



सत्यमेव जयते

THE NEWSLETTER

(Special issue)



THE NATIONAL LIBRARY
KOLKATA
2004

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THE NATIONAL LIBRARY, KOLKATA NEWSLETTER

Vol.XXI

(Special issue)

OCTOBER 2004

INTRODUCTION:

50 years ago on 20th May 1954 the Government of India passed the Delivery of Books (Public Libraries) Act, 1954. This was a landmark in the history of library services in India. Prior to the Independence of India, the National Library (then the Imperial Library) was offered the privilege to ask for any book, free of cost, received by the Bengal Government under the Press & Registration of Books Act, 1867. However, the Delivery of Books (Public Libraries) Act, 1954 ensured a very good source for building a collection of the national cultural and intellectual heritage and an effective step forward for the nation's bibliographical control. This special issue throws some light on the Delivery of Books (Public Libraries) Act, 1954 and its operation by the National Library during these fifty years.

'The Library is a growing organism' Dr S R Ranganathan, the father of Library Science in India, enunciated it as the fifth law of Library Science. The Library grows continuously and it is evident from this fact that the National Library, which started its journey from an apartment of Dr F P Strong in 1836, is now stepping into yet another massive building called the Bhasha Bhavan (the House of Languages) with over 40,000 sq. mt. carpet area, on 8th of October 2004. The Government of India through its Central Public Works Department (CPWD) constructed a gigantic building for the Library with fully air-conditioned; state-of-art technology and modern facilities to enable the National Library of India overcome the space problem for arranging it's huge collection and providing the desired services to its clientele and the scholars' community.

Belvedere with its magnificent surroundings and unparallel natural beauty is unique in the world, which is housing an institution like the National Library of India. Its beauty and reading atmosphere have attracted scholars even beyond the territory of India. A brief sketch of Belvedere is given in this special issue along with some activities of the National Library of India and its employees.

50 Years of the Delivery of Books (Public Libraries) Act, 1954

The history of the legal deposit of books in India started with the enactment of Press & Registration of Books Act, 1867 hereinafter referred to as [P&R Act]. The annual reports of the Imperial Library reveal that the said Library received publications under the P&R Act, 1867 through Calcutta Library. The National Library of India became a direct beneficiary of the P&R Act, 1867 and received one copy of each publication produced in India through an executive order of the Government of India, 1953-54. This privilege was replaced by the enactment of the Delivery of Books (Public Libraries) Act, 1954 which came into force from 20th May 1954. The Act was amended in the year 1956 to cover the newspaper and serial publications. Among several provisions of the Act the following are noteworthy:

1. *“...the publisher of every book published in the territories to which this Act extends after commencement of this Act shall, notwithstanding any agreement to the contrary, deliver at his own expense a copy of the book to the National Library at Calcutta and one such copy to each of the other three libraries within thirty days from the date of its publication.”*
2. *“The copy delivered to the National Library shall be a copy of the whole book with all maps and illustrations belonging thereto, finished and coloured in the same manner as the best copies of the same, and shall be bound, sewed or stitched together, and the best paper on which any copy of the book is printed.*
- 3A. *“...the publisher of every newspaper, published in the territories to which this Act extends, shall deliver at his own expense one copy of each issue of such newspaper as soon as it is published to each public library as may be notified in this behalf by the Central Government in the Official Gazette”.*
5. *“Any publisher who contravenes any provision of this Act or of any rule made there under shall be punishable with fine ...”*

The Act has made it obligatory on the part of every publisher in India to deposit, free

of cost a copy of the publication with the National Library and three other public libraries namely Connemara Public Library, Chennai, Central Library, Town Hall, Mumbai and Delhi Public Library, Delhi within 30 days from the date of issue of the publication.

The main objective of the Act is to institutionalize a system that helps the preservation of the country's cultural and intellectual heritage, embodied in readable materials, be they printed, lithographed or manuscript forms. While the past treasure cannot be collected by the application of such a law, all contemporary publications are sought to be trapped exhaustively without leaving any loopholes. It leaves no room for exercise of judgment on selection of material. The Act ensures total coverage, providing for compulsory deposit of publications to the National Library where they are stored and preserved for posterity. It is also fully consistent with the goals and objectives of the National Library of India. The law is in full conformity with similar laws / or systems in force in many other countries.

