

# ADINET e-News Digest

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## PAUSE & PONDER

“This is my simple religion. No need for temples. No need for complicated philosophy. Your own mind, your own heart is the temple. Your philosophy is simple kindness.”

- Dalai Lama

## ADINET App:-

### To provide ADINET Information on your finger tips

With the advancement of the mobile technology and the rise in the use of smart devices, people are always connected with data without any physical limitations. Also, the use of library resources are not an exception.

Ahmedabad Library Network (ADINET) has been providing many services and information to their members and also to other users. From now onwards ADINET will provide information through their official Android App.

Following are the features that are provided through the Android App:

1. About ADINET which includes Introduction, Objectives, Names of Office Bearers
2. ADINET Union Catalogue
3. Services of ADINET
4. Membership Information
5. Publications
  - Newsletters
  - CuCoLis (Current Contents of LIS)

- e-News Digest
- Occupational Health Alert
- ICMR-NIOH (Current Contents)

6. Events (List of upcoming and past events)

7. e-Resource (Subject wise free e-resources)

8. Directory of Libraries & Information Centers in Gujarat

9. Life Members (ADINET Life Members list)

ADINET will update this App from time to time to provide better services to the user.

The Android App is developed on the Flutter, it is Google's UI toolkit for crafting beautiful, natively compiled applications for mobile in single codebase.

**Official URL:** <http://bit.ly/adinetapp>

## Libraries Turn Over a New Leaf

Book smart College are doing away with old rules. Silent zones are becoming hubs for networking and discussion, digital archives allow students unlimited access, there are even phone-friendly zones

The SIES College in Sion has revamped its library to include cyber cell research cubicles for students, and is digitising old and rare books. TISS's library has been divided into designated zones for reading / research, socialising, and even phone use. The library at IIT-Bombay has a spacious lounge where students get

together, network and brainstorm. The library also hosts creative writing workshops, storytelling sessions and book exhibitions.

As libraries on Indian campuses adapt in an effort to stay relevant, they're becoming unlikely spaces for students to network and socialize too. These new hybrid offerings call themselves workstations — you go there to browse or draw on reference books, but also to network, make friends, attend events, or just hang out and chat. For one thing, the no-talking rule has been lifted in institutes such as TISS, IIT and SIES.

"We spend a lot of our free time here. It's no longer a space of prohibition on phones and working alone and in silence," says Jit Hazarika, 28, a second-year PhD student at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS).

TISS has the four-storey, air-conditioned Sir Dorabji Tata Memorial library that combines physical books with digital volumes, a conference room within often hosts speakers and events. Students say it's so comfortable, they often feel they have nowhere to go when it shuts in the evenings.

The cyber cell within the library helps us research a range of topics at a touch. We have academic talks held in the library and also events where international universities come to promote themselves and reach out to students."

A library should be a collaborative learning space where all the academic

needs of the students are met, says TISS librarian Satish Kanamadi.

"We have designated the space in zones—there's a discussion zone, a silent study zone, a mobile-friendly zone, etc, to help students use the library based on their needs. And we're happy to see that this creative approach to the space and to our services has turned it into a preferred place for students to socialize and network."

The two-storey Central library and lounge at the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IIT-B) is a meeting place too. It's designed to be that way, with comfy couches rather than old-school table-chair formats.

Students also bond over the events and workshops held in the Indian Institute of Technology- Bombay's (IIT-B) library.

"There are creative writing workshops, storytelling sessions, book exhibitions, essay and quiz competitions and other activities, all organized in the library," says chief librarian Manju Naika.

"We want the library to be a neutral point where like-minded students can meet, network and collaborate, since education and research are collaborative in nature."

The South Indian Education Society (SIES) College of Arts, Commerce and Science has revamped its entire library, added digital volumes and new 'cyber cells'.

"When we revamped, we made it more colourful and inviting. We no longer

restrict the use of cyber cells to research students only. Students can now issue as many reference books as they want. It made no sense to have a limit of three per student, when we really want them to read,” says Vice Principal Rashmi Bhure.

The changes, students say, have made them feel more welcome. “A library is indeed one place where I am sure to find my tribe. In the last year we usually witness an influx of students from colleges across Mumbai.

**Source | Hindustan Times | 18<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

### **Online Convert (Audio, Video, E-Books, Documents, Compression Archives & Web Services)**

Given the myriad digital standards that are available today, you might need to convert a file from one format to another before you upload it to a web service, send it via email, or even open it on your computer.

