Library Educator's Course (LEC). "Now I have more knowledge of good literature, selection of books and making a rich library," said Chitra Singh, a government primary school teacher in Delhi who started her own library after completing the course. Parag has enabled 1000 libraries to involve as many as 40 million readers. The trust is also planning to engage the students on its digital library, Kitabet.

**Source | Times of India | 8<sup>th</sup> July 2019**

### **New education policy too good to be real, say teachers**

***According to the teachers, the policy states 'teachers will not be allowed to participate in any non-teaching activities.'***

**Mumbai:** Latest educational changes announced in the Union budget 2019-20 have irked the teaching fraternity. Teachers claim the new education policy is too good to be real, as the



measures are not practical, far from reality and difficult to implement.

According to the teachers, the policy states 'teachers will not be allowed to participate in any non-teaching activities (such as cooking mid-day meals or participating in vaccination campaigns) during the school hours that could affect their teaching capacities. Sujita Menon, a teacher, said, "We don't have sufficient staff. We are compelled to help other staff for extra-curricular non-academic activities. The government is not hiring sufficient staff. We have to help each other in basic activities."

In addition, the teachers revealed the Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.) course is not considered as the basic requirement for jobs. JitendraTadvi, another teacher, said, "The policy states the four-year B.Ed. will be a predominant way to become a teacher. But, this course is not considered during the recruitment. Teachers are hired on a temporary basis without a thorough background check of their educational qualification."

Currently, the curriculum follows a framework of 5-3-3-4 design -- five years of foundational stage (three years of pre-primary and class 1 and 2), three years of preparatory stage (Class 3 to 5), three years of middle stage (class 6 to 8), and four years of secondary stage (class 9 to 12).

"The measures in the policy are difficult to implement. These must benefit children, teachers and society at large, and the curriculum should be based on the developmental and learning abilities of the students."

**Source | [Free Press | 9<sup>th</sup> July 2019](#)**

## **Books at home may make kids smarter**

**Source | [Free Press | 9<sup>th</sup> July 2019](#)**

## **Government's Far-reaching Reforms to Improve Quality and Access to Education**

In a bid to provide quality education to all, the Government of India has launched several initiatives in last few years. These initiatives are related to technological advancements, improved curriculum, better infrastructure, teachers' training and others. **Akash Tomer of Elets News Network (ENN)** explores about some of these initiatives.

The Government of India has initiated major educational reforms aimed to improve the quality and access to education across the country. Setting up smart classes in government schools, emphasis on teachers training new premier higher education institutions have been opened across the country, interaction with globally renowned edu- leaders, opening new higher education institutes across the country are among many such initiatives that have helped the education sector to better the pedagogical approaches, curriculum and learning outcomes among students. Few of the initiatives are as follows:

### **SWAYAM MOOCs Portal:**

Study Webs of Active learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM) is an indigenous Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) portal that provides high quality education – anyone, anytime, anywhere at no cost- has been made operational. To make easy access of good quality educational content to even remotest part of the country, satellite communication has

been used and 32 DTH channels have been made functional, under SWAYAM Prabha program courses have been made available and more than 33 lakh users have registered on this forum.

**National Digital Library (NDL):**

The initiative of Ministry of Human Resource Development is one of the largest virtual repositories of learning resources with a single window search facility. With over 15 million digital books and journals, the facility has been used by over 31 lakh learners.

**Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA):**

It is a new initiative to make use the knowledge base in the higher educational institutions for plugging technology gaps in the rural areas. It will help to boost technology usage in rural India by customizing the same as per needs.

**Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya National Mission on Teachers and Teaching (PMMNMTT):**

Launched in December, 2014, the scheme is aimed to address the issues of supply of qualified teachers, attracting talent into teaching profession, raising the quality teaching in schools and colleges.

**Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN):**

The initiative launched on 30th November 2015 to garner best international knowledge and experience into the country's higher education. GIAN is supposed to enable Indian students & faculty to interact with best academic and industry experts from across the world. So far, 1,075 courses have been conducted in which more than 40,000 students gained enriched academic inputs and knowledge.

**IMPRINT India:**

It is an effort to direct research in the premier institutions into areas of social relevance. 10 such domains have been identified which could substantially impact the living standards of the rural areas. More than 2,600 research proposals have been submitted by scientists in these areas.

**Uchchtar Avishkar Yojana (UAY):**

The scheme has been launched to promote industry specific need- based research so as to keep up the competitiveness of Indian industry in the global market. It is proposed to invest Rs 250 crores every year on identified projects. The Industry is expected to contribute 25 % of the project cost.

