

india reading olympiad[®]



2024

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2024



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MESSAGE

We at Food4Thought Foundation are extremely excited and humbled to present the 6th Edition of **india reading olympiad**[®]

The response for nominations has been overwhelming from all walks of life. We also received feedback from the participants and associated partners, and we have incorporated the same and built this year's framework.

India has always had rich tradition of reading, but the past few decades have seen an alarming drop in reading habits, and this has become more acute with the advent of new digital distractions. We believe a developed nation without enlightened citizens is a dangerous proposition and need to create access to books and encourage reading habits.

india reading olympiad[®] is a platform which enables, encourages, endorses an ecosystem which creates active reading spaces & joy of reading and appreciates the efforts towards igniting a reading[®] revolution across 13 categories. The three broad objectives of the **india reading olympiad**[®] are to Encourages reading habits and enable Joy of Reading, Encourages and appreciate individuals, groups and institutions which promote reading and inspire citizens to become lifelong readers & book lovers.

india reading olympiad[®] – 2024 has a total of 13 categories wherein **we** received 160 entries under 11 categories and in Joy of Reflection category 322 schools participated with 15680 entries (in 8 Languages: English, Hindi, Marathi, Bengali, Kannada ,Telugu, Gujarati and Urdu).

A big note of appreciation to our Chief Patron Cyient Foundation, Hyderabad, Associate Parton Monocept , Hyderabad and Amadeus Software Labs Private Limited, Odessa for supporting us and giving us confidence to continue this journey. The beautiful trophies and medals are courtesy of Samhar's India, Mr Surender Singh Arora.

Special thanks to their esteemed Jury members who regardless of their busy schedules took time off to go through all the entries and provide their decisions based on merit.

An initiative of this scale wouldn't be possible without the efforts of large number of volunteers across India who selflessly contributed to various forms, a note of their sincere gratitude to them. Hats off to the organizing team from the Foundation consisting of Madhavi Sharma, Mrityunjay Rao, Sai Teja and the special thanks to UPES Dehradun students for volunteering in Research Work and Literari Clava , Book Club from Hyderabad

We hope you will find value in what we are doing and bless us with your feedback, encouragement and support.

Happy Reading
K Srinivas Rao (Srini)
Founder & Chairman
Food4Thought Foundation

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india reading Olympiad[®] - 2023

WHAT IS

india reading olympiad

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india reading olympiad[®] is promoted by Food4Thought Foundation and sponsored by Cyient Foundation and Co-Sponsored by Monocept and Amadeus.



ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

Food4Thought Foundation is a 'Not for Profit' organization which believes that a developed nation without enlightened citizens is a dangerous proposition.

The Foundation aims at building an enlightened nation by universalizing access to books and creating joy for reading by igniting a reading revolution.

The Foundation has opened and operates over 622+ Libraries across 23 States and 92 Cities in India, with more than 158890+ books which are tracked on real time basis across 12 Library Formats ranging from Schools to Communities to Jails to Hospitals to Temples.

www.food4thoughtfoundation.org

ABOUT THE

CYIENT
FOUNDATION

monocept^x

aMADEUS

PARTNERS

Cyient, partners with over 300 customers, including 40% of the top 100 global innovators, to deliver intelligent engineering and technology solutions for creating a digital, autonomous, and sustainable future. As a company, Cyient is committed to designing a culturally inclusive, socially responsible and environmentally sustainable.

Monocept, revolves around creating a seamless, agile technology framework tailored precisely to address the unique issues, ensuring a smooth journey through digital transformation and limitless scalability.

Amadeus, a travel technology company, builds the critical solutions that help airlines and airports, hotels and railways, search engines, travel agencies, their operators and other travel players to run their operations and improve the travel experience, billions of times a year, all over the world.

ABOUT THE



JURY

Mr. Prabhakar is an Executive Vice President - Human resources (Agri-business Division) at ITC Limited. He actively supports multiple agencies which are dedicated towards art, culture and literature.

Mr. PNSV Narasimham, or Nam as he is known to his colleagues, is the President & Head of Corporate Functions at Cyient. He is responsible for leadership development, recruitment and engagement for senior leaders across Cyient's group of companies

Dr. Kiranmai is Corporate VP, HR, UPS India Technology Center, who brings together a unique blend of keen academic focus and organizational experience. She has successfully straddled diverse roles in teaching, training, human resource, development, consulting, quality and technical writing.

Ms Ribu Mattom Corporate Communications Leaders/Brand Advocate & Champion/ Corporate Social Responsibility/ Diversity/Inclusion/Coach at Amadeus Software Labs India Pvt Ltd

Mr. Nanda Kumar is the founder of 'First Principles', which specialises in Industrial Relations. Prior to founding 'First principles', he had a solid 36 years of work experience in companies ranging across various industry sectors.

Mr. Sunil Bijlani retired as Senior Vice President Human Resources Asia at Synchrony with a demonstrated history of working in financial services & manufacturing industries

ABOUT THE



JURY

Mr Ashok Prabhala is Head HR at Signode India Pvt Ltd. Highly focused, result oriented, passionate HR Professional with over 13 years' experience in HR

Dr Ravi Kumar is General Secretary and Joint Secretary for Telangana Library Association

Mr Ashok Prabhala is Head HR at Signode India Pvt Ltd. Highly focused, result oriented, passionate HR Professional with over 13 years' experience in HR

Ms Shefali Rao is the co-founder of 'Food4Thought' Foundation, she handles corporate liasoning, operations and media relations. In addition to that, she is also part of 'The Strategist', a Global People Advisory Firm.

Dr Megha possesses over seventeen years of work experience in industry, academics and research. Presently, she is a faculty in Economics and International Business with Jaipuria Institute of Management.

Mr Thota Ram Nagesh Naidu is Founder of Hyderabad Digital Photography Club- HDPC and CEO of Team HDPC- Professional Services

india reading olympiad[®] - 2024

Categories



india reading olympiad[®] - 2024

Role Models

Lifetime Achievement

Igniting Reading Habits

india reading olympiad[®] - 2024

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Recognizes Individuals/Institutions
who/which devoted their life for igniting reading habits
and have left a lasting legacy.



The Saraswathi Mahal library



ONCE UPON A

TIME...

The Saraswathi Mahal Library, originally founded by the Nayak Kings of Tanjavur in 1535 CE, initially functioned as a Royal Library catering to the intellectual needs of the ruling family. Following the capture of Thanjavur by the Maratha rulers in 1675, the library underwent significant development and patronage, becoming a bastion of local culture and heritage until 1855.

A renowned Maratha king, elevated the Saraswathi Mahal Library to a cultural hub. He expanded the library's collection by employing scholars to acquire works from prestigious Sanskrit learning centers across Northern India and beyond. Under his patronage, the library became a focal point for intellectual enrichment and cultural exchange.

In 1918, the priceless collection of the Sarasvati Mahal Library was thrown open to the public for the first time. According to the Head Librarian, Dr S Sudarshan, "The library used to give access only to language scholars and experts to study the manuscripts. The library is open to the public; it also supports efforts to publish rare manuscripts from the collection, as well as ensuring all volumes are preserved on microfilm. The Library has installed computers in 1998 for the Computerization of Library activities.

10 most valuable manuscripts in the library

1. Siva Para Pancaratna Sloka
2. Shabdārtha Chintamani and kathatrayi
3. Phalavati
4. Panchapakshi Sastram
5. Bhagavad Gita
6. Citra Ramayana
7. Kamba Ramayanam
8. Bhamati
9. Aswa Sastram
10. Modi Manuscripts

Best Reading Club

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Recognizes Volunteer driven book clubs
for their contribution, innovation and membership drive



The Reading Raccoons



DISCOVERING CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

Tanu Shree Singh, an assistant professor of Positive Psychology and author, founded the Reading Raccoons Facebook group, emphasizing its impact on fostering a love for reading.

The community started as a Facebook group, aimed at finding interesting books for kids that went beyond moralistic stories. It reached a membership of around 11,000

The Reading Raccoons community, initially focused on children's literature, quickly won the hearts of parents, leading to its expansion. This success prompted the creation of the Senior Reading Raccoons, a dedicated group for adults.

The adult group was born out of the elder members' desire for a similar platform where they could share their love for books, which has since flourished into a vibrant community of avid readers.

The community, with over 46,000 members across two groups, serves as a digital platform for book enthusiasts to exchange books and engage in literature-related activities. Despite challenges in managing such a large group, the positive feedback and gratitude from members affirm its significant role in promoting reading, demonstrating the impactful connection between the community and literature through social media platforms like Instagram and Facebook.



Club Literati



BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER LITERALLY

Club Literati was founded in 2012 by Dr. Seema Raizada as a unique initiative to blend her passion for teaching with community service, creating a vibrant space for literature and creative arts enthusiasts.

They aim to foster a community that appreciates literature and the creative arts, enriching members' thinking and experiences through discussions, workshops, and cultural activities.

The community Enriches through various literary and creative activities. They hold interactive sessions in schools and colleges, organize festivals celebrating famous authors and books, and since April 2020, have boosted participation by hosting virtual events. fostering creativity and literary appreciation through workshops, performances, and inclusive educational initiatives. Workshops develop creative skills, and they support underprivileged children with creative learning, emphasizing inclusivity in the literary world.

Since January 2021, Club Literati Youth has been distributing comics like Amar Chitra Katha to underprivileged children, as part of their pro bono work.

The club focuses on promoting local authors and discussions to give a platform to regional literature, especially Hindi. Over eight years, they have made a significant impact in Bhopal with memorable festivals and events.



