NATIONS OF INNOVATIONS
EMPOWERING PEOPLE

@ the edge of INFORMATION

With the motto to ‘Inform, Communicate and Empower,’ Digital Empowerment Foundation aims to find sustainable ICT solutions to overcome information poverty in remote and rural locations of India.

www.defindia.org
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Manthan Awards Jury Members 120

Manthan Awards Partners 129
**TOTAL ENTRIES**

<table>
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<td>Sri Lanka</td>
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**Category-Wise Nomination:**

- Government & Citizen Engagement: 60
- Health & Well Being: 39
- Learning & Education: 63
- Environment & Green Energy: 22
- Culture & Tourism: 28
- Smart Settlements & Urbanisation: 6
- Business & Commerce: 37
- Inclusion & Empowerment: 29
- Early Stage: 12
CATEGORY-WISE WINNERS: 17

Government & Citizen Engagement - 02
Health & Well Being - 02
Learning & Education – 01
Environment & Green Energy - 02
Culture & Tourism - 02
Smart Settlements & Urbanisation - 02
Business & Commerce - 03
Inclusion & Empowerment – 01
Early Stage – 02

COUNTRY-WISE WINNERS: 17

India – 13
Sri Lanka – 02
Afghanistan – 01
Bangladesh – 01

CATEGORY-WISE SPECIAL MENTIONS: 07

Government & Citizen Engagement - 01
Health & Well Being - 01
Learning & Education - 01
Culture & Tourism - 01
Business & Commerce - 01
Inclusion & Empowerment – 02

COUNTRY-WISE SPECIAL MENTIONS: 07

India – 04
Sri Lanka – 02
Nepal - 01

CATEGORY-WISE RUNNERS-UP: 41

Government & Citizen Engagement - 07
Health & Well Being - 05
Learning & Education – 07
Environment & Green Energy - 06
Culture & Tourism - 04
Smart Settlements & Urbanisation - 02
Business & Commerce - 05
Inclusion & Empowerment – 03
Early Stage – 02

COUNTRY-WISE RUNNERS-UP: 41

India – 23
Sri Lanka – 07
Nepal - 11
### STATE-WISE NOMINATIONS FORM RECEIVED FROM INDIA: 222

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### THE MANTHAN AWARD SOUTH ASIA WINNERS: 17

#### GOVERNMENT & CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT – 02
- State Land Information and Management System (e-Slims) – SRI LANKA
- Disease Control in Animals (Foot and Mouth Disease) – Use of ICT - INDIA

#### LEARNING & EDUCATION – 01
- RiSE App - INDIA

#### ENVIRONMENT & GREEN ENERGY – 02
- Tyrelessly - INDIA
- Green Hub - INDIA

#### CULTURE & TOURISM – 02
- Media for Children in the War Zone - AFGHANISTAN
- eTunes - BANGLADESH
THE MANTHAN AWARD SOUTH ASIA
SPECIAL MENTIONS (07)

SMART SETTLEMENTS & URBANISATION – 02
- Nation’s first Intelligent Transport System at Mysore City with Mobile App - INDIA
- Intelligent Transport System (ITS) - INDIA

BUSINESS & COMMERCE – 03
- m’REAP & d’LITE - INDIA
- Share At Door Step - INDIA
- Giskaa - INDIA

INCLUSION & EMPOWERMENT – 01
- Vikalp - INDIA

EARLY STAGE – 02
- Vidya Saarathi - INDIA
- Tisser – INDIA

GOVERNMENT & CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT – 01
- Online e-Mutation Implementation, Akola - INDIA

HEALTH & WELL BEING – 01
- Autogenous Diabetic Retinopathy Censor for Ophthalmologists – AKSHI – SRI LANKA

LEARNING & EDUCATION – 01
- School Information Management System(SIMS) - INDIA

CULTURE & TOURISM - 01
- Kavum Kokis – SRI LANKA

BUSINESS & COMMERCE – 01
- NE-Fresh Online Auction System - INDIA

INCLUSION & EMPOWERMENT – 02
- Sukarmi - NEPAL
- Indus Reader - INDIA
THE MANTHAN AWARD SOUTH ASIA RUNNERS-UP (41)

GOVERNMENT & CITIZEN

ENGAGEMENT – 07

- Depot Online System for FCI - INDIA
- VAT Checker - BANGLADESH
- MEMORY (My Exam My Online Re-view Yes) - INDIA
- iRevenue Mobile Application - INDIA
- Core Treasury System(eKosh) - INDIA
- E-Sanchayika - The Knowledge Bank of the ICDS - INDIA
- Land Pooling Scheme - ICT System - INDIA

HEALTH & WELL BEING – 05

- Vision Guard – SRI LANKA
- Q-global - INDIA
- mMitra Voice Call Service - INDIA
- Daily Handwashing for an Ailment-free Life (DHaAL) - INDIA
- Dhaka University Telemedicine Programme - BANGLADESH

LEARNING & EDUCATION – 07

- ExamFear.com - INDIA
- 10 Minute School - BANGLADESH
- Youth Opportunities - BANGLADESH
- REPTO Education Center - BANGLADESH
- CAREER CLINIQ SMART TUTOR - INDIA
- Rani Kajal Community Owned Wireless Mesh (Cowmesh Ranikajal) - INDIA
- MINDLER - INDIA

ENVIRONMENT & GREEN ENERGY - 06

- e-SAP (Electronic Solutions against Agricultural Pests) - INDIA
- Unnati - INDIA
- Farmers Project - INDIA
- Krishoker Janala-Apnar - BANGLADESH
- BARI Application- Krishi Projukti Bhandar - BANGLADESH
- Mrittika - BANGLADESH

CULTURE & TOURISM – 04

- e-Archives: Online Cataloging of Odisha State Archives, Bhubaneswar - INDIA
- Vromon - BANGLADESH
- Sevendiary.com - INDIA
- Badajari Sinhala Online Restaurant Directory – SRI LANKA
SMART SETTLEMENTS & URBANISATION – 02

• Scylax - Preference based personalized tour planner with virtual reality – SRI LANKA
• Journal - Smart Action Camera – SRI LANKA

BUSINESS & COMMERCE - 05

• PaySe™ - Democratizing cash - INDIA
• E-Commerce Solution for Lucky Lanka Milk Processing Company Ltd. By Web Lankan.com - SRI LANKA
• CSL Mobile Accounts - BANGLADESH
• Selliscope - BANGLADESH
• Project EPIC (ERP Project for Integration and Coordination) - INDIA

INCLUSION & EMPOWERMENT – 03

• Ahanna (Listen) e-Sign Reader – SRI LANKA
• Sanitary Napkin Maha-Abhiyan - INDIA
• iShop - Shopping application for visually challenged – SRI LANKA

EARLY STAGE – 02

• Bal Vatika - INDIA
• Dollartune - INDIA
The success age is getting younger by the day and success rate is certainly higher than before. But this has also given rise to intense competition. And only the very best or shall I say the most perseverant survives.

However, there is a pertinent argument here that India is many miles away from 100% digital inclusion because digital exclusion is at 90%. Connectivity is concentrated mostly in the urban centers of India. Almost 80% of rural India is still unconnected. The government has launched digital India programme, but it is not without its shortcomings. The promises of making 6,50,000 villages digitally enabled proved half-baked. It may take many years before they would be connected. Many regions may never ever get connected because of their remote locations. So don’t they have the right to connectivity? Today Internet is akin to water and electricity. Not being connected means living in the dark ages. Nobody should be relegated to the level of obscurity.

We can’t just depend on the government to provide us solutions. India being a country of over a billion people, it is obviously not possible to touch each and every Indian with
Any innovation with true intent, foresight and vision, supported by right guidance and mentorship can turn into an Ola and Paytm.

one broad brush stroke. Everybody who can, needs to pitch-in. We need more innovators and their innovations to enrich us. And innovators need the right environment and ecosystem to grow and evolve. Any innovation with true intent, foresight and vision, supported by right guidance and mentorship can turn into an Ola and Paytm. Going by the pace at which our lives are changing by way of technology, we would need an innovator per panchayat. By that account we need to nurture 2,50,000 innovators. Manthan is just a milestone in the journey of an innovation. Their true test begins after that, when they have to live upto their vision. And live-up they must, if we have to keep growing.
We live in a world today where mobile, broadband and cloud are transforming the fabric of society. The advancement in Information Communication Technologies (ICT) has led us to work towards what we call a Networked Society, where everything that can benefit from being connected will be connected. Technology is not just transforming industries and businesses but is having a profound impact on our society.

In line with the vision to use technology and our skills to make this world a better place; our sustainability and corporate responsibility strategy is to create measurable contributions to a sustainable Networked Society by reducing risk and increasing positive impacts. We want to be a responsible and relevant driver of positive change in the society.

We are the leading advocates of Technology for Good in the Networked Society. We are working every day to address issues of climate change, poverty, education, health, human rights, besides humanitarian issues for refugees, peace and disaster response.

According to estimates, 90 per cent of the world’s population will be covered by mobile broadband networks by 2020. This scale brings unprecedented opportunities to address global sustainable development challenges. Hence, we use our technology, solutions and advocacy to create positive impacts for our stakeholders and our business while managing environmental, social and ethical risks.

Ericsson has a global programme called Connect to Learn. It aims to scale-up access to quality secondary education, especially for girls, by providing scholarships and bringing ICT to schools in remote, resource-poor parts of the world, using mobile broadband and cloud. Ericsson uses ICT in schools to ensure that children, no matter where they live, have access to learning resources and a quality education.

Skill Development

Ericsson is working on employability of underprivileged youth in India by providing them access to learning resources that were previously unavailable to them. To further this, Ericsson has collaborated with Smile Foundation to offer job-oriented skills and placement assistance to underprivileged youth.
Technology is not just transforming industries and businesses but is having a profound impact on our society.

in Delhi, NCR and Mumbai. The programme imparts training in basic computers and retail sales management skills, along with proficiency in spoken and written English, to youth through its 20 centres across target regions. The curriculum also includes sessions on personal development, career counselling and placement support.

**Girl Child Education**

Along with Plan India, Ericsson is leveraging Connect To Learn, an initiative to increase self-development opportunities for 15,000 girls and women aged between 15–25 years. As part of this programme, the company has helped set up 15 Ericsson Digital Learning Centres in Delhi that act as knowledge hubs for these girls.

**Digital Integration**

To promote inclusive growth and development of Barabanki’s handloom community in Uttar Pradesh, Ericsson runs an initiative called Baank-e-Loom in partnership with Digital Empowerment Foundation. The initiative envisages digital development of the handloom weavers’ community in Saidanpur and nearby weaver clusters in Barabanki district. Through digital integration of traditional skills and communities, Ericsson India aims to empower traditional artisans in embracing new technologies, designs, and scaling up traditional weaving methods by employing ICT tools in designing, archiving, marketing and sales, thereby ensuring sustainable livelihood creation for the youth in the clusters.

At Ericsson, we have remained focused on the key areas where we believe our company and our technology can have the greatest impact on social, economic and environmental development. Moreover, we strongly believe that it takes a connected ecosystem to transform the world, and no single entity owns the Networked Society.
MANTHAN AWARD 2016-17
WINNERS
GOVERNMENT & CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT

| CITIZEN ENTITLEMENTS | SERVICES | OPEN DATA
| DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION & PUBLIC SERVICE
GRIEVANCE REDRESS |

WINNERS

- STATE LAND INFORMATION AND MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (E-SLIMS) SRI LANKA
- DISEASE CONTROL IN ANIMALS (FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE) INDIA
The Electronic State Land Information Management System (e-SLIM) has replaced the manual systems in Sri Lanka. Due to the inefficiency and ineffectiveness of the manual process, e-SLIMS was introduced in the country for using online solution for the management of state lands. Some of the key roles of the land commissioner general’s department are to issue land permits, land grants and long-term lease. Under the former manual system, the processes were time consuming, cost intensive and terribly unsatisfying for clients.

e-Slims, however, is an interconnected solution of information technology formulated to achieve the following objectives: to develop a solution which captures the entire process of land disposal; to provide status details of land release applications to applicants; to provide details regarding government land-related regulations and releasing processes; to maintain all records in electronic formats in relation to land alienation activities in textual or any graphical format; and to maintain up-to-date details of state lands.

This e-solution has been built with the thought that an easy access to information about government lands can support national development in a planned and efficient manner. The system, thus, maintains the information related to all government lands; usage of the land; selection and alienation or handing over of land for development. The application also provides an automatic intervention to take legal decisions in the land management process.

The website and Android application complement each other for land-detailed capturing while the system has an integrated SMS alert service for the public. The Android application comes integrated with capabilities to employ the use of digital camera, GPS device and mobile printing facility. This enables officers on-site inspections to capture land information on their mobile devices, obtain a print out and verify it to ensure the accuracy of the information entered into the system.

The user-friendly e-system minimises time consumption and saves cost. Even an officer with minimum computing knowledge, can work on the application confidently. Further, it offers hassle-free options for officers who are not competent in typing in Sinhala or familiar with the Sinhala keyboard.
This is a first-of-its-kind initiative, aimed at capturing voluminous data on foot-and-mouth disease vaccination programmes for animals in Andhra Pradesh through the effective utilization of ICT on a real-time basis.

The foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) affects cattle and other cloven-footed animals that have huge economic significance globally. As part of the Foot-and-Mouth Disease Control Programme (FMDCP), an initiative of the Government of India, one crore bovine population in Andhra Pradesh is targeted to get vaccinated, thus benefitting around 15 lakh farmers. Capturing the data of these vaccinations is essential for planning and monitoring purposes, which was done manually in registers for the past 10 years. Now, in its 22nd round of vaccination programme, ICT has been put to use effectively in the process for capturing the same data, which will include geo-tagged photos of the vaccinated animals, besides phone numbers and Aadhaar numbers of the farmers.

The Animal Husbandry Department diligently planned for this mammoth task by distributing 8,300 tablet phones and desktop among field functionaries who used the devices to capture data and feed it into Web and Android applications. The latter has been designed to work in offline mode as well, thus widening the reach of the app and enable it to penetrate into the nook and corners of the state where mobile network coverage might not be available or be weak. The real-time data is then made available on the project website (www.ahd.aponline.gov.in) and the state CM CORE Dashboard (www.core.ap.gov.in/CMDashBoard).

So far, close to 3,00,000 animals have been benefited. This project is visualised to make the vaccination programme a big success in the state as it targets the entire eligible population and protects the animals from contracting the foot-and-mouth disease, thus making the state of Andhra Pradesh FMD free.

The genesis of this application became a reality based on the thought that “while man can harness IT for their betterment, why not allow animals to reap its benefits as well” and this is an effort in that endeavour.
To tap the power of user driven publishing through the Internet and social media, DEF launched the Citizen Media Network (CMN) which aims at nurturing Citizen Journalism in India and South Asia.

www.citizenmedianetwork.org
HEALTH & WELL BEING

| MEDICAL CARE | SPORT | LIFESTYLE

WINNERS

• E-HOSPITAL@NIC INDIA

• ESSENTIAL DRUG STOCK ALERT TRACKER IN PROVINCIAL DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES WESTERN PROVINCE, SRI LANKA SRI LANKA
e-Hospital@NIC, an open source software-based health management information system, is an initiative of the National Informatics Centre, a premiere science & technology organisation of the central Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology.

First introduced at the GBP Teaching Hospital in Agartala (Tripura), the initiative has since then been replicated at more than 50 small to large-size government hospitals in Tripura, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka and Meghalaya. Several other states, too, have expressed willingness to rollout the initiative at large scale in their respective states.

