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## PAUSE & PONDER

*“Nothing in life is to be feared; it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less.”*

— Marie Curie

*\*Readers Please Note\**

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

### Libraries adapt during pandemic

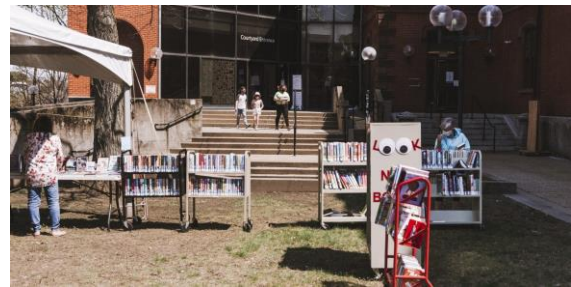


Local libraries are often known for their large selections of reading material, study tools, activities, and more. Community members and students often rely on libraries to gain access to valuable resources and information that they may have a difficult time getting elsewhere. This access was not stalled by the COVID-19 pandemic. Rather, local libraries have had “to evolve as the world evolves,” and many libraries have been completely flourishing during this time.

Jennifer Rogers, branch manager at the Jonesville Public Library, is a firm believer in the idea that libraries are highly essential and adaptable, even during uncertain times. She remarked, “Even though there’s some people out there that may think libraries are a thing of the past — they’re not. We’re still vital to the community”...

Source: [The Tribune, 20 April 2021](#)

### Despite Pandemic, Public Libraries Keep Communities Engaged



Over the last two decades, the explosion of digital media and e-books — coupled with massive budget cuts — have had many fearing for the future of public libraries.

But the COVID-19 pandemic has changed things.

Peabody Institute Library Director Cate Merlin understands all too well the evolving role libraries have taken on during the global public health crisis.

Since last year, Merlin and her team have launched a host of new programs and services at the city’s three library branches, all of which are intended to help fill community needs during an unprecedented time...

Source: [itemlive.com, 20 April 2021](#)

### Mysore University professor launches campaign to collect books for a public library that burnt down



On April 9, miscreants burnt an informally set up public library that was being managed by 62-year-old Syed Isaaq in the Rajiv Nagar area of

Mysuru. Isaaq had set up the library ten years ago and had accumulated a collection of 11,000 books. His objective was to help inculcate the reading habit among people as well as encourage them to learn Kannada. Nearly 85 per cent of the books were in Kannada, while the rest were in English and Urdu. According to Isaaq, the library also contained over hundreds of copies of the Bhagavad Gita, the Quran and the Bible. The Mysuru Police arrested a 35-year-old man on April 18 after CCTV footage revealed that he had flung a lit matchstick while in an inebriated condition...

Source: [Frontline, 20 April 2021](#)

### Why Gujarati publishing now is a story of tragic realism in the time of the pandemic



In 2020, as India began to unlock after four phases of nationwide lockdown, I sent a copy of my Gujarati translation of Arun Kolatkar's Kala Ghoda Poems to a bibliophile friend and waited for three days, after the courier service confirmed the delivery, to hear from him. That long silence of someone whom I had known to be a voracious reader, one who would stay up all night to finish a book, clearly intrigued me, so much so that I could not help enquiring with him on phone...

Source: [Scroll.in, 18 Apr 2021](#)

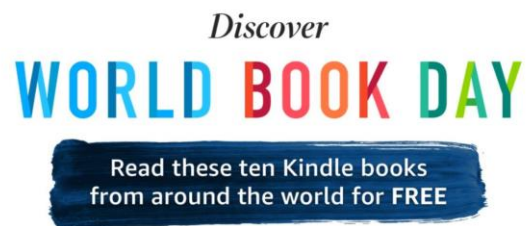
### This Kerala librarian serves knowledge at doorstep



Thanks to KP Radhamani, a 64-year-old 'walking librarian' based in Mothakkara in Vellamunda, scores of women preparing for competitive tests in the region have been able to get books at Rs 5 per month. She has been distributing books to women and the elderly since 2012. Braving the hilly terrain, she walks around four kilometres daily carrying a basket of books. But these days, she is just that bit careful because of the pandemic, and has cut down her 'coverage' by half...

Source: [The New Indian Express, 18 Apr 2021](#)

### Amazon offering 10 free e-books to celebrate World Book Day



<https://www.amazon.com/article/read-the-world-2021>)

Amazon is offering 10 free Kindle e-books from around the world, to celebrate World Book Day on April 23. Users who have an Amazon account will be able to download the e-books and will need a Kindle, Amazon Fire tablet, or the Kindle app to read the e-books. In case you are wondering, users do not require an Amazon Prime membership to be able to download the e-books...

