

My City

## 24x7 access to libraries soon

### E-initiative nearing completion

Karan Choudhary

Jammu Tawi, February 22

As a significant step towards modernising and improving Public Library Services, the Department of Libraries and Research, initiated Automation & Networking of

public libraries is nearing completion.

Although a bit delayed, sources said that the E-project that would

allow public to access libraries through internet would be completed by May this year.

While talking to Newspoint, Arun Sharma, Director Libraries conformed that the work has completed around 75 percent and the rest of the work would be completed on May 31.

"It is a big leap for the public library facilities in

J&K, switching over from manual to automated mode and allowing online access to library information would be a revolutionary step that would allow access to knowledge hitherto confined to libraries only. Other public libraries located throughout the State would be taken up for automation and networking in the subsequent phase", he added.

The project is being implemented with the assistance of National Informatics Centre, (NIC), Government of India. It is for the first time that a modern Public Library system will finally take shape in Jammu and Kashmir. For the purpose, state of the art hardware and communication infrastructure have been installed and made operational at these sites with the technical support from National Informatics Centre (J&K).

The library staff as well as the hired technical personnel is being trained for the purpose. In coming months, the state of Jammu and Kashmir would have its own Internet based Public Library Network for library users, researchers and students. The NIC designated e-Granthalaya library management software and digital library software is being used for automation and networking of the libraries.

An estimated cost of rupees 117 crores has been spent on the said project. The four main public libraries of state, SRS Central Library, Jammu, SPS Central Library, Srinagar, Oriental Research Library, Hazratbal and City Central Library, Karan Nagar would be modernised. The pilot phase of Automation & Networking of Public Libraries Projects which was inaugurated by Jora, Minister for Urban Development and Urban Local Bodies on Oct 28, 2011.

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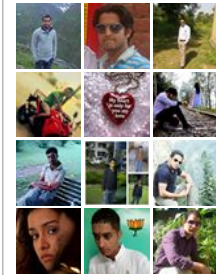


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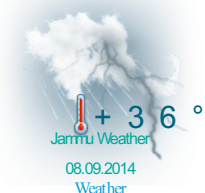
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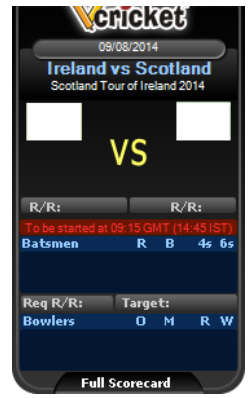
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