

Green library initiatives in India: Anna Centenary Library - a case study

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This paper gives an overview of development of Anna Centenary library as model green library in India. Currently, it is the only green library in India and Asia's First LEED Gold Rated Library Building. It was started with a vision "to be an internationally recognized urban Library known for excellence in learning, innovative research, and community engagement that contributes to the economic vitality, environmental sustainability, and quality of life in the Chennai region and beyond".

Besides Anna Centenary Library, other significant Green Library Initiatives in India are: a) PermaKampo Library, Ladakh in Indian Himalayas. b) National Library of India, Kolkata. c) NIT Library, Silchar. Apart from this, Green initiatives and measures have been taken up by Madras University, Calcutta University, Delhi University and Mumbai University Library System.

Anna centenary library building was constructed as a state of art library building by state government. The building has been developed in 8 acres land with world class facilities with approximate built up area of 3.8 lakhs sft. It shows the commitments of the state government towards protecting the environment for future generation. The library building complex consists of Library building (G+8) and an auditorium (G+1) to accommodate 1200 persons. To improve the thermal comfort of the occupants, the building has been provided with adequate air conditioning. The project achieved the prestigious LEED Gold rating given by Indian Green Building Council under New Construction rating. This is a unique achievement for the Tamil Nadu State Government and happens to be the first library building in the Asian region to get this coveted rating.

This building would consume 30% less energy and 20% less potable water consumption without affecting the indoor condition and occupants comfort. In a nut shell, the additional investment made to obtain the Gold rating would get paid back in just 2.5 years period through operational energy efficiency. This demonstrates green makes economic sense.

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