Literary Coven



THE CLUB THAT PUT THE LIT IN LITERATURE

Literary Coven founded in 2021 at the G. Narayanamma Institute of Technology and Science has evolved into a thriving community with 45 members promoting literature through diverse events.

The club boasts 1250 Instagram followers and 857 Facebook followers, engaging students beyond traditional book club activities.

Literary Coven offers an innovative approach to reading, challenging norms through dynamic activities like speedy book pitches and debates, fostering an enjoyable and accessible literary experience. Through events like LIT FERIT treasure hunts and open mics, the club promotes diversity in reading and builds a supportive community, while also enhancing critical thinking and expanding genre exploration among members, providing intellectual stimulation and fostering a habit of thoughtful reading.

Literary Coven's impactful initiatives have earned recognition in both academic circles and the media, solidifying its position as a notable entity in the cultural and educational realm.

With a steadfast commitment to nurturing a passion for literature and offering innovative reading experiences, the club stands out as a significant contributor to the literary landscape.



Keekli book club



India Reading Olympiad[®]
Best Reading Club
2024

AN ODE TO INNOCENCE

KEEKLI started as an online platform in 2013, becoming a bilingual newspaper and then a well-known book club in Shimla by 2015. It empowers children's creative expression.

The Book Club, which emphasizes storytelling's significance, found a home at Brews & Books Café in 2023, promoting a community-driven 'Borrow, Exchange, Donate' approach to reading.

The club innovates children's engagement through activities like treasure hunts and interactive storytelling, leveraging Shimla's walkable streets for educational experiences. They encourage active participation in storytelling and discussions, aiming to make reading interactive.

Their programs, especially '52 weeks, 52 personas, 52 interviews,' foster a connection between young minds and the literary world. With a significant online presence, they encourage youth participation in literature and the arts.

They are planning to enhance children's creative engagement through group readings, dramatizations, and meetings with established writers. They aim to collaborate with children on book authorship and are hosting a national short story competition in 2024, with plans to publish the top stories. Their programs include both offline reading events and online initiatives like a series of interviews featuring diverse personalities, all designed to cultivate a love of reading and writing among the youth.

Reading 4 Pleasure School

india reading olympiad [®] - 2024

Recognizes Schools for Promoting Reading Habits / Joy of
Reading
based on innovation, members subscribed / covered etc.



RBK Hanumant High School, Gujarat



SHORTLISTED AS

TOP LIBRARY

RBK Hanumant High School in Mahuva, established in 2011 and CBSE-affiliated since 2014, fosters learning beyond the traditional classroom setting, emphasizing outdoor exploration.

The school's library, recognized nationally, implements a Library Points system to encourage reading in multiple languages and evaluate students' engagement.

The school integrates technology into its library services with innovative systems like OPAC and barcode-enabled self-circulation, further enhancing its educational approach.

They've received multiple awards in 2023 for their initiatives in education and library services, reflecting their commitment to academic excellence and innovative teaching methodologies.

School's innovative approach to education and its library's achievements have garnered multiple accolades, including the Best Educator Award 2023 and the MPLA Best School Librarian Award.

Their commitment to fostering a love of reading and integrating modern technology into learning showcases their forward-thinking educational philosophy.



Dew Drop Academy Friendship School, Meghalaya



SCHOOL CATERING 11

SURROUNDING VILLAGES

Dew Drop Academy began in 2019 with 15 students and has rapidly expanded to 250 students from Nursery to Class VI by 2024.

The school's growth is attributed to its innovative educational approach, emphasizing holistic development and a deep connection to local culture through storytelling, reaching out to 11 villages within a 3 to 13 km radius.

Dew Drop Academy enhances student engagement through storytelling and cultural connections, fostering a sense of community and curiosity in learning.

The school, without a formal library, adopts nature-integrated learning, including storytelling that connects students to their cultural roots and fosters a deep love for literature. This approach contributes significantly to the holistic development of students from 11 local villages.

The school plans to introduce creative competitions to further stimulate student imagination. Outreach efforts include educating parents through door-to-door visits, simplifying admissions to increase access to education.

With ambitions to expand to more villages via crowdfunding for additional transportation, the school aims to extend its impact, emphasizing holistic development and the importance of education in rural areas.



Dumarthar Utrkramit Madhya Vidyalaya in Dumka, Jharkhand



India Reading Olympiad
Reading4Pleasure
School
2024

WALLS & ELECTRIC POLES TURNED TO BLACKBOARD

The educational initiatives at Dumarthar Utrkramit Madhya Vidyalaya started during the pandemic when traditional school environments were inaccessible.

The school, under Dr. Sapan Kumar's leadership, adapted by using house walls as blackboards and loudspeakers for instruction, allowing education to continue in the Jharkhand tribal area.

Dr. Sapan Kumar, Principal of Dumarthar Utrkramit Madhya Vidyalaya in Dumka, has spearheaded innovative educational strategies to promote learning in a tribal area.

His methods during the pandemic, such as using walls as blackboards and loudspeakers for teaching, have evolved into community reading and adult education initiatives.

The school has effectively used electric poles as learning aids and continued education for its 290 students without interruption. These efforts have been nationally recognized, including appreciation from the Prime Minister on Mann Ki Baat, and have inspired similar models abroad.

The school's blackboard model was showcased in cities like New York and London, and Dr. Kumar was nominated for the President's Award and honored by the Chhattisgarh Government.



Nava Nadisar Primary school, Gujarat



EVOLUTION IN READING

Nava Nadisar Primary School, since 1998, adheres to the philosophy of 'Masti Ki Pathshala,' advocating for a child-centric education system where learning adapts to children's needs.

The school envisions reading as a doorway to adventure and joy, focusing on making it a playful, engaging, and community-oriented activity that fosters a lifelong love for reading in children.

Their initiatives include 'Reading Cricket', classroom libraries, and student-written book reviews, encouraging active participation and critical thinking. Teachers led by example, setting a reading precedent. An open library during recess and interactive story labs enhance the reading experience. The school's community-driven educational model includes practical learning from parents and has been lauded statewide, inspiring over 600 committees to visit and learn from their practices.

Their creative solutions, such as using local environments for learning, showcase their resilience and dedication to making education accessible and enjoyable.

School's commitment to innovative reading has garnered state recognition, achieving a perfect score in the Gunotsav survey for reading evolution. Their unique reading initiatives have also drawn over 600 School Management Committees from across Gujarat, who are keen to emulate their successful model in their own schools.

Innovation 4 Reading

india reading olympiad [®] - 2024

Recognizes Innovations
which Encourages reading among individuals / groups / communities



White Print, Mumbai



FIRST ENGLISH LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE IN BRAILLE

White Print, India's inaugural English Braille lifestyle magazine, was created by Upasana Makati in 2013 to provide diverse content for the visually impaired.

A decade on, it is widely circulated through the National Association for the Blind, becoming a staple in braille journalism.

The magazine has touched lives beyond its readership by fostering independence and joy among the visually impaired through its content.

Despite challenges such as content sourcing, financial constraints, and the impact of the pandemic, White Print has remained resilient. It has adapted by exploring Braille advertising and digital content, maintaining its commitment to inclusivity.

White Print and its founder, Upasana Makati, have received notable accolades for pioneering Braille literacy in India, including the Innovative Social Enterprise of the Year at The TiE Sustainability Summit 2021 and Forbes 30 Under 30 in 2016 and the First Lady Award from the President of India in 2018. These awards highlight the magazine's significant impact on inclusivity and social innovation.



Book Box, Puducherry



ANIBOOKS ON-SCREEN WITH SAME LANGUAGE SUBTITLES

BookBox revolutionizes early reading and language learning by blending animated stories with Same Language Subtitles (SLS), making education both fun and effective.

Their Language Bridge program further supports English acquisition through native languages, enhancing the learning experience..

Facing the challenge of engaging learners in a digital age, BookBox has successfully expanded its reach and content across multiple languages and platforms, leveraging technology like WhatsApp and AI to improve access and learning outcomes. Their efforts to make reading fun and accessible are complemented by strategic collaborations with NGOs, schools, and libraries worldwide.

BookBox's achievements include garnering over 100 million YouTube views, reaching 500K subscribers, and being recognized with awards like Dr. Toy's Best Audio Products and being a finalist at Sankalp under the Education Category. These accolades reflect their significant impact on making reading a universal, enjoyable experience.



Samarth Bharat Vyaspeeth, Mumbai



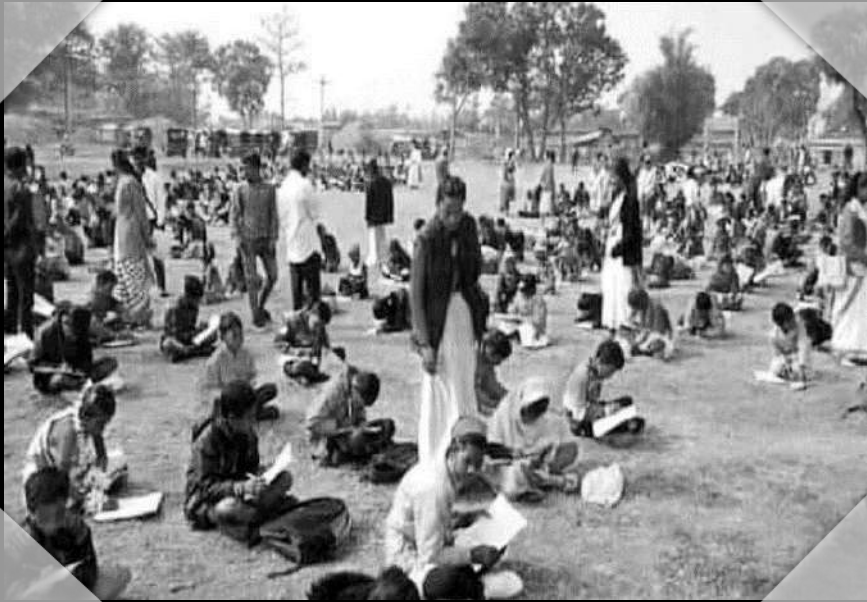
FIRST SIGNAL SHALA FOR UNDERPRIVILEGED KIDS

Signal School, initiated by Samarth Bharat Vyaspith and Thane Municipal Corporation, is designed to provide education to underprivileged children living at traffic signals in Thane, Maharashtra.