It has been observed that not more than 30 to 40% of publications in the country are delivered to the National Library under the D. B. Act. The other three libraries receive even less. The reasons for non-submission of books are many. Some publishers especially the new in the trade are not aware of the obligation. It is estimated that the number of registered publishers exceeds 11,000. But most of them are medium or small concerns. It is observed that more than 50% of the total number belongs to individual publishing concerns. Not more than 10% or so are member of any recognized association or guild of publishers. This makes it difficult for the National Library to get information about their publication and make them aware of the legal deposit. It is also observed that the publishers do not find any incentive to submit a book because the submission does not lead to increased sale of books.

In order to give wide publicity to the D. B. Act and make it effective there has been a tradition of persuasion by the National Library, rather than compulsion in seeking compliance with the law. Towards this end, campaigns have been launched by the National Library by means of advertisement in newspapers, periodic discussion with publishers in book fairs, special seminars and of course, through correspondence. Several D. B. Act awareness programmes have been organized in different parts of the country, which resulted in significant increase in the number of deposits.

The average receipt of publications in the National Library since the inception of the Act is broadly given below decade-wise:

Years	1950s	1960s	1970s	1980s	1990s
Average annual receipts	26,000	19,000	18,000	16,000	16,000

Although the statistics denote gradual decline in the receipt till 1990s, yet the annual break up of receipts in the previous ten years show an upward trend in the following chart:

Year	94-95	95-96	96-97	97-98	98-99	99-2k	2k-01	01-02	02-03	03-04
Receipt	14525	14883	12504	13014	15922	20012	19951	18212	20309	21155

The delivery of Books (Public Libraries) act, 1954 has completed fifty years. The publishing scenario has changed to a great extent with the advent of technology. New shapes of documents or dealing material have come to the market. The subject has been discussed and debated time and again in seminars and meetings. Under the changed situation, some modifications in the provisions of the act have become essential. The National Library has offered some concrete suggestions, which are as follows:

1. The National Library of India being the principal repository of the country's cultural and intellectual heritage, available in various readable forms, should continue to receive a copy of every publication on every subject that is brought out in the country;
2. The three other designated public libraries may continue to receive a copy of every publication brought out in English and Hindi. In addition, they ought to be entitled to receive a copy of every publication brought out in the languages in use in the zone where they are situated. For this purpose, "zone" may be clearly defined under the law;
3. There has been an enormous increase in the variety and number of publications brought out in various scientific and technological subjects including very highly specialized subjects. A number of specialized national reference libraries has already been established such as the National Science Library, the National Medical Library, the National Agricultural Library and so on. It should be advisable to entitle these

libraries to receive under the D B Act a copy each of such publications in their respective field of specialization. Consequently, the three designated public libraries may not receive any copy of publications on these subjects. However, the National Library should continue to receive a copy of every publication regardless of how specialized the subject may be.

4. The total number of copies of a publication required to be delivered by the publisher or printer, as the case may be, free of cost under the D B Act and the Press & Registration of Books Act, 1867 may be kept limited to a maximum of five. As already mentioned, one copy should invariably go to the National Library, three other copies to the three other designated public libraries (unless the publication concerned is of a highly specialised scientific or technological subject), one copy to the State Central Library (under the P & R Act, 1867).
5. It will be advisable to take steps for amalgamation of the provisions of the D B Act and the P & R Act. This may however, be difficult in the immediate context. Therefore, taking the D B Act as the core subject of legislation, suitable consequential provisions through amendment may be made in the P & R Act, for the time being.
6. Ideally speaking, legal deposit could be made a condition-precendent for seeking State protection of copyright. While this will strengthen legal deposit, it may run counter to the current trend of thinking all over the world to tighten protective measures for copyright. However, delivery of a publication under the D B Act could be pre-condition for ISBN and ISSN.
7. The scope of the term 'publication' may be widened in the context of D B Act. In line with the system that obtains in the USA and UK, the law should provide that a copy of any publication, no matter where it has been printed, published and marketed, if brought for circulation in India whether by sale or otherwise, has to be delivered to the National Library as part of legal deposit.
8. The D B Act should be amended to cover the cultural and intellectual products that are readable and audible, but come in the form of non-print materials namely digital and other electronic version of reading materials. The law should be brought enough to cover all changes that frequently take place in technology bringing out newer versions of readable/audible materials.

