

JOY OF READING CHRONICLE

A Quarterly bulletin of news, creative write-ups and miscellany
by the VT-AWIC Youth Library Network, Lohit, Arunachal Pradesh

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Welcome, all friends, patrons, book-lovers, library volunteers and reading enthusiasts young and old!

As the name speaks for itself, this is a little e-paper to promote and spread the joy of reading around us. Anyone can read and share their impressions and creative writings to promote reading habits among rural and marginalized regions like the Lohit valley. Thus we would like it to serve as a platform for young creative writers, readers and book-lovers. The Chronicle would also bring to you periodical news clips from and around the Lohit Youth Library units.

This first issue was due with the heralding of the New Year 2011, but due to reasons beyond the Editor's control, it could not see the light of the day these many weeks. Hence it covers news and events after Jan 1, 2011.

The birth of this e-paper was possible only due to the constant encouragement and unfailing support of our esteemed patron Sri Manoj Jalan of Dibrugarh, Assam. The Library Network owes its heartfelt thanks to him and his deep faith in the power of the written word in bringing about an educational revolution in rural societies.

A Humble beginning this is, but we hope in the long run the Chronicle would emerge as a champion of good reading habits among the youth of Arunachal Pradesh.

Today, the International Women's Day calls for our re-awakening to our ancient national heritage of respect to women and their equal place in the social life, even though the roles of men and woman could be different. It also reminds us to support and develop self-reliance and self-esteem among our adolescent girls and marginalized women. They too have an equally important role in the nation's progress. The APNE readers are observing this with English skits on 3 outstanding women-

achievers, who helped Independent India's destiny: Dhanvanthi Rama Rao, who always strove for a dignified place for a mother in the homes, Anutai Wagh, the 'mother of Anganwadi Movement with her guru Tarabai Modak and Rukminidevi Arundale, who elevated Bharat Natyam to an international Indian art form. The readers could prepare these skits only by their thirst to learn more about such little known daughters of Mother India. We believe it's the right day to proclaim, 'Read India and Progress!'

So, Happy Reading!

- Editor

2011 has been declared by UN as the International Year of Forests. Lohit Youth Library Network volunteers are glad to learn this, as they have always been deeply concerned about the denudation that has been going on in the once-evergreen towns of Arunachal Pradesh. Thus today walking along the town roads during day without an umbrella is a hellish experience for almost 10 months of the year! Realizing this two years back, the Bamboosa Library Tezu readers had started avenue plantation on the roads near the library. In spite of reckless 'attacks' by the all-mighty 'Master of the Road', the cattle, most of these sapling are coming up healthy! Delighted, the readers from Bamboosa Library and the APNE Library, Wakro are now planning to invite volunteers from the public to extend these roadside plantations. *Friends, do your bit in your locality to make Mother Earth a more pleasant place to live in!*

National Science Day Feb 28 is always a special day in Wakro, when the young readers and students of the local schools struggle to explore into their minds to discover something new, just as the legendary Dr. C.V. Raman did, and went on to win a Nobel Prize! It symbolizes a national awareness to develop self-reliance, stressing on efforts to educate ourselves to help ourselves, and develop a pride in the national scientific heritage. Finally it reminds us, "Friend, India's natural assets – our earth, forests, are your own. Preserve them, or it would be too late!!"

Important Guests to our Libraries:

Our Libraries have been receiving all along, several guests, who expressed great happiness at the reader-friendly displays of the libraries and the activities conducted by them, and expressing support for the Lohit Youth Library Movement:

1. Robin Hibu, IPS., DIG Arunachal Pradesh, who treated the readers to hilarious, and inspiring stories of persons who came up by commitment and perseverance. "An excellent library in wilderness. Make it a movement!" he exhorted.

2. Sri. Kumal Verma, New Delhi, renowned photographer and consultant to the Indian Army. "The library effort is a heroic effort!" he complimented. He came back again to visit Wakro library both by road and by air!

3. Sri. Krishna Candeth, ret'd Teacher, New York, USA. A person of total self-effacement and humility, Krishna Sir has been a great inspiration to all who met him. He wrote, "May the library produce men and women who will have learnt to think for themselves and do the things that their hearts tell them they must do!"

4. Sri. S. Srikanth, Amrtia Vishwa Vidya Peetham, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu

5. Dr. Vishwa Nath Sharma, State Liaison Officer, NSS, Itanagar.

6. Dr. Amrita Karnik & Arun Narayanan, library patrons & naturalists, Mumbai. Dr. Amrita regaled the readers at Bamboosa & APNE Libraries with interesting aspects of birds like hornbills, bulbuls, sun birds etc and highlighted the vital place of all living beings in the ecosystem. The readers were thrilled to see the e-book reader Kindle shown to them by Sri. Arun!

7. Maa Rama Tiwari, a senior teacher of Art of Living, is at Wakro conducting a meditation course in the evenings. Many prominent citizens of Wakro are attending the programme.

International Women's Day celebrations

at ASSET campus: The APNE Library readers presented spirited skits on 3 outstanding, little remembered woman achievers: Rukmini devi Arundale, who revived Bharat Natyam; Dhanvanthi Rama Rau, who promoted women's welfare all through her life; and Anutai Wagh, who underwent great self-sacrifices to create the Anganwadi Movement in India.

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Brought out in the cause of Joyful reading by Coordinator, VT-AWIC Youth Library Network, Lohit Ranganatha Retreat, Wakro-792 104 Arunachal Pr. Feedback welcome at lohit.libraries@gmail.com

Wakro - A Heaven on Earth

- Maanav Jalan, VIII, Dibrugarh, Assam

Wakro, a small village in Arunachal Pradesh is one of my favourite holiday destinations. I still have fond memories about my trip to Wakro...

It was a bright sunny morning. My mother was doing the last minute organizations for our trip to Wakro. We were all going to a place called Wakro for our Puja vacations. So sharp at 8:00 in the morning we set off for which was going to be a wonderful trip to Wakro. On the way we stoooped at the Sulongto Village to visit a Khampti home and met an elderly man taught my father to ride an elephant! We drove through breath taking landscape full of lush green trees and brightly coloured fluttering butterflies and I didn't even realize when the 4 hours were over. On reaching Wakro we were wonder struck. There were four cozy little huts on stilts. We were going to stay Mishmi style!

After lunch we went to the famous Parshuram Kund which was just a thirty minute drive from our new home. Reaching there I truly felt refreshed. The blue water, the Kund ...it was so invigorating

We visited several villages and got a gist of the local culture. But the real highlight was the evening camp-fire. The atmosphere became such that everybody became a story-teller. After having a delicious dinner we all went to our respective huts and soon were in deep slumber.

Next morning I was up before the others to catch a glimpse of the rare and endemic winged species of the area after which we had a hearty breakfast. We were all looking forward to visit Rohinsoe uncle's school. There we enjoyed a wonderful cultural programme organized by the students.

It was time to leave now. With a heavy heart we said our goodbyes and left with memories which will never fade...



Anutai Wagh - a skit on 'Mother' of Anganwadi Movement : by APNE Library readers, Wakro



King Arthur - Respect for Women - by Bamboosa Library Tezu