This innovative project focuses on integrating these children into mainstream education, aiming to eliminate begging and encourage academic and cognitive development.

Since its inception on June 14, 2016, Signal School, has made significant strides in integrating street-dwelling children into mainstream education. Starting with basic hygiene and gradually advancing to formal education, the school has catered to the holistic development of its 30 students through a variety of activities. With successes including students pursuing engineering and higher education, the NGO plans to expand this model to other metropolitan areas, aiming to establish three new schools to continue their mission of educational inclusivity.

Signal School has achieved national and international acclaim for its educational innovations, including awards from NCERT New Delhi, the State Innovation and Research Foundation Maharashtra, and the Global Teaching Excellence Award. These recognitions highlight the project's impactful teaching methodologies and its significant contributions to education.



Ratri Pathshala, Jharkhand



A FORMER TOP COP'S SILENT REVOLUTION

Dr. Arun Oraon, a 1992 batch IPS officer of the Punjab cadre with a medical background, chose voluntary retirement to educate young individuals in a Ranchi village.

He aimed to serve Jharkhand's impoverished tribal communities by establishing a free night school from 6 PM to 8:30 PM for government school students requiring additional academic support.

Dr. Arun Oraon initiated the Kartik Oraon Ratri Pathshala to address basic skill gaps among village youths in Jharkhand. Starting in Uchri village, the program expanded to 102 night schools across Ranchi and neighboring districts, teaching over 5,000 students with the help of 400 volunteers. The curriculum includes English, computer skills, and extracurricular activities, enhancing students' academic and social abilities. These schools, utilize community spaces for classes, fostering a network of learning through social media.

Ratri Pathshala initiative has significantly enhanced educational standards and personal development among students in Jharkhand's tribal areas. Beyond academic improvement, it has fostered public speaking, discipline, hygiene, and social etiquette. Remarkably resilient, the network continued operations even during COVID lockdowns, with plans for expansion.



Book 4 All



RE-CYCLE, RE-PRINT AND RE-USE OF STORY BOOKS

The 'Books for All' initiative by Guzarish, a Delhi-based NGO founded in 2015, facilitates book donations and purchases, targeting children from low-income families in government schools.

Books unsuitable for school libraries are recycled into affordable storybooks, conserving resources and supporting environmental sustainability.

'Books for All' initiative leverages social media for promotions, facilitating book donations through a simple online process. With daily pickups in Delhi/NCR, books are categorized for distribution or recycling into storybooks, aiding both education and environmental conservation.

To date, 7 lakh books have been collected, with 4 lakh distributed across NGOs and government schools, and 1.5 lakh recycled and reprinted, ensuring copyright compliance and meeting specific language needs.

Recycling and reprinting process occasionally faces challenges with paper quality, prompting efforts to improve efficiency and reduce costs. The initiative charges Rs. 15 per distributed book, covering logistics and volunteer expenses, while recycled books are sold for Rs. 10 to Rs. 15 to support these costs. A significant milestone is recycling and reprinting 1.5 lakh storybooks, contributing to sustainability by saving approximately 750 trees and supporting forest conservation essential for biodiversity.

#iambond Above 18

india reading olympiad [®] - 2024

iambond (I AM BOND) are book lovers above 18 years and who work tirelessly to Encourages reading habits / joy of reading



Sanjay Kashyap, Jharkhand



LIBRARY MAN OF

JHARKHAND

Sanjay Kashyap, known as the "Library Man of Jharkhand," comes from a humble background and aspired to be an IAS officer but faced obstacles due to lack of resources.

Overcoming these challenges, he dedicated himself to aiding needy students by establishing over 50 digital libraries in remote tribal areas of Jharkhand, introducing many to libraries for the first time and providing essential educational resources.

His initiative across Jharkhand's tribal areas has led to, introducing educational resources where none existed before. This effort has notably decreased dropout rates and increased employment opportunities, gaining national attention, including mention in "Mann Ki Baat." Embracing the "each one teach one" philosophy, these libraries facilitate education from kindergarten to postgraduate levels, significantly enhancing educational accessibility and quality in the region.

His contributions were recognized in the 100th and 95th episodes of "Mann Ki Baat" in 2023 and 2022, respectively, highlighting his impact on rural education. He received the Jharkhand Gaurav Award from Dainik Bhaskar in 2023, and a commendation from actor Sonu Sood in 2021 for his pioneering work in establishing digital libraries for underprivileged tribal children, enhancing their educational opportunities.



Deep Narayan, Kolkata



WHERE THERE IS A WALL, THERE IS A WAY

Deep Narayan, hailing from a tribal area in Jhargram, West Bengal, has pioneered an innovative educational model. Known as 'Raster Master'

after his B.A. and B.Ed. studies, he engages underprivileged communities through his open-air school, utilizing mud walls for lessons, exemplifies his commitment to accessible education.

Deep Narayan founded "Namo Janta Kalyan Samiti," impacting over 10,000 children across 50 learning centers in West Bengal by significantly reducing dropout rates. His innovative 3G model engages three generations, turning home walls into learning spaces, fostering community education, and enhancing intergenerational bonding. Through this approach, Narayan has empowered communities, encouraging leadership and teaching roles among students and facilitating basic education for all ages.

He has been recognized with numerous awards for his innovative educational contributions, including the prestigious Banga Gaurav Samman, Global Teacher Award, and the Innovative Teacher of the Year by Global School Awards. His efforts have also earned him certificates of appreciation from both the Paschim Bardhaman Zilla Parishad and the Paschim Banga Samagra Shiksha Mission, Govt. of West Bengal, among other accolades like the Shining World Education Award and the Vidya Ratna Education Award for Excellence.



Prof. Rameshwaram, Hyderabad



LIBRARY WITH NATUROPATHY

RARE BOOK COLLECTION

Prof. Rameshwaram, a renowned academic from Kakatiya University with a rich background in Public Administration and a Ph.D. in Medical and Health Administration, significantly contributed to naturopathy research.

His career includes supervising numerous scholars and founding an International Naturopathy Library and Research Centre in 2023, marking a notable advancement in the field.

Since 1989, he has been the sole figure in India to systematically gather, preserve, and share the country's fragmented Naturopathy literature, enhancing the medical literary heritage. He has authored five research books on Naturopathy, contributed as a Lexicographer, Bibliographer, and Indexer for the Naturopathy Journal of India, and founded the world-unique International Naturopathy Library and Research Centre. His efforts and exhibitions across India significantly contribute to the global Naturopathy system.

His dedication to naturopathy has earned him multiple honors, including a Bronze and Gold Medal for his propagation efforts, a certificate for his collection by the Telugu Book of International Record, and recognition by the National Institute of Naturopathy as a Pioneer of Naturopathy. Additionally, he received the Keerthi Puraskar for the best library, the Atal Award for his naturopathy library, and further accolades from the National Institute of Indian Medical Heritage and Pathuri Foundation.



Ishfaq Manzoor, Jammu and Kashmir



ONE DOMESTIC

LIBRARY AT A TIME

Ishfaq Manzoor, a 24-year-old from Kulgam, Jammu and Kashmir, is pioneering domestic libraries to foster a love for reading.

Growing up without access to public libraries, his initiative now aims to transform homes into reading centers, addressing the fading habit of reading by leveraging his own passion for literature.

Ishfaq Manzoor was honored with the Global Teaching Excellence Award (GTEA) 2022 for his impactful work in libraries and community education, receiving coverage in notable publications.

His initiatives in fostering a book reading culture and establishing domestic libraries have significantly influenced education and community development, earning him wide recognition and serving as a testament to his mission's importance.

Ishfaq Manzoor's initiative has significantly impacted South Kashmir, spreading the joy of reading to 45-55 homes and beyond.

His efforts have cultivated a culture of curiosity and learning, establishing a network of domestic libraries as knowledge sanctuaries. The transformative effect of his work fosters a more educated community, making books a conduit to endless possibilities.



Aarti Naik, Mumbai



SLUM-BASED YOUNG WOMAN 'CHANGEMAKER.'

Aarti Naik, once a slum school dropout, now leads SAKHI for Girls Education, enhancing girls' literacy in slum areas with initiatives like Girls Book Bank and Girls Reading School since 2011.

Her transformation into a passionate advocate for girls' education marks her as a central figure in empowering slum-dwelling girls through learning.

Her initiatives, including Girls Book Bank, Girls Reading School, and My Reading Bag, significantly boost literacy and reading passion among slum-dwelling girls, promoting education as a tool for holistic community development.

These efforts have led to an increase in reading engagement within communities, underlining literacy's role in fostering positive societal change.

Aarti Naik has been honored with notable awards like the Most Influential Women in Education by BW Businessworld, the Karmaveer Chakra Award, and recognition from the International Literacy Association. She received a scholarship from Women Deliver, the "Giving Women of the Year Award" in the USA, and participated in UC Berkeley's "Tell Her Story" program, further highlighting her impactful work in girls' education.