9. Audiovisual materials, music cassettes, video cassettes should all come within the ambit of legal deposit. One can think of setting up a number of institutions for preserving these materials receivable under the D B Act. Each institution may be specialized in one or several forms of material.
10. It is necessary to make the penal clause under the D B Act more rigorous than in the case now. The fine for the first default, may be 1000 rupees or five times the price of the book, whichever is higher. For subsequent defaults penalty should be higher, including forfeiture/cancellation of trade license for the defaulter.
11. The publisher may be freed from their obligation to bear the expense of delivery of their publication to the designated/recipient libraries. The National Library being an organization of the Govt. it should be possible for it to set apart an amount for paying the postage. The other libraries may not be all entirely government organizations and will be outside the direct budgetary control of the government. It may be that, from time to time, they will not be able to make budgetary provision for postage and this may create bottlenecks for the smooth flow of publications to be delivered to them under the D B Act to the designated recipient libraries including the National Library.
12. The procedure for trial of offence under the D B Act ought to be simplified and procedure of summary trial under the Cr.P.C. may be adopted. Provision should also be made for designating a number of officials to launch prosecution against defaulters.

The National Library may be put under the obligation to publish periodically, say every month or every quarter, a list of publication as well as articles receivable under the proposed amended act and give suitable publicity through the print media as well as its website. The list should contain a prescribed minimum of detail in respect of each publication/article received.
13. Publication of the Indian National Bibliography [INB] should be regularized now that the Central Reference Library has taken up to the system of computerized print and publication of the INB.
14. The Law of the piracy should be tightened so as to provide an incentive to publishers and printers to discharge their obligations under the D B Act and the P & R Act.
15. Newspapers and journals are usually published in relatively low quality Paper, which are prone to faster decay and also pose serious problems in the

way of their preservation. The National Library should be given the authority to destroy newspaper and periodicals printed in low quality paper after copies of the text have been kept in various technologically sound forms for reproduction.

16. Since a lot of publications are received that have no value for readers and scholars beyond the short-term period, the Library should have the authority to dispose them off after the experts certify them 'disposable'.

BELVEDERE THE HOUSE OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY



The National Library of India in the Vice-regal Palace

After the Imperial Library (Change of Name) Act was passed in 1948, the National Library came into being. After long persuasion the Government of India very graciously granted the Vice-regal Palace at Belvedere to the National Library to make it a new house of the biggest library of the country.

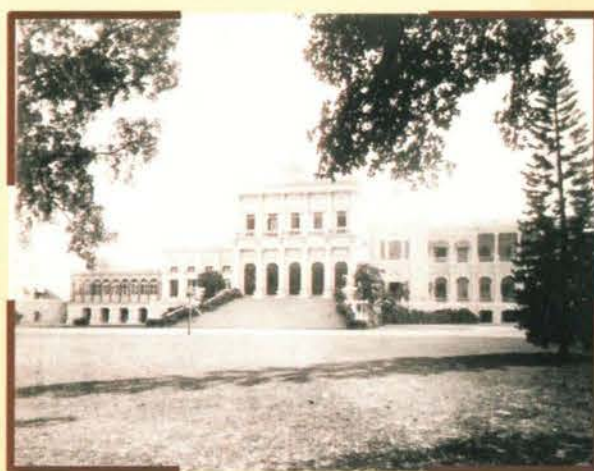
Belvedere, the word is derived from Italian '*Belle*' (beautiful) and '*vedere*' (to see). The Encyclopaedia Britannica defines Belvedere as an architectural structure built in an elevated position to command a fine view. Roofed but open on one or more sides, a Belvedere May be located in the upper part of a building or may stand as a separate structure. The term has been in use in Italian from the Renaissance. The name however, is applied to the whole building such as the Belvedere Gallery in the Vatican in Rome or the Belvedere Palace in Vienna.

The earliest map in which Belvedere is marked is that of Aaron Upjohn, executed on 2nd April 1894, and published in the same month. The 'Map of Calcutta and its Environs' was the result of accurate surveys conducted by the cartographer, Upjohn. Belvedere is situated in Alipore, an oasis in the midst of names bearing Hindu gods and goddesses. Dollanda, Radhanagar, Bhowanipore, Durgapur and Gopalnagar are all marked out in early maps of Calcutta. Some of these names still exist, but most of them have disappeared from maps of Calcutta.



