



Dear Friends of the Library,

January at Bansa Community Library was not only the beginning of a new year; it was the beginning of a new chapter, full of stories, connections, and a lively sense of community. We ushered in the new year with open doors and open books, as **243 books** made their way into the hands of **360 visitors**. We also **welcomed 30 new members** into our Library and we also added **30 new books** to our shelves, waiting to be found.

Our New Year's celebration was not your usual library event. Picture the smell of freshly prepared "Chhole Bhature" blending with the soft rustle of pages being turned, an opportunity for all the villagers to gather, rejoice, and feel the warmth of belonging.



We also had a moment to celebrate a genuine trailblazer, Savitribhai Phule. A special session, conducted by the Praveen Sir, reminded us of her remarkable legacy and how education belongs to all, particularly girls. It was a strong reminder of what we aim to do at Bansa Library, making learning accessible and empowering our community.

We are thrilled to share some wonderful news from our library! Recently, ten of our incredible young members participated in an online story-writing competition organized by [Read Bloom Books](#) that brought together students from schools across the country. The competition was an opportunity for young writers to express their creativity and passion for storytelling. Out of many submissions, three of our talented members—Vaishnavi (Class 9th), Urmi (Class 3rd), and Vandana (Class 8th)—qualified for the next round. What's more, Vaishnavi's exceptional story '*Bhootiya Mahal*' earned her the First Prize, while Urmi and Vandana secured their places as Runners-Up with their unique and imaginative entries.



There has long been a notion that people in villages don't read or engage deeply with literature, but our experience has shown otherwise. When provided with the right resources and opportunities, villagers not only embrace reading but also excel in writing and creative pursuits. Our library stands as a testament to the transformative power of access to knowledge—fostering talent, nurturing dreams, and proving that storytelling and imagination know no boundaries. These achievements by our young members reaffirm our belief that libraries are not just spaces for books but catalysts for change, creativity, and growth.

In the meantime, our book exhibits have been generating discussion among the members. The "Chaand ki Shararat" exhibit, for instance, delved into the magic of the moon through tales. It was an opportunity to stop, think, and enjoy the beauty of simple storytelling.

One of the most thrilling things that happened as January went on, was the introduction of the "Theme of the Week" program by our student leaders. They selected "Friendship" as their inaugural theme, and it was infectious. From all the library decorations to selecting books, and encouraging others to get to know one another, it was great to see them own the library and become self-assured leaders.



And then there were the serene, lovely moments, such as when members share the experience of reading a book together. These "Reading Buddies" remind us that reading is a treasure that can be shared across generations. Republic Day was also a memorable occasion. We celebrated the culture of democracy by reiterating our pledge to empower our community through reading and learning. Maybe the most touching moment of the month was our conversation with Mahendra Baba, our oldest member and one of the library's earliest users. He spoke about his lifelong passion for reading, remembering how the library kept him in touch with books even during the pandemic. He talked about how reading enriched his life, how it assisted him on the farm and in his own life, and how it freed his mind. His account is a testament to the long-lasting effect of reading and to the role libraries play in our lives. Watch the full conversation [here](#).

January at Bansa Community Library was a month of tales – tales read, tales told, and tales written. It was a month of bonds, uniting people through the love of reading and community. And above all, it was a month that showed us the power of libraries to change lives.

**Read and bloom where you are planted!**

Here's to the Rural Library Movement!

Ananya & Jatin

15th February 2025

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Order books for our members, [Amazon Wishlist](#)

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