Source: *The Indian Express*, 17 Apr 2021

### Libraries and Pandemics: Past and Present



In 1918, World War I was coming to a close, and widespread changes were afoot. It was in some ways a moment similar to today: rapid technological development brought sweeping changes to workplaces and homes. Fights for labor and voting rights were underway. Then, in the spring, a pandemic began to sweep the globe, killing millions. Libraries across the U.S. helped people stay informed, entertained, and cared for as they disseminated information and resources, shifted their services, and re-imagined how they brought collections to the communities they served...

Source: *JSTOR Daily*, 14 Apr 2021

### Ascending into an Open Future



Award-winning author, educator, podcaster, and cultural critic Tressie McMillan Cottom opened the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) 2021 Virtual Conference on April 13 by noting how the conference theme—"Ascending into an Open Future"—parallels conversations she's been having with colleagues around the idea of what openness means in an information-based society...

Source: *American Libraries*, 14 Apr 2021

### Anger over plan to raze part of iconic Indian library for flyover



A plan to demolish part of a 130-year-old library to construct a flyover is being widely slammed in India.

Authorities in the eastern Indian state of Bihar are contemplating razing the front part of the Khuda Bakhsh Oriental Public Library, located in the heart of the state capital, Patna.

The move has triggered outrage among academics and conservationists, with dozens of the city's prominent intellectuals urging the state government to preserve the heritage structure...

Source: *Al Jazeera*, 12 April 2021

### 'Let's Read India': This Mobile Library In Maharashtra Inspires People To Go Back To Books



To revive the reading habits of people in this era of social media, a group of IT professionals and engineers have come together to start the 'Let's Read India' movement in Maharashtra, taking their library to the doorstep of people.

It was started as a campaign just a few months back and has received overwhelming response in a short time.

The group has collected more than 10 lakh books on a variety of subjects...

Source: *The Logical Indian*, 05 April 2021

### Wiley remains committed to expand open access offerings in "legally, sustainable" way: Vikas Gupta

Global publishing major Wiley has said that open access is a key way to advance scientific discovery and knowledge-sharing in the post-pandemic world, and the firm remains deeply committed to expanding its open access offerings, but maintained that it plans to do so in a "legally and sustainable" way.

Open access is a publishing model for scholarly communication that makes research information available to readers at no cost, as opposed to the traditional subscription model.

"We believe that the trends point our industry towards a more open future, where Gold open access, preprints, and transparency of data, methods and peer-review will continue to grow in importance and amplify the impact of research globally," Wiley India MD Vikas Gupta said...

Source: *Outlook*, 04 Apr 2021

### Library in a fridge: Kolkata teacher finds new way to inspire reading



A fridge outside a grocery store is nothing new. But the one outside this small shop in South Kolkata certainly is. Instead of the usual bottles of cold drinks and packets of milk, this is one

is loaded with books thanks to a new library in Patuli.

With a message to “inculcate reading habits” and an aim to “create a book loving community”, a teacher and his wife have joined hands with a shopkeeper to set up a free street library. The rule is pretty uncomplicated — one can take home one book at a time and return it within a month, no fees required. The only request to readers is to take care of the book...

Source: [The Indian Express, 03 April 2021](#)

### Teachers inculcating reading habits among rural students through newspapers



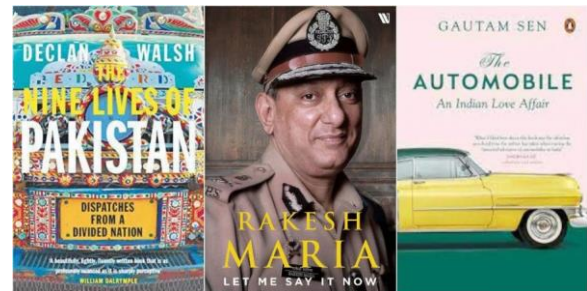
The lesser privileged rural students of Nagpur districts nowadays are fast adopting to a new way of culture to beat their counterparts in metropolitan cities and towns, who have better access of social media and other means of information.

In some nondescript areas of the district, these students at zilla parishad (ZP) primary schools are being inculcated the habit of reading newspapers for enhancing their overall mental abilities and intellectual development. And, it won't be a surprise if, riding on better information through newspapers than fake news

on social media, one day these students put forward a major challenge before their urban counterparts...

Source: [Tol, 29 Mar 2021](#)

### Chasing the truth: How COVID-19 has changed reading habits



The year 2020 brought about a paradigm shift in our lives. We began thinking differently, eating differently, living differently, and even reading differently. According to Nielsen's report on the Impact of COVID-19 on the India Book Consumer, reading time has increased from nine hours a week to 16 hours a week.

The fear of going out, contamination, unpredictable political climate, sudden death - the year was stranger than fiction. Readers reached out to relate and find an explanation in nonfiction. They sought answers in Science, Technology, Self-help, Spirituality, History and Enterprise to figure their place in a new, unsure world...

Source: [The New Indian Express, 28 Mar 2021](#)

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