#### **This is where Online Convert comes in.**

This free service lets you convert files from one format to another without installing any software. The website is home to converters for audio (with support for 10 formats), video (12 formats), images (12 formats), e-books (9 formats), documents (9 formats), compression archives (4 formats), and web services like Facebook, Instagram and Twitter (10 formats).

Bookmark this resource for its utility value and for all the granular controls it offers you for each file conversion.

**Source | [www.online-convert.com](http://www.online-convert.com)**

### **Maharashtra board Class X e-learning app's beta version hits right note**

**The app is among a slew of initiatives taken by the MSBSE's e-Balbharti department to create its own e-learning platform to provide learning material at affordable rates to students.**

The Maharashtra State Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education (MSBSE)'s first-of-its-kind e-learning app has been downloaded more than 550 times over the past 12 days.

The app is among a slew of initiatives taken by the MSBSE's e-Balbharti department to create its own e-learning platform to provide learning material at affordable rates to students. Presently, the app's beta version has been launched for class 10 students in English and Marathi for free. The final version of the app will be launched in December, when students will begin final preparations for the board exams.

The final version will be offered at a nominal charge of Rs 25 per student for all subjects.

Students can also register on the Balbharti website to access the app's desktop version. Modules such as activities, explanations, introductions

and quizzes have been created for each chapter of the subject.

“After considering suggestions, we will launch the app’s final version. We expect teachers, students and parents to register on the app.

Our target is to register five lakh users before December,” said Yogesh Limaye, IT head, e-Balbharti department.

The department has also set up help lines to get feedback from users. So far, the app has received mostly positive reviews. “.. Chapter wise animations are really good and explanatory. The audio is very clear,” a user commented on the app page on [Google Play Store](#).

**Source | [Indian Express](#) | 18<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

### **Managing Innovation**

Analytics can really drive the creation of recombination or combining a diverse set of existing technologies in a new way.

Each individual technology already exists, but how do we recombine them in some ways to create a new innovation? Or reuse something that we know solved one problem, but apply it to a different domain?

Analytics is really great at finding these linkages or hidden patterns we may not easily observe by mining through a ton of data. That is really the key to driving decentralized innovation for several reasons. Decentralization’s advantage is that there are small

clusters working on a problem, so they really know what the problem is in that domain.

They see what exactly they can do to solve that problem more closely than a centralized structure, which is bigger but much more coordinated. A decentralized structure lacks the coordination. They know very well what they do, but they don’t know what other people are doing. Centralized structures know what everyone is doing, but they don’t know details for each individual problem in the domain, unless they have the capability to comb through lots and lots of data finding hidden patterns.

That’s exactly the disadvantage that decentralized structures have. In that sense, decentralization does not easily find other people’s work. Analytics finds a way to cull through that and find you a new combination, a new way of solving your problem that you may not have easily found without analytics.

**Source | [Economic Times](#) | 19<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

### **India: Meet the woman behind the Braille converter**

Dr. Jariwala was recently given the Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Lifetime Achievement award

When Indian professor Dr. Nikisha Jariwala set out to do her PHD, she knew it had to be on a topic that would benefit society. In 2013, the then 30-year-old set out to combine her love of technology with her passion for helping

people. And so the transliteration project was born.

Four years on, the Asst. Professor of Smt. Tanuben and Dr. Manubhai Trivedi college of Information Science, in Surat, had become a pillar of support for visually impaired people across her home state of Gujarat.

Her yet-unnamed model, she explains in an interview with Gulf News, takes multi lingual text and converts it into Braille, a system of touch-based reading and writing, and speech.

“Within multilingual text I have considered three languages: Gujarati, my regional language; Hindi, which is my national language; and English, which is an international language,” says Jariwala.

“This model was again divided into four parts [during development]: plain multilingual text to braille; mathematical text [such as equations] to Braille; drawing shapes [like the triangle, rectangle, etc.] to Braille. And the fourth part is text to speech, within which if we provide the multilingual text to my model, then the text can also be converted into speech, so [visually impaired] people can also hear that audio.”

**Source | <https://gulfnews.com/>**

### **Changes notified in Apprenticeship Rules**

The government has notified changes in Apprenticeship Rules (1992) that seeks to increase skilled manpower in

the country, and raise monetary compensation of apprentices. The Apprenticeship (Amendment) Rules 2019 seeks to raise the hiring limit of apprentices to 15% of the total strength of an establishment, and their stipend up to ₹9,000 per month. It has also lowered the size-limit of an establishment with a mandatory obligation to engage apprentices on an optional basis from 40 to 30, and reduced the size-limit of an establishment wanting to engage apprentices, from 6 to 4.

