

A Century of Service Celebrating 100 Years of The Bengal Library Association

20th December, 2024 – 20th December, 2025

Main Campus:

P-134, CIT Scheme 52, Kolkata – 700 014

Second Campus:

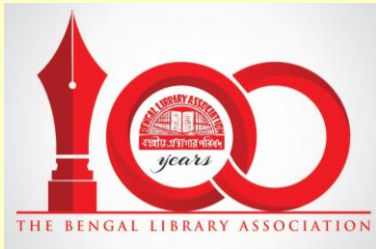
FD-30A/1, Sector-III, Salt Lake, Kolkata – 700 106

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INVITATION

Dear Sir/Madam/Professional Colleagues/Friends/Students,

Join us in celebrating a century of library excellence!

The Bengal Library Association (BLA) is thrilled to announce its 100th anniversary! For a century, we have been at the forefront of championing libraries, library services, and the dedicated professionals who make them thrive. We have witnessed the evolution of libraries, from bastions of printed knowledge to dynamic hubs of information and learning.

As we reflect on our rich history, we look forward to shaping the future of libraries in Bengal. Your involvement is crucial to the success of our centenary celebration. We invite you to:

- Attend our exciting events and connect with fellow library enthusiasts.
- Share your vision for the future of libraries.
- Volunteer your time to make this celebration unforgettable.
- Spread the word and inspire others to join us.

Together, let us create a memorable centenary celebration that reflects the profound impact of The Bengal

Library Association and also create a legacy that will inspire generations to come.

With warm regards,

DR. JOYDEEP CHANDA

General Secretary

The Bengal Library Association

ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION

HISTORY

The Bengal Library Association, formerly known as, All Bengal Library Association was established in Calcutta on 20th December, 1925 under the presidentship of **Rabindranath Tagore** and the first secretary of the Association was Mr. Sushil Kumar Ghosh. This decision was prompted out of a resolution for formation of library associations in each province of India adopted in the 3rd All India Public Library Conference held at Belgaon, Karnataka in 1924 under the presidentship of Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das. With the establishment of All Bengal Library Association, a province-wise library movement started gaining grounds.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Association include:

For Libraries:

- Advocate for improvement and expansion of library services throughout the state;
- Promote the importance of libraries to the public and policymakers;
- Support the development of legislation that benefits libraries, and communities;
- Technology Integration: Supporting the integration of technology into library services and operations to enhance access to information and improve user experiences.

For Librarians:

- Provide continuing education and professional development opportunities;
- Advocate for fair wages, benefits, and working conditions for librarians;
- Foster collaboration and networking among librarians across the state.

Generally:

- Promote of Literacy and Lifelong Learning: Promoting literacy initiatives and lifelong learning opportunities through libraries, including programs for children, teens, adults, and underserved populations.

Engage with Community:

- Encouraging libraries to engage with their communities through outreach programs, partnerships with local organizations, and innovative programming that meets the diverse needs of residents.

Overall, the objective is to strengthen the role of libraries as vital community resources and to support the professionals who work within them.

ACTIVITIES

The Association works to:

- Promote the value of libraries: This includes highlighting the importance of library and information services for individuals and society, and raising awareness of these services;
- Advocate for library improvement: The Association suggests measures to improve and expand library services for all types of libraries in the state;
- Support library workers: It works to improve the working conditions, pay, and overall status of library professionals;
- Provide professional development: It offers training courses, refresher courses, workshops, and lectures for library professionals. Additionally, they publish books, periodicals, and reports related to library science and services.

ACHIEVEMENTS

The key milestones of the Association's journey:

- Played a key role in designing and enacting the 'West Bengal Public Libraries Act, 1979', which established a legal framework for public library systems in the state;
- Providing training for library professionals since 1937 through its 'Certificate Course in Library Science';
- Upskilling the Workforce: Organizing refresher courses and orientation programs for working librarians in West Bengal at the request of government agencies;
- Modernizing Libraries: Implemented the Koha Library Management System (LMS) in 170 town libraries across West Bengal, following a government request;
- Global Recognition: Became a Global Support Provider for Koha LMS, demonstrating their expertise to the international library community;
- Installed Koha LMS in over 200 libraries across India and Bangladesh, serving prestigious institutions like Victoria Memorial Hall, Ritwik Memorial Library (Nandan), Gurudas College, West Bengal Public Service Commission Library, Patuakhali Science & Technology University Library, Bangladesh, etc.;
- Preserving Knowledge: Engaged in retro-conversion, a process of converting library catalogs from physical formats to digital ones, ensuring long-term access to information;
- Sharing Knowledge: Offers training programs on the Koha LMS to equip librarians with the latest technologies;
- National Collaboration: Maintains a Union Catalogue, a central database listing library collection across the country, facilitating resource sharing among libraries (weplibnet.blacal.org/vufind/).