A view of the Vice-regal palace at Belvedere

The main feature visible on approaching the building is the grand flight of steps with a carriage portico below, somewhat similar to that in Government House in Calcutta; these steps lead to the vestibule, a highly but tastefully decorated room from which the large hall is reached. Both the steps and the entrance to the vestibule, make the mansion remarkable in the whole of Calcutta, if not in the whole of India.



The photo elevation of the northern side of the Vice-regal palace

The entrance to the Belvedere campus is from the north through a fine masonry arch, surmounted by our national emblem and flagstaff.

This stately mansion with its varied façade evolved from out of the fancies of a number of distinguished owners whose names have made history. Though not exemplifying a pure form of Italian architecture, it is pleasing to the eye in its pleasant setting of venerable trees and lawns. The earliest name associated with this building was that of Mir Jaffar Ali Khan the Nawab Nazim of Murshidabad. Claude Campbell in his *Glimpses of Bengal* has a lot to say about Lord Clive having had something to do with Belvedere by virtue of Emperor Shah Alam's Jagir Sanad... The commander-in-Chief of India, Sir Edward Paget, K C B occupied this mansion after February 1825. The Princep family bought it and then sold the same to the East India Company in 1854 to enable them to house the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal, Sir James Halliday who stayed there from 1857 to 1859. The successive Lieutenant Governors did a lot of face lifting to this building. As back as in the 1870s, Sir Richard Temple, the then Lieutenant Governor of Bengal, described Belvedere House as being 'in the middle of the park, studded with groups of trees, its terrace overlooking a rich expanse of verdure, its ponds covered with lotus and water lilies, its gardens encircled with various trees, the banyan, the almond, the bamboo, the cotton trees and even by some specimens of the peerless aturstia'. It is interesting to note that 'the Society for the diffusion of useful literature in India' held its inaugural meeting at Belvedere with Sir Stewart Bayley in the Chair and Sir Gurudas Banerjee, Sir Rash Behari Ghose, Dr Mahendra Lal Sarkar and Dr Haraprasad Shastri attended this meeting.

The National Library collection was shifted to the new house from 1948 and it took four years to remodel the old and beautiful mansion to suit the needs of a modern library. During all these process of shifting and remodelling the library, facilities were not denied to the public. When finally the banqueting hall of the vice-regal palace was turned into the Reading Room of the National Library, a newspaper wag commented on it as 'Cupid yielding place to Minarva.'



Banqueting Hall of the vice-regal palace

BHASHA BHAVAN



Bhasha Bhavan
(New Complex of the National Library)

The fact that the Library was irresistibly expanding over the years as about 20000 books received under the Delivery of Books Act alone were added every year to the Library collection, besides several thousands received under gift and exchange and purchased by the Library. The present building was unable to accommodate growing number of books and documents. There was pressing demand for modern technology in the library services. Thus in 1987 a plan was tabled before the Government for construction of a 6 storied building of approximately 40,000 sq. meters of floor area with central air-conditioning, provided with all modern amenities with adequate fire safety measures within 30 acres of land, which the Library occupies at Belvedere, Alipore, Kolkata. A renowned architect Shri M N Rana was appointed consultant architect in 1988.

On 7th April 1989 late Rajiv Gandhi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India laid foundation stone of this Bhasha Bhavan. The Hon'ble Prime Minister desired to see the National Library of India at par with other national libraries of the world. In making MERA DESH MAHAN he stressed upon elevation of this Library to an international standard keeping in view massive information flow, its storage and retrieval, exchange and management in terms of growing demand for information on one hand and on the other its service in the changing scenario of society. In consideration of immense importance of this great seat of culture, Rajiv Gandhi wished to have state-of-the art information technology and all modern facilities for readers of this gigantic institution. The Prime Minister while approving the plan of the new building was found also concerned in protecting the architectural beauty of the Vice-regal mansion of Belvedere and its unparallel surroundings that made the India's National Library unique in the world. The administrative approval and expenditure sanction was received in January 1993. From 15th February 1995 the Central Public Works Department [CPWD], Government of India began construction of the building. The building with a carpet area of 40,000 square meters

with every unit equipped with state-of-the art fittings and technology was completed in March 2004. It is now being handed over to the authorities of the National Library. Some of the features of the Bhasha Bhavan are enumerated briefly:

Basement floor:

The plinth area of basement is 8663 sq. mt. approximately which will accommodate:

- i. Reprography ii. Preservation iii. Chemical Laboratory
- iv. Stack v. Strong rooms vi. Staff rooms etc.

