

Heritage library renovated at Rs 1.6 crore opened

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Chief minister V Narayanasamy (File Photo)

PUDUCHERRY: Chief minister V Narayanasamy on Wednesday declared open the historic Romain Rolland library, which was renovated at Rs 1.66 crore, in the presence of revenue minister Malladi Krishna Rao and others.

National mission of libraries, Kolkata, granted the fund for renovating the library and Rs 76.04 lakh for renovating Dr S R Ranganathan government

public library at Karaikal.

In addition to Puducherry government's share of Rs 60.63 lakh for the renovation, the government fixed the Romain Rolland library with air-conditioners, CCTV cameras, fire-fighting equipment and new electrical fittings and network at an additional cost of Rs 60 lakh. The library has barcode scanners and printers.

E-granthalaya software has been installed in the library and to help staff utilize it, the government has proposed to hold workshops and training programmes on the software in association with the National informatics centre, Union electronics and information technology ministry, from March 14 to 16. The renovated library includes a section for those visually challenged with Braille features in computers, keyboards, readers and printers.

Established as Bibliotheque Publique by the French in 1827, the library has a collection of 4.02 lakh of books in English, Tamil, French, Hindi, Malayalam and Telugu languages. The library has 49,814 members and an average of 1,000 people visit the library every day.

The library has 13 sections, including the latest career guidance section established a year ago to help students prepare for competitive examinations and a children's section with 49,814 books.