

ADINET (Advanced Information Network of Libraries in Gujarat)
e-News Digest

No. 114

Mar – 2025

CONTENTS	Page No.
International Women's Day	2
Tribute to Ms. Harsha Parekh	2
Pause & Ponder	2
ADINET Librarian's Day 2025	2
Karnataka woman at rural public library reads about Sunita Williams, image goes viral	2
Students ditch libraries for fun, focus of theme parks	3
Trump administration seeks to starve libraries and museums of funding by shuttering this little-known agency	3
Cash-strapped council could shut three libraries	4
'A library is more than a place with books, it is a lifeline'	4
Govt to open public libraries at gram panchayat level in Raj	5
Granthotsav: Nagpur Book Festival Highlights Role of Literature and Libraries in Shaping Readers	5
Sustaining for the Future	6



ADINET pays Tribute to the woman of substance



Ms Harsha Shantilal Parekh
Former HoD SNDT University, Mumbai
Passed away on 17 Mar 2025

Pause & Ponder

"I've missed more than 9,000 shots in my career. I've lost almost 300 games. Twenty-six times, I've been trusted to take the game-winning shot and missed. I've failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed."

– Michael Jordan

ADINET Librarian's Day 2025

Librarians' Day 2025

Commemorating the birth anniversary of
Dr. S. R. Ranganathan
Father of Library Science Movement in India

“*One day national seminar on Sustainable Libraries for Sustainable Rural Futures*”



Jointly organized by ADINET and IRMA

Saturday, 23 August 2025
09.00 AM Onwards

Venue: IRMA Auditorium, Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA), Anand

Click on the image to download the Brochure

Readers Please Note

Tap the Title to read the full article

Karnataka woman at rural public library reads about Sunita Williams, image goes viral

The image has sparked conversations about the role of libraries in shaping communities.



A heartwarming image of an elderly rural woman engrossed in a newspaper article about NASA astronaut Sunita Williams has gone viral, drawing widespread appreciation on social media.

The image, shared by Additional Chief Secretary & Development Commissioner of Karnataka, Uma Mahadevan Dasgupta, captures the woman reading at Arivu Kendra, a free public rural library in Karje, Udupi.

The post has struck a chord with netizens, garnering over 50,000 views, 3,000 likes, and more than 100 reshares. Many users praised the significance of public libraries in empowering rural communities and fostering knowledge...

Source: [Hindustan Times, 22 Mar 2025](#)

Students ditch libraries for fun, focus of theme parks



An unexpected trend is sweeping China as students flock to Disneyland, Universal Studios and other theme parks not for the thrill of the rides, parades or fairytale magic, but to find relaxing places to study.

Li Xishan, a PhD student at Beijing Medical University, spends most of her days buried in textbooks, research papers, and preparing for tough exams. The pressure is relentless, and the long hours in the library often leave her exhausted and mentally drained, she said.

"If I'm going to spend hours studying, why not do it somewhere more exciting? At least this way, I can take a break by watching a parade instead of staring at the same library walls," said Li, who has an annual pass to Universal Studios Beijing.

She quickly calculated that if she visited at least three times a year, the cost would be justified. And if she went more frequently, she could maximize the value of her pass while also giving herself much-needed breaks from the medical school campus.

Li has developed a familiar routine. She arrives at the park early in the morning, before the crowds become overwhelming. Finding a quiet spot near Peet's Coffee shop, she sets out her study materials, orders a cup of coffee, and dives into her textbooks...

Source: [China Daily, 21 Mar 2025](#)

Trump administration seeks to starve libraries and museums of funding by shuttering this little-known agency



On March 14, 2025, the Trump administration issued an executive order that called for the dismantling of seven federal agencies "to the maximum

extent consistent with applicable law.” They ranged from the United States Agency for Global Media, which oversees Voice of America, to the Minority Business Development Agency.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services was also on the list. Congress created the IMLS in 1996 through the Museum and Library Services Act. The law merged the Institute of Museum Services, which was established in 1976, with the Library Programs Office of the Department of Education.

By combining these two departments, Congress sought to create an overarching agency that could more cohesively and strategically support American museums and libraries. The agency’s mission, programs and funding have been reaffirmed through subsequent legislation, such as the Museum and Library Services Act of 2003.

The Conversation U.S. interviewed Devon Akmon, who is the director of the MSU Museum at Michigan State University. He explained how the agency supports the nation’s cultural institutions and local communities – and what could be lost if the agency were dissolved...

Source: [The Conversation, 20 Mar 2025](#)

Cash-strapped council could shut three libraries



Three libraries in Brighton and Hove could close as part of efforts to address the council's £16m budget shortfall.

