



# Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation

Ministry of Culture, Government of India



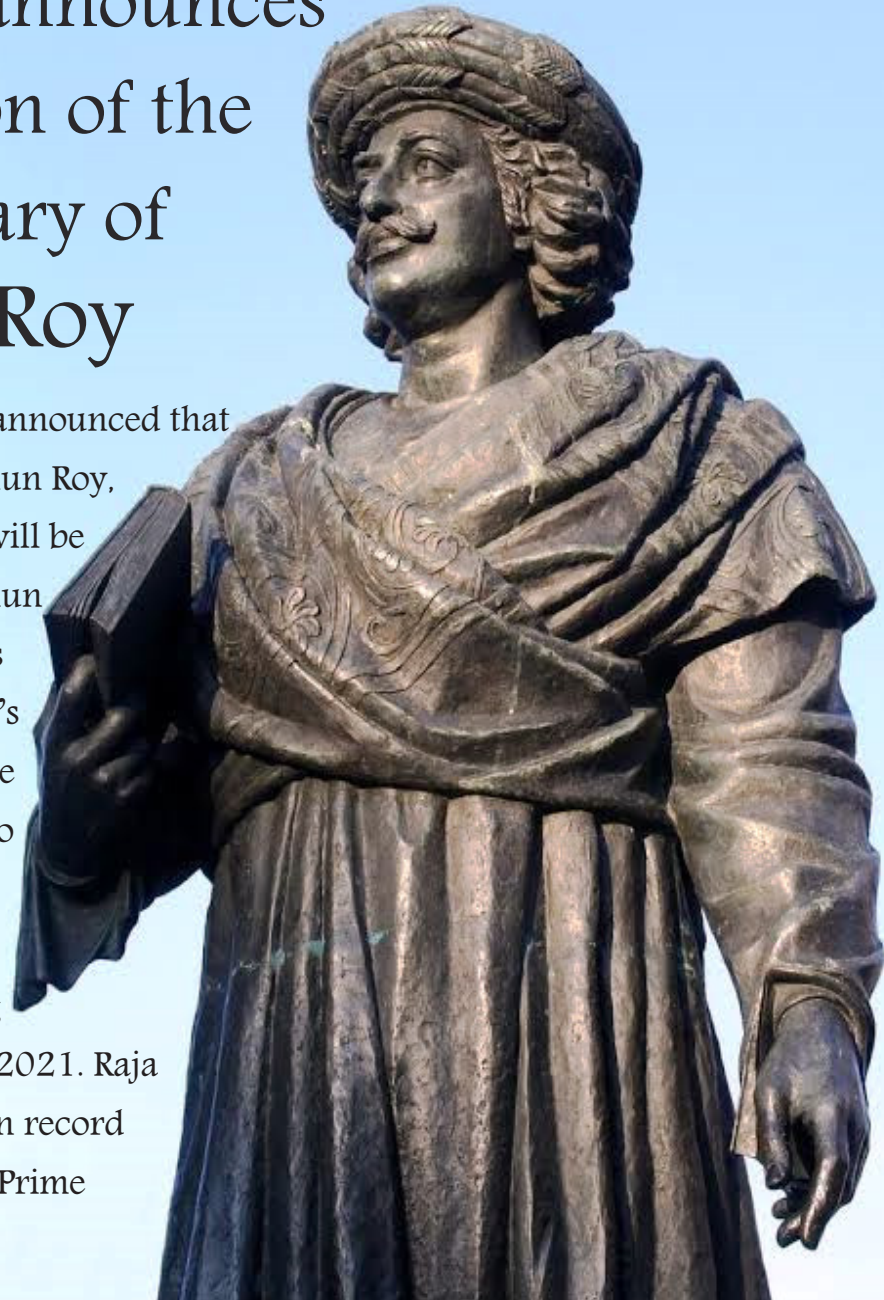
## Newsletter

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### PM Narendra Modi announces year-long celebration of the 250<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Raja Rammohun Roy

Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced that the 250<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Raja Rammohun Roy, the leading light of the Indian Renaissance, will be celebrated on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2022. Raja Rammohun Roy's 250<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary year coincides with the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year of the nation's independence and the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the International Book Year. As a fitting tribute to Raja Rammohun Roy and his contribution to the making of modern India, his 250<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary will be observed with year-long celebrations which will begin on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2021. Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation places on record its deep and sincere appreciation of Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement.



*Knowledge for all on their handsets*



## Message from the Chairman:



Namaste!

With the advent of the third decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation is excited about the new challenges and opportunities rapidly emerging in New India. As team leader, I look forward to working closely with my colleagues in the New Year.

We have initiated the process of long overdue institutional changes to create a more efficient workplace where the focus is on improved delivery and better outcome. Existing policies and programmes are being extensively reviewed to bring them in tune with contemporary times.

