

**CITY ANCHOR** IT HAS BEEN MOVED TO DISCOVERY OF INDIA BUILDING; WILL HAVE MORE SPACE AND OFFER BETTER EXPERIENCE TO USERS

# Revamped Nehru Centre library to open today

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MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 13

FROM a small in-house library at Sterling Centre to a 5,000-sq ft one at the Nehru Planetarium, the Nehru Centre library, perhaps the only reference library open to all in the city, has got a swanky makeover. With 20,000 books, 75 journals, 220 documentation subjects, an audio visual centre and a coffee table corner, the library is being shifted to the Discovery of India building in Worli and will be spread over a 10,000 sq ft area. It will open to the public on Thursday, marking the

125th birth anniversary of Jawaharlal Nehru. The idea is to make the reading area a lively and attractive space for adults and children.

"In 1977, the library was started as a small in-house facility, which functioned as a research centre for the upcoming Discovery of India exposition and the planetarium. It was subsequently housed in the basement of the Nehru Planetarium. Perhaps with increased digitisation, internet boom and lack of interest in going to an ordinary library, fewer people were visiting the library. People now want to go to places where they can sit and relax in a comfort-



**The library will have close to 80,000 books and facilities for internet in a comfortable ambience.**

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able ambience, pick up their favourite book or magazine or browse the internet. We have addressed these aspects in the new library," said librarian Arati Desai.

With meticulous planning



over the past six months regarding structural, sound, aesthetics and fire protection issues, 30 contractors working under the guidance architect IM Kadri, it will be a hybrid library with both print and

digital information resources.

It will have a capacity to stock 50,000-80,000 books. The new facilities include four independent cubicles for research scholars, a cyber-centre with six independent workstations, multi-media viewing and listening services, audio-visual stations and a digitised catalogue.

Unlike other libraries, readers will be able to browse the library shelves online, check the books in a particular shelf and see a snapshot of the books. The reading area will be well-lit, with a massive map of the waterfront of Mumbai and an artificial landscaped green area.

The library currently stocks books of all genres, bound volumes and newspaper articles. It plans to gradually add more books, magazines and journals. This will also include books in other languages. No fees will be charged for reading the books.

"Since the library was earlier in the basement, it didn't have much visibility. The idea was to make it a one-stop resource centre. In the evenings, we plan to use the reading space for book launches. After all, a library is an ideal place for such events and not a bookshop," said Desai.

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