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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF BALANI GROUP OF COMPANIES

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From the Desk of Executive Director



The months of January and February in the new year brought a dynamic start with several key events across the industry. Library conferences are taking place across the country, providing valuable opportunities for collaboration and innovation. The 41st iGroup ASM also took place in Bangkok—an event that continues to be a cornerstone for academic and research communities. Our partnership with iGroup has grown over the past 15 years, and we are excited to leverage our synergies in the years ahead.

Closer to home, the annual Book Fair in Delhi was another annual feature, bringing together publishers, educators, and industry leaders to explore the latest trends in knowledge dissemination. These events set the tone for a year of learning, networking, and progress.

The publishing landscape, a complex network of vendors, distributors, aggregators, authors and publishers is under transition & is being influenced by various factors, including technological advancements, market dynamics, and economic conditions. According to IBISWorld, the global book publishing industry revenue reached an estimated \$151.9 billion in 2024.

The publishing industry will continue to become more global, with cross-border collaborations and translations becoming essential for reaching international markets. Overall, the future of the publishing industry is likely to be characterized by a blend of traditional and digital models, with a focus on innovation, community, and data-driven decision-making.

At Balani Group, it has been our constant endeavour to provide latest resources to our esteemed customers and serve their teaching and research needs effectively. We look forward to a productive and engaging 2025 and thank our partners and colleagues for their continued support.

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FPBAI Pays Tribute to Founder of Balani Group

MR. KAILASH BALANI: LARGER THAN LIFE

Death is one of those subjects that most of us avoid talking about. We don't want to think about the fact that one day we won't be here anymore. The Stoics called this practice Memento Mori, meaning to remind yourself of death. In this way they cultivated gratitude, focused on what's really important, savoured the good things in life, and stopped wasting time on the things we can't control.

The Federation of Publishers & Booksellers Associations in India (FPBAI), on November 2, 2024, lost the radiant star of its galaxy Mr. Kailash Balani. His sudden, untimely demise sent shockwaves to one and all in the publishing industry. Balani was as good a human being as he was a dynamic businessman. Just recently on September 28, 2024, FPBAI, bestowed on him, Golden Award, for his contribution towards the promotion of the Book Industry

2,008 Mr. Balani launched Balani Infotech and I-Group Infotech India respectively dealing in e-journals, electronic databases, e-books and technology products for the educational institutions. Today they are the leading distributors of high quality e-content to various educational institutions, government research labs and also serve the corporate market.

In 2012, Balani Group launched Global Music Institute in Greater Noida and is the leading music institute offering diplomas and degree certification in collaboration with foreign universities. This institute is being run by his sons Aditya and Tarun who are the alumnis of Berklee College of Music, Boston.

Mr. Balani has served as the President of FPBAI from 2010 to 2012. He was also executive committee member of DSBPA and of FICCI publishing committee where he has participated in many conferences and



Mr. KAILASH BALANI, was the Chairman and MD of Balani Group of Companies consisting of Aditya Books, Balani Infotech, I-Group Infotech India and Global Music Institute. Mr. Balani started his career in the publishing industry with Tata McGraw-Hill Publishing Co. on 1st January, 1974 and then worked with Narosa Publishing House, Wiley, Butterworth, UK and Asian Books.

He started his own venture namely Aditya Books in 1987 as importer and distributor of foreign books and today they are one of the largest, stockists, library suppliers and exporters. Currently they have more than two lakh titles in stock. In the year 2,000 and in

Seminars as a speaker. He also holds the position Vice-President of Sindhi Education Society.

He travelled to over 40 countries and has been attending London Book Fair and Frankfurt Book Fairs from 1987 and has also attended book fairs in many other countries. He enjoyed being in the book business; he was a workaholic and had never desired to retire. Death however put an end to his motive.

We, at FPBAI, express our lamentations on the demise of our dearest friend and we all resolve to stand by with the family members of our departed member. May God provide peace to his soul and patience to all his near and dear ones to bear this loss.

iGroup Remembers Mr. Kailash Balani

A tribute was paid to Mr. Balani at the 41st Annual Sales Meet of iGroup (Asia Pacific) Ltd. held recently in Bangkok.

Mr. Pote Lee, the Chairman of iGroup fondly remembered Mr. Kailash Balani and his association with him since 2007 and described how their unionship flourished over the years and added success to both the groups. A large number of publishers, present in the meeting joined Mr. Lee and shared their grief with the family on the untimely demise of Mr. Balani on 2nd November, 2024.



Global Music Institute: Diving into Musical Journey

The new semester at Global Music Institute is in full swing! With 15+ esteemed faculty members from over seven countries, including Grammy collaborators, industry veterans, and masters of rock, jazz, Hindustani classical, and more, students are diving into an enriching musical journey.