For the first time RRRLF has participated in the International Kolkata Book Fair. This enabled us to reach out to publishers and readers, both important stakeholders in our mission to democratise access to knowledge through books. We will further build upon this engagement.

We are grateful to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for announcing the celebration of the 250th birth

anniversary of Raja Rammohun Roy, the leading light of the Indian Renaissance. The celebrations will begin in 2021 and conclude in 2022.

Our institution bears the name of Raja Rammohun Roy. We will play a leading role in the 250th anniversary celebrations. Our resolve is to live up to his rich legacy and keep the lamp of Enlightenment burning.

## Message from the Director General:



It was after a lapse of two years and a half, the RRRLF released its Newsletter covering the events that were organized in different centers and field stations. The newsletter was received very well. I received many comments on it. Our critics advised us to come out regularly with Newsletters so that the wider world is appraised of the activities that the RRRLF has been conducting regularly. Being encouraged, we present before you the next Newsletter.

The RRRLF is not just an institution that disseminates books and information. It is also a research and academic organization. It holds seminars and workshops where the issues of research methodology are actively discussed. One of the strengths of the RRRLF is that it has given grants to several institutions and university departments for organizing seminars, workshops and discussions on subjects related to information science and technology and they all have been highly successful. We intend to continue with the academic activities in the year to come.



**RRRLF Participates in the 44<sup>th</sup> International Kolkata Book Fair for its First Ever Book Fair Appearance:**



The Kolkata International Book Fair is world's most visited Book Fair and the third largest annual conglomeration of books, which over the time has become an integral part of the book loving Bengali culture. This year, its 44<sup>th</sup> edition was held in Salt Lake Mela Grounds, Central Park, Kolkata, from January 29<sup>th</sup> to February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Russia, the Eurasian paradise well known for its intellectual minds and magnificent folklores, was the country in the focus.



Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation is proud to announce its presence for the first time at the Book Fair. RRRLF's stall at Girish Karnad Hall, was inaugurated by Prof Vinay Kumar Srivastava, Director General, on January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020, in presence of RRRLF officials. Over the course of next 12 days, the RRRLF stall distributed a total number of 8,131 English and Hindi books among the citizens, free of cost,

as part of its ongoing process to promote reading, writing and publishing of books. Book lovers of all generations visited the stall in large numbers.



On February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020, RRRLF in association with the Publishers & Book Sellers Guild, one of the premier forums of the country's literary world, arranged a meeting with publishers and their representatives to exchange ideas, advice and information with the object of promoting reading habits amongst the people and extending help to the publishers and booksellers in the successful pursuance of their trade by improving our delivery system and bringing about necessary changes that will promote the goal of making books more easily available to readers with the help of technology.



This participation was a huge step for us at RRRLF in reaffirming our commitment to innovate and promote new programmes to make books and reading materials available to the largest possible readers, especially, directly in their handsets.



## Celebration of Republic Day at RRRLF:

On the occasion of the 71<sup>st</sup> Republic Day of India, and as part of the ongoing celebration of 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Constitution of India, RRRLF organized a cultural programme on 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2020, in the premises of RRRLF Kolkata. The event began with the flag hoisting ceremony joined by all the staff members of RRRLF, followed by valuable remarks by Shri Kanchan Gupta, Chairman.



RRRLF organized singing and poetry competitions in the topics surrounding patriotism among the children of RRRLF employees. Extempore presentations on the topics "Rights vs Duties – Citizens Have Rights, but They also Have Duties to their Nation" and "My Constitution, मेरा संविधान, আমার সংবিধান" were there for male and female staff members respectively. The programme concluded by prize distribution and concluding remarks of the Director General.

## Zonal News

### State Central Library, West Bengal:

#### History of Directorate of Library services:

Prior to enactment of West Bengal Public Library Act 1979, the library activities were looked after by the Social Education Branch under the Directorate of Public Instruction WB. In 1980, Directorate of Library Services was set up.

Presently, Public Library system in the state comprises of 13 Govt. Libraries with State Central Library at the apex, 2,461 Govt. Sponsored, 7 Govt. Aided Libraries in 3 tier library system namely Rural / Primary Unit / Area Libraries, Town / Sub-Divisional

Libraries and District Libraries.



## Sectionwise Activities of the Library

### Children Section:

Children upto age of 16 can become a member. No fees in being charged from children members. Only a certificate from the Headmaster/Head of Institute is necessary. At present this section has an accommodation of 20 users at a time. This section is located at Ground Floor.

### Journal & Newspaper Section:

This section is in the Ground Floor with a seating capacity of 40 persons while newspaper reading is to be made standing position, about 10 types of newspapers in Bengali, English, Hindi, Urdu are available and about 94 magazines/journals both Indian and Foreign are available. Anybody can read on writing registering their names and addresses.

