

CONTENTS	Page No.
Pause & Ponder	2
IIT-GN & ADINET organizing Webinar on “Joy of Reading for the Reading Deprived: the journey of a youth Library Movement in Arunachal” by by Shri Sathyanarayanan Mundayoor on 04 March 2023	2
Library founded by PN Panicker in Kerala now in ruins	2
Give books as presents to promote reading habit, urge writers & publishers	2
The End of the English Major	3
Lucknow's 153-yr-old library digitised	3
AI chatbots like Bard, ChatGPT stoke fears of misinformation nightmare	4
Column: Publishers and media watchdogs are struggling with an onslaught of AI-written content	4
A science fiction magazine closed submissions after being bombarded with stories written by ChatGPT	5
National Digital Library FAQs: What is NDLI, its benefits, how to access, register and more queries answered	5
Let's make India a land of libraries: Kapil Dev backs 'gram pathshalas' in Greater Noida	5
Inculcate book reading habit among children, Governor tells parents	6
2023 Declared 'Year of Digital	6

Pause & Ponder

**“Reading is an exercise in empathy;
an exercise in walking in someone
else’s shoes for a while.”**

— Malorie Blackman

Readers Please Note

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

IIT-Gandhinagar Library in
collaboration with ADINET is
organizing a webinar on **“Joy of
Reading for the Reading Deprived:
the journey of a youth Library
Movement in Arunachal”** by **Shri
Sathyanarayanan Mundayoor**,
Scholar-in-Residence, IIT-GN, on **04
March 2023 (Saturday) at 11:00 am**

The poster is for a webinar titled "Joy of Reading for the Reading Deprived: the journey of a youth Library Movement in Arunachal" by Shri Sathyanarayanan Mundayoor, Scholar-in-Residence, IIT Gandhinagar. It is presented by IIT Gandhinagar LIBRARY and ADINET (Advance Information Network of Libraries in Gujarat). The event is scheduled for Saturday, 4th March 2023 at 11:00 AM. The poster includes a photo of the speaker, a photo of a library building, and a photo of a colorful tent structure. The text describes the speaker as an educationist and social activist working in North East India, and the session as a story of how libraries can create readership in a community.

[Register](#) for the Webinar

Library founded by PN Panicker in Kerala now in ruins



LS Library at Nooranad, founded by father of the Library Movement in Kerala P N Panicker, which houses around 25,000 books and rare palm-leaf manuscripts, is in ruins. Set up at the Leprosy Sanatorium at Nooranad, it was established on July 1, 1949, the day of the unification of the Thiru-Kochi state.

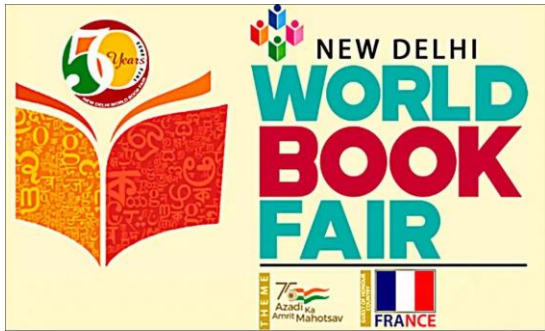
Now, the treasure trove of knowledge is on the verge of destruction after being closed down completely. A librarian, appointed by the state government, was sacked when Covid hit the globe.

According to John, an inmate of the sanatorium, the library was the only source of knowledge for the inmates.

“Though we submitted many memorandums to the sanatorium authorities and the district administration, no action was taken yet to reopen it,” said John, a native of Karakonam, who has been living in the asylum for the past 37 years...