The initiative has been funded, steered and encouraged under the Digital India plan. Under the same initiative, the ministry offers cloud ready e-Hospital@NIC Suite free-of-cost to government hospitals. Roll-out of e-Hospital@NIC has already achieved the distinction of exemplary re-use/replication in various types and sizes of hospitals, starting from a 200-bed hospital in Shillong to much larger super specialty hospitals like NIMHANS in Bengaluru or AIIMS in New Delhi.

The application conforms to HL7 framework and come integrated with SNOMED CT vocabulary for managing healthcare service delivery in public hospitals. The productized and customised solution — keeping in mind that each hospital is unique in terms of its requirements and priorities — is then made available to hospitals as Software as a Services (SaaS) for accelerated adoption of ICT tools and healthcare standards by hospitals at large.
ENABLING EFFECTIVE MOBILISATION OF THE AVAILABLE DRUGS

Lack of pharmacy supplies in government health institutions, especially in districts, divisional and rural hospitals, is a major complaint area for the general public in South Asia, and Sri Lanka is no different. Health care institutions under the Provincial Health Ministry of Sri Lanka receive pharmacy items from the Regional Medical Supplies Division (RMSD). Shortage of pharmacy items or their maldistribution can be attributed to poor communication between RMSD and health institutions. At present, real-time drug stock information is not available for various institutions, resulting in the inability to replenish stocks in a timely manner. It was in this scenario that the Essential Drug Stock Tracker was created.

The objective of this system is to create a method to alert the health institutional heads and regional/provincial administrators about the essential drugs’ status, enabling effective mobilisation of the available drugs. The Web-based system is designed with a simple user friendly data entry format and colour-coded user dashboard system to help users easily visualises the available stock in green (stock is satisfactory), yellow (stock is below the reorder level) and red (stock is unavailable).

Early results of this system have been very encouraging. At the commencement of the system in Colombo district, 16.24 per cent items were at zero stock level and only 55.56 per cent items were at satisfactory stock level. By June 2016, zero stock level had reduced to 1.28 per cent and satisfactory stocks level had increased up to 86.32 per cent. This system was then extended to Gampaha and Kalutara districts. In Gampaha district, too, a fall of zero stock level by 10.71 per cent and rise in satisfactory stock level by 17.23 per cent was seen in June 2016. The zero stock level in Kalutara district, meanwhile, showed a fall of 23.06 per cent, the highest reduction compared to the other districts.
Digital Empowerment Foundation, along with UNESCO and IHCN initiated a project called eHeritage – Digitally Enhancing India’s Heritage. It is a capacity building programme, which empowers municipalities to create a digital presence of their heritage. At present four heritage entities are being worked upon-Shahjahanabad (Old Delhi), Chanderi, Shekhawati and Jahanpana. Over 400 monuments across three cities - Shekhawati, Delhi and Chanderi - now have a digital presence.
LEARNING & EDUCATION

| KNOWLEDGE | SCIENCE | SKILLS

WINNER

- RISE APP - INDIA
Digitally equalising the educational opportunities across the country

RISE was started in Kashmir with an aim to equalise educational opportunities for students of the conflict-torn region. RISE works at the grassroots level with high school students, teachers, academicians, education institutes and policymakers from the region. Under the broader initiative, mechanisms have been devised and implemented to identify talented students in Kashmir, and institutionalise knowledge transfer between experts and talented students who have the desire to excel. This is achieved through organised courses that provide students with adequate guidance and educational tools necessary for the pursuit of their ambitions.

The project has two separate verticals. First, RiSE App enables users to improve the skills required to ace competitive exams like JEE (Mains/Advanced), BITSAT and JKCET, among others, by allowing them to take comprehensive sets of topic-wise papers of physics, chemistry, mathematics and biology; and giving them an option to take the RiSE all-India test series. The test taking experience is seamless as it does not require internet connectivity. Second, RiSE Edu Tablet is a device that creates an interface for interaction between students and teachers, streamlines academic processes in a classroom, and creates an exhaustive database of information, that too in no time.

The app has primarily been conceptualised for Class IX to XII students residing in conflict zones of Kashmir and North East India but aspiring to pursue professional courses of national and international repute. Often, despite financial sustainability, these students lack adequate resources due to lack of access to quality education opportunities and lack of support from the government and private sector.

Designed and managed by an IIT Bombay alumnus, RISE has a very strong volunteer and professional network in IITs and NITs.
ENVIRONMENT & GREEN ENERGY

CLIMATE | SUSTAINABLE RESOURCES | AGRICULTURE

WINNERS

- TYRELESSLY-INDIA
- GREEN HUB -INDIA
For every 100 tyres consumed by fire, 21 litres of runoff oil pollutes the environment — unless contained and collected. Tyrelessly provides an environmentally compliant end-of-life tyre collection and disposal service, ensuring security, consciousness and peace of mind for those who feel responsible towards the environment. The goal of Tyrelessly is to inspire smarter choices for a sustainable future. At Tyrelessly, they are great believers of individual actions, such as increasing recycling efforts or learning about greener ways to dispose that, when added with efforts of others, can create a big impact for our planet.

India’s first ‘Tyres-to-Trees’ company, Tyrelessly invokes community participation by encouraging responsible motorists to donate their end-of-life tyres for responsible disposal, material recovery or energy recovery.

The website for Tyrelessly allows vehicle owners, via a few simple steps, to ensure their vehicle’s end-of-life tyres are disposed safely. By filling in a few necessary details and clicking on ‘Go Tyreless’, the visitor can initiate the process, following which a van is sent to collect the tyres and then for recycling. Once the tyre has been disposed in an environment friendly manner, the user is notified via an alert.

Tyrelessly believes that in order to be successful as a waste management system, they should have strong policies and regulations, supporting institutions, proper financial mechanisms, stakeholder participation and complementing technologies.

Founded by 16-year-old Anubhav Wadhwa, Tyrelessly has been working tirelessly to expand its reach to more and more cities, communities, brands and individuals to build a waste-free future together.
Green Hub is the first youth and community-based fellowship and video documentation centre in North East India that works in the areas of wildlife, environment, indigenous knowledge and social change.

The idea with which Green Hub has been established is to engage and empower the youth and community in the conservation of biodiversity in the region. The concept involves innovative use of digital platforms, open avenues for wider exposure, and integration with livelihood options, thus triggering ideas and actions from community members for a more socially equitable and ecologically sustainable future.

In North East India, where violence and political conflicts have overshadowed everything else for the past six decades, Green Hub seeks to provide opportunities for youth to move away from despair or violence and renew their love and respect for nature.

Every year, 20 youth from the region are selected for a one-year fellowship under which they are trained in video documentation by eminent resource persons from all over the country. The fellowship also includes an internship period with key organisations in the sector. Representing remote tribal areas, marginalised communities as well as urban spaces, these Green Hub fellows are envisioned to be the influencers of change who care to earn a livelihood by protecting their natural resources rather than destroying them.

Today, Green Hub is emerging as a unique space, bringing together youth from different states and communities, replacing conflict with convergence, transcending borders, reviving language and creating an identity.
INOMY is a Media and Technology company providing services like e-content, e-learning, Documentary Film Making, Web and Online Software Development, Web Designing, Designing, Printing and content development at various levels. It was formed in 1999 to focus on the emerging new economy, information economy, and knowledge society.
CULTURE & TOURISM
HERITAGE | ENTERTAINMENT | MEDIA | BROADCASTING

WINNERS

- MEDIA FOR CHILDREN IN WAR ZONE-AFGHANISTAN
- ETUNES-BANGLADESH
Afghan Mobile Mini Circus for Children (MMCC) believes in the transformational power of children and the tremendous positive effect it can when they are supported, facilitated and respected. MMCC, through Media for Children in War Zone, provides all necessary tools and technical skills to children who learn to produce content in different media formats and engage in joyful educational performances and workshops, besides advocating for themselves and thereby informing others.

The effects of its approach towards children not only make the children enjoy their lives but also increase their self-confidence and capacities, eventually benefiting the entire society, including the lives of adults.

Established in 2002, MMCC — and its local partner Afghan Educational Children Circus (AECC) — has grown into a countrywide education programme that focuses on teaching children to lead. Their basic philosophy is that children know best how to communicate with other children; and therefore the goal is to give them the tools they need to develop creative and novel ways of spreading edutainment throughout Afghanistan.

AECC has, so far, been able to successfully employ its unique approach in democratising access to art and media for 3.7 million children in Afghanistan who have enjoyed watching live educational social circus performance. A large number of art forms are regularly introduced and produced, which keeps pushing the quality of children art in Afghanistan and inspire their ambitions. The ‘advocacy by children’, particularly, has had a very impressive impact on the way adults/authorities consider children, involve them in decision making, and take decisions to improve children’s lives.

Through the channels of AECC, individuals, non-profits and the government have been exposed to the joyful and child-centered activities, which are transforming the largely traditional and conservative Afghan population towards a more open and child-friendly Afghanistan.
eTunes is Bangladesh’s first legal music portal, which enables people to buy songs and albums online. A one-stop music solution for singer, composers, lyricists and music lovers, the platform aims to empower all stakeholders in the music industry by establishing a transparent digital channel for music distribution.

While eTunes caters to the thirst of music lovers by introducing quality songs of different genres at the tap of a touch, it also comes to the rescue of struggling artists and musicians by promoting new and upcoming artistes and ensuring royalty towards singers, composers, lyricist and others related to the music. The music portal also provides real-time sales reports for stakeholders.

eTunes stands firmly against piracy; and by making access to music convenient for its citizens, it is encouraging people to listen to quality music legally. The platform provides high-quality MP3 content with ‘preview’ facility. Users can purchase song of their choice through various netbanking and mbanking channels, including card transactions.
.NGO for Nonprofits

To make NGOs digitally empowered along with making them trusted and validated globally, a new top level domain was launched exclusively for non profits. With the launch of this revolutionary tool, we are excited to get all our network organizations on .NGO domain to gain Global trust and Visibility. .NGO is not just a domain; it is the future Currency for NGOs to earn the reputation of a Validated NGO in the ever crowded digital space.
SMART SETTLEMENTS & URBANISATION

MOBILITY | PRODUCTIVE WORK | SUSTAINABLE LIVING

WINNERS

- NATION’S FIRST INTELLIGENT TRANSPORT SYSTEM AT MYSORE CITY WITH MOBILE APP-INDIA
- INTELLIGENT TRANSPORT SYSTEM-INDIA
The Intelligent Transport System (ITS) of the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) is a demonstrative project for the complete implementation and integration of the system for city bus services.

ITS addresses a critical issue of road congestion by offering high-class services and state-of-the-art technologies, besides attractive, convenient, comfortable and value-added services, to encourage the use of bus services against individual personal and private vehicles.

Working towards this goal on high priority, KSRTC has implemented ITS in Mysore city (MITRA), covering 500 buses, 2,400 bus stops, six bus terminals and 45 platforms.

With the aim of improving quality and convenience of public transport system, it is a pioneering effort by KSRTC to accelerate modal shift from personal use of vehicles to public transport system, thereby lowering pollution levels and traffic congestion.

ITS provides several benefits. It reduces time wasted and uncertainty; it increases accessibility to the system and safety of users; it brings down fuel consumption, emissions and operational costs; it improves traffic efficiency, environment quality and energy efficiency; it positive impacts economic productivity; it decongests traffic; it promotes the use of sustainable transport modes; and it enables commuters to make informed choices on their preferred mode of commuting.

Under this project, KSRTC has also introduced a mobile application, conforming to standard practices that address commuter requirements related to bus services. Meanwhile, regular reports from the management information system provide analytical tools to operate the buses effectively. The result is: system-driven bus operations that are monitored and controlled through a central control station; and benefit commuters and KSRTC.
The Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) is leaping towards modernisation of its services in an effort to address problems linked to demographic growth, urbanisation and increase in modal share.

Under these modernisation efforts, **BMTC wants its services to compete with personal and private modes of transport by leveraging new media and digital technology, particularly Intelligent Transport System (ITS)**. The project has been initiated to improve efficiency; decrease operational costs; provide real-time information on revenue and bus operations; and monitor, track and manage service adherence. The project also provides integrated and secure ticketing options to commuters, besides managing and handling incidents or accidents in case of emergencies.

BMTC’s project covers 10,000 electronic ticketing machines, 6,400 vehicle tracking units and and 35 passenger information system units.

An integrated solution, with real-time data transfer of all transactions with the help of GPRS, ITS allows the passenger count in the bus to be estimated and issuance of real-time tickets to be monitored. This system helps in generation of reports for proper monitoring and managing resources.

The project paves way for introduction of a smart card-based fare collection system and provides essential data feed for mobile application, planning and scheduling application.
You have the power to make a difference

It is an initiative of Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF). It is a digital yard with a purpose; a bridge between haves and have not. The objective of MeraByte is to seek contributions in the form of used but functional digital devices from privileged sections of the society and make them refurbished and usable for the underserved and marginalised communities.

So a mobile phone that has lost its utility to the latest smartphone; a laptop, which has outlived its prime; desktop that is lying defunct in the corner for years; or any digital device that has lost its meaning for some, can provide meaning to millions of other lives.

If you want to contribute, please visit www.defindia.org/merabyte
WINNERS

- M’REAP & D’LITE-INDIA
- SHARE AT DOOR STEP-INDIA
- GISKAA-INDIA
Today, retail supply chain, especially manufacturers in India, lacks critical insight on end customers, inventory, consumption trends and top sellers. Digital technology, however, gives those in the chain a magic wand to access information related to these areas in near real-time to use it as a powerful tool for planning, strategising and effectively conducting operations along the value chain.

Netree has created the world’s first ecosystem where all handlers of the retail industry, right from manufacturers to last-mile retailers, are connected and engage directly for an extremely simplified yet intuitive experience.

Mobile Retailers Engagement and Productivity (m’REAP) solution is a centralised multi-homing mobile and cloud-based retail business networking platform that enables related stakeholders to connect and engage for business transactions. The platform has Point-of-Sale (PoS) functionalities incorporated, which helps retailers engage with suppliers and customers in real time while improving their productivity in the areas of sales, inventory and profits.

With 14 million registered retailers and 20 million unregistered retailers, 93 per cent of India’s $950 billion retail market is controlled by small and medium retailers. Keeping this in mind, Netree has developed the all-in-one POS device that has all required functionalities for a store on one platform. Netree has, thus, built a unique model of technology to empower small and medium retailers of India and other developing countries.

So how does m’REAP work? A retailer is required to install d’LITE — the all-in-one SmartPOS machine — or can download the software on a tablet; and set it up for a particular business vertical such as pharmacy, books, clothing and electronics, among others. Relevant products and services are then downloaded on to the device from the cloud as a template. At the same time, an online store is created for the retailer.

The cloud provides an API or Web interface for suppliers and other stakeholders in the chain to connect with the stores and engage in an integrated delivery system for product distribution. This API allows the suppliers and the manufacturers to get a clear visibility of the stores in their chain, product movement and stock data. Meanwhile, updates on available new products in the market remains Netree’s responsibility, thus eliminating the need for retailers to submit periodic updates on new product releases.
Share at Door Step (SADS) is a donation pick-up service for individuals who wish to make non-monetary donations or partner with brands for Cause Marketing Initiatives. There are plenty of great platforms to donate money to charity but practically no platform devoted to non-cash donations. Hence, donors often simply dispose of potential reusable items. SADS bridges the gap between donors and NGOs, thus making sure that nothing reusable is wasted.