Union Minister for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Mahendra Nath Pandey said significant changes had been made in the Apprenticeship Act, whereby minimum stipends had been doubled to between ₹ 5,000 and ₹9,000 per month. As per the new rules, notified with effect from September 25, the minimum amount of stipend prescribed ranges from ₹ 5,000 per month — for school pass outs between Class 5th and 9th — to ₹9,000 per month to graduate or degree apprentices in any stream.

**Source | [The Hindu](#) | 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2019**

### **Scholarship scheme expanded**

A group of students from Indian Institutes of Technology, Indian Institutes of Management and National Institutes of Technology have expanded the scope of their “career-shaping” examination and scholarship to urban centres in the Northeast.

The group from these three institutes had started the “one nation, one exam” National Level Common Entrance Examination (NLCEE) for Classes IX to XII this year. About 22,000 students appeared for the first exam on March 31 conducted at 62 centres across India.

“This time, we have included all tier 2 and tier 3 cities in the Northeast as our examination centres for better penetration and opportunity to underprivileged students in geographically-challenged areas. We are also offering an additional scholarship of up to ₹60,000 to deserving students, besides an opportunity to visit research and development centres such as Indian Space Research Organization and IITs for 3-15 days,” NLCEE’s overall coordinator Ullas M.S., an NIT Karnataka product, told *The Hindu*.

**Source | [The Hindu](#) | 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2019**

### **A new tool to aid visually impaired browse the web**

**People with** visual impairments now have a new voice assistant that allows them to access web content quickly and effortlessly from smart speakers and similar devices.

Researchers from the University of Waterloo have found a way to merge voice assistants with screen readers to create a tool called ‘Voice Exploration, Retrieval and Search’ (VERSE) that makes web searches easier. The primary input method for VERSE is

voice, so users can say “next”, “previous”, “go back” or “go forward”.

VERSE can be paired with an app, which runs on a smart phone or a smart watch. “Our prototype adds screen reader-like capabilities to virtual assistants and allows other devices, such as smart watches to serve as input accelerators to smart speakers,” said study researcher Alexandra Vtyurina.

“At the outset, VERSE resembles other virtual assistants as the tool allows people to ask a question and have it answered verbally,” Vtyurina said. VERSE is differentiated by what happens next. If people need more information, they can use VERSE to access other search verticals, for example, news, facts and related searches and visit any article appearing as a search result.

**Source | [Economic Times](#) | 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2019**

### **Six tonnes of newspaper gets converted to notebooks**

**GAINING FROM WASTE: Blessing in disguise for underprivileged students**

**Source | [Daily News Analysis](#) | 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2019**

### **Over 3 crore pages digitized till August this year by National Mission for manuscripts**

**These pages are now part of the Digital Manuscripts Library of India, a searchable collection set up to allow for easy access to**



## **manuscripts, predominantly in Indian languages.**

This includes 2,99,50,000 pages in June, 3,03,50,000 pages in July and 3,06,65,000 pages in August as per sources from the ministry of culture. In addition to that, the Mission has also catalogued 43,41,677 manuscripts till August this year.

Some of these manuscripts are from the Bhubaneshwar's Orissa State Museum, Lucknow's Jain Manuscripts, Kashmir's Allama Iqbal Library, Guwahati's ShankardevaKalakshetra, Pondicherry's French Institute of Pondicherry, Delhi's JamiaHamdard, Patna Museum, and Kurukshetra University, among others.

These pages are now part of the Digital Manuscripts Library of India, a searchable collection set up to allow for easy access to manuscripts, predominantly in Indian languages. Under the Mission, manuscripts of science, arts, culture, music, traditional medicine, vedas, tantras and other disciplines will be easily accessible to everyone.

The Mission has also developed an app and software under which meta-data can be entered online to be uploaded in the cloud server along with digital images which will be interlinked.

The Mission, which was initiated in 2003 with an intent to locate, document, conserve and disseminate knowledge about India's manuscripts, had started with the digitization of 5

cache of manuscripts. These manuscripts, some of which are rare ones, cover a variety of themes, textures and aesthetics, scripts, languages, calligraphies, illuminations and illustrations.

