

4. Language Technology Showcase at Elitex 2003

Elitex-2003 held on 28-29 April at Indian Habitat Center, Lodi Road, New Delhi

The Elitex' 2003 was inaugurated by **Shri Arun Shourie, Hon'ble Minister of Communications & Information Technology and disinvestment**. The keynote address was delivered by **Dr. R. Chidambaram, Principal Scientific Adviser to Government of India**. Both the Hon'ble Guests during their speeches mentioned the importance of IT Sector and the efforts required to take the advantages of ICT to the masses. The role of close association between Academia, R&D institutions and industries emerged clearly and emphasized.

The Hon'ble Minister announced to set up a committee by DIT to prepare a report on "e-readiness" of different States as well as various Government Departments and Ministries with a View to encourage competition and enhance e-readiness. He also suggested to make ELITEX as the mega IT event highlighting the advantage and utility of IT sector to the general masses. The Hon'ble Minister has also announced the establishment of new institutions in the area of microelectronics and nano technologies and assured his full support for the R&D activities in the frontier areas of technologies. He desired the continuation of ELITEX as annual feature of DIT.

The scope of the ELITEX' 2003 has been enlarged to include **official participation's from European Countries besides the Central and West Asia, Gulf and Latin American and SAARC Countries**. The member countries of Asia Electronics Info-Communications Union (AEIU) were also invited. The official delegations of these countries were expected to focus on the opportunities and tie-up possibilities with India, in a separate session during the seminar.

The Seminar Sessions were held on the theme of Elitex' 2003 was **"Moving up the Value Chain: India - A Global Destination for R&D"**, Technology Incubation, Global IP Protection & Partnership, Emerging Growth areas, Innovation to enhance Digital Unite, R&D Led Success Stories and Human Resource Development Initiatives. Seminar Sessions also covered Enhancing e-Readiness as well

as Technologies developed under DIT in Electronics and IT.

All the sessions attracted large participants. Besides creating awareness about DIT technologies, Elitex' 2003 promoted R&D industry linkages essential for the absorption of indigenous technology by the industry and for stimulating innovations. **Dr. Om Vikas, Senior Director & Head TDIL Mission, DIT** brought out the information revolution, taking place, and in the emerging new paradigm Language technology coupled with IT plays a key role in bringing digital divide. He also elaborated about the TDIL programme of the Department, focussed areas of R&D and the technical resource centres in various languages set up under the programme.

During the inauguration, the following items related to Indian Language Technologies were released by Hon'ble Minister at the Elitex' 2003 :

- **VishwaBharat** – Release of CD containing all the volumes of "VishvaBharat". A publication from DIT giving the latest development in the field of multilingual technology.



- **Angla-Hindi**-Web based Translation (<http://anglahindi.iitk.ac.in/>). MAT system provides rough translation from a source language English into a target language Hindi. This output may be post edited with specially designed tools for enhancing the translation accuracy. This Translation Support System has been developed by IIT Kanpur (Resource Centre for Indian language in Hindi and Nepali language).
- **C-DAC's Nashir** - a word processing and pub-

lishing software for Urdu, Sindhi and Kashmiri caters to the scripts written from right to left, and is packed with features like Urdu spell checker, Hindi-Urdu transliteration, table and column layouts, support for Nastaliq and Naskh scripts with calligraphic fonts, keyboard shortcuts, search and replace, text formatting tools and support for UNICODE. Nashir's versatility lies in the fact that it allows use of multiple languages simultaneously, that is one can use Urdu, Sindhi, Kashmiri, Arabic and English text, all in one text frame. It also supports object linking and embedding (OLE).

- **Mobile Digital Library (Dware Dware Gyan Sampada)** : An outlet for Digital Library creation in the form of Mobile Library was set up by CDAC Noida in two vehicles, with internet access, so that public at large can visit them to see and get books of their choices in print form as well. The vehicles will be visiting even remote and rural areas to demonstrate this feature and usage of internet for Library Applications. This pilot project will provide public at large an opportunity to get books of their choices from a very large set being created under Universal Digital library, and get hard copy as well.