**Prime Minister Research Fellows (PMRF):**

The scheme is launched to support 1000 bright undergraduate students every year, for direct admission in the research programs in the reputed institutions like IISc, IITs. The fellowship carries a lot of social recognition and it ranges from Rs 70,000 to 80,000 per month for five year period.

**Smart India Hackathon:**

The initiative is to promote innovation in the students by encouraging out of the box solutions for common problems faced by the society at large. In the first edition held in 2017, more than 40,000 students have participated to solve more than 600 problems. In 2018, the scope has been expanded to Hardware area also.

**National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF):**



This is the biggest ranking exercise launched in 2015, in which more than 3,500 institutions participated. The first edition of India Rankings 2016 was released in April, 2016. The India Rankings 2018, the 3rd edition, will be released on 3rd April, 2018. The India Rankings is one of the biggest efforts for bringing in accountability and transparency in the higher educational institutions. The ranks are released in the various categories of institutions namely Universities, Engineering, Management, Pharmacy etc.

#### **Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA):**

It has been approved by the Cabinet for creation of a fund with government equity of Rs. 1000 crores, to give a big push for building up robust higher educational institutions. The HEFA would finance the academic and research infrastructure projects through a 10 year loan. It is expected to spend Rs. 1,00,000 crore in next 5 years, for creation of high quality infrastructure in premier education institutions.

#### **RashtriyaMadhyamikShikshaAbhiyan (RMSA):**

It was launched by the Government of India in March, 2009 envisaging inter-alia provision of a secondary school within a reasonable distance of any habitation and to improve quality of education imparted at secondary level by making all secondary schools conform to prescribed norms, removing gender, socio-economic and disability barriers etc. In 2013, secondary education the schemes of ICT, vocational education, Girls Hostel and IEDSS were subsumed under the umbrella of RMSA. Under the scheme, 12,682 new schools and 37,799

existing schools for strengthening have been sanctioned so far.

#### **E-pathshala:**

It has been developed by NCERT (National Council for Educational Research and Training) for showcasing and disseminating all educational e-resources including textbooks, audio, video, periodicals and a variety of other print and non-print materials. So far, 3,062 audios and videos, 650 e-books (e-pubs) and 504 flip books have been made available on the portal and mobile app.

**Source|** <https://digitallearning.eletsonline.com/2019/07/governments-far-reaching-reforms-to-improve-quality-and-access-to-education/>

#### **Gandhipedia - Online Repository about Mahatma Gandhi. Now, Artificial Intelligence to decode Gandhian literature**

Ahmedabad: Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced formation of 'Gandhipedia,' an online repository about Mahatma Gandhi, during her budget speech, citing the initiative as a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi in 150th birth anniversary this year.

The project comprises of a team consisting of experts from IIT Kharagpur (IIT-K) and IIT Gandhinagar (IIT-Gn). Three primary members of the team include professor Animesh Mukherjee from the Complex Networks Research Group (CNeRG), IIT-K, as primary investigator (PI), professor Mayank Singh from IIT-Gn Lingo group as co-primary investigator (Co-PI) and Dr T S Kumbar, librarian, both from IIT-Gn. The project is supported by National Council of Science Museums (NSCM) under the ministry of culture.

“Gandhipedia is an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-enabled tool to access the works of the Mahatma Gandhi in a completely indexed and digitised form. It will support natural language queries, strong visualisation support to observe how the social network of the Mahatma changed over his lifetime spatially as well as temporally,” said Professor Mukherjee.

In run-up to the 150th birth anniversary celebration, Gandhi Heritage Portal (GHP) has already put a huge database on Gandhian literature in digital format. The repository includes 100 volumes of Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi. Professor Mayank Singh explains that how Gandhipedia plans to take the work forward.

“We are leveraging AI for searching, indexing and visualization of data based on the text. Result of the initiative can be answer to queries such as how Mahatma interacted with different personalities over a period of

time, how many times a specific person or place finds mention in the texts, preparing graphs on the basis of

time and location,” said Professor Singh. “We are collaborating with various Gandhian institutes for the same as a number of texts come under copyright purview.”

The project also aims at digitizing resources such as doctoral works which are not included in conventional Gandhian literature. “The end-result would be fully-searchable texts like Google books,” he added. The budget or duration of the project is not yet fixed, the researchers aim at long-term association to take Mahatma Gandhi to the new audience in new format. The entire database generated would be available in public domain, added researchers.

#### **Source**

| <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com>

**Information for this issue has been provided by Mr. Pralhad Jadhav, Senior Librarian, Khaitan & Co. Mumbai**