### Senior Section:

There are furniture suitable for senior citizen. Everyday a entertaining, educational video or highlights of any sports activities was played in the LCD monitor.

### Braille Section:

State Central Library has a separate section for visually impaired persons. It is running with the help of a voluntary organization- 'Society for Visually Handicapped'. Braille books, Talking books are being made in the library itself for aspiring students for higher education. This section is located in Ground Floor.

### Information Center:

Books, magazines, journals published by various



departments of the West Bengal Government are available here.

### *Read Your Own Book Section:*

After mentioning name & address anyone can come in this section with own books & read. This section is located at ground floor & 1<sup>st</sup> mezzanine floor.

### *RRRLF Section:*

RRRLF is an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India to promote and support for development of public library services in India. It is the nerve centre for implementation of RRRLF programme for Matching and Non-matching scheme in West Bengal.

### *Reading Room:*

No membership is required to use this section. One should have to put name & address in the register book to get the service. This section is located in 3<sup>rd</sup> floor with an accommodation of 200 person at a time. This section is fully air-conditioned.

### *Career Guidance Section:*

Student, jobseeker from different work of life who are in search of different careers can have their desired books in this section. Books on various competitive examinations are available. This section in 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor and it is fully Air Conditioned.

### *Lending Section:*

One has to keep nothing but a Security deposit of Rs. 250/- and Rs. 500/- for membership with duly filled in prescribed application form (provided by the library) with one photo-ID, two stamp size photograph. Members can borrow the two books for 28 days. Self lending service is available with RFID Technology. This section is located at 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor and fully Air Conditioned.

### *Reference Section:*

All types of reference books both English & Bengali (encyclopedia, dictionaries, year book, reports, bibliography etc.) are available.

### *Cyber Corner & Wi-Fi Service:*

There are 20 computers. After registration, one can browse the internet for 2 hours.

## **Dakshina Chitra Library and Archives, Kanchipuram:**

The library is one of the well-maintained resources Centre for Indian arts and crafts especially the South. The collections include books, journals, audio and video films, photographs, catalogs, books, newspaper clippings and research documents. They have been acquired through donations and purchase.



The main goal of the management is to develop the library into a well-equipped centre for fine arts. It has nearly 14,000 books which includes the National Folklore Support Centre's collections. The Library also houses more than 1,50,000 photographs and a vast collection of DVD's, CD's and tapes. The library receives 80 journals of which some are subscribed and some are received as gift. The articles from the journals are indexed for easy reference.



The collections are only for reference & research. No entrance is charged for using the library. It is widely used by the students of fine arts, architecture, history, sociology, media people and also by the general public interested in our arts, culture and tradition.



## ***RRRLF Newsletter***

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### ***Subjects covered:***

Art, Architecture, Aesthetics (Indian and Western), Folklore, Crafts, Textiles, History, Religion, Culture, Environment studies, Museum studies, Arts management, Conservation, Performing arts including folk, Theatre, Anthropology, Painting, Traditional medicine, Gardening and Landscaping, Medicinal Plants, Healing techniques, Iconography, Sculpture, Literature, Archeology, History

Classification and cataloging of books have been done using Dewey decimal classification and Anglo American Cataloguing Rules. We have recently installed the Autolib software for easy information storage and retrieval. A user terminal has been set up at the Reference Hall for the Library readers.

The library has an extensive collection of images, photographs, video and audio material. These focus on DakshinaChitra's exhibitions, events, artisans and performers involved in our programs

### ***Some of the rare and important titles from the library collection:***

#### ***Religion:***

Early, middle and later chola temples by S.R. Balasubramaniam. Vivekananda Kendra Patrika's special issues on temples, folktales, paintings etc., Picture Ramayana, Poems to Siva: The hymns of the tamil saints.

#### ***Sociology & Anthropology:***

Thurston's volumes on castes and tribes of South India, South Asian Folklore, folk arts of the tamils, Early South Indian palaeography, Festivals of Tamil Nadu

#### ***Art and Iconography:***

Vibhuti of Siva's iconography, Gopinath Rao's Elements of Hindu iconography, Paroksa – Coomarasamy centenary seminar papers, Indian heritage, Splendours of Tamil Nadu, Splendours of Kerala, Festival of India, Viswakarma, Living wood: sculptural traditions of South India

#### ***Architecture:***

All books by Laurie Baker on low cost housing etc., vernacular architecture of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala, Temples of

Khajuraho, cave temples of the deccan etc. by the Archaeological Survey of India

#### ***Crafts:***

Bamboo and cane crafts of North east India, temple cars of medieval tamilagam, handmade in India, Indian jewellery (The journal of Indian Art)

#### ***Painting:***

A survey of painting in the Deccan, Homage to Kalamkari, Chitrasutra of Vishnudarmottara, Ramayana paintings, Ajantha murals, paintings of Tanjore and Mysore

#### ***Theatre and Performing Arts:***

Traditional Indian theatre, UMI's dissertation on Therukoothu, Theyyam and Tolbommalatta, Sargam

#### ***Textiles:***

Woven silks of India, 4 vols on Historic textiles of India, saris

#### ***History:***

Wonder that was India, A social history of the tamils, Administration and Social life under the Pallavas, Kerala through the ages, Studies in the history of sangam age, Cholas, History of South India, Cultural heritage of India.

