Digital Library News

New Town to host digital library soon

New Town Kolkata Development Authority has started working on a design to set up a smart digital library in New Town. The library will have e-books, e-subscriptions, Kindle-like e-readers that can be borrowed, audio books, online resources, digital archives, information centres, and career guidance corners along with newspapers, magazines, and a coffee shop.

Source: *https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kolkata/new-town-to-host-digital-library-soon/articleshow/64169592.cms*

1,584 books given by Gandhiji to Maneklal Jethalal (MJ) library goes digital

The 1,584 books that were given to MJ Library by Mahatma Gandhi have gone digital. These books are being digitized by the Sabarmati Ashram. The Ashram is helping the library to help preserve the collection.

According to Mayor Gautam Shah, around 1584 books are digitized and are available on the e-portal associated with Gandhiji. He said that the Mahatma Gandhiji referred to these books while preparing his speeches and while writing articles for his journals, *Navjivan* and *Young India*.

It was in 2016 that Mayor Gautam Shah had given the go-ahead for the digitizing of these donated books by Sabarmati Ashram to help preserve the collection. In all, the MJ library has 7,000 such books which were donated by Gandhiji.

Prior to embarking on the historic Dandi March, Gandhiji was looking for a place to donate his personal collection from Sabarmati and Satyagraha Ashrams. "This is a priceless collection and had it been preserved properly, from damage and theft, it would have offered an insight into what Bapu read during his stay in the city since 1915, when he returned from South Africa," said a senior library official. The library also has 8,891 books donated by Swami Akhandanand.

Meanwhile clearing the budget for MJ Library, the Mayor said that MJ Library Board also cleared Rs 11.36 crore. The MJ Library Management Board has decided to introduce more mobile vans in the city to increase interest among the youngsters to study. Shah said that a heritage tour of the Ahmedabad-World Heritage City will also be organized for the readers of MJ Library and even a competition of the photographs of the Ahmedabad City.

Source: *https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/ahmedabad/1584-books-given-by-gandhiji-to-mj-library-goes-digital/articleshow/62640637.cms*

India to be $1 trillion digital economy in 5 years

The Union Electronics and Information Technology Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad on

Monday said his ministry is working in mission mode to make India's digital sector a $1 trillion economy in next five years.

This has potential to create 60 to 75 lakh new jobs, he told reporters on the side lines of World Congress on Information Technology (WCIT), 2018, which began here on Monday.

Dispelling the apprehension that new technologies will displace jobs, he said that if a new technology displaces 10 jobs, it creates 100 new jobs. The minister recalled that during the 1980s when computer was introduced in India, there was strong opposition to it due to the apprehension that it will kill jobs but it proved to be the biggest job creator.

Prasad believes that the technology has the unique attribute of empowering people and creating jobs. He assured people that new technologies like artificial intelligence, blockchain, Internet of Things, and Robotics would further empower India and create new jobs.

Earlier, addressing the inaugural session of the Congress, he said the new technologies will take time to adjust and the government, NASSCOM, private sector, and academia have to ensure that the stakeholders are not made uncomfortable in the transition.

Source: *https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/india-to-be-1-trillion-digital-economy-in-5-years-ravi-shankar-prasad/articleshow/62993647.cms*

Dudhli village to turn digital this month

Dudhli village is set to become the first gram panchayat in Uttarakhand district to be fully wi-fi. Work is ongoing at the village in Doiwala, under Centre's Digital India Scheme. Optical fibre cables are being laid and utility poles are being installed. The work is expected to finish by the end of the month.

The initiative of turning Dudhli digital was taken by RTI activist Ajay Kumar, who wrote to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) in 2016,

demanding internet connectivity. The PMO had taken note and assured that the village would get internet facilities.

Kumar had also highlighted the absence of a common service centre in his village. Kumar told *The Times of India* (TOI), "After my letter to the PMO, the common service centre was built. Now, 10,000 people in this gram panchayat can get PAN card, voter ID, utility bills, caste and domicile certificate from here."