Those wishing to make a contribution through the channels of SADS can simply schedule a pickup via the official website; and be assured that the collected items will reach a person in need.

The idea of SADS was coined when its founder, Anushka Jain, noticed a huge gap between charitable organisations and donors. As a child, Anushka saw her mother donating clothes and toys to NGOs every year on her birthday and wondered why it was just an annual act and not a regular activity. She assumed that her mother was either too busy or too lazy. However, the real reason was that there was hardly any easy and accessible way to make non-monetary donations — donors are often unsure of NGOs’ requirements, don’t find it convenient to drop the items off at the collection point or just don’t trust.

To overcome these barriers, SADS was launched. At present, SADS supports more than 100 NGOs through its pick-up services; and has through its efforts — and engagement with 40,000 individuals and five corporate partners — managed to spread the joy of giving to more than one lakh people.

SADS aims at building an environment where corporates believe in social responsibility. It sees cause-related marketing as an important tool for building a better society and progress of a responsible and profitable company.
Giskaa is an online shop that focuses exclusively on promoting eco-friendly, organic and natural products. The eCommerce venture focuses on promoting skilled artisans, craftsmen and suppliers from North East India by making their unique and eco-friendly products reach mainstream India.

Launched in March 2015, Giskaa targets to soon move from the list of the country’s top three to become the most trusted and premier brand in the eco lifestyle space. Giskaa persistently strives to promote healthier and sustainable lifestyle among its customers through the promotion of environment friendly and natural products.

The motivation behind Giskaa has been to make the eight north-east Indian states’ unique food and beautiful handicrafts reach the rest of India through its engagement with more than 100 artisans and product suppliers. So far, Giskaa has shipped more than 3,000 orders across the country.

Every month, at least Rs. 5 lakh are pumped into the North East via product purchases, impacting the livelihood of hundreds of households in the region. A major chunk of this income goes to a remote village called Nungbi Khullen in Manipur from where the extremely popular black pottery items are sourced.

GISKAA stands on three foundational pillars — health, environment and society. Every product that is promoted is reviewed and rated based on a comprehensive system that uses specific parameters to measure its impact on health, environment and society. This gives an eco-friendly/natural score to the product, which is published on its sales page.

Further, its gamification feature called Green Rewards, which awards customers reward points for every natural product they buy, encourages the purchase of eco-products.

With more than 6,000 unique products on the platform, Giskaa is today India’s largest online shop for organic and natural products; and it is deeply rooted in the principle that individuals hold the key to change in their hands.
Inclusion & Empowerment

| diversity | gender | justice | human rights |

WINNER

• VIKALP-INDIA
Vikalp is an online portal that exclusively caters to the need of reporting crime against women. It has been developed for women or people who on behalf of women wish to file a complaint from anywhere in the state of Uttar Pradesh, without the need to physically visit a police station.

The portal leverages ICT for the security of women in an era when digital literacy and digital inclusion of women is driving change but the dignity of and respect for more than 110 million women is seriously compromised under the culture of silence and victim blaming in the largely patriarchal society.

A first-of-its-kind portal in the country, Vikalp provides an alternate, easy, accessible, protected, direct and highly user-friendly interface between the local police and the women of the state. It provides women with a platform at the touch of a tap and encourages them to speak up.

Under Vikalp, as soon as a complaint is lodged, the complainant receives a digital acknowledgement via SMS along with a unique complaint ID to track the progress of the case. Simultaneously, an SMS is generated for the supervisory officers of the district police concerned and the UP Police Mahila Samman Prakoshth (MSP). The nodal officer of the corresponding district has the responsibility to ensure that the complaint receives a fast and efficient police response. MSP, meanwhile, closely monitors each case, analyses the nature of the complaints and guides the district police regarding actions they should take. At all times, the identity of the complainant is kept confidential; and a case cannot be called ‘closed’ until the complainant expresses satisfaction with the action taken by the local police. Further, every complainant has the option to submit a feedback or rate the police action, thereby ensuring transparency and accountability in the system.

Demographics based on the complaints received so far indicate that 48 per cent of the users are from rural areas, 85 per cent of the complaints have been filed by women themselves, and 98 per cent complaints have received police response.

Its performance and analytics reveal that Vikalp has proved to be a highly sustainable initiative, with sound systems for monitoring and reviewing.
Early Stage
launched after 1st May 2016

WINNERS

- VIDYASAARATHI - HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING PLATFORM - INDIA
- TISSER - INDIA
Vidyasaarathi is a technology-enabled initiative of the National Securities Depository Limited e-Governance Infrastructure Limited (NSDL e-Gov) to bridge the gap in education finance. It is a platform built to bring about a shift in the education funding scenario in the country, which is currently driven by parents’ support, bank loans and in some cases scholarships. Vidyasaarathi comes to the rescue of students and allows them to search and apply for various education finance schemes that are available in the country for higher education.

The platform seeks to encourage larger community and corporate participation in the education sector by acting as a bridge that connects fund providers with fund seekers by leveraging the ‘Fund Right’ technology solution. Under Vidyasaarathi, corporate fund providers can design and manage customised higher education finance schemes on the platform, and disburse their CSR funds for the education sector.

The platform, on the other hand, creates scholarship solutions, loan interest scholarships and interest guarantee schemes using pre-set templates. Further, it defines the criteria for auto selection of applicants and sets up funds and committees for processing and awarding of the applications.

Once selected, awarded students’ funds are disbursed to the education institution directly, as per the payment schedule defined at the time of admissions by the institute’s guidelines.

Fund providers, education institutes, associates, trusts and student communities are key stakeholders in this ecosystem. Through its engagement with all the stakeholders, the solution helps manage the entire online education finance application lifecycle — from submission and review of an application to awarding of scholarship and disbursement of funds.

To take this initiative further, ensure its large-scale development and countrywide implementation, NSDL e-Gov has even partnered with Billion Lives Business Initiatives. When expanded to its right strength, millions of students will be able to find timely education finance through Vidyasaarathi’s easy-to-use platform tool and, eventually, app.
A PORTAL SHOWCASING INDIA’S RICH WEAVING CULTURE ACROSS THE GLOBE

Sticking to the idea of Incredible India, Tisser (which means ‘to weave’ in French) supports traditional weavers, craftsmen and artisans to ensure their mesmerising products reach a global customer base.

With the intention to recognise the efforts of thousands of largely unknown artisans who tireless work every day to produce beautiful items that adorn our houses and wardrobes, Tisser provides India’s artisans a digital platform to directly connect with potential customers across the globe.

Socially, craftspeople and artisans come from some of the most disadvantaged communities, with very little opportunities for self-development and growth. They often come together to form self-help groups in the hope that they will have better access to finance and markets but not all self-help groups are successful. Tisser was, thus, launched with the realisation that the loom and craft industry of India remains not only a bulwark of our historical legacy but also has the capability to transform into an enterprising fortune for artisans and support the country’s trade and commerce in a greater manner. Tisser thinks that the fact that artisans and craftspeople have still managed to retain their traditional skills and knowledge is a miracle, given the fast-changing trends in the urban market.

And so it is striving today to ensure that this skill and talent is not lost tomorrow simply due to the gap between the producers and the consumers.

Today, with a pan-India vision, Tisser is working with artisans and weavers in different clusters of 12 Indian states to source products that are traditionally made, naturally crafted, skillfully designed, contemporary and affordable. At present, Tisser has a network of 15,000 artisans with whom it works closely to share inputs in design, quality and control.

Products available on the platform — and there are more than 300 products listed on the website — can be broadly classified into four segments: clothing, artifacts, accessories and corporate gifts; and Tisser caters to both the retail and the wholesale sectors. Its user-friendly Website and Android application allow artisans to post their products online and fix a price. The website also gives customers a glimpse into several impact stories, besides giving them an opportunity to connect with the artisans.
MANTHAN AWARD 2016-17
SPECIAL MENTIONS
GOVERNMENT & CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT

| CITIZEN ENTITLEMENTS | SERVICES | OPEN DATA |
| DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION & PUBLIC SERVICE GRIEVANCE REDRESS |

SPECIAL MENTION

- ONLINE E-MUTATION IMPLEMENTATION UNDER NLRMP FOR DISTRICT AKOLA
The e-Mutation project in district Akola in Maharashtra has been implemented with the intention to switch over from offline land records to online mutation process under the Computerisation of Land Records (CLR) scheme of the National Land Records Modernisation Programme (NLRMP).

Mutation is the process of changing the ownership details in Record of Rights (RoR). Ideally, after the completion of a land registration process, information has to be updated in the RoR, stating the name of the new owner of land (or as the case may be). Over a period of time, however, it was observed that there is a huge discrepancy between the number of registration cases and the number of mutation cases. While citizens were following the registration process, many often seemed to skip the tedious mutation process. To reduce the gap between registration and mutation, the National Informatics Centre (NIC) at Akola decided to introduce an online mutation service.

Under this service, the process of mutation is initiated at the same time as the registration of land. What makes this service successful is that all stakeholders related to the mutation process — land administrators, planning authorities and citizens — are connected to each other through a secure network so that the process can be completely in a timely and efficient manner.

Talathis (village accountants) and circle officers can initiate e-Mutation from anywhere and at any time via a secure DSC, registered user login, Sevaarth ID and VPN connectivity. The e-process eliminates the need to maintain manual records in registers; but ensures that land holders get an updated copy of ROR and other necessary documents as soon as the information is updated. The application is developed in Unicode with the option of Marathi language.

Since the process has moved from registers to computers, e-Mutation also allows the ease of backup and disaster recovery, besides the facilities to maintain & update records, feed data of surveys & settlement operations, and registration of immovable property of course.

Akola was the first district in the Indian state of Maharashtra to implement the e-Mutation process. Between February 2015 and July 2016, it was also the leading district in the state with 89,767 registered e-Mutations.
HEALTH & WELL BEING

| MEDICAL CARE | SPORT | LIFESTYLE |

SPECIAL MENTION

- AUTOGENOUS DIABETIC RETINOPATHY CENSOR FOR OPHTHALMOLOGISTS - AKSHI
Diabetic retinopathy is a rapidly growing eye disease around the world that is one of the most common causes of blindness among diabetic patients.

Information on retinal pathological mutation can be recognised using ocular fundus images (capturing a photograph of the back of the eye). However, retinal anomaly identification is one of the most challenging interrogations for retinal consultants or ophthalmologists. Further, abnormalities such as microaneurysms, hemorrhages, exudates, fragile and abnormal vessels and their symptoms raise the chances of visual impairments and blindness. Hence, a system autogenous censor called AKSHI was developed to assess abnormal vessels in human retina, and identify and classify severity levels of diabetic retinopathy.

AKSHI contains a set of innovative and novel algorithms such as weak (tiny) vessels reconstruction algorithm to accurately capture the entire retinal vascular network; untwisted vessels detection algorithm (lengthy vessel extraction) to detect abnormal vessel regions; vascular network localising and removing process to eliminate the erroneous factors of retinal micro aneurisms segmentation; and optic-disc localising and removing process to eliminate the erroneous factors of retinal exudates segmentation, measuring vessel tortuosity factors to identify abnormality growth of vessels.

Early detection of diabetic retinopathy helps ophthalmologists to advise proper treatment to save the vision of the patient before it’s too late. This system, thus, classifies data based on statistical texture information, which is extracted from the surface on segmented images through the Artificial Neural Network (ANN).
LEARNING & EDUCATION

| KNOWLEDGE | SCIENCE | SKILLS

SPECIAL MENTION

• APTONLINE LIMITED
While Andhra Pradesh is making fast strides towards overall growth and sustainable development, it sees education as the most impactful means for attaining these goals.

The state is home to 60,462 schools across 14 districts where more than 67.52 lakh students are enrolled in primary, upper primary or high schools. As many as 44,585 schools are run by the government and account for nearly 39.02 lakh students and 2.77 lakh teachers.

To make school going an enabling experience for students belonging to every nook and corner of Andhra Pradesh, the state government wants to ensure that schools are equipped with all the necessary and basic amenities. The government also runs various schemes to benefit students and teachers. However, there is always the possibility of a gap existing between a policy or a plan and its implementation. To bridge this gap, the School Information Management System (SIMS) project was launched to streamline the processes within state schools and create a repository of necessary information over a period. Under this project, student/teacher information is linked to Aadhaar and schools are mapped to their GPS location, leading to an authenticated and centralised repository of school-related data.

Information about all services such as Continuous Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE), mid-day meals, biometric attendance, free text books and uniforms is regularly updated into the digital repository to ensure fair, transparent, time saving and cost effective transactions. Teachers’ performance, too, is monitored; and requirement for trainings are assessed accordingly. Further, various reports and dashboards are available to regularly monitor and control the progress of each area of work.

From promoting smart schools and encouraging scientific temperament towards organising various workshops to training for students and teachers, the School Education Department is nurturing a learning community dedicated to building respectful and responsible citizens.
CULTURE & TOURISM
HERITAGE | ENTERTAINMENT | MEDIA | BROADCASTING

SPECIAL MENTION

• KAVUM KOKIS
Kavum Kokis and other traditional sweetmeats are an integral part of Sri Lankan culture. Important life events were marked in household with the preparation of this sweetmeat. Unfortunately, this heritage is fading away from the society due to busy urban lifestyles and traditional culinary skill being confined to the senior generations. This realisation and the inspiration to preserve the culinary tradition of Sri Lanka led to the idea of Kavum Kokis dot com.

Kavum Kokis was started with a simple business idea to supply traditional sweet varieties to local retail markets. However, soon a potential was identified for expanding the business to corporate customers as well as Sri Lankan expatriates in Australia, Europe and the Middle East.

Established as a formal business entity in July 2013, Kavum Kokis serves its customers through a well-developed online portal, exclusively dedicated to traditional Sri Lankan sweets. At present, the product line on the portal is limited to traditional Sri Lankan sweets that are freshly prepared with natural ingredients, adhering to traditional methods of preparation. Further, without limiting the products to ready-to-serve items, a do-it-yourself product line has been introduced. It offers a variety of natural ingredients bundled with recipes to prepare selected sweet items at home and, subsequently, encourage every Sri Lankan to enjoy home-cooked traditional sweetmeats with the pride of contributing towards the preservation of Sri Lankan culinary heritage.
SPECIAL MENTION

- NE-FRESH ONLINE AUCTION SYSTEM
ON-LINE AUCTION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The NE-Fresh online auctioning system has been developed by C-DAC Kolkata for the use of NERAMAC under the Ministry of Development of North East Region. This flexible solution supports lot-based online auctions of major north eastern crops, spices and fruit such as large cardamom, pineapple, jackfruit, kiwi, passion fruits, citrus, ginger and turmeric, among others.

The system has been designed to ensure its scalability to support both a large number of auction-able items and bidders in an active auction. The online auction system allows users to browse through lots and place bids using a user-friendly interface and secure server.

The web-based eAuction system has been developed to overcome shortfalls of a manual auction system that was run by NERAMAC; and replace it with an online auction management system for buyers and sellers to come together over Internet and trade fruits, crops and other agricultural produce without the need to be physically present for the auction in the eight north eastern states. Through a system of easy accessibility, transparency in price and global market outreach, the platform prevents buyers from engaging in or with trade cartels. At the same time, a better traceability and fair pricing for farmers is ensured by the platform, besides systematic consolidation of data across the platform.

