

Portals Supporting Indian Languages

The following Websites support composing in Hindi and other Indian languages and have all other features which occur in normal e-mailing sites like inbox, addresses, compose, folders etc.

1. Web Dunia: www.epatra.com supports 11 languages
2. Mithi.com : www.mailjol.com supports 12 languages
3. Langoo: www.langoo.com supports 12 languages
4. CDAC: www.cdacindia.com with multilingual support

Other Efforts

1. A survey has already been conducted on "Study on Potential for Local Language Computing in India" by IIT, Bangalore and Manufacturers Association for Information Technology (MAIT). This covers Hindi and Tamil as case study. It was found that the potential for multilingual computing solution is estimated at around Rs. 120-125 crs over a 5 year time frame (Rs. 38 crs. in the States of Hindi belt and Tamil Nadu.)

2. The following has been accomplished through the initiatives taken by the Ministry of Information Technology (MIT), MIT societies, Private Sector & Multinational Companies. The efforts in pipeline are also listed with suitable remarks:

a. Operating Systems:

- PC-DOS (Disk Operating System) in Hindi
- Windows 2000 with Hindi support
- Language Tool Kit for Apple Computers

b. Environment for Hindi:

- GIST Card for UNIX and DOS Platforms
- GIST Shell for DOS
- GIST Terminal for Multi-user Platforms
- GIST SDK
- Toolkits for S/W developers for developing Indian Language solutions

c. Commonly used Packages in Hindi:

- Word Processing Packages
- Spreadsheet
- Database Management
- Desk-Top Publishing
- Fonts & Clip Art S/W
- Plug-ins for various Windows based S/W
- Accounting Packages
- Banking S/W
- Spell Checkers
- Electronic Dictionary (English-to-Hindi)
- Transliteration
- Internet Content Creation Tools

- Mailing software

d. Customised Applications with Hindi support

- Doordarshan Applications like video subtitling
- Pagers
- Indian Railway Reservation & Ticketing
- Election ID Cards
- Land Records Management System
- Hindi Teaching Packages

e. Internet Based Services in Hindi

- E-mail
- Chat
- Newspapers and a variety of content

f. Training material in Hindi

- DOEACC 'O' Level Courseware

g. Hindi S/W in Public Domain

- Two Fonts with keyboard drivers (downloadable)
- Basic word processors

h. Introduction of Hindi in IT curricula

- MIT played proactive role of introducing Hindi in IT curricula designed for Secondary and Senior Secondary schools of CBSE.
- Also prepared IT-enriched curriculum for functional Hindi at BA & MA levels.

i. Consortium of Indian Language Technology Developers

- MIT has taken initiative to form a consortium which is due to be announced

j. Hindi in UNL (Universal Networking Language) of UN

- IIT, Mumbai is nodal agency for developing dictionary, enconverter and deconverter for the Universal Networking Language - a major initiative of UN University that encompasses 15 world languages. Hindi is one of these.

Major Events of Year 2000

- Meeting of UTC #85: Unicode Technical Committee on 7-10 November, 2000 at NCR Office at San Diego

There are 25 full members and 43 associate members of the Unicode Consortium. 13 full members participated. About 100 different issues/ motions were discussed. Separate discussion on Indic scripts took place in a subgroup consisting of Mr. Ken Whistler (representing Apple & Sybase), Dr. Mark E. Davis (President Unicode, also representing IBM), Mr. Michael Kaplan (representing Trigeminal Software) and Mr. Hideki Hiura (representing Sun Microsystems) and Dr. Om Vikas (representing Ministry of Information Technology, Govt. of India).