- Performance Workshop | NYC-based guitarist Alec Goldfarb led an inspiring session at the campus exploring the intersection of jazz and Hindustani classical music, offering students a fresh perspective on improvisation and technique.
- Music Business Workshop | Industry expert Meher Sachdeva equipped students with essential tools for navigating the music industry, covering everything from contracts to career strategies.
- GMI Collective at Udaipur World Music Festival | Our talented ensemble of faculty mesmerized audiences at one of India's most prestigious music festivals, showcasing their artistry on a global stage.
- New Wave: Shaping the Future of Music Education | With over 50 participants—including high school students, faculty, and career counselors—this immersive initiative sparked meaningful dialogues on music education and sustainable careers, reinforcing GMI's commitment to shaping the next generation of musicians.







Face-to-Face

BigInfo spoke to Dr. Mohd. Asif Mustafa Khan, currently serving as the Librarian at the Indian Institute of Management Kashipur, Uttarakhand.

Some Excerpts:



BI: Please describe your professional journey and important landmarks.

AK: I began my professional journey as an Assistant Librarian at Shri Ram Murti College of Engineering and Technology, Bareilly, in 2003 and later have served as Library In-charge in esteemed institutions, including Khandelwal College of Management and Technology (Bareilly), Indus Business Academy (Greater Noida), NIIT University (Neemrana, Rajasthan), Senior Library and Information Officer at the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP. Currently, I am serving as the Librarian at the Indian Institute of Management, Kashipur, Uttarakhand.

My career is marked by dedication, expertise, and a profound impact on the institutions I served and serving currently.

BI: Please share with us your contribution to management education as Librarian of a top most business school.

AK: I have played a pivotal role in business education by providing students with the necessary resources and support to succeed in their studies and future careers by way of providing guidance on research methods, information evaluation, and effective search strategies; organising workshops and tutorials on using library resources, conducting research, and citing sources. By providing these resources and services, libraries empower business students to become critical thinkers, effective researchers, and successful professionals. I have played key role in proving best possible customised and real time business information to my users so as to equip them with a competitive advantage.

BI: What are your observations on the contribution of the consortium of IIMs in promoting resource sharing?

AK: The IIM Libraries Consortium is a unique model of collaboration among IIMs, operating without membership fees or external funding. Initiated in 2000, the Consortium recently celebrated its 25th (Silver Jubilee) meeting at IIM Kashipur. Governed by an MoU signed by IIM Directors, it focuses on cooperative acquisitions, knowledge sharing, uniform licensing, inter-library loans, and implementing advanced technologies to enhance resource visibility and accessibility.

Through this partnership, the 21 IIM libraries standardize services, optimize resources, and uphold excellence in supporting academic and research needs.

As the demands of our academic communities continue to evolve, we must consistently reassess, expand, and modernize our collections and services to stay aligned with the shifting landscape of higher education. This not only requires strategic foresight but also prudent resource management. The collaborative spirit fostered by this Consortium strengthens our collective ability to serve. While no single library can meet all of its users' needs, we can better respond to those demands by enhancing our ability to connect, acquire, and share resources more efficiently and effectively.

The IIM Libraries Consortium remains a vital platform for innovation and collaboration, setting academic excellence benchmarks.

BI: Your comment on changing information needs of the researchers and response of the publishing industry.

AK: The research and information dissemination landscape is undergoing a significant transformation, driven by rapid technological advancements and evolving academic and societal needs. Researchers today face increasingly complex, multifaceted, and interconnected information demands, which require a parallel evolution in the strategies and offerings of the publishing industry. This transformation is characterized by adopting advanced technologies, innovative publishing models, and evolving criteria for evaluating journals and researchers.

Researchers now need access to various multidisciplinary information sources and sophisticated tools and platforms to analyze and share large datasets effectively. The heightened pressure to publish quickly and achieve high-impact outcomes has increased the demand for platforms that streamline the review and publication processes, ensuring timely dissemination of findings.

In response, many publishers have embraced open-access models, which provide free online access to research articles. This shift has significantly enhanced the visibility and accessibility of research, extending its reach to a global audience. Additionally, publishers are investing in platforms and repositories to support data sharing and preservation, addressing the growing emphasis on transparency and collaboration in research.

However, challenges persist as technology advances and research practices continue to evolve. The publishing industry must remain agile, innovative, and responsive to meet worldwide researchers' dynamic and ever-expanding information needs.

BI: What plan do you have for your library both in terms of resources and services in coming years. Please share your ideas.

AK: The IIM Kashipur Library (Learning Resource Centre), housed in a spacious building, has a collection of 11,520 printed books predominantly related to management and allied subjects. The library holds many printed and electronic resources, including books, journals, databases, audiovisual materials, CDs/DVDs, e-journals, reports, case studies, Theses, etc. With its modern collection of knowledge resources and innovative information services, the library fills an essential role for the academic community in their intellectual pursuits.

IIM Kashipur Library is a hybrid library with state-of-the-art technological applications. In achieving this goal, the library has been providing services to its clientele, such as CD-ROM databases, and the online databases are made available through the Institute's network. Users can access online databases and find the real-time availability of library materials from their computer terminals.

The library offers a range of information services set to the highest professional standards. The library adopts all the modern techniques for generating, storing, processing, and disseminating information.