The e-Auction system consists of a Web portal where users can register, propose new auction, place bid on existing auction, interact with other bidders and receive related news via e-mail. To ensure authenticity and credibility of users, the registration process is integrated with a secure pre-confirmation step. At the backend, the system is realised with a three-tier architecture that includes a relational database of information regarding items, users, auctions and categories of auction; an application server that cares about the business logic of the system; and a presentation layer that allows users to interact with the system.

The centralised e-Auction system is deployed in all eight north eastern states; and supports farmers/producers in the region who receive fair remunerative for their produce. This way, the initiative does not only bridge the gap between farmers and the market but also enhances the agricultural, procurement, processing and marketing infrastructure of North East India. The initiative aims to benefit more than 1.7 lakh farmers and traders in the North East through NERAMAC.
INCLUSION & EMPOWERMENT

DIVERSITY | GENDER | JUSTICE | HUMAN RIGHTS

SPECIAL MENTIONS

• SUKARMI
• INDUS READER
Adolescence is a fragile period, which every human being passes through. It’s also a phase where youngsters face several situations that alter their perception of the world. One goes through academic pressure, parental pressure, peer pressure, romantic relationships and many more.

Sukarmi is a programme that aims to provide adolescent girls with opportunities in ‘doing and learning’. The programme focuses on empowering adolescent girls in two ways: involving them as a member of the enumerator team and engaging them in personality development and social network development initiatives.

The enumeration team allows the girls to become financially sound by way of carrying out mobile-based surveys and data collection, for which they are remunerated. The personality development project, meanwhile, provides the girls with a platform to attend sessions and educate themselves on public speaking, interpersonal skills, appearance and how to get by with anything. Access to social media, on the other hand, gives them an opportunity to be a part of events and activities which are organised by groups like NEHUB, FOSS Nepal and others.

Sukarmi aims to engage with at least 1,000 adolescent girls from all over Nepal and provide them with better opportunities to be self-sufficient, develop skills and build social and professional relationship for future.

To achieve this task, the programme leverages Rooster Logic’s flagship product ‘REMO’, a mobile-based application to conduct surveys and collect data. REMO is both useful for conducting research (with compatibility with Strata and SPSS) and powerful for monitoring work. The sophisticated system uses a mobile device to conveniently capture data, photographs and GPS location; and seamlessly integrate them in real time to produce exploratory analytics on the go. This information gathered can then be viewed by a central Web console that provides easy access to all the reports.

Since 2013, REMO has been deployed in all 75 districts and 240 constituencies of Nepal; and is trusted by over 30 organisations who find REMO affordable, quick and user friendly to carry out frequently research and monitoring tasks.
Indus OS technology team has developed the world’s first regional operating system that caters to native language users. Indus Reader is the OS-integrated, offline, text-to-speech feature of Indus OS, India’s second most popular operating system by market share.

The feature is available in English and six Indian languages — Hindi, Marathi, Bengali, Telugu, Tamil and Malayalam. Developed by IIT Chennai in collaboration with the Government of India’s MeitY (TDIL) with no financial implication, **Indus Reader aims to empower the non-English speaking, illiterate and visually-challenged populations of India so that they can unleash the true power of a smartphone in their preferred language.**

Unlike other text-to-speech options available for users in other parts of the world, Indus Reader neither requires the user to download any language pack nor does it require users to have an active Internet connection to use the technology. Initially, when the solution was developed on the cloud, the solution required 3 GB of storage per language. In its present version, when it is available offline on mobile, the storage has been reduced to about 4 MB per language.

There is a simple three-touch process to use the Indus Reader feature on an Indus OS-powered device. All a user has to do is (a) select the text to be translated and heard, (b) press the ‘Copy’ Icon, and (c) listen to the copied text in the preferred choice of regional language. This feature works across all major applications allowed on an Indus OS device, including browser, Gmail, text messaging and WhatsApp.

The feature is currently being used on 56,000 Indus OS Version 2.0 devices in India and Bangladesh. A tailor-made feature for non-English speaking populations in the emerging markets, Indus Reader sees a potential reach of 1.12 billion non-English speaking people in India alone. It now plans to expand business to Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Indonesia.
MANTHAN AWARD 2016-17

RUNNERS UP
GOVERNMENT & CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT

| CITIZEN ENTITLEMENTS | SERVICES | OPEN DATA | DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION & PUBLIC SERVICE GRIEVANCE REDRESS |

RUNNERS UP

- DEPOT ONLINE SYSTEM FOR FCI
- VAT CHECKER
- MEMORY (MY EXAM MY ONLINE RE-VIEW YES)
- IREVENUE MOBILE APPLICATION
- CORE TREASURY SYSTEM (EKOSH)
- E-SANCHAYIKA - THE KNOWLEDGE BANK OF THE ICDS
- LAND POOLING SCHEME - ICT SYSTEM
AN IT INTERVENTION TO IMPROVE THE FOOD DISTRIBUTION SUPPLY CHAIN

The Food Corporation of India (FCI) is one of the main organisations responsible for execution of food policies in India. And now, the Government of India has taken an important initiative to implement Depot Online System across all FCI depots in the country.

This project is part of the overall vision of the government to transform the food distribution supply chain in the country through IT enablement and bring in transparency, reliability, and effectiveness of procurement, storage and distribution.

Depot Online System facilitates process automation, standardisation and efficiency of management of food grains distribution; and enables real-time monitoring of operations and timely data reporting. Further, this timely data reporting leads to improvements in end-to-end operational visibility for informed decision making, effective planning and optimisation of administrative work.

A major gap highlighted by various stakeholders revealed that the depot officials do not have stock positions on a real-time basis, which affects the food supply chain and distribution. It was, thus, decided to incorporate the key process online and move all manual registers to a cloud, which will not only save time and effort but also ensure accurate information to be available in real time in a cost-effective manner, to produce daily MIS reports. With the implementation of Depot Online System across depots, FCI intends to automate and streamline the depot level operations.
In the recent past, a number of posts on the social media had gone viral, which alleged that traders, mostly restaurants and fast food cafes, were evading value added taxes (VAT) by not depositing it to government exchequer even though they were collecting it from their customers. Keeping this situation in mind, a unique mobile application was introduced in Bangladesh.

**VAT Checker is a mobile app that enables consumers to check whether the amount they paid as VAT to an enterprise was deposited to the government exchequer or not.** Users can check the VAT registration status of traders and send complaints to the government if they find any discrepancy. To check whether or not a VAT registration number is valid (or if it has been flagged for irregularities), the user has to simply enter the business identification number (BIN) of the outlet and see the results. If the entered BIN does not appear to be in order, consumers can complain to the authorities via the app. Its feedback technology allows the consumer to receive notification on the action of his/her complaint. A desktop software, too, has been developed for the National Board of Revenue of Bangladesh to monitor all complains and push feedback to the user through mobile app notification system.

The initiative, if adopted by the citizens at large, can save crores of government revenue.
When candidates are taking a conventional offline exam, they have the luxury to take home the question paper or a copy of the OMR sheet. However, when candidates take an exam online, they can neither take back the question paper or the OMR sheet. This affects transparency in the system of grading and also leaves several doubts unanswered in a candidate’s mind.

To tackle this problem, MEMORY has been developed by the Rajasthan Public Service Commission. The objective of MEMORY is to ensure transparency for all candidates in an online examination system.

By leveraging innovation to mitigate open challenges, MEMORY allows candidates to view their response sheet in a video format by selecting the option of an ‘action replay’. MEMORY makes it possible for candidates to view their responses a few hours after they have taken an online exam.

Courtesy this initiative, the Rajasthan Public Service Commission receives fewer RTI requests or re-evaluation applications today. It not only eases the post exam process for the commission but also provides answers to the candidates for their queries free of cost. A candidate can watch an entire video of them taking the examination on a file that is not bigger than 120 KB. It is a direct method to review one’s answers and the time taken for particular questions.

Since its introduction for candidates taking the Computer Based Recruitment Test, RPSC has been able to achieve real and genuine demand for the service with 100 per cent transparency and satisfaction for the candidates.
iRevenue has been conceived with the idea of providing all district revenue-related information on a single platform so that a common man doesn’t need to run from pillar to post for even the most basic and necessary piece of information.

An Android and iOS-based mobile application, iRevenue gives users access to information about all officials in the revenue department, starting from a patwari, kanungo and tehsildar to the sub-district magistrate in a hierarchical order, with their names, contact numbers and addresses. Another significant feature of the app is its Stamp Duty Calculator. One has to simply enter the details of the area and type of transaction, and the app calculates the stamp duty. iRevenue is a one-stop platform for all information related to revenue administration, including the services included in Right to Service Act. One can even check the revenue record by entering basic details of the land or property.

With all the information, including government rate and stamp duty, listed online, iRevenue reduces the chances of citizens getting duped by agents who might be fleecing them by playing the role of an exploitative middleman. This availability of information, thus, enhances transparency in the system and reduces chances of corruption.

Piloted in Ludhiana by state minister for revenue, iRevenue has received wide acclaim and appreciation from the department and the citizens. The plan of action now includes its expansion to cover all the districts of Punjab.
Core Treasury System (eKosh) is a Web portal designed and developed to provide an interface to various users of the treasury and finance departments of Uttarakhand.

**eKosh provides details of real-time financial transactions performed at 86 treasuries or sub-treasuries that are connected through a dedicated leaseline.** The department of finance, treasuries, secretaries, heads of departments, finance controllers, bankers, employees and pensioners can get instant information, via this portal, by logging in with their exclusive ID and password. This initiative will help more than 4,200 DDO’s and 400 CCL/PLA users to prepare online bills, e-cheques, online pension papers — and reconcile the receipt and payment details with treasury figures — in a single click.

This portal also allows online salary generation and payment for various autonomous bodies (such as universities, aided institutions and the Nagar Palika) of the state government, besides issuance of e-Challan, e-Receipts and e-Praman.

eKosh has laid the foundation for an integrated financial management system solution that provides consolidated and consistent information about government expenditure across the state. The initiative has clearly demonstrated the potential of e-governance in laying foundation for good governance even in the finance sector. This way, it has enhanced people’s trust in financial management, government computerisation and resource planning.
e-Sanchayika is a key communication initiative developed by the Madhya Pradesh Directorate of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS). A path-breaking innovation in the women and child development department to decentralise knowledge and make it accessible at the grassroots, e-Sanchayika employs technology as a catalyst for bringing about communication reforms in the department.

It is a dynamic Web platform that also acts as a digital repository of knowledge and best practices in the area of health and nutrition. e-Sanchayika allows departments to share key communication practices, engage users in dialogue, create scope for peer learning, monitor field work and evaluate the overall functioning. The bilingual portal is available on desktops, tablets and smartphones; and functions as a virtual communication hub, which is used by ICDS staff across positions and geographical regions.

The rich digital repository includes an audio-visual bank of resources, nutritious recipe bank and standardised design templates for printing. The e-publications, especially, help the department save lakhs of rupees on printing and transportation of centrally-designed communication resources like posters, banners, newsletters, etc. The portal also has an effective news portal to share stories from relevant agencies.

e-Sanchayika’s vast repository of technically correct information can be accessed by the common man for varied information on a range of topics like adolescent girls, women, children, infant food, nutritious recipes, menstruation, innovation and other news or success stories. With efficient use, e-Sanchayika has the potential to progressively impact the outreach of qualitative services of the department to communities in remote locations.
AN ICT SOLUTION HELPING TO BUILD A TRUE PEOPLE’S CAPITAL

The Government of Andhra Pradesh envisions a world class people’s capital, spread across 217 sq km, between the cities of Vijayawada and Guntur. The aspiration is to create a vibrant, diverse, inclusive and modern city — a glowing pride for people of Andhra Pradesh and a magnet for skilled migrants from across the world.

To make this dream a reality, the state government decided to follow a participatory approach of ‘land pooling’ rather than ‘land acquisition’. Under this scheme, land owners have voluntarily come forward and shared their land with the government for the development of a capital city. In return, the government has offered them developed plots of 25-30 per cent area, annuity, pensions and other social security benefits.

The main aim of this project was to design, develop and implement an ICT solution, which accepts applications for land pooling from farmers while maintaining records of all individuals (along with all details of the land and the land owner) who have contributed their land (from 29 villages) and acknowledging their contribution with a Land Pooling Ownership Certificate (LPOC recognises the entitlement the farmers would receive in lieu of their contribution).

The ICT solution developed has been designed in such a way that it can automatically calculate the financial compensation that a farmer would receive for his land contribution (Rs. 30,000 and Rs. 50,000 per acre per year for dry and jeerbu land, respectively, for the next 10 years with 10 per cent increase year on year basis) and randomly allots plots to eligible farmers, thus reducing the chances of manipulation and bringing in more transparency. The ICT system has also developed a Central Fund Management System, which automatically transfers fund online to eligible farmers.

This project has been successful in realising the vision of the incumbent chief minister in leveraging the reach of ICT to implement a solution which can help set up a people’s capital in a completely transparent manner.
HEALTH & WELL BEING

| MEDICAL CARE | SPORT | LIFESTYLE

WINNERS

- VISION GUARD
- Q-GLOBAL
- MMITRA VOICE CALL SERVICE
- DAILY HAND WASHING FOR AN AILMENT-FREE LIFE (DHAAL)
- DHAKA UNIVERSITY TELEMEDICINE PROGRAMME - RURAL HEALTHCARE USING INDIGENOUSLY DEVELOPED TECHNOLOGY
Vision Guard is a mobile application that has been developed with the intention of providing its users the ability to accurately detect their vision defects at an early stage with minimal effort.

The easy-to-use mobile application can be used to detect possibilities of seven vision problems — contrast sensitivity, macular degeneration, strabismus, depth perception, visual acuity, color blindness and astigmatism — by performing a few tests and matching the symptoms.

A special advantage of Vision Guard is that there is no cost involved for a user who wishes to perform these tests to detect a vision-related problem. Following a simple download, users can perform accurate tests for the aforementioned vision problems using standard methods and technologies recommended by eye specialists.

The application — which is available in English, Sinhala and Tamil — also includes training exercises recommended by ophthalmologists, a feature to locate the nearest entomologist or optician, and quizzes to improve users’ knowledge related to eyes and vision. Vision Guard also includes attractive games for children below eight years of age so that parents can test them for vision problems like strabismus, colour blindness, contrast sensitivity, depth perception and visual acuity.
Q-global is India’s first comprehensive digital assessment platform for administration, scoring and reporting of psychological tests. Developed by Pearson Clinical & Talent Assessment (PCTA), a leading publisher of scientific psychological assessments used in education, clinical and research settings, Q-global is a portable, convenient, time-saving, secure and affordable platform that empowers professionals in India to offer high-quality psychological testing services efficiently, effectively and at scale.

**Through Q-global, PCTA aims to contribute towards efforts that address the growing challenge of mental illness in the country.**

With this in mind, Q-global has been developed for a wide range of health care professionals, including general physicians, psychiatrists, clinical psychologists, psychotherapists, special educators and school counselors.

Q-global aims to address a significant gap that exists in mental health services available in India due to factors such as shortage of trained professionals, inadequate mental health infrastructure, geographic expanse of the country and cultural or logistical barriers for individuals to seek quality mental health services. There are cultural taboos and stigma around mental illness that may prevent individuals from openly seeking brick and mortar services. Q-global helps overcome this barrier by offering anonymity to individuals through remote administration of Pearson’s online assessments, where the professional and the client/patient need not be in the same room. All that is required is an Internet connectivity to carry out the test by the client/patient. Moreover, the professional can reach out to individuals who require mental health services in Tier II and Tier III towns without the individual having to travel to another city. The entire assessment data is stored on secure Pearson servers and can be accessed anytime, anywhere by the professional.