This year, the Association will reach its hundred years of glorious journey on 20th December, 2024. Starting from this day upto 20th December, 2025, the Association has planned to celebrate its glorious journey through organization of different seminars/conferences, publishing centenary volume and other publications, organizing book talks and lectures,

felicitating renowned persons in the field of library and information science; and the like. We cordially invite everyone to participate actively in this upcoming celebration. Your full support, both moral and financial, is instrumental in ensuring the grand success of these programs.

CENTENARY SEMINARS/CONFERENCES

INAUGURAL CEREMONY & INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR

Date: 20-22 December, 2024

Venue: Centenary Auditorium, Asutosh Siksha Prangan, University of Calcutta, College Street, Kolkata

Inaugural Ceremony:

❖ Inauguration by Distinguish Guest

International Seminar:

(In Collaboration With: University of Calcutta)

Theme-I: Role of Library Associations in Library Movement in the Country

Theme-II: Media and Information Literacy (MIL) – Challenges and Prospects in the 21st Century

JANUARY, 2025 – SEMINAR IN HOOGHLY

Date: 19 January, 2025

Venue: Uttarpara Jaykrishna Public Library, Uttarpara

Theme: Kumar Munindra Deb Roy Mahasay and Role of Hooghly District in Library Movement

FEBRUARY, 2025 – SEMINAR IN BANGLADESH

Date: 22/23 February, 2025 (Tentative)

Venue: University of Dhaka, Bangladesh (Proposed)

Theme & Sub-Themes: Yet to be Announced

MARCH, 2025 – 55TH BENGAL LIBRARY CONFERENCE

Date: 21-23 March, 2025

Venue: Jadubhatta Mancha, Bishnupur, Bankura

Theme-I: Building Bridges: Collaboration Between Academic and Public Libraries

Theme-II: Problems of Different Types of Libraries and Their Staff

MAY, 2025 – SEMINAR IN HOWRAH

Date: 11 May, 2025 (Tentative)

Venue: Belur Public Library, Howrah (Proposed)

Theme: Yet to be Announced

JUNE, 2025 – SEMINAR IN KOLKATA

Date: 28/29 June, 2025 (Tentative)

Venue: Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata (Proposed)

Theme & Sub-Themes: Yet to be Announced

AUGUST, 2025 – LIBRARIANS' DAY, 2025

Date: 17th August, 2025

Venue: Vidyasagar University, West Midnapur

Theme: Yet to be Announced

SEPTEMBER, 2025 – SEMINAR IN BURDWAN

Date: 13/14 September, 2025 (Tentative)

Venue: Burdwan/Durgapur (Proposed)

Theme: Yet to be Announced

OCTOBER, 2025 – NATIONAL SEMINAR IN NORTH BENGAL

Date: 25-26 October, 2025 (Tentative)

Venue: North Bengal University

Theme: Yet to be Announced

NOVEMBER, 2025 – SEMINAR IN PURULIA

Date: 22 November, 2025

Venue: Sidhu Kanhu Birsha Govt. Town Library,
Ayodhya Hills

Theme: Yet to be Announced

CLOSING CEREMONY & NATIONAL SEMINAR

Date: 20-21 December, 2025

Venue: Visva-Bharati, Shantiniketan

Theme & Sub-Themes: Yet to be Announced

SEMINAR/CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEE

For One Day Seminar/Conference: Rs.350.00 per head

For Two/Three Day Seminar/Conference:

Rs.700.00 per head

DONATION TO THE ASSOCIATION

Our centenary celebration requires substantial funding that we cannot cover alone. We earnestly seek your support through donations/or sponsorships. Every contribution, from members and book lovers to corporate sponsors and community partners, will help us make this milestone event a resounding success. For individuals, the following modes may be preferable:

Mode	Amount in INR
1. Donation (Excluding Registration Fee of all centenary conferences/seminars, etc.)	2000.00 or less
2. Donation (Including Registration Fee of all centenary conferences/seminars, etc.) [except the seminar in Bangladesh]	5000.00 or above

One can donate the amount at-a-time or in some installments. Donation (including Registration Fee of all centenary conferences/seminars, etc.) include conference proceedings/ seminar papers (with ISBN), conference/ seminar kit, and admission to all technical sessions, lunch, tea and tiffin during the conference/seminar. The registration doesn't cover accommodation, transportation, etc.