Ground Floor:

- i. Art Gallery ii. Canteen iii. Indian Languages & Processing Division
- iv. Central Sorting v. Acquisition Division vi. Stack
- vii. English language and Processing

First Floor:

- i. Indian National Bibliography/Indian Union Catalogue
- ii. Auditorium iii. Loose Serials stack iv. Indian & Foreign Official Documents
- v. Periodical Reading Room vi. Braille Library vii. Catalogue Service
- viii. Reading Hall

Second Floor:

- i. Stack ii. Microfilm Laboratory iii. Special Reading Room
- iv. Audio-visual Room v. Reading Room vi. Catalogue Room

Third Floor:

- i. Stack ii. Offices

Fourth Floor:

- i. Committee room ii. Conference room iii. Research & Development room
- iv. Waiting room v. Officers room and office
- vi. Lecture Hall vii. Inter Library loan department

The building will accommodate 1500 readers at a time including special areas for special readers. Display racks and reference books will be provided in easily accessible racks. Apart from this, issue counters will be available in 1st and 2nd floors. The counters will be equipped with computers to sort out availability and trace exact location of the books in the Library.

The Auditorium is provided with state-of-the art technology and has a capacity of accommodating 540 persons.

The Conference Hall has a capacity of 75 persons and is provided with state of the art facilities.

The Lecture Hall has a capacity to accommodate 50 persons at a time and is too equipped with LCD projection system etc.

Apart from these the building is centrally air-conditioned and fully equipped with automatic fire fighting system.

It is a pleasure that the Vice-regal palace with the green lush grounds have been protected to continue with the prevalent reading environment natural beauty which doesn't exist anywhere with other national libraries.

ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY

Exhibitions:

The Library celebrated Sanskrit Day on 19th July 2004. An exhibition of Sanskrit literature from the Sanskrit collection of the Library was put up in the exhibition premises of the Library for the benefit of the readers and scholars of the Library for a week beginning from 19th July 2004.



Celebration of Sanskrit Day in the auditorium of the National Library

Sanskrit Day is celebrated in the National Library every year on 1st day of Sravana by Bengali calendar to mark importance of Sanskrit, which is the mother of all Indian languages. Prof. Amita Chakraborty inaugurated the programme and spoke about the relevance of Sanskrit studies in the present day context and Dr Krishna Chakraborty, Assistant Library and Information Officer, National Library delivered the keynote address. The Library organised a cultural evening also on the same day where Odissi dance was performed by a local cultural troupe in addition to a performance 'Sruti Natya' by the employees of the Library.

IN-SERVICE TRAINING & EDUCATION:

As a regular manpower development programme, a team of library staff underwent training on 'Conservation of library materials' from July 5 to 9, 2004. The Chemical Library Division of the conservation wing in cooperation with the Preservation Division, popularly known as Bindery, organised the training.



Trainees learning physical preservation of documents in the Bindery

The trainees were imparted theoretical as well as practical training in the art of preserving documents, both chemically and physically. The Library invited resource persons from the National Museum, New Delhi and the Asiatic Society, Kolkata to make the programme interesting and effective.

The Library is in the process of converting its bibliographic data into machine-readable format. It has employed five agencies to do the job. The work submitted by the said agencies needed checking and validation. The Director, National Library had given a drive to train up its professional staff members to do the validation work once the Library could not get experts for doing the job from outside. The professional staff members including officers of the Library, after the Computer Centre arranged a working training for them validated over 15,000 data, as submitted by the agencies.