Following Centres associated with TDIL participated and demonstrated their innovative products & technologies at Elitex 2003.

C-DAC, Noida

- Translations English to Hindi

MAT system speedily provides draft translation from a source language English to the target language Hindi. This draft output may be post edited for better readability and communicability. This English to Hindi Translation Support System has been developed by IIT Kanpur and C-DAC Noida.

- Vishwakosh Hindi

Online Hindi Vishwakosha is an encyclopedia developed by Nagri Pracharini Sabha, Varanasi. It comprises 12 volumes and contains approximately 12,000 pages of information. It is made available on the internet by C-DAC Noida and Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Agra

- IT Terminology

It is collection of IT terminology in English and Hindi to promote the use of Information Technology among Hindi users. It is developed by Commission for Scientific & Technical Terminology and made web enabled by C-DAC Noida.

- Chitraksharika : Hindi OCR software. It is based on the core technology provided by ISI Kolkata and further developed by C-DAC Noida.
- Lekhika : A platform independent Hindi Word processor, which includes utilities like Spell Checker, Transliteration and Calendar etc besides normal editing features.
- GyanNidhi : A multilingual parallel corpora of Indian languages. It contains the digitised data in HTML/XML format along with a tool Prabandhika to manage the data.

TIET, Patiala

- Wordpro-Likhan 1.0 : Bilingual Punjabi/English Word processor
- Gurmukhi Optical character Recognition Software
- Gurmukhi To Shahmukhi Transliteration tool

BHU, Varanasi

- Nitishatkam : Shri Bhatrihari classic
- Pragya : Mahamana Samriti Aank
- Prachin Bharat mein Bhotiki

C-DAC, Kolkata

- TTS : Hindi Vani

The Hindi Vani is the windows based software for converting Hindi text files into speech.

C-DAC, Thiruvananthapuram

- TTS Subhashini: The Malayalam Text to Speech System
- Malayalam OCR : It can be integrated with a Malayalam text to speech system to get a text reading system for the visually challenged.

- Sandesam : Malayalam E-Mail Server
- Nayana : Optical Character Recognition system for Malayalam
- Aksharmala : Malayalam Font Package and Script Manager
- Ezhuthachau : A Malayalam Tutor package
- Malayalam Search Engine
- Script Manager

COIL-Tech

Apart from handling technical issues such as standardisation, the COIL-Tech (Indian Languages Industry Consortium) is also actively involved in market development for the Local Language Applications Industry.

COIL-Tech coordinated display of Language Technology and Products at the TDIL stall at the ELITEX 2003 held on April 28 & 29, 2003 at New Delhi. The display was executed in a highly professional manner, highlighting the product details and technological competence of COIL-Tech members. Six leading companies, including those in the products space, participated in the event. A significant number of business queries were generated.

COIL-Tech members displayed the following products:

- **Modular Infotech Pvt. Ltd.** – Displayed Shree-Lipi word processor, Ankur 1.2 & Ankur Office Suites, Meghdoot Mail, Shree Messenger board,

Shree Discussions forum and Smart Bazaar – a bilingual multi-user software.

- **Summit Information Technologies Ltd.** - Displayed Indian languages Text and Database applications, Web content management, Publishing and media technologies.
- **Prologix Software Solutions Pvt. Ltd.** - Displayed **Vaachak** – India's first high quality, fully indigenous, Indian language Text to Speech Synthesiser.
- **Webdunia** – The portals www.epatra.com, www.evarta.com, www.webulagam.com, www.weblokam.com & www.webprancham.com for various Indian languages were displayed.
- **WeP Peripherals Ltd.** – Displayed Customer Solutions in Languages
 - Line Matrix Printer : Railways Chart printing, Delhi Vidyut Board Electricity Bills
 - Dot Matrix Printer : Land Records, Railways chart printing, State Schools

*(Courtesy : TDIL Programme,
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