Using the Q-global platform, Pearson Academy India centres across the country are offering quality psychological assessment and intervention services to schools, hospitals, clinics, corporates and individuals.
Though there are a number of programmes that aim to address various challenges in the mother and child health space, mMitra’s uniqueness lies in its innovative use of mobile technology and high mobile penetration in India, which is timed and targeted.

**mMitra is a free mobile voice call service that provides culturally appropriate comprehensive information on preventive care and simple interventions to reduce maternal and infant mortality and morbidity in urban and rural India.** The voice calls are in local dialects, specific to the woman’s gestational age or the age of the infant and are sent weekly/twice a week directly to pregnant women and mothers with infants, in their chosen language and timeslot.

A total of 145 voice messages or pretested calls, each 60 to 90 seconds long, are sent through the period of pregnancy and infancy at regular intervals — twice a week from the first month of pregnancy until birth, once a day in the first seven days after birth, twice a week until the infant is three months of age and once a week until the infant is one year of age.

To ensure that a woman does not miss out on the voice calls on account of being busy, three attempts are made for every message: once daily for three days in the enrolled woman’s chosen timeslot. If she misses all three attempts by the system, she can give a missed call to the system and the service will call her back immediately with the unheard message.

mMitra also has a call centre that monitors the calls sent, ensures that the mobile numbers are updated or takes requests for change in the preferred timeslot.

Enrolment for mMitra in urban India is facilitated by health workers stationed at antenatal clinics of government hospitals, and in the slums through Sakhis (health friends) of partner NGOs. In rural India, it is facilitated through government health workers (ASHA).

mMitra, which began its services in 2013 from a single hospital in Mumbai, has now expanded to enroll more than 5 lakh — across Mumbai, Nasik, Pune, Raigad and Ratnagiri in Maharashtra; Delhi NCR; Bhopal, Indore, Dewas and Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh; Dalsingsarai Bihar; Jhalawar in Rajasthan; and Hubli in Karnataka — through successful partnerships with 16 municipalities, 59 hospitals, 32 community-based NGOs and more than 3000 Sakhis.
Daily Handwashing for an Ailment-free Life (DHaAL) is a school water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) project implemented in Assam between April 2013 and November 2015 by the Centre for Environment Education in partnership with Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, the Assam government and UNICEF.

The aim of the project was to create a disease-free environment for children in elementary schools. Under the project, WASH model schools were created by training key stakeholders, augmenting WASH facilities and setting up operation & maintenance (O&M) systems. Maintenance standards were set for toilet cleanliness and use, drinking water, washing hands with soap, personal hygiene, classroom cleanliness, dustbin use, waste management, campus cleanliness and menstrual hygiene.

DHaAL is known for its innovative Group Handwashing Stations (GHS), developed primarily for group hand washing activities before mid-day meal, for 422 elementary schools in Rani, Rampur and Kamalpur blocks of Kamrup district in Assam. As a consequence, the disease rate among students, especially of water borne diseases, reduced considerably.

Apart from the various local specific innovative designs of GHS demonstrated, the project is also known for its strong software element, which includes training, motivation and setting up of an O&M system for all WASH facilities.

Prior to when DHaAL was introduced, there was just one water point and students either had to stand in long queues to wash their hands or would just skip the process of cleaning their hands. Eating their lunches with dirty hands was often a reason for diseases and frequent illnesses among children. Thus, the primary objective of DHaAL was to introduce multipoint facility to reduce time taken for washing hands by at least one-tenth of usual time. To oversee and ensure availability of time, soap and water for hand washing (through a commissioner-level directive), an O&M system (that involved students, teachers, school management committees and mothers’ groups) was set up that kept a track of all WASH facilities.

Based on DHaAL’s experience, the state government of Assam decided to upgrade its toilet and kitchen shed designs to integrate group handwashing stations; and scaled up the initiative to another 26,800 schools.
Almost 70 per cent of Bangladesh’s population lives in villages, far away from hospitals with qualified doctors. Thus, people are often unable to access treatment. And it’s almost the same situation in all other low-resource countries of the world.

The Department of Biomedical Physics & Technology (BMPT) of the Dhaka University, thus, saw telemedicine as a practical solution to bridge the gap between qualified city doctors and consultation for patients in rural regions of Bangladesh. However, it wasn’t just this understanding but also the realisation for the need indigenously develop an appropriate and affordable technology for this purpose. It strongly believes that benefit of technology can only be sustained if it’s homegrown.

**BMPT, with its mandate to enhance the quality of life for common people through technology, thus took the lead in 2010 to develop a telemedicine system with integrated diagnostic devices with live data transfer capability.**

After initial field trials and some modifications, the service offered was approved by the university and transformed into the Dhaka University Telemedicine Programme (DUTP) in November 2015. With the aim of achieving a self-sustained model, BMPT has entered into partnerships with rural entrepreneurs. At present, two diagnostic devices developed by BMPT — a stethoscope and an ECG — provide live diagnostic data transmission in addition to features that allow doctors to conduct video conferences and manually enter common diagnostic data like height, weight, temperature, blood pressure, etc. More devices and a mobile phone-based system are being developed to expand the scope of the programme.

In the last one year, more than 3,400 telemedicine consultations have been provided by eight doctors through nine rural centres (that are run by rural entrepreneurs); and plans are underway to set up more such centres. About 300 to 500 patients are availing this service per month, indicating a wide acceptance of this programme. At these centres, it was noticed that 75 per cent of the patients were women, children and elderly who could not always travel to distant health centres. In the absence of DUTP, most of these people would have remained untreated had the telemedicine centres not been established.

If replicated, the technology and service model can serve rural populations throughout Bangladesh, and eventually, all low-resource countries of the world.
LEARNING & EDUCATION

| KNOWLEDGE | SCIENCE | SKILLS

RUNNERS UP

- EXAMFEAR.COM
- 10 MINUTE SCHOOL
- YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES
- REPTO EDUCATION CENTER
- CAREER CLINIQ SMART TUTOR
- COMMUNITY OWNED WIRELESS MESH RANI KA贾AL (COWMESH RANI KA贾AL)
- MINDLER
ExamFear dot com is a one-stop platform to acquire free-of-cost quality education for students of Class VI to XII.

The project has been initiated with the objective to make quality education accessible to all through a simple four-step learning process that involves watching video lessons, asking questions/clearing doubts, revising notes, and taking a test.

The platform contains more than 5,000 video lessons on physics, chemistry, mathematics and biology. It also contains practical videos that guide students in carrying out science experiments at home.

The primary focus of the application is to help students understand concepts and not depend on rote learning. The video lessons are made from the students’ perspective, thus ensuring that the language is simple, students can match theories with real-life scenarios, and can learn at their own pace. Students can also take free online tests to evaluate themselves.

ExamFear is beneficial for all students in villages, towns and cities to get access to quality education for free and through an interactive platform. Its YouTube channel has more than 1.7 lakh subscribers. Examfear has won several awards of the state and central government.

It has been the passion for teaching with a will to make quality education accessible to all that has given birth to ExamFear and made it a success.
Bangladesh does not even come under the 50 largest countries of the world yet it beats Russia (the largest country in terms of size) in population. However, of a staggering 170 million people, 40 million are enrolled in education institutes but even these face the challenges of quality teachers and sufficient resources, mostly on account of economic and geographical barriers.

10 Minute School solves these two problems by being available online as a Web application (breaking the barriers of geography) for free (breaking the barriers of affordability). It is Bangladesh’s first website that offers students a wide range of tutorials, games, live classes and practice tests to learn. The platform also allows students to monitor their progress and compare the results with their peers.

Interested students can take quizzes based on JSC syllabus, SSC syllabus and HSC syllabus or engage in practice competitive exams for IBA, medical, engineering, BCS, bank, SAT, GRE, GMAT, IELTS and public and private universities.

The interactive games run at the users’ pace while the videos are short and attention grabbing. To ensure that language does not become a barrier for students, lessons are delivered in Bengali language. Live classes are regularly conducted to directly interact with the students, which range in thousands from various parts of the country.

At present, the platform hosts 1,411 videos with over 6 million views and 28,455 quizzes with over 70,000 page views daily.
Bangladesh’s Youth Opportunities (YO) is a global platform aimed at empowering youth by connecting local youth to their global counterparts while bringing the opportunity providers closer to the seekers.

Through this platform, youth can access information about the latest and impactful opportunities for scholarships, internships, conferences and competitions, among others, for free. Youthop dot com is regularly visited by millions of youths (14 to 35 year olds) from more than 192 countries. As many as six lakh youth access free services every month through the website, which is accessible on any smartphone, tablet or computer.

Youth Opportunities have taken an initiative to break social injustice; provide equal access to opportunities for development; connect local and global youths; and partner with national, regional, and international institutions. In simpler terms, YO aims to ensure equal, easy and timely access to opportunities for youth all over the world.

To serve its clients better, YO has partnered with more than 50 international organisations and initiatives, including Facebook’s Free Basics, to make access to global opportunities easy and free. YO, in fact, encourages partnerships to create a global network for sharing and caring. It has also shared over 5,000 opportunities through its website and social media channels.

The journey for YO started with two social activists who dreamed big to create a platform where everyone could enjoy equal, easy, free and timely access to information, particularly for self-development. Starting small, the journey has been challenging yet rewarding — YO has received the Queen’s Young Leaders Award and was listed in Forbes Under 30 Social Entrepreneurs of Asia list.
REPTO - Education Center is an online course marketplace that aims to democratise the education system of Bangladesh by providing high-quality affordable online courses to the creative minds of the country.

REPTO, which aims to become Bangladesh’s number one destination for online learning, wants to reduce the unemployment problem of Bangladesh by providing opportunity to the young population in an effort to help them develop their skills, gain knowledge and showcase it professionally to become self-independent.

Six out of every 10 graduates in the country are unemployed due to lack of relevant skills and limited educational curriculum. The reason is that the skill development institutes are either very expensive or restricted to the capital city of Dhaka. **REPTO, thus, wants to leverage the power of online education and create the largest repository of online courses in Bangladesh and have them delivered by the best experts in the industry.**

The platform allows anybody to create online courses with state-of-the-art web tools and reach out to thousands of students. Each of the courses submitted are first thoroughly checked for its quality and reviewed for its accuracy. Sixty-eight per cent of the courses on the platform guide young people on entrepreneurship and online earnings. These courses are available online in Bengali for a price that is 25 times cheaper than its offline counterpart.

REPTO’s believes, “Our education is for anyone, at any time, on any topic they would love to study. At the end of the day, if you don’t have the passion for the subject, education will never appeal to you the way it is supposed to.”
Career CliniQ Smart Tutor project capitalises on the young generation’s craze of remaining hooked on to their electronic devices to impart conceptual academic learning.

Students these days spend most of their time on their gadgets and are hardly inclined towards reading regular text books. Keeping this in mind, Career CliniQ Smart Tutor has converted the entire curriculum (approved by the State Council of Education Research & Training) of Classes Nursery to XII into digital lessons, which can be played by the users on their choice of devices.

**Introduced by the Directorate of School Education under the Government of Nagaland, this technology is being introduced in government higher secondary schools to modernise the school education system in the state.** Private schools, too, have appreciated the initiative and many of them are keen to adopt it. By using SMART TUTOR teachers can also prepare better for classes with more practical examples and 3D animated technology to make students understand concepts, graphs and diagrams.

With the help of SMART TUTOR, students will be able to understand concepts with better understanding and clarity and may find classroom teaching more interesting. The platform also hosts a number of career videos that help students to get their doubts resolved. For parents, on the other hand, this application makes home tuitions much more affordable.
Rani Kajal Jeevan Shala School was started for adivasi children in Alirajpur district of Madhya Pradesh. It is a school that runs on the foundation of local leadership, local resources, local knowledge and culture.

**At this school, open source wireless mesh technology has been used to provide Internet access to adivasi children in an effort to provide them with good educational content and the ability to interact on the Internet.**

This process involves setting up a local area network (LAN) with wireless routers connected to a raspberry pi, which is a rudimentary computer, on a hill where there is Internet connectivity that can be accessed through a dongle. The whole system is owned and run by a community of students and teachers who keep the mesh active and running. Further, the network is used by this community to share information about the school and its surroundings for wider publicity online.

The public education system does not cater to the needs of Bhil tribe, its culture or its language — Bhilali. Rani Kajal combines innovative techniques of educating children using Bhilali words in Hindi script, along with a balanced mix of standard education and adivasi contextual history. This ensures that children are trained in modern education but are traditionally equipped to play a part in the larger society. At the same time, they are provided with confidence and abilities to preserve their rich culture and heritage for generations to come.

The community-owned wireless mesh (COWMesh) is combined with data-muling technology to cater to students’ needs. Data mule is a vehicle that physically carries a computer with storage between remote locations to effectively create a data communication link. This is done because often in remote locations Internet speeds are abysmally low and it is not possible to do much, besides send and receive emails. Thus, educational content has to be downloaded at locations where data is cheap (for example in metros), stored in hard disks and then transported by rail or road to remote locations where they can be fed into the COWMesh for sharing on LAN.

This way, Internet access is playing a crucial role in imparting education to a section of the larger community that would have remained deprived of quality education.
Mindler is a technology-enabled ecosystem for career planning and development of students that leverages machine learning and strategic human interventions to minimise bias in career decision-making process.

Choosing and pursuing the right career is one of the biggest pain points for parents and students across the country. Mindler, thus, enables students to discover their true potential and take well informed career decisions.

A research indicates that over 90 per cent of students feel career decisions should be based on scientific assessments and over 80 per cent seek expert help in planning their careers. Keeping this in mind, Mindler has developed the world’s most advanced career guidance ecosystem, which comprises multi-dimensional career assessment tools especially designed, standardised and validated for the Indian context; an algorithm-driven semi-automated career planner and tracker; and a course correction mechanism for career journey planning.

Mindler is powered by the world’s largest research on modern career avenues, and is recognised by global bodies like National Career Development Association (NCDA), USA, and Asia Pacific Career Development Association (APCDA), Taiwan.

In 2016, Mindler won the Economic Times - Power of Ideas award, and has been acknowledged by IIM Ahmedabad and the Government of India.

Run by a team of alumni from ISB, Harvard and IIT & supported by a bunch of leading psychologists, Mindler has so far impacted over 20,000 students through its assessments and over 40,000 students through career advisory services.
ENVIRONMENT & GREEN ENERGY

CLIMATE | SUSTAINABLE RESOURCES | AGRICULTURE

RUNNERS UP

• E-SAP (ELECTRONIC SOLUTIONS AGAINST AGRICULTURAL PESTS)
• UNNATI
• FARMERS PROJECT
• KRISHOKER JANALA - APNAR FOSHOLER SOMOSSAR SOMADHAN EKHANEI
• BARI APPLICATION (KRISHI PROJUKTI VANDAR)
• MRITTIKĀ
Pests, microbial diseases, weeds, nutritional disorders have often plagued the agricultural sector, resulting in losses greater than Rs. 50,000 crore in India. While appropriate solutions for pest control are available with experts, the knowledge often doesn’t trickle down to the farmers. As a result, there have been incidents where crops have been destroyed by pest and farmers have committed suicide due to the losses incurred.

**Electronic Solutions against Agricultural Pests (e-SAP)** is an IT solution for crop health management. It is the first dedicated ICT and cloud-based system that enables a two-way dissemination of information in real time through a dedicated channel to strengthen India’s agricultural sector.