#iambond Under 18

india reading olympiad [®] - 2024

iambond (I AM BOND) under 18 are book lovers who are below the age of 18 years and work tirelessly to Encourages reading habits / joy of reading



**Karnav Rastogi,
Mumbai**



Unstoppable 21 Indian

Under 21 years

At just 11, Karnav Rastogi has authored 11 books focusing on environmental themes, inspired by global and national conservation efforts.

His notable 'Kartik and Mixie' series, among other works, reflects his dedication to climate change advocacy, earning him recognition among the TOI #Unstoppable21 as a young influencer in environmentalism.

Karnav Rastogi's educational and environmental initiatives have influenced students through workshops and eco-friendly practices, supported by partnerships that extend his reach globally. Recognized as a UNEP Tide Turner Plastic Champion, he advocates for climate change awareness with his 4P framework and promotes reading and environmental stewardship through the 'Each one, Read One to Plant One' campaign, blending literacy with ecological action.

Karnav Rastogi has received significant recognitions including the Unstoppable 21 Under 21 from Times of India and the International Eco Hero Award.

His advocacy for environmental education and plastic reduction has been celebrated by organizations like UNEP and WWF, marking him as a youth conservation leader and a global voice for integrating climate change education into school curricula.



Agna Yami, Kerala



India Reading Olympiad
iambond < 18
2024

WORLD'S YOUNGEST

POET

At just six, Agna Yami from Kerala became the world's Youngest Poet with "Varnappattam," holding four records, including two world records.

Announced by Kerala's Ports Minister in March 2023, her book supports a charitable cause. Agna's work eclipsed the previous record for the youngest author, marking a significant milestone in literary achievements at an early age.

Acclaimed as the world's youngest poet, has been recognized with Grand Master, International Record, and Guinness World Records titles.

Through her "World of Yami" YouTube channel, she promotes environmental protection and child care, gaining notable attention as a 'kid teacher' during the pandemic. Her poetry, inspired by her immediate surroundings and illustrated by herself, showcases creativity and curiosity.

She has set records as the "Country's Youngest Poet" and the "World's Youngest Poet," recognized by various record organizations.

She has participated in numerous cultural events, spreading awareness about nature conservation and child care. As a 'kid teacher,' she's inspired children and parents alike to recognize and develop their talents.



Mirza Maryam Jameela, Kolkata



India Reading Olympiad
iambond < 18
2024

READING REVOLUTION WITH 36 MOHALLA LIBRARIES

At just 12, Mirza Maryam Jameela from Aurangabad, leveraged her love for reading to create "Mohalla Libraries" for local children.

With her father's help and partnerships like the Read and Learn Foundation, Maryam launched 35 community libraries, beginning with the Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Library.

She inspired by the positive impact of her "Mohalla Libraries" across Aurangabad, expanded the initiative to promote literacy among slum children. Supported by family and funded through public donations, these libraries, located in accessible community spaces, offer multilingual books to foster a reading culture. Despite initial resistance, the project's success led to establishing 31 libraries in 14 months, demonstrating Maryam's dedication to enhancing literacy and community engagement through accessible education.

In 2022, Maryam received recognition from the American Federation of Muslims of Indian Origin (AFMI) in New Delhi, an award presented by the former Lieutenant Governor, Najeeb Jung.

The following year, she was honored with the Mukta Samman by News 18 Lokmat in Mumbai. Her profound rendition of Safdar Hashmi's poem 'Kitabein' during the award ceremony resonated deeply with the audience, underscoring her dedication to literature and earning widespread admiration.



**Mannat Pankul
Arneja,
Ghaziabad(U.P.)**



ILLUMINATING MINDS, INSPIRING HEARTS

Amb. Mannat Pankul Arneja, an 11-year-old School Ambassador at DLF Public School Ghaziabad, is a TedEd Certified Speaker

The Youngest Speaker Up Champion, a published author with Bribooks India, and a co-author with Yes You Can International UK. Balancing academic excellence and social engagement, Mannat's diverse talents and initiatives mark her as a rising influencer in multiple fields.

At seven, Mannat Arneja became the youngest Speak Up Champion, earning media praise and a Macbook Air. Her skill set spans academics to the arts, with notable achievements in public speaking and performing arts, earning her international recognition. As the Green Planet Champion, she's known for her environmental advocacy. Her writing, inspired by personal experiences and literary giants like Rowling and Bond, has made her an international ambassador and a figure of inspiration for aspiring young talents.

She was the Youngest Speak Up Champion and has since accrued numerous accolades, including the Green Planet Championship and recognition among the Top 100 child prodigies. She holds positions with various international entities and has been honored with prestigious awards such as the Ratan Shree Award and the International Inspiring Award. Her recognized prowess as a speaker and leader is further solidified by her Ted Talk certification and the Rashtriya Shikha Puruskar.



Dhruv Dhakad, Indore



INDIA'S INSPIRING AUTHOR

At 14, Dhruv is an acclaimed young author with three published books and a Grade 9 student at The Shishukunj International School in Indore.

He has been recognized as an inspiring figure, speaking at IIT and MUN 2023. An achiever in academic Olympiads and a participant in the YEB program at BITS Pilani, Dhruv's literary prowess has earned features in national media and accolades for his best-selling book on Amazon.

He has authored three books, establishing him as a young literary talent. His creative works have led to invitations to speak at IIT and MUN events, encouraging others to realize their dreams through reading.

An accomplished Olympiad participant, Dhruv's writing has earned national acclaim, with features in significant publications and festivals, further highlighting his growing influence in the literary scene. His narratives, blending fantasy and science, advocate for self-belief and humanity's potential.

Dhruv, a passionate young author and Grade 9 student, envisions a future where books reclaim their vital role in a tech-saturated society.

Through his writing, he aims to inspire and influence, leaving an indelible mark with his innovative literary works and advocacy for reading, aspiring to be remembered for his positive contributions.

Reading 4 Pleasure NGO

india reading olympiad [®] - 2024

Recognises NGO / Not for Profit / Voluntary Groups
for Promoting Reading Habits / Joy of Reading
based on innovation, members subscribed / covered etc.



Prayas JAC Society, Delhi



SUPPORT THE TRAFFICKED, MARGINALIZED WOMEN.

Founded in 1988, Prayas JAC Society is a recognized non-profit that provides aid to underprivileged children, women, youth, and the homeless across multiple Indian territories

They offer support to those who are vulnerable, trafficked, or destitute. Their work targets individuals who are marginalized or in distress.

Prayas has been innovating in providing alternative education to Delhi's street children for 15 years, enrolling thousands into formal schools and facilitating distance education, including NIOS accreditation. Their inclusive approach, in line with UNESCO's EFA goals, emphasizes quality with a developed curriculum, teacher training, and experiential learning involving the community. Prayas, a non-profit with over 630 professionals, operates 252 projects across 12 Indian states, touching 40,000 lives daily.

It has a multifaceted impact through services in education, health, vocational training, and disaster response, funded by various government and international sources. The organization is recognized for its extensive donation campaigns and excellence in social work and for its disaster response and sustainable programs, Prayas garners support from corporates, governments, and international partners, and has been lauded with awards for its NGO contributions.



Bookworm, Goa



FOSTER A READING CULTURE AND IMPROVE LITERACY RATES

Founded in 2005 by Elaine Mendonsa, Bookworm Goa is a non-profit initiative dedicated to fostering a love for reading among children and youth in Goa, supported by various CSR grants.

Bookworm Goa has been nurtured by the support of CSR initiatives from Cipla and HT Parekh Foundations, WIPRO, Tata Trusts, and others. This non-profit fosters reading cultures by offering library programs and training educators across communities.

Bookworm Goa stands out for its imaginative and holistic approach to promoting literacy and a passion for reading among children and young adults in Goa, India. Notable innovations include a Mobile Outreach Programme, which brings books and reading activities to underserved areas, and interactive reading programmes that use stories and hands-on activities to make reading engaging. These initiatives address the challenges of increasing literacy rates and fostering a reading culture in the region.

They have significantly boosted literacy and love for reading in Goa through five children's libraries and activities, benefiting over 20,000 children, 1300 educators, and 150 schools across 21 states in India. The Mobile Outreach Programme reaches distant areas, complementing stationary libraries. They run five main programs: Libraries, Libraries in Schools, Professional Development, Mobile Outreach, and Visual Arts, with a sixth, Libraries in Homes, in pilot phase for children with special needs.



SARVAHITEY, Noida



PROJECT PAPER BRIDGE

Sarvahitey focuses on environmental initiatives, labor and community welfare, and educating underprivileged individuals through academic basics and extracurricular activities, including sports.

Their 'Project Paper Bridge' aims to establish 1,000 libraries by December 2030, including partnerships with existing underutilized libraries, catering to isolated communities both geographically and culturally.

Under 'Project Paper Bridge,' Sarvahitey plans to establish 1,000 libraries across India, with an initial focus on setting up 100 in North East India by December 2020. By December 2030, they aim to complete the establishment of all 1,000 libraries nationwide.

These libraries aim to promote reading culture, capacity building, digital literacy, awareness of government schemes, women and youth empowerment, career counseling, and cultural exchange.

It has established over 300 libraries nationwide and partnered with district administrations in over 14 states and union territories. Their efforts have been acknowledged by NITI Aayog and have positively impacted 1.5 lakh students in promoting reading. They have curated a repository of over 10,000 e-books and 5,000 audiobooks for diverse audiences. Additionally, they have set up libraries in police stations and prisons to aid law enforcement efforts and support the rehabilitation of individuals.



