

**Department of Mass Education Extension & Library Services  
Government of West Bengal**

**Message from MOS (IC) on New Departmental Website**

“What we become depends on what we read, after all of the professors have finished with us. The greatest university of all is a collection of books ”, said Thomas Carlyle. The word ‘Book’ has acquired a much larger meaning in our contemporary world that is passing through an incredible spread of information technology. Consequently, what remains eternal is the word ‘Reading’ – be it pages of a paper-made book, an e-book or a page of a website. And, so to say, this inseparably includes watching an audio-visual academic work which involves beholding and listening simultaneously.

Our department runs and looks after the large network of Libraries of West Bengal, both rural and urban, that came into existence as a result of social movements of centuries. Rising to the occasion, we are making best of attempts to place the treasure of knowledge resting in our libraries on the cyber highway to ensure access to all we have from all parts of the world. Directorate of Library Services is our operating hand in this area.

Directorate of Mass Education Extension, our another operating hand, is involved in an extremely important yet challenging assignment. We run and look after a large number of Special Schools that impart education to Special Children. The students are either visually impaired or hearing impaired or mentally challenged. Indefatigable efforts of teachers of these schools and parents of special children are our inspirations in this journey. Moreover, State Literacy Mission Authority, coupled with this Directorate and functioning in collaboration with Government of India, is working continuously to eradicate the bane of illiteracy from our State.

I do believe that all efforts are useful when in association, but useless in isolation. We are sure that any or all of our aims can be achieved only if we remain associated with the people in steps of progress. This website is one of our attempts to remain bridged with the viewers in our transition from information to knowledge to wisdom.

Best wishes for all of you.

*Tanab Siddiqullah Chowdhury*

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