The application, developed the University of Agricultural Sciences in Raichur, allows farmers to detect crop problems in their early stage, connect with other stakeholders to take quick and reliable decisions, and find a risk-free and economical solution for their problems. A field user, with the help of the eSAP application installed on a dedicated tablet, can independently diagnose the problem, quantify the damage caused and obtain the recommended prescription.

Further, eSAP captures a variety of field data — about farmers, farms, crops, pests, spatial coordinates and multimedia, among others – and presents them in real-time reports to other stakeholders like researchers, policymakers, administrators and others.

e-SAP has been designed to suit the needs of diverse regions through its customized language and content. So far, the app has benefited more than 1 lakh in the state of Karnataka. Already adopted by three farm universities of the state, the state and central governments are now reviewing a proposal to adopt eSAP at a much larger scale.
Unnati is a service targeted at farmers to help improve efficiency in the overall agriculture value chain with technology as an enabler.

Through Unnati, every aspect of the complete farming ecosystem has been brought onto one platform with a common digital backbone supporting it. **The objective of the initiative is to bring benefits of predictive data science to farmers to manage crop plantation, receive alerts about crops, view products available, read up about crop protection and crop care, and know the market prices — all this without the need to travel long distances.** This data is generated based on transactions carried out by farmers on the platform and information available on weather, mandi rates, product pricing and more.

To manage and deliver the traceability services, Unnati mobile app has been developed. It can either be accessed by a farmer directly on a mobile device or the farmer can visit the nearest Unnati Farm Centre (UFC) that is managed by local village youth who use the app to provide farmers with information on input and output requirements. They also facilitate logistics and collection support services, besides farm equipment. Therefore, training UFC youth managers is an integral part of the initiative to ensure maximum efficiency in delivering services and providing support to farmers.

Users of the application can request for assistance of any nature from experts and associated partners to increase the productivity and profitability of the crops they are sowing. Farmers can also order products online or through the nearest UFC. The ordered products are then delivered via buffering centres to UFC against cash-on-delivery. Every buffering/agronomy centre caters to more than 30 remote villages.
SayTrees is a professionally run group of ordinary people with extraordinarily determination to protect the environment, not just at an individual level but at a more community-driven level by sensitising others towards the importance of environment conservation.

SayTrees started as a weekend pursuit in 2007 but now it leads more than 50 tree plantation drives in four months of monsoon every year across several Indian cities. It spearheads a variety of initiatives including research, education, sensitisation and advocacy around the importance of environmental preservation and tree plantation. The group thrives on its vast volunteer base that runs into thousands, ranging from young children to busy professionals, housewives and even retired citizens. The team is pro-active in identifying potential areas for plantation, keeping in mind the biodiversity and ecological milieu of the local area. Once identified, they try to ensure that local communities reap multi-fold benefits of restoring the green cover.

Farmers depend on various factors, especially weather, for a successful yield. However, with weather patterns changing drastically in the last few decades, farmers are facing huge losses in their only source of income. To overcome these losses, they take loans, which often make matters even more difficult for them. SayTrees, thus, decided it will target two problems with one solution (project). One of course is increasing the green cover in the country, which also helps in improving the water table. The second is to give a parallel source of income to famers through the plantation of fruit saplings.

The ultimate mission of SayTrees is to sensitise and empower people to give back to nature and live in an environment conducive to their health and well-being. With this vision, SayTrees inspires citizens to spare just a few hours on weekends towards making their cities and lives greener.
Krishoker Janala or Farmer’s Window is a pictorial database of plant-related problems and solutions.

The initiative allows farmers and agriculture extension service providers to identify a plant’s problem by matching it with pictures available on its database. This database holds photos of more than 120 plant species and 1,000 plant-related problems from various parts of the country. The problems have been collected, identified, consulted about with an expert, standardised and documented with solutions.

This electronic and device-responsive pictorial database of plant’s problem minimises communication noises between farmers and extension workers; and identifies a plaguing problem — insect damage, disease infection or nutritional deficiencies — correctly and almost instantly. Once a picture is matched with the problem in the field, the farmer can click on the picture and view standard solutions to tackle the identified problem.

The database has been standardised by a high profile technical expert committee; and can be accessed on a desktop, laptop, tablet or smartphone in both online and offline modes.
Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute has developed a mobile application called ‘Krishi Projukti Bhandar’ which can roughly be translated to ‘Agro-Tech Repository’ in English.

Krishi Projukti Bhandar makes information on major agricultural crops available to relevant stakeholders in a timely and cost effective manner. To ensure its maximum reach, the app has been developed in the native language of Bangladesh and is available for free download on Google and Windows app stores.

Farmers and other stakeholders can use this application easily and effectively for crop production technology information. The home screen of the application, which works offline as well, displays five options — crops, technologies, ask-questions, answers/feedback, and communication — through which users can access desired information through a simple step-by-step process.

At present, information on more than 1,000 modern production technologies of all major crops of Bangladesh is hosted on this application. When necessary, a stakeholder can even ask for additional information through the communication channel of the application, which is updated regularly to ensure only the latest and most accurate information is available online.
Mrittika is a soil analysis and fertiliser recommendation software that was launched in September 2011. It recommends optimum quantity of fertilisers by analysing the soil and crop nutritional requirement, thus cutting down input costs and improving yields for smallholder farmers.

**With simple information like land type, irrigation method, season, land size and crop name, Mrittika can generate fertiliser recommendations.** The recommendations not only define the quantity of fertilisers to be used but also provides dosage and application direction to ensure effective application.

The product’s benefits and deliverables are improving crop quality, increasing yield and reducing fertiliser expenses. Local fertiliser suppliers’ information is also listen on the app, which only requires an Internet connect at the time of installation or synchronisations.

The customisation feature on the app allows it to be used in any part of the world by simply changing the recommended crop benchmarks. Mrittika runs on low cost computers and tablets, thus ensuring its accessibility to people in remote and rural areas who are often deprived of interactions with agricultural experts.

So far, more than 253 licenses of the software have been sold in India, Cambodia and Bangladesh, benefiting more than 25,000 farmers.
With an aim to disseminate information about public schemes and services, the Soochna Seva project enables deserving groups from benefitting from the schemes.

Strengthening the RTI act and addressing larger issues of poverty, rural development, social exclusion, and inequity of marginalized groups through information empowerment are some of the core responsibilities of the Soochna Seva project. It focuses on capacity building of the local communities, groups, and citizens and advance cooperation between the stakeholders and local administration to develop an operative framework for public scheme information dissemination and entitlement.

The program deploys and runs an integrated information services delivery and citizen entitlement framework in 5 backward districts of India in 6 key areas of Education, Health, Livelihood, Employment, Financial Inclusion, and Social Security.
CULTURE & TOURISM

HERITAGE | ENTERTAINMENT | MEDIA | BROADCASTING

RUNNERS UP

- E-ARCHIVES: ONLINE CATALOGUING OF ODISHA STATE ARCHIVES
- VROMON
- SEVENDIARY.COM
- BADAJARI SINHALA ONLINE RESTAURANT DIRECTORY
e-Archives facilitates access to rare archival records of Odisha for research scholars, research fellows and students across the globe. The objective behind this initiative is to spread awareness among the people about the rich Indian culture and heritage through the collection, preservation, management, publication and sharing of archival records.

The e-Catalogue module of the project works like an online catalogue through which visitors can access archival records category wise, and preview the first and the last page of the digital copy. All records have been stored on a local server and have been tagged according to their category, subject, year, etc.

Those looking for a membership for research work at the Odisha State Archives office, too, can directly apply via this platform by submitting a simple online application form, enabling researchers to save time, effort and resources in making a physical visit to the office. Once an application is received, the department verifies the information and sends a confirmation email to the candidate.

e-Archives: Online Cataloguing of Odisha State Archives is a unique of its kind in India, with Odisha proving to be a pioneering state in the space.
Vromon is a Bangladeshi online travel booking service that was launched on December 12, 2015. The service allows travelers to book hotels, tickets and tour packages, besides sharing their reviews and travel experiences. The platform also provides visitors with suggestions about places to see, things to eat and activities to do in a particular. Travellers can even compare pricing, book a tour guide and even pay in monthly installments.

People of Bangladesh are known to be avid travelers but making a hassle-free tour plan is tedious work in today’s time. Finding the right mode of transportation, accommodation, food and things to do in Bangladesh can be tricky and time consuming. Vromon Limited is, thus, hoping to solve these problems through its online venture.

With the intention to encourage people to travel and explore the beautiful world, especially Bangladesh, Vromon offers the best travel deals around the world, builds a trusted travel community within Bangladesh, innovates and revolutionises travel through the power of technology, provides memorable customer experiences, and simplifies the lives of travelers.

Even in the hotel bookings service space, Vromon has the largest network with more than 250 listings, all of which are inspected before they are added to the database to ensure visitors only get the most reliable and authentic information.
Sevendiary dot com is a news and media website dedicated to promoting stories of culture, travel, lifestyle, sports, music and even start-ups from North East India. With such stories and other achievements being published onto the website every day, Sevendiary aims to share positive and inspiring stories from the region — which is largely underreported — with the rest of the world.

Its creators feel that there is a lot happening “back home” every day and people are always full of queries about tourism, culture, start-ups, festivals, logistics and other things. But it is really disheartening to see that the only news which mainstream media often publishes is about political instability, insurgency and violence, thus pushing North East’s rich culture, hospitality and beauty into the dark. In this process, the selective publicity has been portraying the region in a negative light and turning away potential tourists and well-wishers of the region. It was this realization that led to the establishment of Sevendiary, the first e-zine from the region that exclusively caters to sharing the positive vibes from North East India.

With a wide range of information available on the website, Sevendiary has something for everybody — be it a 15-year-old teen or a 50-year-old man. This is the reason that not just travellers but even the North East diaspora, journalists, artists, bloggers and curious individuals frequently visit the website to access fresh content and read unheard stories.

The portal’s first-ever interview was with IAS office Armstrong Pame — who is known for building a 100-km road, popularly known as Peoples Road, connecting Manipur to Nagaland and Assam — in December 2012. The story even managed to capture the attention of Facebook, which then sent a team to Manipur to film a documentary about his noble work.

Sevendiary reaches out to about 5 lakh users every week via its website and social media channels.
There are always so many restaurants available around us that it’s often difficult to decide where to go or people end up going to their same old favourite places. People have varying eating habits. Some love nutritious food, some are vegetarians and some are meat cravers. Some want to eat out with their colleagues and some want a nice family dine in. Some others are looking for a perfect date place. Affordability, too, is often a decision making factor. So wouldn’t a platform with all these filters help a person looking to eat out?

Badajari dot com answers all these questions and lot more — and in the native language of the people of Sri Lanka. Badajari is a Web-based application that caters to information based on people’s needs and choices. This helps people the right place to eat while meeting all their purposes and requirements.

The website’s data of restaurant is reviewed and updated on a weekly basis to ensure only the most accurate information is listed online. Badajari is Sri Lanka’s leading and most comprehensive Sinhala directory of restaurants. Whether you’re travelling, having a day out, or meeting a friend, Badajari.com is there to help you connect with great restaurants in your area.

The portal believes it has the best expertise to match its users with the exact dining experience that they are looking for in their area.
Women weavers of Barpali clusters manually pull out Tasar yarn from the shells of Tasar silkworms after removing the larvae from the cocoon using fire.
Smart Settlements & Urbanisation

mobility | productive work | sustainable living

RUNNERS UP

- SCYLAX - PREFERENCE BASED PERSONALIZED TOUR PLANNER WITH VIRTUAL REALITY
- JOURNAL - SMART ACTION CAMERA
Over the decades, travelling has experienced continuous growth and deepening diversification to become one of the fastest growing economic sectors in the world. Among the existing travelling applications, only a handful facilitate the ability of planning a tour, which is entirely based on user preferences while offering an in-depth look at the desired destination. And so Scylax focuses exclusively on integrating semantic technologies, collaborative filtering and virtual reality in the domain of travelling.

Since every individual is different and so are their choices, Scylax has introduced the concept of preferences and behaviour-based personalised tour planning. This helps the traveller customise exploration routes, plan major stops or attractions and experience 360-degree virtual tours on mobile phones. While Scylax focuses on providing the opportunity to plan itineraries based on user’s personal preferences, business organisations can use the Web-based dashboard to maintain their services, offers and obtain analytics.
With Journal, you don’t have to worry about pulling out your camera to capture important moments. The device is a combination of a powerful camera and a sophisticated software suite, which is able to identify exciting moments and events to be documented and photographed automatically.

Recording videos, taking pictures and editing pictures are some of the main features of Journal, which has been developed with the objective to make life easier for those who thrive on capturing moments while ensuring that they never miss a moment again. **Journal is small, portable and user friendly device that has been made for Android, iOS and Windows phones. It is an easy-to-use camera which acts as merely an accessory for users rather than an additional gear.** One just has to wear the device and forget about it. It is a smart automated action camera that captures pictures and video automatically using four parameters — namely heart rate, manual trigger, accelerometer and location. The device comes built with a manual trigger as well but its ‘Machine Learning’ technology gets smarter with use.

Journal also provides in-built editing capabilities to ensure that your photos are perfect when shared online.

Journal comes with a software application that helps it sync with a mobile phone. Pictures captured through the day are displayed on a select screen, where users can mark the ones they want to be uploaded onto a personalised timeline. This personalised timeline acts as a journal, indicating the places visited and pictures taken there; and it can be shared on all social media platforms.
The history of weaving in Chanderi goes back to 700 years, when weavers from Bangladesh came to the area along with their spiritual leaders. Through the years, Chanderi sarees have become a symbol of elegance and eloquence. We at Chanderiyaan, an initiative of Digital Empowerment Foundation for Digital integration of chanderi weaving cluster are trying to protect this beautiful art from dying.
BUSINESS & COMMERCE

INNOVATIVE SERVICES | SECURITY | FINANCE | MARKETING

RUNNERS UP

- PAYSE™ - DEMOCRATIZING CASH
- E-COMMERCE SOLUTION FOR LUCKY LANKA MILK PROCESSING COMPANY LTD.
- CSL MOBILE ACCOUNTS
- SELLISCOPE
- EPIC (ERP PROJECT FOR INTEGRATION AND COORDINATION)
PaySe™ is an approach for businesses that was started with a vision to put together a platform that would allow organised daily loan disbursement and collection for people at the bottom of the pyramid.

With the majority of the economy being cash driven, the costs associated with disbursing cash and collecting cash was often seen as a big roadblock. However, cash has certain properties that have eluded other new age instruments like cards and mobile wallets. Cash works offline, cash works person to person, cash is fungible, cash transactions can be anonymous, and there is no fee involved when making cash payments. Yet, carrying cash is cumbersome and threatens security.

PaySe™ envisions digitisation of cash. Its developers believe that if people have access to cash anytime, anywhere and can pay each other without the need for a third party or Internet connectivity, it will lead to democratisation of cash. And PaySe™ aims to do just that. It is designed and created with the objective to democratise digital money. And it addresses the single biggest deterrent to cost effective delivery of financial services in last mile region — the cost of cash which drives banks away from setting up ATMs in rural areas.

There are three key components of this financial solution — PaySe Processing Platform, PalmATM™ and PURSE™. Today, money is only ‘digital’ till the ATM. It is at the ATM that ‘digital money’ turns into ‘physical cash’.