In achieving this goal, the library has been providing services to its clientele such as WEB OPAC Services, inter-library resource sharing automated circulation, email alert services, cyber lab services and other services required for the smooth functioning of a modern library.

The library is fully computerised using the Koha (The latest version) of library management software. The RFID System has already been installed for surveillance circulation and other operations. The library is connected to high-speed internet & intranet of IIM Kashipur network, which plays an important role in quenching the thirst of an academic community in their intellectual pursuits.

Webinars and Conferences Held

Following webinars were held in association with Balani Infotech:

- 1. National Webinar on "Research Ethics and Academic Publishing" organized by the Shri Vishwakarma Skill University (SVSU), Haryana on January 3rd, 2025.
- 2. National Webinar on "Research Ethics and Academic Publishing" organized by I. K. Gujral Punjab Technical University, Punjab on January 9th, 2025.
- 3. National Webinar on "Research Ethics and Academic Publishing" organized by the University of Trans-Disciplinary Health Sciences and Technology (TDU), Karnataka on January 10th, 2025.

Sponsorship of Conferences

- 1. KSHEC International Conclave Participation in Exhibition held on 14th 15th, January 2025, organised by Cochin University of Science and Technology, Cochin.
- 2. Conclave of NIT Librarians and Publishers organised by NIT Warangal on 20th 21st January 2025
- 3. Global Library Summit-25, jointly organised by South Asian University, New Delhi & LIS Academy, Bengaluru during 5-7 Fenruary, 2025 at South Asian University, New Delhi.



Balani Group @Global Library Summit 2025

Balani Group, as one of its organising partners under premium catagory, participated in the Global Library Summit-2025 held at South Asian University, New Delhi during February 5-7, 2025 and drew a large number of delegates to its stall from all prominent institutions. GLS-2025 sourced together participants from all major IITs IIMs, NIITs & Central and State Universities and provided an opportunity for Balani Group team for an extended interaction and sharing insights on large number of our products and services.





Ms. Megha Balani, the Executive Director of Balani Group, in recognition of Balani Group's contribution to the summit, was falicitated with a shawl and a memento during the inaugural function of GLS-25 held at India International Centre on February 5th, 2025

The glittering inaugural ceremoy of the summit was marked by the lighting of the ceremonial lamp by the dignitaries, symbolizing the enlightenment brought about by knowledge. Prof. Anil D. Sahasrabudhe, the Chief Guest, released the Book of Abstracts, while the Souvenir was launched by Prof. K. K. Aggarwal, President of South Asian University.

Addressing the gathering, Prof. P.V.Konnur, President, LIS Academy, Bengaluru and the coorganiser of the summit, paid glowing tributes to late Mr. Kailash Balani, the founder of Balani Group. He recalled his contribution both to the publishing industry and to library fraternity.

Balani Group @GLS-25: Some Glimpses













LUCKY DRAW @GLS-25 ELICITS HUGE RESPONSE

As usual, Balani Group booth at GLS-25 drew attention of a large number of delegates at the Global Library Summit who participated in the lucky draw for a large number of prizes. Nearly 200 delagates participated in the draw held on 7th February which was presided over by Prof. P.V Konnur, President, LIS Academy, Bengaluru and one of the co-organiser of the prestigiouis event. There was huge enthusism among participants during the drawing of lots and distribution of prizes.

The Winners of Lucky Draw

• 1st Prize: Prof. Kripa Nand Jha, Delhi Skill and Entrepreneurship University

• 2nd Prize: Dr. Shekhar HP, Jain University

• 3rd Prize: Mohd Firdaus, NTPC

· 4th Prize: Dr. Arun, NIT Calicut Library

• 5th Prize: Dr. Sangeeta Narang, AIIMS, New Delhi

Thank you to everyone who participated, and a heartfelt congratulations to all the winners on their fantastic prizes!













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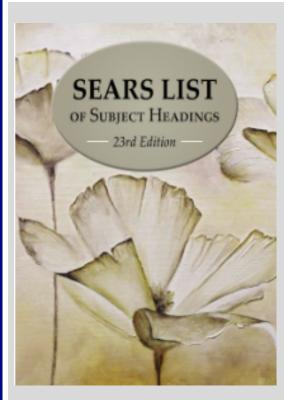
The Web of Science Research Assistant not only enhances the research process with meaningful insights into the academic landscape but also frees up valuable time for researchers to contribute groundbreaking knowledge to their fields.

AWARDS & HONOURS



Congratulations to Hon'ble CM of Karnataka Shri. Siddaramaiah and Hon'ble Social Welfare Minister H.C.Mahadevappa have conferred "Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Award" to Prof. M. Raghunandana for rendering service as a Director, B.R. Ambedkar Studies and Research Center and University Librarian of Babasaheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Central Library, Bangalore University, Bengaluru. On 1st, Feb 2025 in Mysuru.

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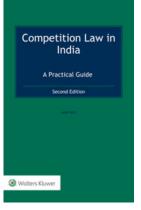
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Thank you for reading!





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