

Kalam to launch convention on library, information network from Dec 9

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Puducherry: Former President A P J Abdul Kalam will inaugurate the 17th convention on 'Knowledge, library and information network' on December 9 at Hotel Anandha Inn in the Union territory of Puducherry.

Developing Library Network, New Delhi (Delnet) and the French Institute of Pondicherry (IFP) will jointly host the three-day convention that concludes on December 11. The convention to be held under the theme, 'From building collections to making connections: Transforming libraries in the knowledge era', aims to strengthen the role of libraries in developing knowledge society. The convention aims to serve as a networking platform for library and information science professionals, IT experts and publishing/IT industry to evolve strategies in upgrading libraries to provide better services to the users.

Currently, libraries are at the crossroads of development and many face tough competition from the online information agencies and centres of learning. "Librarians need to adopt new technology and digitise the existing



Abdul Kalam will inaugurate the 17th convention which will have 350 delegates from different parts of India and world

collections. They need to have access to quality resources that are scattered in different libraries, archives and knowledge centres in the world. Information and knowledge technologies keep evolving and are becoming more sophisticated day by day and librarians need to adopt them for providing better services to their users," said a statement from the IFP.

"A vast gulf exists between the new technologies and most of the libraries in India. The convention aims to focus on bringing the two together through lec-

tures and workshops by information technology experts and librarians," it further added. The convention will include a detailed tutorial on 'Managing libraries through open source software' followed by lectures and discussions on a variety of important subjects. The topics on discussion will include emerging technology trends in libraries; e-content and the future strategies for libraries; networking social media and the libraries; managing public libraries and reading habits; library and information science from teaching to technology; human resource management in libraries and user education.

Experts from India, United States, France and Australia will address the convention. More than 350 delegates from different parts of India, including library and information technology professionals from institutions run by the Centre and states and public and private organisations and public libraries will participate in the convention.

The convention will also serve as a podium for a number of leading international publishers and online product vendors to exhibit their latest products and services.