The Library is concerned with updating its staff and officer with knowledge,



Workshop for trainers in the National Museum, New Delhi, Aug 23-28, 2004

Imparted by other institutions. The National Mission for Manuscripts, the National Museum and Gandhi Smriti & Darshan Samiti, New Delhi jointly organised a 'Workshop for trainers on Preventive Conservation of Manuscripts' for a week, between 23-28 August 2004. Smt Malabika Ghosh, Assistant Library & Information Officer was deputed to attend the said workshop by the Library authority.

The 'Incentive scheme for doing work in Hindi' was organised from September 1 to 9, 2004 in the Hindi Pakhwada Samaroh organised in the National Library, Kolkata. There were essay writing, debate and recitation competitions for both Hindi speaking and non-Hindi speaking community of people. Those who participated and won prizes were honoured in a special function, where Dr Kusum Khemani, Secretary, Bharatiya Bhasha Parishad and Shri A K Chakraborty, Senior Administrative Officer, National Technical Teachers Training and Research Institute were invited as Chief guest and special guest. It was followed by a colourful cultural evening presented by a local cultural troupe.

SEMINAR AND CONFERENCES:

The Indian Association for Special Libraries and Information Centres [IASLIC], Kolkata organised inauguration of its Golden Jubilee at the State Central Library, Kolkata on Friday, the 3rd September 2004 where a big contingent of professional librarians headed by Professor Sudhendu Mandal, Director and Dr R Ramachandran, Principal Library and Information Officer, National Library joined. The inauguration ceremony was presided over by Professor Prabir Roychoudhury and Dr Satysadhan Chakraborty, Hon'ble Minister of Education, Govt. of West Bengal was made Chief Guest and Sri Nema Mal, Hon'ble Minister for Library Services, Govt. of West Bengal attended as a special guest.

COLLECTION BUILDING:

The Library acquired a valuable personal collection of Prof. Manas Roy, a renowned professor of German in the University of Calcutta. Prof. Roy donated 211 German books and 145 French books to this Library for their use by readers of foreign languages. In addition, the Library also received small gifts of books from a number of individuals, which are value addition to the Library collection.

The drive for collection of books in Indian languages under the D B Act, 1954 has become, more or less a regular affair of the Library. The Oriya books collection was the target this time. Nearly 2200 publication in Oriya were collected under the D B Act. Prof. Sudhendu Mandal, Director National Library visited Bhubaneswar, Orissa on 27th September 2004. He met high officials of the Ministry of Education, Culture and the Directorate of Libraris, Orissa. He is seen with the Minister of Culture, Govt. of Orissa on the occasion of the release of first Oriya Bibliography of the State.



Professor Sudhendu Mandal amidst Ministers, Govt. of Orissa in Bhubaneswar

RESEARCH ASSISTANCE:

The Library extended reference and bibliographic service to the following research scholar besides many unrecorded readers :

1. PRAMOD KUMAR MOHANTY, Utkal University. *Topic:* The Urban Culture of Orissa: A case study of colonial Cuttack.
2. SUPRIYA DAS, T.M. Bhagalpur University. *Topic:* Study of women characters in Tagore's plays.
3. UDAY DUTTA, University of Burdwan. *Topic:* Financial management in power sector.
4. SUSMITA BISWAS, University of Burdwan. *Topic:* Palanquin and 'Behara'.
5. RITU SAHA, University of Burdwan. *Topic:* The social and cultural life of Beharis of Burdwan.
6. SUPARNA SANYAL MUKHERJEE, Vidyasagar University. *Topic:* Impact of Indian Forest Act on tribes of Paschim Medinipur.
7. ANAND KUMAR SINGH, Purvanchal University. *Topic:* Freedom movement.
8. SATISH CHANDRA SINGH, Purvanchal University. *Topic:* Study of zamindari system of Jaunpur.
9. DR. SUSHIM DUBEY, Rani Durgabati University, Jabalpur. *Topic:* Manusmriti, Kautilya's Arthashastra, Vatsyana's Kamasutra: Philosophy and value.
10. AMBIKA SHARAN GUPTA, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Awadh Vishwa-

vidyalaya. *Topic:* Wordsworth's naturalism.

11. PALLAVI BORAH, University of Hyderabad. *Topic:* Indian children's literature in English.

12. SUDIPA TOPDAR, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. *Topic:* School text books and children's literature in late 19th century India.