Sikkim Project



DG Reading Room Resource and Education Foundation

The Reading Room in Dumigaon, South Sikkim, is a community library established in 2019 to promote reading and language skills in Nepali and English.

They also built the Dumi Gaon Reading Room Resource and Education Foundation (RRREF) in South Sikkim, completed in 2019, as a community library to promote reading.

It offers free access to reading materials and aims to create a positive learning environment for both young and adult learners. While currently limited in large gatherings, it hosts workshops and cultural activities. The program "Reading for Joy" fosters a love for books and enhances reading and writing skills among local students. The Sikkim Project produced unique coffee table books, highlighting untold stories of Sikkim beyond scenic views. Through travel and research, they captured the lives, struggles, and dreams of its people.

"Reading for Joy" aims to cultivate a love for books and enhance reading and writing skills. To reach more children, the program collaborates with schools, introducing joyful reading activities in primary sections.

Achievements include instilling a joy of reading in primary students at the Dumigaon Reading Room, introducing reading habits in primary schools, and training facilitators to support the program's implementation.

Joy of Reading Reflection

Schools

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CYIENT
FOUNDATION

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AMADEUS

 Food 4 thought
foundation • org

Recognizes children
for their ability to read and assimilate the essence of books /
authors ideas
based on Reflection Journal

ENGLISH



Voorella Sri Aishwarya Yadav
Vidya Bharati High School, Telangana
(Category 1 – 4)



N.Jayane
Vidya Bharati High School, Telangana
Category (5-7)



U.Koteswar
ZPHS Shamshiguda
Category (8-10)

HINDI



Ishika
White Lotus Trust NGO, Bawana
(Category 1 – 4)



Raghuver L
SSGM, Chureliya, Rajasthan
(Category 5 – 7)



Samad Malik
Sophiya Public School, Ghaziaba
(Category 8 – 10)

TELUGU



N. Bavya Sree
Sri Saraswathi Vidhya
Mandhir High School
(Category 1 – 4)



B. Harika
Zilla Parishad High School,
Shamshiguda
(Category 5 – 7)



Teja
Akshara Vidya Mandir
(Category 8 – 10)

KANNADA



Kanika H.N
GHPS Honachanahalli
(Category 1 -4)



Lakshmi.L
GLPS Marasandahalli
(Category 5 – 7)



Manoj.M
GBHS Hoskote
(Category 8 – 10)

GUJARATI



Sondarva Roshani Hareshbhai
Shree Dhun Dhoraji Primary School
(Category 1 – 4)



Makavana Disha Shaileshbhai
Shree Dhun Dhoraji Primary Sc
(Category 5 – 7)



Sorani Priyanshi.B
Shree Rajavadla Jam Primary
School
(Category 8 – 10)

URDU



Asma Begum
Muhammad Hussain
Mandalparishad Primary
School
(Category 1 – 4)



MD.Anas
GUPHS Subilee
(Category 5– 7)



Rubeena
Mouhammad Husain Zilla
Parishad High School
(Category 8– 10)

BENGALI



Shreyas Biswas
SSGM Hoogly
(Category 1 – 4)



Sayantika Hait
SSGM Hoogly
(Category 5 – 7)



Dhruva Raj Roy
SSGM, Mayanguri, Jalpaiuri
(Category 8– 10)

HIGHEST PARTICIPATION



SSGM Anirudhwa, Kushinagar
(108 students)
Category- 5 to 7



ZPHS Shamshiguda
(95 Students)
Category- 8 to 10



MPPS Kamalapuram, Khammam
(108 Students)
Category- 1 to 4



Book Store Of The Year

india reading olympiad [®] - 2024

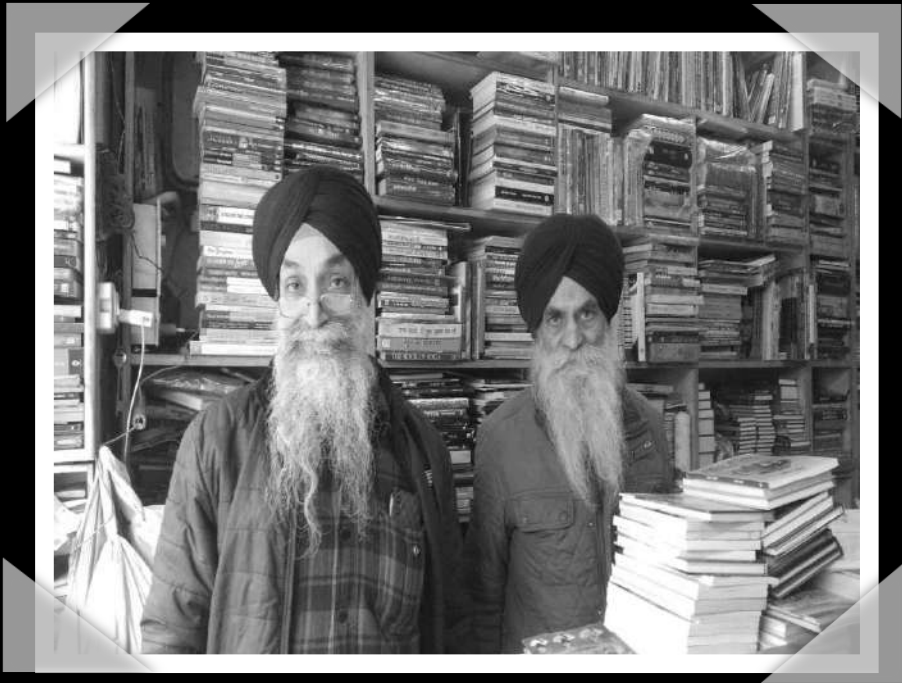
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AMADEUS

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Recognizes Boutique bookstores
which are more than 50 years old and are using creative ways
Of making books accessible to all and Encouraging reading habits & the joy
of reading



Azad Book Depot, Amristar



India Reading Olympiad[®]
Book store of
The Year
2024

BOOKSTORE

FROM 1948

Azad Book store is a 76 years Old Bookstore in Amritsar. The bookstore origins come from Pakistan, after partition and in the year 1948 it re-started in India.

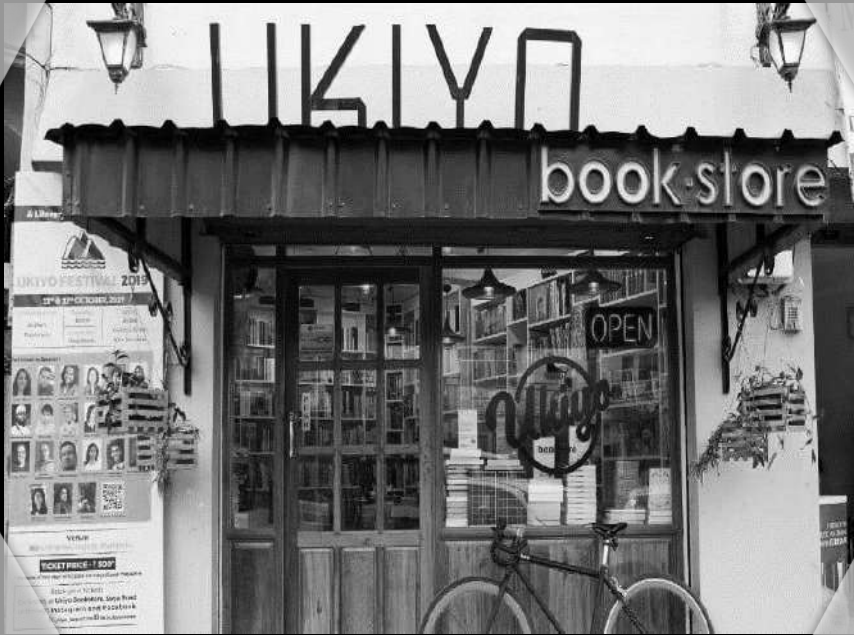
The longevity of the iconic bookstore is attributed to 'staying relevant with the times. The English Book Depot specializes in Military History & Warfare, Geology & Petroleum and Forestry & Environment.

The store has vital collections of Punjabi, English and Hindi Literature. The collections of Punjabi books have increase compared to e-books as the provide the Punjabi literature books at a low cost.

The bookstore now plans to publish more English, Hindi, Punjabi and Urdu books as the demand for them have increased both in India and International.

The store even hosts events-readings, meet & greet authors and on regular intervals participate in Literary Festival.

Further they also conduct book fair in schools on regular intervals to showcase the new book collections the store has got.



Ukiyo Bookstore



THE BOOKSTORE OF JODHPUR

Ukiyo Bookstore was established in 2018 in Manipur with aims to bring joy of reading to children and young adults.