Source: [The New Indian Express, 01 Mar 2023](#)

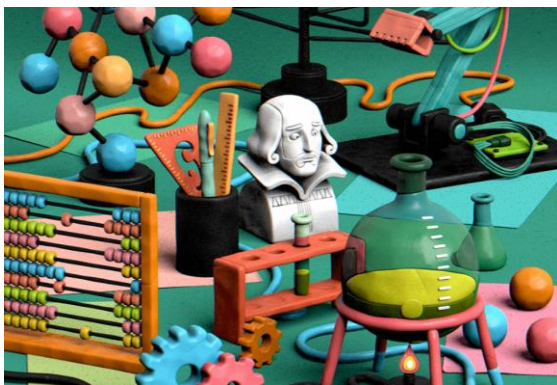
Give books as presents to promote reading habit, urge writers & publishers



A bigger disappointment, especially for students, researchers and historians, comes when one goes hunting for Hindi books on architecture, constructions and sculpture. There are none. One has to buy English books and try to understand the subject to their required levels. Less than two weeks after the World Hindi Conference in Fiji, the World Book Fair began in New Delhi to a great response. A look around stalls set up for the fair revealed that the maximum presence was that publishers of Hindi books across all genres...

Source: [Bizzbuzz.news, 27 Feb 2023](#)

The End of the English Major



The crisis, when it came, arrived so quickly that its scale was hard to recognize at first. From 2012 to the start of the pandemic, the number of English majors on campus at Arizona State University fell from nine hundred and fifty-three to five hundred and seventy-eight. Records indicate that the number of graduated language and

literature majors decreased by roughly half, as did the number of history majors. Women's studies lost eighty per cent. "It's hard for students like me, who are pursuing an English major, to find joy in what they're doing," Meg Macias, a junior, said one afternoon as the edges of the sky over the campus went soft. It was late autumn, and the sunsets came in like flame on thin paper on the way to dusk. "They always know there's someone who wishes that they were doing something else."...

Source: [The Newyorker, 27 Feb 2023](#)

Lucknow's 153-yr-old library digitised



Lucknow's 153-year-old Amir-ud-Daula library has been fully digitalized. More than 80,000 digitised books and 27,000 e-magazines are now available free on the library's website and the content is also available on a mobile app Lucknow Digital Library.

The transformation of the city's oldest library was made possible under Smart City's digitization project at an outlay of Rs 1.07 crore.

Chief executive officer Smart City Ltd, Inderjit Singh said the project was approved in September 2022.

"Now one can simply login to the free website or the app and get access to the digital library. It also has 1,000 books for competitive exams, 5,000 premium e-books, and 1,000 plus text books," he said...

Source: [The Times of India, 26 Feb 2023](#)

AI chatbots like Bard, ChatGPT stoke fears of misinformation nightmare



The outsize investments into generative pre-trained bots like Microsoft-backed ChatGPT and Google's Bard is stoking fears of a spike in misinformation, according to industry experts. Social media intermediaries will also be hard-pressed to identify "fake" content and arrest its spread on time, they added. India, which is among the world's largest data markets, is already battling a flood of misinformation that is worsened by the multiplicity of languages. Generative Altechnologies can further accentuate the problem according to technologists tracking the rise of these applications.

"The potential for misinformation is huge because these Allarge language models are not designed for factual accuracy, they are designed for eloquent conversations," Simon Greenman, Co-Founder, Partner and CTO of Best Practice AI told ET...

Source: [The Economic Times, 24 Feb 2023](#)
(Access by Subscription)

Column: Publishers and media watchdogs are struggling with an onslaught of AI-written content



After 17 years as the publisher of short science fiction and fantasy stories at Clarkesworld, the online and print magazine he founded in 2006, Neil Clarke had become adept at winnowing out the occasional plagiarism case from the hundreds of submissions he receives every month.

The problem ticked up during the pandemic's lockdown phase, when workers confined at home were searching for ways to raise income. But it exploded in December, after San Francisco-based OpenAI publicly released its ChatGPT program, an especially sophisticated machine generator of prose.