#### ***Archives:***

The main activities include photography and video coverage of all the events and programs, digitization of video tapes available in various formats, maintenance of a systematic index for all the photo and video archives, digitizing negatives and slides. Art and Craft documentaries are produced for educational and research purpose. Some of them are played to the public during film festivals and weekend film shows. Cameras are preserved in specially designed moisture control boxes. The negatives and slides are kept in acid free sleeves.

### ***State Library Committee Meeting of Goa:***

The meeting of the State Library Committee (SLC) of Goa was held on 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 2020, in the Secratariat of Department of Art & Culture, Porvorim, Goa.

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was organized by Manipur Library Association (MALA) in four districts of Manipur.

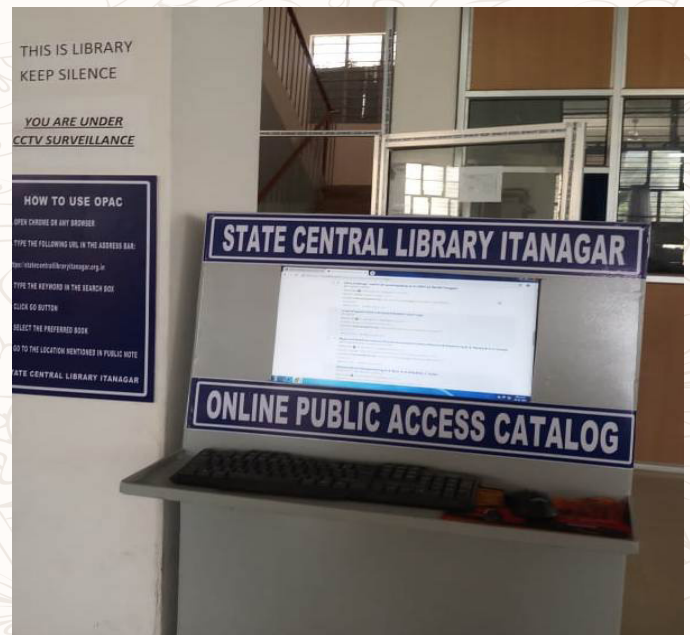
- Imphal West District during 14-15<sup>th</sup> December, 2019
- Imphal East District during 17-18<sup>th</sup> December, 2019
- Thoubal District during 27-28<sup>th</sup> December, 2019
- Kakching District during 29-30<sup>th</sup> December, 2019

The Secretary (Art & Culture) & Chairman of SLC, Shri. C.R.Garg welcomed all the members present in the meeting. It was decided in the meeting to utilize Rs.38,74,000/- for the year 2019-20 to purchase books published in Goa, Hindi, Marathi & English books from Sahitya Akademi and National Book Trust under RRRLF's matching scheme of assistance towards building up of adequate stock of books and reading material to distribute to various public libraries in the State of Goa. The committee agreed to consider all 4 Government libraries, 35 Village panchayat libraries and 91 Government aided libraries (NGO) for assistance. The meeting ended with vote of thanks by Dr.Carlos M.Fernandes, Curator of Krishnadas Shama State Central Library, Goa.

The Programme was sponsored by RRRLF in view of the changing scenario of library services in the digital era. Various topics on uplifting of public libraries and strengthening of library movement and development in Manipur state were discussed.

### State Central Library, Itanagar:

### National Seminar Organized by Manipur Library Association:



State Central Library, Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh, is now treated as a fully automated library as per their modernisation programme through NML assistance supported by RRRLF. Readers can access/search any title to find its availability and precise location. Readers who do not have any internet facility can visit the Library and use the online kiosk for catalogue searching. Total 55,000 titles have been catalogued so far. Disabled Section also provides Braille printers for the visually impaired along with wheelchair facilities. Searches can be made through the website <https://statecentrallibraryitanagar.org.in>

Two Day National Seminar on "Libraries at the Crossroad: Revamp, Innovate and Make Sustainable"





*Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation, Kolkata, is the nodal agency of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, entrusted with the development of Public Library System and Services in India in collaboration with the State / Union Territory Authorities.*



**YEARS OF  
CELEBRATING  
THE MAHATMA**

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