**Source | [News Headlines, English News, Today Headlines, Top Stories | Hindustan Times](#)**

## **UGC Launches 'Life Skills' Curriculum in Colleges for undergraduate courses across the country- From How to Use Google Search to Pranayama**

**A UGC official said often students do not know the difference between a curriculum vitae (CV), resume and a bio-data. Writing a good resume is also a life skill that every student must learn before entering the professional world.**

Ethics and etiquettes of social media, how to use Google search better, yoga and pranayama and resume writing are part of the "Jeevan Kaushal" curriculum. The program, which carries eight credit points, can be accommodated in any semester and is aimed at inculcating emotional and intellectual competencies in students and develop verbal and non-verbal communication skills.

"There have to be some ethics and etiquettes of social media and the curriculum will teach them the same. There is also a module on how to use Google search better," a senior UGC official told PTI.



"What will learners gain if they practice love and compassion? What will they lose if they don't? What are the listening skills one must practice as a team member and how different they should be as a team leader? All these skills the students should be trained in," the official said. Personal skills like empathizing and trusting colleagues for improving interpersonal relations, projecting a good personal image to have a positive impact on one's career, networking and negotiation skills besides personal and professional moral codes of conduct are part of the curriculum.

The curriculum has three electives — integral human being, yoga and pranayama and gratitude.

While the first elective talks about obligation to self, parents and society besides a module on living with others with their acceptance, the module on gratitude is about duty versus rights."The module on yoga talks about difference between yoga and pranayama and their inter-relatedness. What should be the asanas performed before examination or a presentation? All these things are listed in the curriculum," the official said.

"The curriculum has been developed by an expert committee with an aim to support our graduates to unlock and discover their true potential and making them social responsive citizens," the official added.

Source | <https://www.news18.com/>

**AICTE strategy to improve employability of engineering students**

New Delhi, Sep 24 (IANS) The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has put in place a multi-pronged approach to improve the employability of engineering students besides empowering them to become entrepreneurs and job creators.

Anil Sahasrabudhe, Chairman, AICTE, told IANS that several reform measures and steps have been taken to improve the overall quality of technical education such as regular revision of curriculum and faculty development program in niche areas like Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), robotics, 3D printing, block chain, cyber security, cloud computing, data science, AR-VR, mandatory internship and innovation cells etc.

He said some other steps taken such as examination reforms and student induction program are work in progress but are in the right direction to further improve the level of technical institutes.

A major challenge has been the proliferation of colleges from late 1990s to 2012 when more than 2,500 new colleges were opened in technical disciplines. Of these, around 1,000 were engineering colleges, 1,000 management schools and the rest in various disciplines like polytechnic, architecture and pharma, among others. As a result, the number of colleges went up from 8,000 to 10,400.

The problem in employability of students has occurred due to the mushrooming of such colleges and institutes. On an average, half of the seats in these colleges are lying vacant. Some of the good ones have a rate of 90-100 per cent seats being filled while others have a rate of just 10 per cent, which takes the average to 50-60 per cent.

Sahasrabudhe said that the industry has been pointing out that employable engineers are not available in good numbers, and the AICTE is working to nudge colleges so that at least the basic requirements of the industry can be adhered to and met. He added that curriculum changes, faculty training, teacher certification and introduction of new technological courses have been boosting the level of employability.

In examination reforms, the AICTE Chairman said that rote learning or memory-based learning has been reduced to only 30 per cent of the examination question papers. A set of model examination papers in different disciplines has been drafted and provided on the AICTE website as well as in several workshops being conducted for faculty members.

Directives have been issued to the universities, Vice Chancellors, Deans and controllers of examination to adopt the examination reforms. Around 10,000 teachers have been trained, but it will take time to percolate to the 6 lakh teachers.

"We have to be realistic, nothing will change in one day," Sahasrabudhe

said. The student induction program focuses on creating a collaborative environment for students from different backgrounds, and promoting a vibrant student-teacher relationship, apart from building confidence and passion for learning.

To prevent students from being cheated by unscrupulous companies claiming to provide employable short courses, the AICTE on the advise of the Ministry of Human Resource Development is creating a platform, "National Educational Alliance for Technology" (NEAT), inviting tech companies offering various guided employable courses and soft skills using AI.

Since these companies shall be selected based on blind reviews and vetted by the AICTE, they are required to provide free courses for 25 per cent deserving students based on their total enrolment."This is likely to be a game changer, providing opportunity and connect between new age tech startups and desirous students," Sahasrabudhe said.

**Source | [Outlook India Magazine: Latest news today, news analysis, opinion on India, world, sports, entertainment](#)**

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