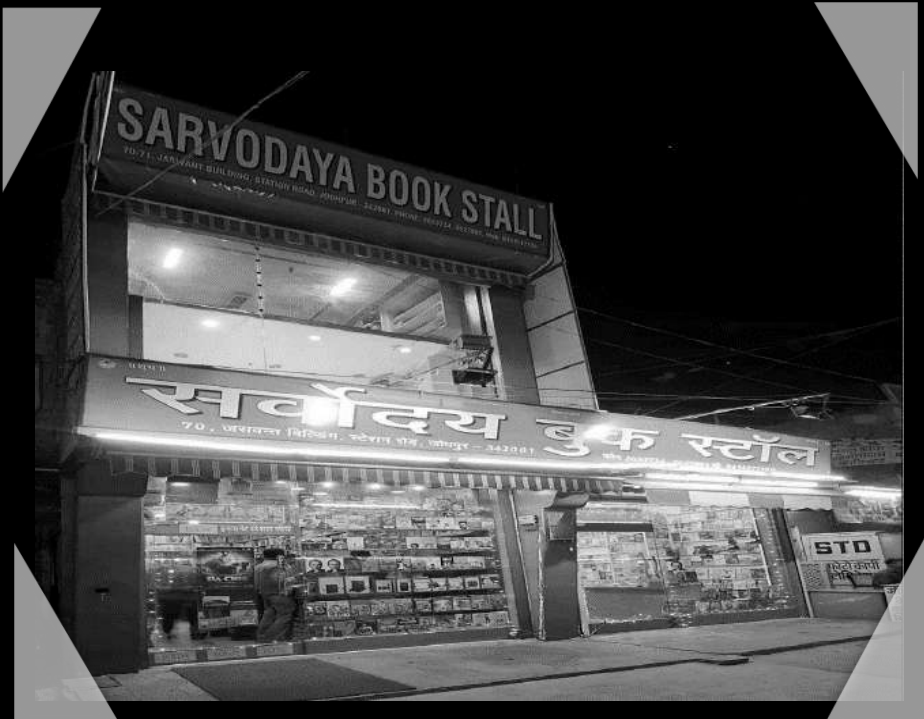
Ukiyo, according to the founder, is a Japanese word that describes a certain feeling one gets when reading a particular passage in a book or when hearing a certain phrase or word.

Ever since the beginning Ukiyo has hosted children from the remotest of the regions in Manipur. Children from Sunday schools which are established in remote areas have been a part of the bookstore's journey since the start and thus they aim to bring books closer to them.

Ukiyo Literature Festival 2019 was organized to commemorate the bookstore's first year anniversary. It was the first of its kind literary festival in the entire Northeast region.

During Pandemic they were among the first stores to start delivering. Even as the packaging materials ran out, they collected old newspapers and tie them with strings to wrap the books. They made sure people stay sane with the companionship of books during such a difficult time.

They also have organized book launches, readings, music listening sessions etc. in order to grow a healthy and progressive culture among the community.



Sarvodaya Bookstall, Jodhpur



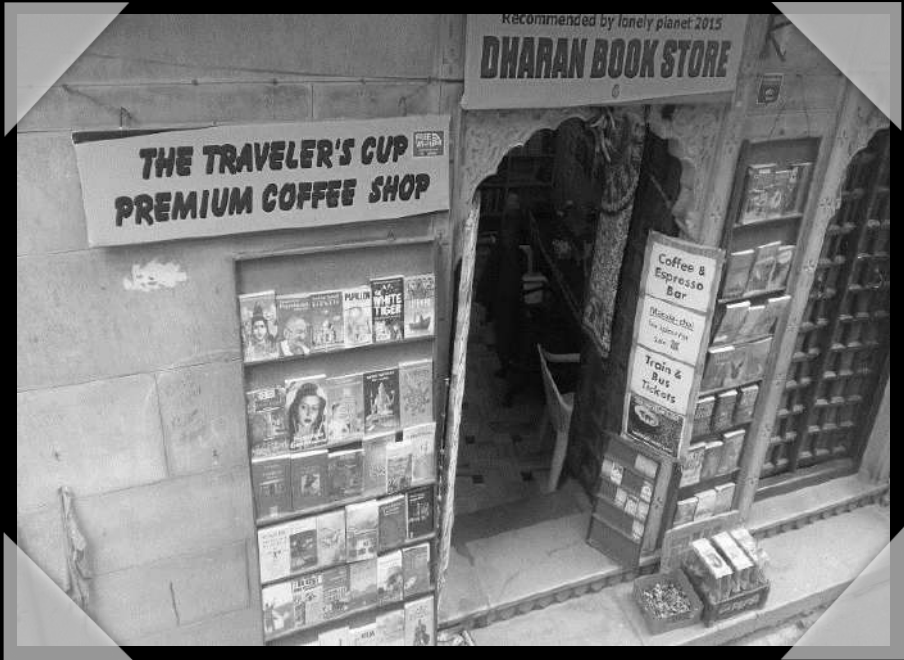
THE BOOKSTORE OF JODHPUR

Established in 1960 with a mere 300 books - Sarvodaya Book Stall in Jaswant Sarai, Jodhpur is a household name today. Ever since its inception - Sarvodaya Book Stall has worked relentlessly towards bringing the joy of reading to the members of its community.

As one enters the shop one is instantly filled with awe forth large collection of books. The space lends itself to fostering human connections out of shared love for the simple and pure joy of books.

People from far and wide visit this bookstore owing to its extensive collection and a wide variety of books. Towering shelves covering every inch - it is indeed a book reader's paradise. They believe that reading isn't just about pleasure - it compels us to ask the crucial questions in life and develop a unique perspective about the world surrounding us. This guiding philosophy has helped them chart this remarkable 62-year-old journey and even persist through the hardships of the pandemic.

They owe the bookstore's strength and sustainability to their customers. On any given day, one might run into a reputed IAS officer, statesman or business tycoon browsing the shelves of Sarvodaya Book Stall. With a growing customer base they are vigorously expanding to bolster their patrons' intellectual pursuits. Supported by a humble and reliant staff of 20, the bookstore leaves its imprint on every person who visits its premises.



Dharan Bookstore



HIDDEN BOOKSTORE

IN A FORT

A bookstore hidden in the meandering by lanes of a mediaeval fortress sounds like something straight out of a fairy tale, and Jaisalmer's Dharan Bookstore is nothing short of that.

Established in 2006, this Bookstore embodies the very spirit of Jaisalmer with its splendid collection of books on Indian Culture and Life in English, French, Spanish, Russian, German and many other languages - catering to the diverse nationality of travellers who visit this Bookstore.

As you step through the traditional Rajasthani archway into the Bookstore - you find yourself surrounded by towering bookshelves covering every inch of the wall - a lot like some rebellious princess' secret library.

It's the perfect place to relax after an adventurous afternoon exploring the sheer grandeur of the fortress. They also serve refreshing beverages and offer free Wi-Fi as you browse through a vast collection of books to satiate the curiosity that the Fort ignites. The 15-year-old Bookstore has widely contributed to enhancing the experience of travellers who visit the Fort by giving them an opportunity to learn more about the grandeur they have just witnessed.

As a result of their eclectic thoughtfulness, Dharan Bookstore has garnered many heartening reviews on TripAdvisor and earned The Lonely Planet's recognition as the Best E-Café within the Fort in 2015. Every nook and niche of the Jaisalmer Fort has a story to tell, and Dharan Bookstore houses all those stories and so much more.



Literati Bookshop And Cafe



COLONIAL HOUSE, HOME FOR BOOKS n COFFEE

Nestled in a South Calangute Portuguese-style home, Literati is a 100-year old refurbished house. The treasure trove bookcafe was started by a book-loving couple and is now owned and run by Diviya Kapur. Customers are free to curl up with a book on the veranda that overlooks a lush Italian garden. Titles sold here include works by Indian and Goan authors.

They were the winner of the Publishing Next Industry Bookstore of the Year 2014. The place is known for book launches, authors' book readings, art workshops, screening documentaries and etc.

Literati has engaged with internationally acclaimed authors and artists in the likes of Amitav Ghosh, Saeed Mirza, Dayanita Singh, Zai Whitaker and Suniti Namjoshi. The bookshop additionally houses a dedicated used-book section. An excellent selection of antiquarian books can be found here.

Initiatives of the Bookcafe include, 'BEBOOK' where they encourage reading and learning from a young age. They run a mobile library, focused on children who may not have access or privilege to purchase a book. They also have a registered trust which conducts fundraisers & fetes annually. LITERATI BOOK CLUB also comprises of a small group of 10-15 individuals who meet frequently for their love of books.

Caught Reading

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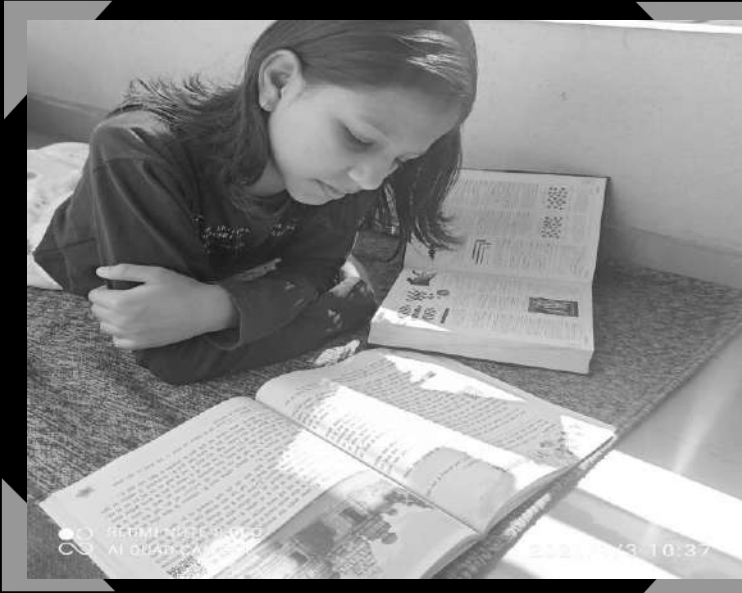
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Food 4 thought
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Recognizes photographs
which capture the essence of Reading Habits / Joy of Reading