Brighton & Hove City Council currently spends £3.7m a year on libraries, a council report says, and the cuts would save the authority £250,000 over the next two years.

Two of the city's main libraries, The Jubilee Library and Carnegie Library, could also have their opening hours reduced to save £69,000.

But people in Brighton have said it is a "shame" that the council may have to resort to cutting libraries and reducing opening hours.

The report, which the council will discuss on Tuesday, has not identified which libraries would close but said at least 10 libraries would stay open with a "geographic spread" across the city.

Resident Becky Netley said: "It's such a community hub for people, whether they're new mums looking for somewhere to go with their babies, people who are working there, or those wanting to enjoy a good book.

She said it was "sad for those in the community who use it"...

Source: [BBC, 19 Mar 2025](#)

'A library is more than a place with books, it is a lifeline'

The UK is losing libraries at a rate of about 40 each year, BBC research has found. According to those who depend on them, local libraries are far more than a repository of books - they are community focal points and, for some, a vital lifeline to the outside world. What happens when one closes?



The purpose-built, glass-fronted Broad Green Library sits unobtrusively between two blocks of flats in the middle of a bustling residential street in Croydon.

For Kiran Choda, a full-time carer to her elderly mother, this 1990s building in the south London borough has been a place of sanctuary and a vital part of her life.

And then, late last year, the library was permanently closed.

Those who depended on Broad Green say the closure has been devastating, with many using the phrase "home" to describe what this single-storey building meant to them.

They are not alone. Research by the BBC has found 190 libraries across the UK have shut in the past five years, 20 of them in London alone, as councils desperately try to save money...

Source: [BBC, 18 Mar 2025](#)

Govt to open public libraries at gram panchayat level in Raj

Jaipur: The State Library Committee Saturday decided to start public libraries at gram panchayat level, beginning with Jodhpur and Bharatpur districts.

In these libraries, computers and literature on character building and

career guidance will be made available and have space for 20 students to sit.



In a meeting chaired by secretary of the education department Krishna Kunal, it was decided that the libraries will be started with the assistance being given by Raja Rammohan Roy Pustakalaya Pratishthan, Kolkata, for the development and strengthening of public libraries in the state. Under this, total assistance of Rs 3.42 crore was approved by the Pratishthan to the state, out of which Rs 137 lakh will be provided by the state govt as the state share.

"Under this scheme, in the first phase, 50 public gram panchayat libraries are to be opened in Bharatpur and Jodhpur districts each, which will start in the govt building at the gram panchayat headquarters," said a senior official...

Source: [The Times of India, 17 Mar 2025](#)

Granthotsav: Nagpur Book Festival Highlights Role of Literature and Libraries in Shaping Readers

Nagpur: The Nagpur Granthotsav, a two-day literary event, concluded with thought-provoking discussions on the importance of literature and libraries in shaping a progressive reading culture.



Organised at Amey Hall, Vidarbha Sahitya Sangh, in collaboration with the Directorate of Libraries and District Library Office on March 11-12, the festival brought together renowned writers, critics, and literary scholars.

The festival was inaugurated by senior writer VS Jog, who emphasised the need for books that challenge class and caste ideologies, encouraging debate, counter-protest, and communication among readers.

"Books are a reflection of society. Writers should not merely document social realities but should actively engage in movements that shape them," he said.

Jog highlighted the contributions of great Marathi writers such as Sane Guruji, VinDa Karandikar, and Vasant Bapat, noting that literature should inspire intellectual and social transformation.

The event began with a Granth Pujan ceremony at the Seva Sadan Educational Institute in Sitabuldi, led by Zilla Parishad Education Officer (Secondary) Rohini Kumbhar...

Source: [The Times of India, 13 Mar 2025](#)

Sustaining for the Future

Library sustainability leaders grapple with threats, from natural disasters to environmental racism



With the acceleration of human-driven climate change, libraries are playing an increased role in helping their communities navigate environmental calamities. The downtown public library in Asheville, North Carolina, for instance, was a beacon of connectivity after flooding from Hurricane Helene disrupted the area's Wi-Fi service in September 2024. And during January's Southern California wildfires, residents found resources at Los Angeles-area libraries, where they could access the internet, charging stations, water, and bathrooms.

But providing access to technology, shelter, and information after extreme weather is only one way libraries are grappling with sustainability. Many are also guiding communities with information to address urgent and emerging ecological threats, such as air and water pollution, food insecurity, and diminishing natural resources, as well as economic, political, and social disruptions...

Source: [American Libraries, 03 Mar 2025](#)

**This issue has been compiled by the
Institute for Plasma Research (IPR)
Library, Gandhinagar**