13. SHEEZA USMAN, Aligarh Muslim University. *Topic:* Contemporary women artists in India.

14. SHIKHA SINGH, Benaras Hindu University. *Topic:* Education...

15. MALABIKA MITRA, North Eastern Hill University, Shillong. *Topic:* Jane Austen: Anxiety over authority.

16. ARCHANA AGARWAL, Aligarh Muslim University. *Topic:* William Somerset Maugham: Irony in Maugham's fiction.

17. SANJUKTA SUNDERASON, Jawaharlal Nehru University. *Topic:* Visual satire in colonial Calcutta.

MISCELLANY:

Professor Sudhendu Mandal joined the National Library, Kolkata as its new Director from 27th August 2004 and took charge from Shri K K Banerjee, Director, Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation. Prior to joining the National Library, Kolkata Professor Mandal, a botanist by specialisation was heading the Visva-Bharati Granthana Vibhaga as Director and was associated with several activities of Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan.



Professor Sudhendu Mandal

His message on joining the National Library is :-

The National Library, an institution known by itself contributed immensely to men's knowledge and faculty from the day of its inception till today. In my mind a question arises how our society and ancient civilization understood truth radiated from the spectra of Academic, Artistic, Cultural, Philosophical, Religious, Economic, Political, Scientific, Material and Social changes and whether the application of that truth to make progress so far at all dependent on the treasures of this library or not.

Nevertheless this library worked silently, but definitely for our society who is engaged in achieving her conquests over untruth and old-fashioned erroneous beliefs.

Our Library represents the most conscious and responsible minds of yesterday and today. In this era of Scholasticism our society can make progress by only advancing the process of learning. As our Library, a most important component of total learning process has to offer regular survey of library system and touch stone of our achievements and efforts to allow users to make more profits in the fiefdom of intellect and critical observations.

Our Library is living and vibrant, beats its heart with a rhythmic sound but only in quietness and to keep it in that style we all have to work as we used to because we are made for that purpose.'

VISITORS OF THE LIBRARY:

1. H. E. Ms. Penelope Wensley, High Commissioner of Australia to India.



H. E. Ms. Penelope Wensley, High Commissioner of Australia to India

2. Dr. Yashodhara Joshi, National Archives of India, New Delhi.
3. Mr. K.K. Gupts, National Museum, New Delhi.
4. Mr. Munawar Hussain, Assistant Register, Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad.
5. Mr. Sayan Palit, National Council of Science Museums, Kolkata.
6. Ms. Sangita Sinha, National Council of Science Museums, Kolkata.
7. Quazi Rownaq Hussain with five other members of delegation of the National Press Club, Bangladesh.
8. Mr. Partha Sen, Australian Trade Commission, Kolkata.
9. Lt. Col. N. Srinath, Urologist, Command Hospital, Kolkata.
10. Dr. M. R. Ustad, Head of Department of History, K.C.B. College, Ranchi.
11. Sandra Caleo and Tedro Oetiz, Mexico
12. Dr. Arun Kr. Sarma, Kanpur.
13. Mr. Ashim Kr. Makowana, Ahmedabad.



In-service training of staff on 'Conservation of library materials in the Library

LIST OF PRINTED PUBLICATIONS OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY, KOLKATA

1. Author catalogue of printed books in Bengali language

Vol. 1	A-F	1997	Rs. 296.00
Vol. 2	G-I	1997	Rs. 328.00
Vol. 3	M-R	1959 (old edition)	Rs. 09.55
Vol. 3	M-R	1997	Rs. 475.00
Vol. 4	S-Z	1963 (old edition)	Rs. 4.70
2. Author catalogue of printed books in English language

Vol. 1	Supplement	1962-80	Rs. 507.00
Vol. 2	Supplement pt.1	1962-80	Rs.1604.00
3. Author catalogue of printed books in European languages, 1941-64

Vol. 1	A-B	1941	Rs. 06.12
Vol. 2	C-E	1942	Rs. 06.00
Vol. 3	F-H	1942	Rs. 06.10
Vol. 4	-----	----	-----
Vol. 5	M	1953	Rs. 12.12
Vol. 6	N-P	1954	Rs. 11.12
Vol. 7	Q-R	1956	Rs. 06.75
Vol. 8	S	1960	Rs. 06.25
Vol. 9	T-V	1963	Rs. 07.25
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