A PICTURE TO INSPIRE



Ms.. Vandana Bhatnagar ~ Delhi

Vandana Bhatnagar, Professor She runs her own B.Ed Center

She is a Behavioural Counsellor, Career Counsellor and Motivational Speaker

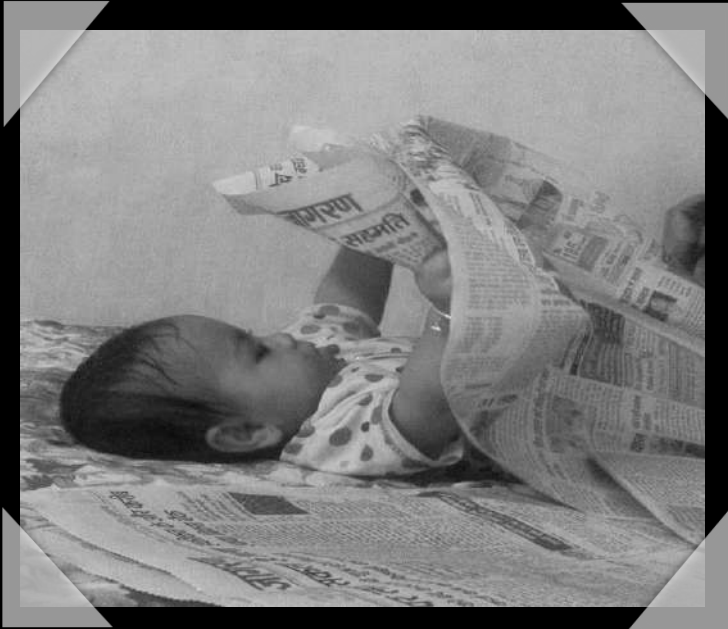
CAPTURING THE JOY OF READING



Uma Sharma

- Uma is a Chartered Accountant by profession who has an undying love for books. She considers reading as an essential part of her life.
- She also likes photography so she never miss an opportunity to capture someone in their moment of reading as she believes it is one of the purest and happiest moments to share.

SEIZING THE MOMENT



Ms. Meenakshi Jha~ Noida

- Ms. Meenakshi Jha is a professional Artist and runs her own Art and Craft Centre in Noida
- She is also a book lover and loves capturing photos of her daughter enjoying reading.

A MEMORY TO CHERISH



Ms Monica Gupta

- Monica Gupta, is author, blogger, creative writing coach, columnist and current President of Ahmedabad Book Club.
- She is a nature lover and I see myself as a nurturer and healer. And this is extensively reflected in my writings.

Best Library

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FOUNDATION

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AMADEUS

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Recognises Schools where the Foundation Libraries are
operating
based on READER index parameters
which include, how many books are being read, by how many
children etc.



**Sri Sri Gnan Mandir, Sarangkhedra
(North Zone)
Principal : Bhojraj Meena**



**Akshara Vidya Mandir, Hyderabad
(South Zone)
Principal : Y V Nagaramesh**



**Sri Sri Gnan Mandir, East Belbari ,
Tripura (East Zone)
Principal : Sachi Rani Debbarma**



**Shree Barvala Primary School
(West Zone)
Principal : Rameshbhai
Ghodkiya**

Sri Sri Gnan Mandir Sarangkhedra, was established in 2000. This school has classes from 1st to 8th. They have a library with 200 books in the library. Joy of reading sessions are conducted to inculcate and improve the reading ability of the children

Akshara Vidya Mandir school, Hyderabad has classes from 1st to 10th. They have a library with 250 books in the library. Joy of reading sessions are conducted to inculcate and improve the reading ability of the children.

Sri Sri Gnan Mandir East Belbari, Tripura was established in 2004. This school has classes from 1st to 5th. They have a library with 200 books in the library. Joy of reading sessions are conducted to inculcate and improve the reading ability of the children.

Shree Barvala Primary School, Rajkot Gujarat was established in 2010. The school has grades from 1st to 8th. This school has a library with 200 books in it. Joy of reading sessions are conducted to inculcate and improve the reading ability of the children.

Innovative Library Format

india reading olympiad - 2024[®]

Recognizes Innovations
which are Encouraging reading among individuals / groups /
communities
Through innovative approach which is a best practice



Khaja Moideen's store in Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu, is known as Comrade Fruit Shop. (Credits: News18)

Khaja Moideen, Tanjaver



FRUIT VENDOR GIFTING

BOOKS TO CUSTOMERS

A 63-year-old fruit vendor in Tamil Nadu's Thanjavur district, affectionately known as 'Comrade,' gifts books to all his customers to promote reading habits.

His store is named 'Thozhar Pazhakadai' (Comrade Fruit Shop). Despite limited formal education, he reads novels daily since childhood and carries on the tradition of gifting books, which his family started during sporting events in the Pookkara Street neighborhood.

He started gifting books to customers as a diversion from personal tragedy, eventually evolving into a practice of giving free books to all customers, mostly regulars.

His generosity has inspired the community, leading to a chain reaction of book donations. His actions have sparked widespread gratitude and coverage in the media, demonstrating how small acts of kindness can make a big impact, spreading joy and knowledge in the community.

His practice inspires both customers and the wider community, sparking a chain reaction of book donations. Despite initially investing his own money, he continues the gesture with donated books, believing in its impact on spreading knowledge and positivity.

Covered by local newspapers, he sees his greatest achievement in demonstrating how small actions can make a big difference in people's lives.



Apeejay Anand Children Library, Kolkata



LIBRARY ON TRAM & BOAT FOR KIDS OF SEX WORKERS

The Apeejay Anand Children's Library, affiliated with Oxford Bookstore, began in 1992 to provide reading and learning opportunities for marginalized and slum children at 17 Park Street.

It aims to expand literacy and reshape perspectives crucial for a creative society. Evolving to meet young readers' needs, it introduced innovative libraries like the Kolkata Young Readers' Boat, Tramcar Library, and Mobile Library for Sex Workers.

Kolkata's first 'Library on Wheels' operates on a tram, initiated by WBTC and Apeejay Anand Children's Library, offering free admission for children under 18. The library includes free WiFi and a tuck shop, with trips starting from Millennium Park jetty.

Another initiative, the Mobile Library for Children of Kolkata Sex Workers, introduces reading to underprivileged children. The goal is to impact over 300,000 children through various library formats in three years.

Through partnerships and community engagement, we establish satellite libraries in underserved areas, promoting reading and cultural understanding. Expansion across India, with focus on remote regions, using online platforms for learning. Regular impact assessments and volunteer training are key. Collaborations with West Bengal Transport Corporation drive these initiatives. Achievements include nurturing environments for children to explore, learn, and dream through innovative libraries, reaching every community member.



GHORA LIBRARY, Nainital



GHORA LIBRARY INITIATIVE

Shubham Badhani, from Haldwani, Uttarakhand, holds degrees in B.Sc., D.El.Ed., M.A. Sociology, M.A. Education, and Library Education.

As a Library Educator in schools, he promotes book culture among mountain children. His Ghora Library initiative aims to provide millions of eager learners with the opportunity to read, fulfilling a dream of connecting them with the world through books.

The Ghora Library initiative utilizes horses to reach remote areas, providing access to books despite difficult terrains and weather conditions. Volunteers hang books on ropes attached to the horse, creating a mobile library that visits designated locations weekly. Children choose books and engage in activities like reading, singing, and small plays. The initiative fosters curiosity and learning while improving literacy levels and aiding in school studies. Ghora library classrooms at Jalana village enhance literacy and prepare students for competitive exams.

The project involves community-driven teams collecting donated books and using horses to create mobile libraries.

The initiative received recognition from various officials including the Prime Minister of India and the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand. Additionally, it was appreciated at events like Bhimtal Kitaab Koutik and by representatives of the Central Defence State Minister and local MLA.



Roshni Youth Group, Kolkata



CYCLE CART LIBRARY AT RAJABAZAR

Roshni, founded by Shahina Javed in 2014, is a Kolkata-based youth group registered under the Societies Registration Act.

They operate Masti ki Patshala, a mobile cycle library-cart providing 500 books in Urdu, English, and Hindi to children in the Rajabazar slum area. Led by young girls aged eighteen to thirty, Roshni promotes independent decision-making and democratic leadership.

It provides a dynamic solution to community challenges, addressing limited space and access to traditional libraries. Housed in an open van, it transcends physical barriers and engages adolescents directly.

Colorful books and mobility capture youth attention away from distractions like mobile games and drugs. By integrating drama, song, and arts, the library promotes reading culture and education, bridging traditional schooling with community needs in a creative way.

They plan to expand their mobile library service from 1 to 3 carts, reaching more children across different areas and classes. Their goal is to foster interest in reading and studying while providing personality development training. This expansion will cover areas like Manicktala, Topsia, and Tangra slums, allowing children to borrow books for a week. Their achievements include setting up libraries in various locations, promoting accessibility to books through unmanned libraries. They aim to replicate these libraries at different locations.



Kahaani Ki Dukaan, Himachal Pradesh



KAHANI KI DUKAAN FOR THE DAY IN A TENT/STREET

Anoop Chugh (40), a theatre director, and Jasmine Kaur (35), a footwear designer, bonded over their mutual love for rural spaces and community upliftment.

They established 'Kahaani ki Dukaan' in Gunehar village, Himachal Pradesh, promoting fictional reading among children through storytelling, theatre, podcast, and visual arts in tents and street plays.

Jasmine and Anoop's 'Stories In-Tent-Ed' project uses a yellow car mobile library, 'Kahaani ki Dukaan', to bring storybooks to villages. They set up mobile libraries, perform stories and music, and leave books behind to inspire children.

