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PAUSE & PONDER

“Never say ‘NO’, Never say ‘I CANNOT’, for you are infinite. All the POWER is within you. You CAN DO anything.”

— Swami Vivekananda

Wishes for a very Happy
Makarsankranti 2021!!
Happy Uttarayan to all!!
Wear a Mask, Stay Safe!!

Readers Please Note

Follow the “Title” of each News to
continue to Read further

**Jayant Meghani (1938-2020):
Remembering the meticulous
bookseller of Bhavnagar**



Late Shri Jayantbhai Meghani (1938-2020)

In 1972, a young librarian named Jayant Meghani started a bookshop named Prasar in the city of Bhavnagar. Located on western coastline of the Gulf of Cambay near the historic port of Ghogha, it was once the capital of a large princely state with its own publishing tradition and printing infrastructure...



Source: [Scroll.in, 19 Dec 2020](#)

**Boats, Bread, and Biblioburros:
Unusual Libraries around the World**



Libraries have existed for thousands of years, preserving knowledge and entertainment for multiple generations. Humans are nothing if not resourceful, and the strange and unusual kinds of libraries we've come up with over the centuries show just how dedicated we are to collecting, archiving, and disseminating information. We've created libraries of a multitude of different subjects (and objects), and set them up in all kinds of unexpected places. Here are some of my favourite examples of just how flexible and adaptable the concept of 'the library' can be, and how we've ensured that many people have access to books and information...

Source: [Book Riot, 11 Jan 2021](#)

**Open access: new science-tech
policy**



Might science in its true form stand a chance in India after all? In a welcome move, the Centre has put forth for discussion a draft science, technology and innovation policy under which it would buy in bulk subscriptions of all important scientific journals around the world and make their content freely accessible in India. This move could have positive and far-reaching implications for the pursuit of science and education in the country. For one, publicly-funded research will become legally available to students, members of the scientific community as well as other citizens, a privilege that was hitherto hard to come by given the prohibitive costs of science journals. There are reportedly over 3,000-4,000 high-impact scientific journals, most of which are so expensive that they become the single-biggest item of cost for even prominent institutes...

Source: [The Telegraph, 11 Jan 2021](#)

Browse, borrow, read: Lining up for libraries



Protesters at Singhu border are enjoying spending their leisure time

reading these days, thanks to open libraries set up by university students or NGOs from Punjab. The temporary libraries, which offer an array of books in Hindi, English and Punjabi languages, have become quite popular among the protesters. Visitors can get the books issued for up to five days free of cost. Some of the libraries have small reading areas too...

Source: [Tol, 10 Jan 2021](#)

A year of reading dangerously: in 2021, I resolve to read more challenging books



I don't set myself quantitative reading targets. I read as I live, compulsively and without much planning, which means that I average out at about a hundred books a year, mostly fiction. In terms of sheer mass I do fine, it's just that I often remember almost nothing about them once I've finished. I read a lot, but very poorly. This has never been more evident than in 2020, when my tendency to either read nothing or to binge thoughtlessly was crystallised...

Source: [The Guardian, 08 Jan 2021](#)

How India's publishing industry coped with the pandemic year



Publishing in India saw several challenges in 2020 due to the covid-19 pandemic but focus on online sales and making the best use of various digital platforms helped in promotion of books and keep authors in the public eye, say publishers.

With zero sales for almost three months, many had to trim their publishing list drastically. However, publishers adapted and actively looked for trends to cater to the subjects their readers would find useful and engaging.

New and innovative ways of marketing and selling books also became a part of the year gone by which saw people reading more...

Source: [Mint Lounge, 06 Jan 2021](#)

Lockdown made our library better

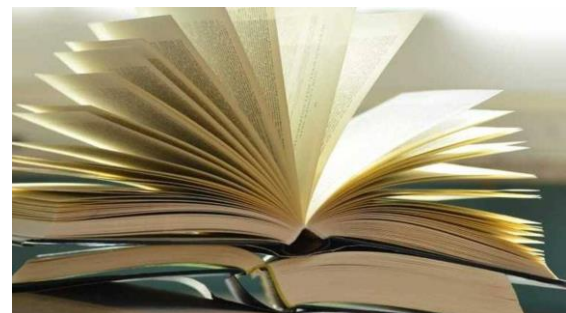


My name is Marion Tessier and I work at Kingston Libraries.

This year has been really stressful but also very exciting. I had the opportunity to use skills I developed before but never got to use for concrete projects, as well as learning new skills and discovering new tools and resources...

Source: [The Bookseller, 06 Jan 2021](#)

Govt proposes to buy bulk subscriptions of all scientific journals, provide free access to all



In an ambitious move to make scientific knowledge and data available to all, the government has proposed an open data policy that will make information generated by all publicly funded research, including its results, freely accessible to everyone.

More significantly, the government has also proposed to buy bulk subscriptions of all the important scientific journals across the world, and provide everyone in India free access to them. The proposals have been made in the draft Science, Technology and Innovation Policy that was released to the public on New Year's Day for comments and suggestions...

Source: [The Indian Express, 01 Jan 2021](#)

Room to Read's journey towards building foundational literacy

As they say, a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. It's a similar story with Room to Read that launched its operations in India in 2003 as one of the very few children's education programs in India developing both literacy skills and reading habits. Ever since, the initiative has gained momentum and is today the largest operating region for the organization...

Source: [Mumbai Mirror, 30 Dec 2020](#)

Walking librarian — the Kerala woman who distributes over 500 books a month on foot



For as long as I can remember, reading has been one of my greatest joys. The way authors build a world through their writing and manage to capture a reader's imagination never fails to amaze me. I believe that reading stays in our minds far longer than what we see...

Source: [The Print, 25 Dec 2020](#)

Visions of Success: Academic Libraries in a Post COVID-19 World

Academic libraries have been undergoing transformation. In response to student and faculty needs, libraries have moved from physical spaces valued for their collections and

research support to full-service research and student success hubs. COVID-19 has both accelerated these changes and, in some cases, upended them. The pandemic has resulted in increased use of, and reliance on, digital collections, and more interest in self-service and online programming. The in-person reference interview and the learning commons as a physical one stop shop are on hiatus, though the need for those services remains...

Source: [Library Journal, 16 Dec 2020](#)

How the founders of community libraries for children are raising money during the pandemic



If you follow The Community Library Project on social media, or even if you've chanced across Michael Creighton's poignant essay for this series in August, you'd know that this year has been a particularly difficult one for this citizen-led free library project. To navigate through 2021, to raise funds in order to rebuild two of their four libraries in Delhi-NCR, to run their remotely conducted Reading Fluency programmes and to sustain their online WhatsApp library, Duniya Sabki, TCLP is organising a fundraiser, the Free Library Festival 2020...

Source: [Scroll.in, 14 Dec 2020](#)

**This issue has been compiled by the
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