PaySe™ extends this digitisation beyond the ATM by creating ‘digital cash’. Similar to how physical cash can be withdrawn from an ATM, PaySe™ digital cash can be withdrawn (as digital cash) using an Android application called the PalmATM™. Once downloaded, any smartphone can turn into an ATM. Similarly, just as we store physical cash in a wallet, users can securely store digital cash in their electronic wallet, or ‘mobile to carry cash’ called PURSE™. Each PURSE™ card or device is linked to a bank account number, which can receive remittances or direct benefit transfer from the government. The account holder is, thus, able to use a smartphone as an ATM and withdraw the digital cash without having to leave their village.

The initiative, thus, enables banking access to millions of global citizens; and is the world’s first offline digital cash solution.
Milk is an essential ingredient for an individual’s diet. However, globalisation and the open economy in Sri Lanka have affected the consumption of milk in the island country where it has been substituted by a variety of products, especially powdered milk, in the market that contain little nutritious value.

In recent years, Sri Lankans have begun to question the quality and consumption of these imported alternatives so much so that parents have now become hesitant to give it to their children. Fresh milk is a rich source of several essential nutrients including protein, calcium, phosphorus, Vitamins A and D. Despite largely being an agricultural economy, Sri Lanka’s dairy product consumption had been really low for a few years now. And so, Lucky Lanka, one of Sri Lanka’s leading dairy products processing companies, was among the first to realise the importance bringing back milk powder consumers to fresh milk. For this purpose, Lucky Lanka wanted a user-friendly online platform for citizens to order fresh milk and dairy products at the click of a button and be assured of its delivery at their doorsteps.

Under the project name Gedarata Kiri, Web Lankan developed an effective and efficient technological solution — and Sri Lanka’s first for ordering dairy products online — for Lucky Lanka consumers. The website is integrated with a secure payment gateway; and its attractive and cutting-edge design enable easy and comprehensive navigation for consumers.

Further, the platform gives dairy farmers an opportunity to sell their products to consumers for a fair and beneficial price, thus encouraging the dairy farming sector of Sri Lanka and promoting a healthy nation.
CSL Mobile Accounts is a multi-language software to help users manage personal or official accounting, online and offline. It follows all standard accounting principles that are managed by a dual-entry system yet its easy-to-use applicability does not require users to know advanced accounting mechanisms.

The app aims to help users keep their financial information in an organised manner that can produce valuable daily, monthly and annual reports. Some of the key features of this app are its ability to function offline, compute complex accounting reports and an upcoming backup facility that allows all data to be stored on cloud, thus ensuring that your data is not lost even if the phone is lost or changed. As of now, the app allows users to take a backup on a memory card or third-party clouds such as Google Drive. CSL Mobile Accounts is password protected to ensure security of user’s financial data. The app also comes equipped with a feature that instantly notifies the user and auto-generates pending vouchers based on pre-defined settings.

The smart look, convenient feel and easy navigation make for a happy experience for users. Besides, its support for English, Bengali and Hindi languages enables it to cater to a wider range of users. The developers now want to roll out a new version of the app that will allow it to be used in more native Indian languages.

The objective is this app is to make people habituated to using a professional software for their personal financial management.
Selliscope is a mobile and Web-based application to help distribution and sales-force based organisations bring efficiency in their channels of activities. With this app, organisations can reduce their paper work and the cost associated with it — and the layers of work it usually requires — by taking retail orders online and ensuring product delivery in time through instant order processing systems. The app allows the management to check reports created by the sales team on different POS (Point of Sales), enabling them to keep track of POS health in a more efficient manner and spending much less time and resources. The management can also track the sales person in real time through assisted GPS technology. This way, the management can significantly increase their control on the whereabouts of the sales force members and designate individual members to their respective zones and route plans.

The sales teams, on the other hand, can chat among themselves via the app. This not only ensures easy and instant communication between the team but also reduces telecom expenditure. As Selliscope is an app-based software, it does not require any physical shipping channels. The sales force can download the app from their respective app stores and the management can access the system from the Web platform.

Selliscope is offered to clients in two models — a one-time yearly maintenance contract or a monthly subscription — which ensures the maintenance and sustainability of the platform. Briefly, Selliscope is an overall sales force automation solution!
Madhya Pradesh Poorv Kshetra Vidyut Vitran Co. Ltd (MPPKVVCL), Jabalpur, is a power distribution company owned by the state government that distributes power to 20 districts, reaching as many as 42 lakh customers. With employee strength of 13,500, MPPKVVCL carried out most of its business transactions manually while a few isolated business processes were run through legacy software systems that worked in silos. The system was paper-based, not in real time, restricted, non-transparent and human resource-dependent. This resulted in operational inefficiency, delayed MIS reporting, ambiguous accountability, statutory non-compliance, revenue leakage and, often, questionable work practices.

**In order to establish a single source for all information, bring operational efficiency, introduce accountability in work and innovatively redesign, reengineer and streamline critical business processes, EPIC was developed.**

Through the introduction of ERP Project for Integration and Coordination (EPIC), MPPKVVCL took a transformative step towards implementing a business solution that creates a backbone of sorts for an IT system that allows collection, storage, management and interpretation of data.

EPIC has innovatively redesigned, reengineered and streamlined critical business processes of MPPKVVCL. To make its staff comfortable with the use of the application, the company’s IT team has conducted a series of conference room pilot workshops to cover its various modules from product configurations and system functionality to business cycles and customisation. A comprehensive change management approach was then followed to disseminate information about the system, its capabilities, envisaged benefits, plan, process changes and implementation schedule. Meanwhile, to ensure its effective implementation, MPPKVVCL ensured seamless network connectivity across all its 700 offices.

The project has not only led to a transformational change in the working of MPPKVVCL but also provided digital interfaces to external parties such as suppliers and consumers for availing the various services it offers.
INCLUSION & EMPOWERMENT

| DIVERSITY | GENDER | JUSTICE | HUMAN RIGHTS |

RUNNERS UP

- AHANNA (LISTEN) E-SIGN READER
- SANITARY NAPKIN MAHA-ABHIYAN
- ISHOP - SHOPPING APPLICATION FOR VISUALLY CHALLENGED
Ahanna Foundation supports the implementation of nation-wide programmes to achieve trilingual status among individuals; and create a better understanding and reading development for deaf communities in Sri Lanka, be its Sinhala, Tamilians or Buddhists.

**e-Sign Reader provides sign language learning lessons on Web and Android platforms, with emphasis on words, photos, videos and more practical aspects of conversation rather than focusing on just reading and writing.** Each user starts from the basic level (alphabets, numerals, and words) and advances to intermediary stages that increase the levels of sign language, vocabulary and sentence formation. The mobile application has introduced “doing by learning” strategy for its users, who are encouraged by the gamification feature which tests the knowledge acquired of the users.

A socially responsible and user friendly solution, e-Sign Reader aims at empowering the hearing-impaired student and adult population in the country by providing easy access to learning material, which are in line with the national syllabus.

The application also addresses another challenge; that of an inadequate number of teachers who are conversant with sign language. While the app can be used by an individual on his or her phone, it can also be installed in schools and learning centres to increase the reach and potential of e-Sign Reader in uplifting individuals who need special attention.
Matoshri Pratishtan is an organisation that works with adolescent girls and women in rural areas to ensure they have adequate knowledge and information about sanitary napkins.

**Under its initiative, Matoshri Pratishtan conducts health and hygiene programmes in schools, colleges, slums and villages to promote the use of low-cost sanitary napkins.** According to Census 2001, there are an estimated 225 million adolescents (22 per cent of India’s population) in India. A large population of them lives in rural and remote locations of India where they use jute sacks or cloth napkins that are unhygienic, uncomfortable and often lead to diseases.

The sanitary napkins are distributed through female Health workers. High quality safe products are made available to the girls and women and the environmentally safe disposal mechanisms are also readily accessible.

Matoshri Pratishtan, thus, facilitates manufacturing of low-cost sanitary napkins that are chemical-free, environment friendly, easily available and do not involve too much input cost. For this purpose, a low-cost manufacturing machine (10x10 feet) has been developed. Each machine is run by a group of women, who are employed to manufacture sanitary napkins, thus ensuring not only their health but financial independence too.

To achieve maximum outreach, the organisation has tied up with several self-help groups and provided them with training to operate the machinery and advocate the use of low-cost and hygienic sanitary napkins. These groups are also provided with the machinery and raw material to manufacture the napkins, which when ready are collected and sold in villages through health workers.
In the life of visually challenged people, shopping is just one another great challenge among the many that they have to face every day. From navigating a supermarket to selecting what to buy and paying at the cashier, a visually challenged person often has to rely on someone else for help.

Unlike previously proposed systems with bulky hardware devices, iShop provides a completely voice-operated, simple and affordable solution to enable such individuals to shop on their own through a mobile or desktop application. Through this application, users can manage their shopping list and check the availability of an item before physically visiting a supermarket. **iShop first finds the shortest path to traverse to the supermarket to get all the items on a user’s list. It then guides the user to them using voice commands.** The app uses beacons, a Bluetooth transmitting device which is used to identify the location of the user, to reads promotions available in that particular location; users can also use their phone camera to scan a product and identify it. Users can also compare products (brands and sizes) and get similar products using data mining algorithm based on previous customer purchases.

To make it even more easy for visually challenged individuals, the app can send SMS notifications with the GPS location of the user to supermarket managers. Users can also use the video conference feature to seek assistance from their friends and family. Meanwhile, the desktop application contains an inventory management and floor plan customiser for supermarket to ensure their customers can have a hassle-free experience.

The system has been successfully tested at Keerthi supermarket in Sri Lanka; and has been greatly welcomed by the visually impaired community, supermarket staff and technical experts.
EARLY STAGE
LAUNCHED AFTER 1ST MAY 2016

WINNERS

• BAL VATIKA
• BRANDAD EMEDIA SOLUTIONS PVT. LTD
Bal Vatika is an application-based monitoring system for Aanganwadi centres run by the government under the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS). The application deals with all aspects of an Aanganwadi centres, starting from maintaining the attendance of aanganwadi workers and children to recording the number of meals served, stock used in preparation of meals and malnutrition among children.

An extremely user-friendly app, Bal Vatika is GPS enabled to ensure that an aanganwadi worker can only mark her attendance when she is at the location of the aanganwadi and nowhere else. In fact, the worker is even required to click a photograph of her self while marking the attendance to ensure no proxies are marked. These requirements of the system ensure accountability and transparency in attendance.

Developed for the district panchayat of Chhota Udaipur in Gujarat, the application is available in Gujarati language, making it more accessible to people at the grassroots level.

Aanganwadi workers are required to use the app — which also works in an offline mode — to mark their daily attendance, submit photos of children and meals served on a daily basis, and feed the height and weight of all the children at a centre on a monthly basis. The last of them enables the app to auto-generate growth chart of children, which were earlier maintained manually in registers, which helps categorise them into nourished, malnourished and severely malnourished categories. Further, workers can use the app’s in-built audio-visual learning aid to teach numbers, alphabets, birds, animals and shapes to children.

The app also allows workers to file a complaint, through simple click efforts, against issues related to water, electricity and construction, among others — thus making grievance redressal easy and faster.

At present, the application is in use by aanganwadi workers of Kawant taluk in Chhota Udaipur district of Gujarat. To facilitate monitoring of data fed into the app by the workers, there are other taluk and district level applications.
Dollartune is a unique Android-based initiative of BrandAd eMedia Solutions Pvt Ltd. It acts as an innovative mobile platform where users give their consent to interact and engage with brands.

Essentially, Dollartune addresses a big void in the advertising world where brands are struggling today with the problem of advertisement avoidance, advertisement apathy and wasted delivery. Through this initiative, Dollartune offers a solution to advertisers and brands to ensure their advertising message is actually consumed and not wasted or ignored.

Smartphone users can download the app from Google PlayStore. Following a short registration process, users start receiving advertising messages on their mobile devices, based on the permission they have given to Dollartune. Advertising brands can specify their target audience based on gender, age profile and geographical location; and use ring tones, signature tunes, jingles, image advertising, audio advertising and video messaging as various types of advertising mediums to send across their message to the consumers. Depending on the activities consumers engage in, they are rewarded in the form of electronic money — and for this they have strategically tied up with Paytm, India’s leading mobile wallet service.

In a short span of time, Dollartune’s user base has swelled to more than 10,000 users and over 30 brands, showing acceptance from both users and advertisers. Clearly, Dollartune is ringing the “Fayde ki Ghanti”, which is also its tagline, for all stakeholders.
Baank-e-loom is an initiative by Digital Empowerment Foundation in collaboration with Ericsson to safeguard the interest of weavers. We are attempting to ensure that the weaves from Barabanki reaches those who have laboured to create them.
THE MANTHAN AWARD SOUTH ASIA

GRAND JURY 2016
Meet Our Jurors

Osama Manzar (Jury Moderator)
Founder & Director
Digital Empowerment Foundation

Osama Manzar is a convert social entrepreneur spearheading the mission to overcome information poverty in India. He is an inspiring speaker, influencer, angel investor, mentor and believer. Osama founded Digital Empowerment Foundation with the objective that there should be universal digital literacy and digital access to all to overcome information gap and parity and help build equitable society. He is a Member of various committees and sits on the Board of several bodies. Manzar is the Chairman of Manthan Awards and mBillionth Awards South Asia. A British Chevening Fellow of 2002, Manzar has authored NetCh@kra: 15 Years of Internet in India. Other titles by him include e-Content: Voices from the Ground; Internet Economy of India; India’s Best e-Contents, and Development & Digital Inclusion. He also writes a weekly column in the Mint newspaper. Manzar is fluent in English, Urdu, Hindi and can read and write Arabic and Persian. He tweets @osamamanzar.

He is a Member, Working Group, Internet Proliferation & Governance for Ministry of Communication & IT and was a Member, Task Force on Growth of IT, ITES & Electronics HW Manufacturing Industry, Ministry of Communication & IT, India. He is also a member of the Advisory Board for National Optic Fibre Network (NOFN) of the Universal Service Obligation Fund under the Indian Department of Telecom. At the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Manzar is a member of the Screening Committee for the Community Radio Licensing. Manzar sits on the Boards of the World Summit Award, the Society for Labour & Development, Ibtada, the Association of Progressive Communication (APC), ProtoVillage, and the Alliance for Affordable Internet (A4AI).

Rajen Varada (Co-Founder & Director)
Technology for the People (TFTP)

Rajen Varada has been an ICT practitioner since 1995, and continues to be actively engaged in designing and implementing proof of concept solutions for rural development using technology and, in particular, ICT. Varada has developed solutions for health and early childhood care: (Sisu Samrakshak UNICEF), Disaster: (SMS4help – Solution Exchange), District e-Governance: (Parishkaram & Samadhan – Govt of AP & West Bengal) and most recently ‘Labnet’ a migrant labour tracking and services portal. He is actively involved for the past nine years in study, evaluation, and mentoring ICT innovations which impact the social sector. Mr. Varada has been one of the thinkers behind movements like public sector software in India and actively supports community ownership of technology – from community radio, community TV to open source applications.
Mahesh Venkateswaran works with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), part of the Government’s Skill India mission. He leads industry partnerships to strengthen the ecosystem through greenfield/brownfield projects across various sectors and mobilize CSR contributions for skill development projects. He has also setup and led the Innovation fund focused on early stage funding for entities addressing skill development challenges until recently. Prior to joining NSDC, Mahesh led a 400+ strong team working on integrated rural development projects and social enterprises focused on employment, agriculture and dairy sector based in Jharkhand. An engineer from the 2001 batch of Vellore Institute of Technology, he has a master’s degree from the US and worked in research and consulting till 2009.