Payment should be made:

1) through Demand Draft from any Nationalised Bank or any Multi-City Cheque in favor of The Bengal Library Association, payable at Kolkata, or,

2) through Google Pay/PhonePe to No. 8961910437 (Indrashis Dey), or,

3) through RTGS/NEFT Mode in favor of The Bengal Library Association, payable at Union Bank of India, Branch: Calcutta – Dr. S.M. Avenue Branch, IFSC Code: UBIN0530140, Account No. 301402010103376, or,

4) through Cash deposited at BLA Office between 2-7 p.m. (except Sundays and govt. holidays).

N.B. For IMPS/NEFT/UPI transaction, please send a screenshot of payment to the following WhatsApp Number: 9432292725/8961910437.



IMPORTANT DATES

Inaugural Ceremony: 20-22 December, 2024

(University of Calcutta, Kolkata)

Seminar in Hooghly: 19 January, 2025

Seminar in Bangladesh: 22/23 February, 2025

55th Bengal Library Conference: 21-23 March, 2025

Seminar in Howrah: 11 May, 2025

Seminar in Kolkata: 28/29 June, 2025

Librarians' Day: 17 August, 2025 (Vidyasagar University)

Seminar in Burdwan: 13/14 September, 2025

Seminar in North Bengal: 25-26 October, 2025

Seminar in Purulia: 22 November, 2025

Closing Ceremony: 20-21 December, 2025

(Visva-Bharati, Shantiniketan)

SOME OF OUR PREDECESSORS

					
<p>Rabindranath Tagore</p> <p><i>First President of the Association</i></p>	<p>Sushil Kumar Ghosh</p> <p><i>First Secretary of the Association</i></p>	<p>J.A. Chapman <i>Former Librarian of Imperial Library & one of the founders of BLA</i></p>	<p>Pramil Chandra Basu <i>University Librarian & Former President of BLA</i></p>	<p>Amulyadhan Mukhopadhyay <i>Professor & Pioneer of Library Movement in the State</i></p>	<p>B.S. Kesavan <i>First Librarian of National Library of India & Former Vice-President of BLA</i></p>
					
<p>Kumar Munindra Deb Roy Mahasay <i>Member of Bengal Legislative Assembly & Former President of BLA</i></p>	<p>Tinkari Dutta <i>Pioneer of Library Movement in the State & Former President of BLA</i></p>	<p>K.M. Asadullah <i>Former Librarian of Imperial Library & Former Vice-President of BLA</i></p>	<p>Dr. Nihar Ranjan Roy <i>Famous Historian, University Librarian & Former President of BLA</i></p>	<p>Rajkumar Mukhopadhyay <i>Polyglot & Former President of BLA</i></p>	<p>Phani Bhushan Roy <i>Pioneer of Library Movement in the State & Former President of BLA</i></p>
					
<p>Prabhat Kumar Mukhopadhyay <i>Biographer of Rabindranath Tagore & Former President of BLA</i></p>	<p>Sarala Debi Chaudhurani <i>Editor of Bengali Magazine 'Bharati' & Former Vice-President of BLA</i></p>	<p>Prof. Dr. S.R. Ranganathan <i>National Professor & Closely Associated with BLA</i></p>	<p>Prof. Bijayanath Mukhopadhyay <i>Pioneer of Library Movement in the State & Former President of BLA</i></p>	<p>S.M. Gangyopadhyay <i>Pioneer of Library Movement in the State & Former President of BLA</i></p>	<p>Prof. Prabir Roy Chowdhury <i>Pioneer of Library Movement in the State & Former President of BLA</i></p>

For any Query, feel free to Contact with the following persons:

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