

Following are some of the bimonthly developments in the domain of digital content, services, and ICT for development

Digital Technologies Invoke End of Book Era

The-Times.co.UK has triggered an interesting debate about how the burgeoning digital technologies are affecting the traditional book selling and buying industry via the large niche bookshops. The recently launched Espresso Book Machine, Amazon, Kindle, Sony etc. all are combining to change, perhaps for ever, the traditional habit of visiting the favourite bookshop, hunting for the title and the thrill of buying that prized possession.

Internet, Digital Gadgets Indispensable Now

In an interesting survey in UK, it has been found out that people would rather cut on food and school uniforms than access to the Internet, mobile phones and other digital gadgets with an average family spending about 10% of their incomes on connected technologies. It shows how important digital gadgets and being connected have become for them.

Only Online Admission In Mumbai

The year 2009 marks a significant development in Mumbai metropolitan region colleges as forms for admission into junior colleges can be downloaded only through a dedicated website and no physical

procuring of admission forms through colleges is provided. A nominal fee of Rs. 125/- is to be deposited with the filled up downloaded form at the nearest college of residence. A dedicated helpline is also being established for students.

Content: Key to Computer Animation Films in India

Computer generated animation films are albeit growing in India but rather slowly and an article in the eWorld section of The Hindu.com says that original Indian content could be key to its adaptability and acceptance at the larger level here. Hitherto foreign animation film's pre and post production work is done in the country and not the main films. But many quality outputs later, efforts are on to bring the whole computer animation film culture here in the country itself.

Log on To Internet While On Trains

A move is afoot to provide high speed Internet connection in moving trains in India soon. A successful trial run has already been conducted in this regard. LCD screens and other audio-video entertainment in running trains are also on the agenda.

Computer To Take Quiz With Humans

A new computer programme developed by IBM is thought to be intelligent enough to tackle human questions from a diverse field and in fact compete with humans in a TV quiz show. It may be recalled that IBM's Deep Blue defeated then chess world champion Gary Kasparov in a match. This marks an important step in artificial intelligence development and could have serious ramifications as far as web search goes.

Every House Can Use Computers Here

In a classic case of end finding means, there is a district in Kerala, India where at least one person in each household can use the Internet, thanks to many Akshaya Kendras (289) in this southern Indian state. Almost every household has a relative working in the Middle East and this necessity of keeping in touch with relatives combined with the high cost of ISD phone usages has prompted everybody to learn emailing and other web related ways.

Cinema As A Learning Tool In India

A new use of popular cinema is being witnessed these days in India. The powerful audio-video medium is being utilised as an educational tool to impart lessons which text-

books sometimes don't seem to convey so easily.

Learn To Use EVMs On YouTube

In a digital developmental move that is aimed to enlighten voters on ways of using the Electronic Voting Machine (EVM), the Delhi state election office had uploaded a video at popular video sharing site YouTube targeted at mainly metropolitan Internet savvy users of the national capital of India and others in the country.

World Digital Library From UN To Open

The World's Digital Library, an ambitious project by UN, 'offering free access to rare books, maps, manuscripts, films and photographs from across the globe' has passed. It is the world's third largest digital library after Google Book search and Europeana.

Full Length Movies On YouTube Soon

The Popular video sharing website YouTube has reached agreements with leading Hollywood studios to make content including full length movies on the Google owned YouTube soon. Earlier the service tied up with leading music companies to start a niche music site Vevo.com. The agreement is being seen as Google's strategy to com-

mercially market the YouTube service in the face of competitions from many quarters like iTunes, Hulu etc.

First Indigenously Developed Games In India

'Hanuman Boy Warrior' and 'Braid' are the two computer games just developed in India. What is unique about them is that they are the first two indigenously developed games to have come out from India with a promise of more games to come soon.

Simulcast of TV/Radio On Mobiles in UK

A service is being launched in the UK where some BBC TV and Radio programmes can be seen LIVE on mobile handsets at the same time as they are being broadcast over the TV or the radio, provided one is in the WiFi zone and the handset is of the right kind. The service is in beta stages and can be a revolutionary step in broadcast technology as it doesn't require any additional download or application.

gLocal Goes Hyper On The Web

With the newspaper industry facing so many problems particularly in the USA, an interesting new phenomenon is being witnessed on the web. Local news as close to next block is being disseminated through blogs etc., sometimes replacing the need for any local newspaper. Some services like have been witnessing seeing a boom in users of late.

Now a Website To Monitor Traffic

www.Thetrafficpeople.Net is a new age website having all

the information on the city's traffic and also incorporating inputs from various radio channels doing the same on the subject. As cities grow crowded and more traffic is added on city roads, we already see almost all the FM radio channels giving traffic updates as FM radio becomes a companion of every city commuter, be it on mobile or in cabs. They have reporters also on the ground reporting real-time traffic situation.

Your PC Can Receive Cable Signals Directly Soon

A new technology being worked out in the USA could mean the users receiving cable TV directly into their PCs soon and they would not need to download everything from the Internet to view. This model is slightly inferior to having optic fibre directly in your homes, but that would mean that the neighbourhood broadband lines are not used for maximum.

2.63m Unique Indian IP addresses

If the number of unique IP addresses were an indication of a country's digital progress, India ranked 20th with 2.63 million unique IP web addresses. But its average connection speed left a lot to be desired in comparison to the world as the country ranked only 115th with South Korea topping the list with an average connection speed of 15Mbps and USA on 17th with 3.9 Mbps average speed. The data has been revealed in a survey on 'State of the Internet' by Akmal Technologies.

Mumbai IITians Launched

their own Campus Web Radio

In a first development of its kind and taking a cue from MIT, Harvard & Yale, IIT Bombay students have launched their own campus based web radio station recently. This LAN based radio station is intended to provide the students a platform to voice their opinions, take part in debates and generally be more informed. It's like an intranet and the programming content is in tune with the likeness of the student community.

Number of Indian Cyber Cafes Dwindling

The Internet population of the country showed a dip in numbers by 3 million in a year as on Jan '09 It dropped down to 47 million primarily due to many of the cyber cafes being closed during the year gone by owing to some administrative issues. "Internet content in India is not available in regional languages, says an expert and another adds, "Whereas a TV offers localised content and entertainment, Internet in India does not.

Free News Content? Debate Is On

Following the tough times that the newspaper industry is facing in the USA, there are emerging interesting new ideas to sustain the readership as well as the revenue. Many models are being worked upon and the theories going around are on why an online free model like The New York Times is better than subscription based Wall Street Journal to why not publish the print edition just

once or twice a week to focus contents exclusively on local content taking help from but not limited to blogs, forums, personal sites or usenet as is being planned by Newspaper 2.0 at Austin.

Telecom Can Create 25m Jobs

Telecom services have the capability to create 25 million jobs worldwide. In a well researched document major GSM players have found that "a 10 per cent increase in mobile penetration boosts annual GDP growth by 1.2 per cent." The proposal has been submitted to the Indian PM Manmohan Singh by Airtel Chief, Sunil Mittal.

Compose in Hindi on Gmail

Now it is possible to have that old flavour of Chitthipatri meaning letters in the Gmail also. Gmail Labs have incorporated regional language typing (currently Hindi, Tamil, Kannada, Telugu & Malayalam only) while composing the emails based on phonetic settings. Just type in English and once you have the desired settings it will be automatically converted into a language of your choice.

Online Libraries The All New Way to Read

Heard of Librarywala.com, Easylib.com or Friendsofbooks.com? Well they are all online libraries operating in the real world. Instead of going to a library and borrowing a book and reading it and then returning it on time, now you can have access to online libraries.