Clarke reckons that of the 1,200 submissions he received this month, 500 were machine-written. He shut down submission acceptances until at least the end of the month, but he's confident that if he hadn't done so, the artificial pile would have reached parity with legitimate submissions by then — "and more than likely pass it," he says...

Source: [Los Angeles Times, 23 Feb 2023](#)

A science fiction magazine closed submissions after being bombarded with stories written by ChatGPT



Clarksword Magazine is no stranger to tales of artificial intelligence impacting society, but in a sad and wild case of life imitating art, the Hugo Award-winning magazine has had to temporarily close its doors to submissions due to it being bombarded with people filing science fiction stories ostensibly written by ChatGPT.

Clarksword Magazine editor Neil Clarke made the announcement on Twitter yesterday with the simple statement, "Submissions are currently closed. It shouldn't be hard to guess why." When a user replied that Clarke should use an AI tool to scan submissions for AI involvement, Clarke replied, "None of the detection tools are reliable enough."...

Source: [Fast Company, 21 Feb 2023](#)

National Digital Library FAQs: What is NDLI, its benefits, how to access, register and more queries answered

The National Digital Library of India (NDLI) is a digital library developed and operated by IIT-Kharagpur. It contains educational resources for all types of learners, including students (of all levels, including aspirants for competitive exams), teachers, researchers, librarians, professionals, specially abled users and everyone

else. It offers a single-window search option so that students can find the appropriate resources quickly.



The official website of NDLI (<https://ndl.iitkgp.ac.in/>) offers a variety of services, including textbooks, articles, videos, audio books, lectures, simulations, fiction, and all other types of learning media for free. In addition to this, it offers free access to a large number of books supported by the ten most popular Indian languages. Here are all the frequently asked questions about NDLI that have been addressed...

Source: [Gadgets Now by ToI, 14 Feb 2023](#)

Let's make India a land of libraries: Kapil Dev backs 'gram pathshalas' in Greater Noida



"Let's together make India a land of libraries. Every village should have a library, and I am lending my support to the efforts of 'har gaon pathshala (a library in every village)' as education is important," said cricketer Kapil Dev while inaugurating Adarsh Library at

the community centre in Sector Delta 2, Greater Noida.

The free-of-charge library, set up in one hall of the community centre through the collective efforts of the sector RWA, residents, the GNIDA and local volunteers with the gram pathshala campaign, began with over 300 books--academic and fiction--donated by residents.

At the inauguration, Dadri MLA Tejpal Nagar praised the gram pathshala campaign, saying a similar team has also set up a modern and grand library in Dadri. "I will always support such efforts," he added....

Source: [The Times of India, 13 Feb 2023](#)

Inculcate book reading habit among children, Governor tells parents



Governor Biswa Bhusan Harichandan urged parents to inculcate the habit of book reading in their children from an early age.

Mr. Harichandan along with Minister Botcha Satyanarayana, A.P. Telugu and Sanskrit Academi chairperson N. Lakshmi Parvathi and A.P. Official Language Commission chairman P. Vijay Babu inaugurated the 33rd Vijayawada Book Festival Society organised by the Vijayawada Book Festival Society at Govt. Polytechnic College ground in Vijayawada on Thursday...

Source: [The Hindu, 10 Feb 2023](#)

2023 Declared 'Year of Digital



The Ghana Library Authority has declared 2023 as a "Year of Digital Reading", with a tagline - "Digital reading, a springboard to eradicate learning poverty".

The authority declared 2019 as a "Year of Reading" to encourage the youth to develop the habit of reading; 2020 was the "Year of Learning" to connect the youth to knowledge resources through innovation, and 2021, the "Year of Literacy" to reduce learning poverty in the country while 2022 was declared the "Year of Books".

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the authority, Hayford Siaw, was recounting activities under his stewardship since he took over as the CEO of the authority in 2017, in an interview with the Daily Graphic in Accra...

Source: [Graphic Online, 26 Jan 2023](#)



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<https://alibnet.org/newsdigest.html>

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