Kumar added, "I'm looking forward to the wi-fi facilities. The internet connectivity provided by existing mobile operators is very poor."

An official of the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology told TOI that all services of the state government and the Centre could be browsed for free over the Wi-Fi connection named 'Wi-Fi Chaupal'. He added that 54 other village panchayats in the district will also be equipped with internet facilities.

Source: *https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/dehradun/dudhli-village-to-turn-digital-this-month/articleshow/63871954.cms*

How safe is Digital India?

Unless you are a hermit in the remote Himalayas, you are likely to be troubled 24x7 by thoughts of digital thefts — from personal information to financial data to biometric details.

In the recent days, weeks, and months, the overdrive by the government and India Inc to link tax returns, bank accounts, mobile SIMs, mutual funds, and more to the 12-digit Aadhaar has raised the billion-dollar query: Is Digital India secure? In 2016, 3.2 million credit card and debit card details were stolen by Chinese hackers.

In April last year, the Food and Civil Supplies Department of Chandigarh was reported to have published Aadhaar numbers of their public distribution system beneficiaries. Later in July, the Jharkhand Directorate of Social Security reported a similar leak.

Source: *https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/how-safe-is-digital-india/articleshow/62494872.cms*

The Changing 'lingual' face of Digital India

Times Internet today released a study titled 'The Changing Lingual Face of Digital India' highlighting the rapid shift of digital users towards regional content consumption. With this study, Times Internet has successfully validated the rising trend of online content consumption across the eight most widely consumed regional languages in the country. To map the magnitude of this trend, online content consumption patterns of over 90 million netizens were evaluated, unveiling many future possibilities and the impact of content in regional languages.

Key findings include:
- Out of the 90 million surveyed digital users, more than half are non-English readers and more than two-third of Hindi readers are also reading English.
- Regional languages have surpassed English with a 66% share in overall content consumption.
- Across all regional languages, News as a genre sees the highest content consumption at 67%, followed by Sports at 17% and Entertainment at 16%.
- Among female users, Gujarati language sees the highest online content consumption at 44.78%.
- Results of the study highlight that content consumption in regional languages among younger audiences is fast growing, with consumption among Indians in the 25-34 age group being the highest.

India is inching closer to becoming a digital-first nation as affordable smartphones and low priced 3G and 4G connections are driving Internet penetration and digital literacy in the country. Access to high speed Internet connectivity is no longer restricted to metro cities, which is causing a massive shift in online content consumption patterns, across the country.

Source: *https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/ india-business/the-changing-lingual-face-of-digital-india/ articleshow/62727464.cms*

MC to establish digital library in city's first green building

In a bid to engage the youth, civic officials plan to set up a digital library, for which a new building will be constructed. Officials are looking for the perfect site for the project. The library will be established in a green building equipped with solar panels and rain water recharge wells. The concept has been introduced under the Smart City mission.

Officials are assessing total cost and time needed to complete the work. The plan is to construct a building in which 200 people have access to digital literature. Digital screens will be installed in the library and people will be able to read e-books.

Superintending Engineer, Building and Road Department Pawan Sharma said the double-storey building will have cubicles with digital screens for general reading and newspaper stands for people who want to read the papers on the second floor. Additional Commissioner Vishesh Sarangal said they are looking for a site that would be centrally located to provide easy approach to people.

First green building in city

The digital library will function through solar panels and water recharge wells will be introduced. Officials said there will be no carbon emission and natural light will be used as much as possible.

Few visitors in existing libraries

The MC is already running three public libraries in the city but due to lack of advanced literature, there are very few visitors. Literature in existing libraries is not up to the mark and students have been complaining about lack of course related material. Officials said they expect better response from public for the digital library as e books are in trend these days.

Source: *https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/Mc-To-Establish-Digital-Library-In-City%E2%80%99s-First-Green-Building*