Manoj Dawane took charge as Head of the Unit Technology, GIR (Government & Industry Relations) and Sustainability & Corporate Responsibility for India region with effect from November 11, 2013. In his current role, Manoj is expected to establish a stronger industry position for Ericsson and to sharpen technology leadership area. He is a part of the region’s core leadership team. Prior to this role, Manoj was Head of Engagement Practices within Region India whereby he was responsible for solutions for all customer requirements for Region India. Solution areas involved were Mobile Broadband, Fixed Broadband and IP, Operating Support Systems (OSS) & Business Support Systems (BSS), Mobile Commerce, Managed Services (Network and IT), TV & Media Applications. Before joining Ericsson, Manoj was the Chief Executive Officer and Board Member of Ericsson India.

Soumya Sarkar is Managing Editor, India Climate Dialogue. He was the News Editor of Mint, a sister publication of the Hindustan Times published in partnership with the Wall Street Journal. He has been working in Media and Communications for over two decades and was previously with The Times of India, The Indian Express Group, the Telegraph and the Down to Earth magazine. He has also worked as development and communications consultant with organisations like the World Bank and the Aga Khan Development Network. Besides working in the areas of environment, rural livelihoods, energy and water resources, Soumya is keenly interested in science and technology issues.
Mauj Mobile – wireless division of People Group. As CEO, Manoj led the Mauj Mobile team on their strategic growth path, both in domestic and international markets, addressing telecom operators, media companies, agencies and brands as primary customers. Manoj is recognised expert on the subjects of Technology, MVAS and Marketing in Telecom and has been a member of various industry bodies in India.

MADANMOHAN RAO
Research Advisor
Asian Media Information & Communication Centre

Dr. Madanmohan Rao, a consultant and writer from Bangalore, is research projects director at MobileMonday, research director at YourStory.in, and research advisor at the Asian Media Information and Communication centre (AMIC). He is the editor of five book series: The Asia Pacific Internet Handbook, The Knowledge Management Chronicles, AfricaDotEdu, Global Citizen and World of Proverbs. He is also editor-at-large of DestinationKM and contributor to the Poynter Institute blog on new media trends. Madan was on the international editorial board of the book, Transforming e-Knowledge. He was formerly the communications director at the United Nations Inter Press Service bureau in New York, and vice president at IndiaWorld Communications in Bombay. He graduated from the Indian Institute of Technology at Bombay and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, with an M.S. in computer science and a Ph.D. in communications.

ASHIS SANYAL
Independent eGov and ICT4D Consultant

Ashis Sanyal has been an Independent eGov and ICT4D Consultant since he retired as a Senior Director from the Department of Electronics & IT, Government of India, more than five years ago. He manages the Management Consulting Services in the areas of Electronic Governance, Communication Network and ICT for Community Development. As a success government employee Mr. Sanyal formulated Citizen-centric e-Governance Strategy & Policy Formulation with a specific emphasis on Rural Service Delivery, Strategy and Program Implementation at the National Level under the ambit of National e-Governance Plan (NeGP) of Government of India with an aim to enhancing equitable and inclusive growth addressing the national development objectives of poverty reduction and building a knowledge-driven society and other tasks. He knows English, Hindi & Bengali.
Saloni Malhotra co-founded Safecity, a citizen’s initiative and online platform, to share information on sexual abuse in India. Prior to Safecity, she founded and ran DesiCrew, a for-profit organisation focused on creating knowledge-based livelihood opportunities in small towns and rural areas. In 2012, she stepped down as the CEO after bringing on board a venture fund and handing over the company to a professional management team. Saloni continues to participate on the Board though. She also mentors Traveller Kids, a young start-up that creates edu-tainment toys for seven to 12 year old; and is an Advisor to Start Up! (a social business incubator in Delhi) and Sevamob (a healthcare start-up in North India). Saloni is also a Trustee of the Local Community Exchange Empowerment Trust (LOKALEX).

An engineer by qualification, Saloni graduated from the Pune University and began her career with WebChutney, India’s leading interactive media agency.

In her free time, she enjoys writing, travelling and playing with her four-year-old dachshund. Music and problems her friends love to crib about, inspire her to find the next challenge.

Geeta Goel is the Director of the global Mission Investing function at Michael & Susan Dell Foundation (MSDF) in New Delhi. Prior to this role, Geeta led the foundation’s Family Economic Stability initiative, representing the foundation on several investee boards, including that of Janalakshmi, Ujjivan, Micro Housing Finance Corporation and Swadhaar.

She has also spent more than 12 years with a corporate finance group, PricewaterhouseCoopers, in India where she was advising large Indian and multinational clients on joint ventures, mergers, acquisitions, business plans and valuations. Geeta is an alumnus of the Lady Shri Ram College, New Delhi, and the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad.

Vivek Prakash is AVP CSR at Jubilant Life Sciences Ltd. With a post-graduate in Labour and Social Welfare from Patna University,
Prakash went on to acquire knowledge in community development, social initiatives and commands in a career that spans over 20 years in the manufacturing sector.

A man who cares deeply about social services, Prakash’s key areas of interest are sustainable development, strategy, proposal writing, engagement with non-profits, community development and social entrepreneurship.

He has also helped publish a Handbook for Health Workers for mother and child care. Prakash is well versed in English, Hindi and Gujarati.

GAYATRI SUBRAMANIAM
Cheif Programme Executive & Convener, NFCSR
Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs

Gayatri Subramaniam is the Chief Programme Executive & Convener of NFCSR at the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), New Delhi. With an academic and industrial experience of more than 29 years, Gayatri has been associated with IICA since its inception.

She is a visiting faculty for Business Communication and Personality Development at various management and technology institutes in and around Delhi. She has also been involved with the National Institute of Open Schooling, the Indira Gandhi National Open University, and the Central Board of Secondary Education in various capacities.

Sujith Jayasuriya has more than 13 years of public and private industry experience in programme, project and technology management with passion to deliver enterprise and national-level high-quality solutions. Jayasuriya holds a B.Sc. in Applied Sciences and an MBA in Management of Technology. He is also a Member of the British Computer Society.

Jayasuriya joined ICT Agency of Sri Lanka (ICTA) as a Project Officer and is now serving as a Programme Manager in the area of digital infrastructure and development. He also heads the internal technical team, which provides consultancy and assistance across all ICT initiatives.

He holds experience in business analysis, technology management, customer facing, vendor management, procurement management and contract management experience. A team player and a team leader, with very high standards of personal integrity, Jayasuriya has excellent written, verbal and communication skills.
Amita Joseph is the Director of Business & Community Foundation, a leading civil society organisation that works towards promoting responsible business practices through education, advocacy and open public discourse. She has a background in management, a degree in law from Delhi University and a post-graduate degree in human rights from the Law Institute.

Amita has worked in the corporate, legal and development sectors for over three decades. She is on the Board of a number of non-profit organisations including MESH, CRB, SRUTI and AAM Foundation.

With degrees in MBA and MSW, Joseph’s key interest areas include government regulations and CSR policies & strategies, besides CSR communication.

Joseph brings with him immense international experience in managing social sector projects and programmes through his various visit to over 19 countries of Asia, Africa, America and Europe.

PK Joseph has 20 years of experience in corporate social responsibility, social sector project management, PR & communication, and administration.

With degrees in civil engineering and environmental management, Rajib Kumar Debnath is a Member of Leaders Excellence and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

He has over 20 years of experience in providing advisory and audit services in the areas of sustainability, CSR, environment, social governance and supply chain, among others. For the last few years, he has been in several leadership roles; and has over 15 years of experience in leading and growing sustainability & development or CSR streams of Deloitte, Ernst & Young and Grant Thornton.

Debnath has authored ‘Societal Governance and Reporting in India’; and his views often find space in various leading Indian and international business newspapers. He is a frequent guest speaker at various national and international conferences on matters of policy, CSR and sustainability. Debnath has also been associated with CSR award platforms of Assocham and FICCI.
Though Debnath has largely been with for-profit organisations, it’s his passion to do something constructive for the needy and the underprivileged that drive his work wherever he is.

NIKI DAS
Associate CSR
Capgemini

Niki Das is a development professional with a rich and vivid experience in conceptualising and implementing skill development programmes.

Her journey started with Smile Foundation where she was instrumental in successfully implementing a sustainable model, bringing more than 60 training centres under the umbrella of the foundation and partnering with various ministries and CSR projects.

Since 2014, Niki has been actively working on catalysing various livelihood models with Capgemini’s CSR unit, where she provides critical impetus to CSR scale up, partnerships and implementation.

At present, Niki is leading the CSR employability and managing skill development programmes with Capgemini’s India team.

PALLAVI MOHAN
Senior Consultant
NetImpact Solutions and IOT Infotainment

Pallavi Mohan is a Senior Executive, Marketing Leader & Strategist with more than 18 years of rich marketing experience across diverse industries including electronics, consulting and food & beverages.

She has an extensive exposure across a gamut of areas including sales, business operations, strategic retail, trade marketing, corporate communication, public relations and corporate social responsibility.

Adept in identifying internal as well as external customer needs, addressing gaps and subsequently defining strategies within stipulated budgets, Pallavi has demonstrated excellence in leveraging market and market needs. She drives teams, collaborating with cross-functional resources and engages with external agencies while ensuring alignment of business goals. Her strength lies in her out-of-the-box thinking and strong liaison & relationships with stakeholders and key decision makers. Pallavi has excellent interpersonal communication, relationship management and analytical skills.
Dr. KK Upadhyay is a seasoned professional with over three decades of experience across corporate, non-profits and government sectors. At present, he is associated with FICCI – Delhi as head of FICCI Aditya Birla CSR Centre for Excellence.

Dr. Upadhyay has been a Guest Faculty at the Institute of Chartered Accountant, Sharda University, Amity University, Tara Livelihood Academy and MIT-Gurgaon.

He is credited with having successfully executed major initiatives of the Bastar Integrated Development Project for Royal Danish Embassy and the Health of the Urban Poor Program for USAID.

Sunil Sayal’s tryst with the Finance functions spans close to three decades and is finely balanced between some well-known Indian names and Global ones. He has worked in different facets of the Finance function starting with organizations like, Voltas, HCL Group, Ranbaxy Group, and Ericsson where he spent fourteen years. Currently, he is the CFO for Region India at Nokia Networks. He has been a regular on various panels organized by the Financial Media, Chambers of Commerce, Business Schools and Consulting firms sharing his views on topics of current interest with the industry. He is currently the President of the Shared Services Forum and till recently was the Chairman of the Finance Committee of Delhi Management Association (DMA), a position he held for five years starting from 2010. He was also on the “Direct Taxes Committee” and the “Committee for Members in Industry of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) for two years as the Industry representative. He is actively associated with a well-known NGO (Seva Mandir) in Udaipur advising them on financial matters.

Sunil is an alumnus of SRCC, University of Delhi. He is a Fellow Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India and the Institute of Company Secretaries of India. He also holds a Bachelor’s degree in Law from the Delhi University.
Digital Empowerment Foundation aims to connect unreached and underserved communities of India in an effort to bring them out of digital darkness and empower them with information access through last mile connectivity, digital literacy and digital interventions. With the motto to ‘Inform, Communicate and Empower,’ DEF aims to find sustainable ICT solutions to overcome information poverty in remote and rural locations of India. In an effort to achieve this aim, DEF has adopted a multi-stakeholder approach and a six-fold path to enable communities, governments, schools, civil society organisations and micro-enterprises to avail the benefits of the Information Age.

Mint

Mint is one of India’s premium business news publications. Representative of an integrated newsroom, Livemint dot com is Mint’s online portal and among the fastest growing news websites in India that provides daily national and international business news, tracks market movements and shared detailed coverage of significant events. By leveraging new age media tools such as audio, video, podcast, slideshows and even vine, Mint comes out as a leading brand that is moving with time and generation. Mint also publishes a premium weekend magazine called Lounge that focuses on lifestyle, passions and other interests of readers. The immensely popular Lounge is known to avoid run-on-the-mill stories.

Digital India

The Digital India programme is a flagship programme of the Government of India with a vision to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. Digital India is a campaign launched by the Government of India to ensure that Government services are made available to citizens electronically by improved online infrastructure and by increasing Internet connectivity or by making the country digitally empowered in the field of technology. Launched on July 1, 2016, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Digital India hopes to achieve growth through its initiatives under six pillars: Universal access to Internet; Public Internet Access Programme; e-Governance – Reforming Government through Technology; e-Kranti - Electronic delivery of services; Information for All; Electronics Manufacturing; IT for Jobs.

World Summit Award (WSA)

World Summit Award (WSA) is a global activity to select and promote the world’s best e-Content and most innovative ICT applications. It offers a worldwide platform for all those who value the creative use of ICT and those who are committed to making today’s information society more inclusive. WSA was initiated by Austria in 2003 under the framework of the United Nations’ World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and is organised by a global partner network, coordinated by the International Center for New Media. WSA partners come from governments, private sector and civil society in over 178 UN member states.
COUNTRY PARTNERS

BRAC

BRAC is the largest non-governmental development organisation in the world, measured by the number of employees and the number of people it has helped. It is dedicated to empowering people living in poverty. BRAC operates across 11 countries, touching the lives of one in every 55 people. BRAC’s vision is to see a world free from all forms of exploitation and discrimination where everyone has the opportunity to realise their potential and its mission is to empower people and communities in situations of poverty, illiteracy, disease and social injustice. The intervention aims to achieve large scale, positive changes through economic and social programmes that enable men and women to realise their potential.

BYTES FOR ALL

Bytes for All (B4A), Pakistan, is a network of ICT professionals and practitioners who focus on the relevance of ICTs and implementation of ICT solutions for sustainable development and strengthening of human rights movement in the country. At the forefront of Internet Rights movement and struggle for the democracy, B4A has been actively working in the field since 2003, focusing on field projects and policy advocacy from the perspective of civil liberties, as well as on capacity building of human rights defenders on their digital security, online safety and privacy. B4A is a legally registered non-profit, non-governmental organisation.

ICTA

ICTA Information and Communications Technology (ICT) is an increasingly powerful tool for participating in global markets, promoting political accountability, improving the delivery of basic services and enhancing local development opportunities. However, without an innovative ICT strategy many people will be left behind. The Information and Communication Technology Agency (ICTA) of Sri Lanka is the single apex body involved in ICT policy and direction for the nation. Wholly owned by the Government of Sri Lanka, ICTA is the implementing organization of the e-Sri Lanka Initiative. Major donors including the World Bank will be funding a number of the Agency’s initiatives.

MEDIA PARTNER

THE OPTIMIST CITIZEN

The Optimist Citizen' is India’s first optimist newspaper, presenting only positive news and optimistic stories from around the world about unsung heroes, good governance, achievements, acts of courage and everything that can create optimism and bring back hope in the society. The Optimist Citizen is neither an investment by a big firm nor a sister paper of some leading daily but an outcome of frustration among youth who wished to channelise their energies in the right direction. The Optimist Citizen is an initiative to revive the essence of news and journalism — to create awareness, hope, truth and change. It has covered more than 400 positive stories so far.

EVENT PARTNER

INOMY

INOMY is a media and technology company providing services like e-content, e-learning, documentary film making, Web and online software development, Web designing, creative designing, printing and content development at various levels. It was formed in 1999 to focus on the emerging new economy, information economy, and knowledge society.
OUTREACH PARTNER

MP POST

Internet media has been active for the last two decades and it is coming out in new designs every other day. However, in Hindi-speaking states, Internet journalism is still in its infancy stage. Looking at the possibilities of Internet journalism, MP Post was started as India’s first Hindi Internet newspaper on January 1, 2005.
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