

Donate-and-borrow library in Sector 29 soon

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Gurgaon: A group of Gurgaonites have come together to give the city its first, and its only, free-of-charge public library. After having organized a book donation camp in Sector 29 recently, the resident groups, Get Alive Gurgaon and Advit Foundation, are taking it to the next level by setting up a donate-and-borrow library in the same area.

"Gurgaon doesn't have a library. And this will be the first free-of-charge library where residents can come, donate a book and borrow one at the same time," said Namita

Anand of Get Alive Gurgaon plans are to inaugurate the facility by next month, which will be located in the Rajiv Gandhi Renewable Energy Park (RGREP) campuses for the initial period. "After this we plan to expand and house this in a better way."

The idea was part of the Swap-Save-Build initiative launched by Get Alive Gurgaon and Advit Foundation last month, which attracted around 700 Facebook registrations from various parts of the city. On Sunday, the two groups held a book-donation event at the RGREP, in tandem with a workshop on waste management and sustainability.

"This was a community event. The theme was exchanging books and recycling waste. And central to it all was the 'build' part, our library project," said Anand.



Get Alive Gurgaon and Advit Foundation have plans to open the library by next month. A book donation camp was held on Sunday

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Mathangi R | ADVIT FOUNDATION

Libraries were once considered essential to the modern setting, and an indispensable part of a city's 'cultural infrastructure.' "But Gurgaon doesn't have a public library, and this was our main driving force to go ahead with this campaign," said Mathangi R of the Advit

Foundation. Plans are afoot to have the facility open once-a-week during the initial period, with residents volunteering as attendants and other staff. And gradually, the two groups hope to shift from the weekend-only format to the daily one, with the shelves having better stock of books. At the time of inauguration, the library will have around 1,000 books.

Mathangi said that if the response is good, the library project will be 'taken to the next level.' "We are hoping for some corporate tie-ups and more branches," she said. Mobile library vans for various sectors might be also be on the cards.