This initiative has reached over 20 villages in Himachal and Punjab, with additional fiction libraries in Chamba, Naggar, and Aloona. They also encourage children to write their own stories and perform for various audiences.

They've distributed 1000+ storybooks to village children through their fiction and mobile libraries. Engaging them with pop-culture story theatre and local culture workshops, they address social and environmental issues through performance art. Presenting village stories on weekends, they promote on travel platforms to attract volunteers, bringing rural narratives to urban cities and participating in major festivals like Spoken, Bombay, and Sanatkada, Lucknow.

Inspiring Storyteller

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Meera V, Bengaluru



MAYAAKATHA

COMMUNITY HUB

Meera after 17 years in corporate, she founded Mayaakatha Community Hub, which has grown to 4000 members in 5 years.

Offering training in business mentoring, confidence building, and writing skills, it collaborates with trainers and hosts the top 50 show "Kaapi and Conversations" on binge pods and spotifyindia.

Mayaakatha focuses on turning ideas into successful business stories by leveraging the power of storytelling. Through podcasts, they enhance business storytelling skills for individuals and corporations. With over 4000 members, their online community enables sharing and discussion through writing, storytelling, and training. Additionally, they conduct workshops for school and engineering students in Indore and collaborate with Pachyderm Tales to produce 7 anthologies involving 200-300 writers.

They offer workshops in regional and English languages for writing events and content creation. Introducing storytelling formats in corporates for brand building, they have achieved incubation at NSRCEL WSP IIMB, IIM-Field Vizag, and Level-up 91 Springboards Google for Startups for Women. Their podcast, "Kaapi and Conversations," was selected for Spotify Level Up Program and ranked among the TOP 50 in India.



Rituparna Ghosh, Noida



YOUR STORY

BAG

Rituparna Gosh specializes in Storytelling, Training, Consulting, and Coaching for children, educators, parents, schools, non-profits, and corporates.

The focus includes using Children's Literature as a tool for adult training, guiding educators and parents in making suitable reading choices. They also aids large corporations in humanizing their brand, onboarding employees, fostering unity, preparing for change, and cultivating empathetic future leaders.

They train storytellers and teachers to use children's literature effectively. Through story pedagogy interventions, they encourage more reading among teachers. They design Story Strategy for Corporates to communicate business objectives, goals, and vision. They create Custom Modules for corporate teams to master storytelling. With group coaching and individual mentoring, they prepare teams to deliver impactful stories. They also offer Story Consulting to assist corporate individuals in content development and delivery.

Their flagship program, Tickle Your Story Bones, targets parents, teachers, and storytellers. Spark Classroom focuses on helping Preprimary and Primary school teachers master the Art & Science of Storytelling.

After Work Stories offers employees a platform for Chai, Golpo & Adda sessions. Gift-a-Story, an initiative by Your Story Bag & YSB Tribe of Storytellers, aims to make stories affordable and sustainable for both listeners and tellers.



Kshamatha Chepuri, Hyderabad



FOUNDER OF

KATHA&KRAFTS

Kshamatha, Founder of Katha&Krafts, practices storytelling for humanity's service and the joy of learning. Professionally trained with certifications from Secret Passages, FEAST, and IDAEA.

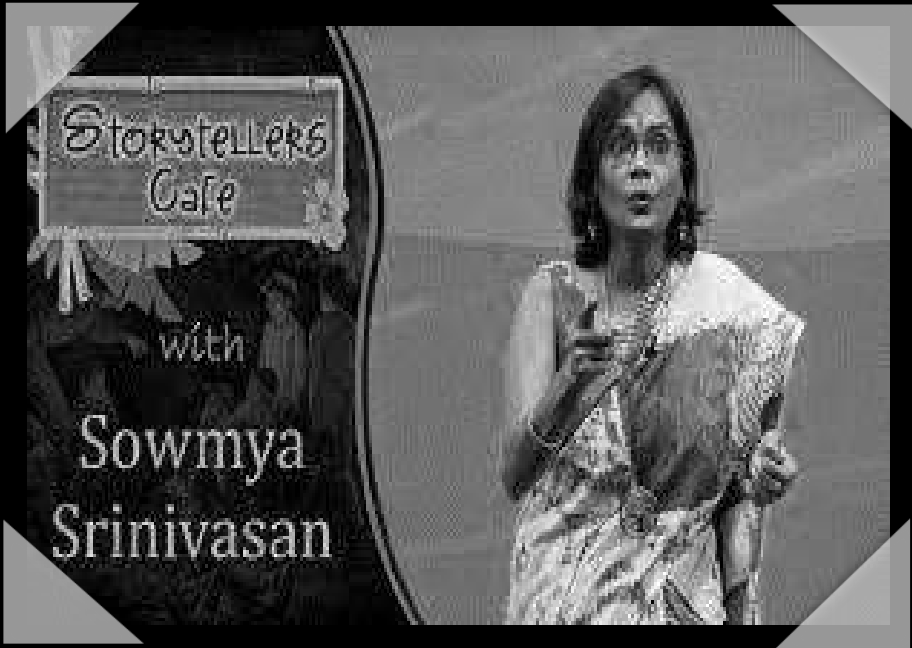
A versatile storyteller fluent in English, Hindi, Telugu, and Tamil, she has curated, assisted, and performed at major storytelling events and children's literature festivals in India. Actively volunteers for Hyderabad Storytellers Association.

She innovates storytelling with diverse strategies, blending tradition in parent-toddler sessions and training students in public speaking. Online classes and Author Meet sessions reach a global audience.

Her holistic approach merges roots with modern platforms, resonating dynamically. Over 5 years, she partnered with Pratham Books for initiatives fostering empathy in children and supported medical expenses through the KathaDhaara fundraiser.

She also Received Seva Ratna award from Urathasinthanai Tamil Magazine for societal contributions through storytelling.

Featured in Womenshine magazine, Lucknow, and mentioned in Delhi-based blog Aura of thoughts. Her storytelling work, along with peers at Hyderabad Storytellers Association, was featured in Hindustan Times alongside eminent storytellers of India.



Sowmya Rajan Srinivasan, Bengaluru



THEATRE TECHNIQUES AND CRAFT TO DEVELOP CREATIVE THINKING

Sowmya Srinivasan, a storyteller since 2008, nurtures creative thinking in children through her venture, SoulSpace Storytell, using storytelling, theater techniques, and craft.

A founder-member of the Bangalore Storytelling Society since 2013, she organized the Bangalore Storytelling Festival from 2015. During the pandemic in 2020/21, she facilitated a bi-weekly online Reading and Reflecting circle for adults

She was interviewed by Kalki Online, a Tamil magazine. She also appeared on Bharath FM at Storyteller's café, discussing her work using storytelling for healing and personal growth.

Additionally, she led a workshop at the Chennai Storytelling Festival, focusing on Life Story Mandala, a reflective tool for personal growth. Her healing storytelling work was featured in The Hindu Metroplus and mentioned in an article on storytelling as a healing tool in the Deccan Chronicle.

She facilitated a day-long Storytelling reflective circle for women employees at TVS Hosur, invited by a business coach. She received the Yuva Shakthi award from Shakthi Positive – Rotary Club of Kria Shakthi and the Rotary Vocational Services award from Rotary Club of Bangalore West and Rotary Spandana. Additionally, she was honored with the Empathetic Educator award from TIPS-Trichy..



**Lavanya
Prasad, Bengaluru**



FOUNDER AND CHIEF STORYTELLER AT TALESCOPE

Lavanya Prasad, Founder of Telescope, trains teachers and parents to integrate stories into children's daily routines through programs like "Grow to be Tellers" and "Raising Readers."

Talescope's corporate leadership programs reconnect executives with the wisdom of sacred texts, fostering personal and professional growth.

She facilitates Roots Circle sessions with senior citizens. She trains teachers and parents at the grassroots level to use storytelling as a medium for connection.

Additionally, she trains college students as part of the Tamil Nadu Government's initiative on the "Art and Science of Storytelling" elective. She initiated and curated a collaborative performance of Ramayana between Indonesia and India in Jakarta

Reviving traditional art forms like Villupaatu for the younger generation through innovative ideas. Facilitating intercultural collaborations to highlight the essence of human connections through stories.

Honored by Prime Minister Shri P. Narendra Modi in 2020 during Maan Ki Baat for the 'Root Program.' Received a special invitation to participate in the screening of the 100th episode of Maan Ki Baat at the Governor's residence in Bengaluru.

Special Jury Award

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Syed Hassan Mousavi



ONE MAN'S VISION FOR EDUCATION IN A REMOTE LADAKI VILLAGE

Syed Hassan, a prominent social activist and education advocate in Taisuru block, Kargil, leads the Evergreen Welfare Society.

He pioneers a cooperative education model, providing underprivileged children with access to education. Syed is also an associate of the Global Himalayan Expedition (GHE), contributing to digital education programs for schools in Kargil.

In the remote village of Taisuru in Ladakh's Suru valley, extreme cold and isolation present challenges for residents. To address the lack of education facilities, the Evergreen Education Welfare Society established a school in 2000, supported by volunteers and organizations like Global Himalayan Expedition.

Despite hurdles, the school now educates 220 students and plans expansion, including a hostel for winter accessibility.

Founder's personal tragedies redirected him towards helping underprivileged children, leading to the school's establishment. Community involvement, volunteerism, and support from organizations drive its success, offering English-medium education, employment for local youth, and a vision for quality education. Despite challenges, the Evergreen Public School symbolizes Taisuru's resilience and potential for tourism and exploration.

A Special appreciation by the Jury for the exceptional
work done by the Winner

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