# 600 Public Libraries to Become 'Model' Ones

**Express News Service**

**Puducherry:** Dr H K Kaul, director of DELNET (Developing Library Network), has said the National Mission on Libraries had planned to develop 600 existing public libraries across the country into model libraries, based on the suggestions by the National Knowledge Commission.

Addressing reporters on Sunday on NACLIN 2014, Kaul said DELNET would help in networking these public libraries to function in a well-organised manner for the transfer of knowledge. He said the DELNET was in the process of developing a knowledge centre so that an individual can access DELNET and secure information. He added that the target would be to achieve open access to information without any barrier.

Revealing that DELNET has a network of over 5,000 libraries in the country and abroad, Kaul, who is also a member of National Mission on Libraries (NML), said discussions were on with the state governments for getting the local content for DELNET in the regional languages as well. The National Mission on Libraries (NML) has been set up by the government of India on the recommendation of the National Knowledge Commission (NKC).

Dr A P J Abdul Kalam, former President of India, would inaugurate the 17th National Convention on Knowledge, Library and Information Networking (NACLIN 2014), which is being jointly organised by DELNET - New Delhi and the French Institute of Pondicherry from December 9-11 in the Union Territory.

The theme of the convention is "From Building Collections to Making Connec-

> DELNET would help in networking these public libraries to function in a well-organised manner for the transfer of knowledge

tions: Transforming Libraries in the Knowledge Era". Kaul said that at present, libraries were at the crossroads of development and facing tough competition from online information agencies and centres of learning. "Librarians need to adopt new technologies, digitise the existing collections and have access to quality resources which are scattered in different libraries, archives and knowledge centres in the world."