5. CoIL-Net Programme

5.1 CoIL-NET (Content Development and IT Localisation Network) for Bridging the Digital Divide

Introduction

IT and Internet have emerged as productivity and knowledge enhancing technologies. Collaborative development is fast emerging as the norm of the future technological advancements, and their diffusion and absorption in the society. As an enabling technology IT could help reduce the knowledge gap across different linguistic groups encompassing over 95 per cent of India's population that is not English literate. It is, therefore, necessary that people should be able to use computers and other IT systems in their own language and derive benefits of enhanced productivity and better quality of life.

One of the measures in this direction is boosting IT in Indian languages to address the reality that India can become a major IT power only if IT penetration in the country deepens and widens, which in turn, is dependent on large-scale use of IT in Indian languages.

CoIL-Net programme is formulated encompassing a vision for all pervasive socio-economic developments by proliferating use of language specific IT based content, solutions and applications for bringing the benefits of IT revolution to the common citizen; requisite technology development and consequently bridging the existing digital divide in the Hindi speaking states of India.

Broad Objectives

* Providing a boost to IT localization for socio-economic developments
* Helping bridge the existing digital divide by appreciably improving IT penetration and awareness levels, using Hindi as medium of delivery, in the Hindi speaking states of MP, Chattisgarh, UP, Uttaranchal, Bihar, Jharkhand, and Rajasthan.

Immediate Goals

* To develop Core technology for the promotion of IT Localization in Hindi in the areas of language tools, customized software, information appliances, Internet and other access mechanisms, OCR, and text-to-speech;
* To develop Machine Aided Translation System from Hindi to English for a few specified domains;
* To develop Cultural Heritage Digital Library in Hindi with special focus on the identified 7 states;
* To promote preparation and publication of IT Learning Material in Hindi;
* To carry out content development, research and its production through various existing mechanisms and methodologies in selected areas of application so as to maximize the usage of IT and its benefits;
* To promote content digitization for promoting access and sharing of public sector information in Hindi;
* To develop tools, technologies and applications to provide the solutions in Hindi for taking IT to masses in the areas of **education & training, health, governance, agriculture, tourism and small business**;
* To develop test beds for IT education & training and IT-enabled services in Hindi medium in the areas of health, governance, agriculture, tourism and small businesses;
* To develop methodologies for content delivery, aggregation, management.
* To develop search engines, wizards, agents, smart tags for rich media content management
* Human resource development to carry forward IT Localization

Implementing Agencies

(1) Banasthali Vidyapith – IT localization solutions for Rajasthan;

(2) BHU, Varanasi – IT localization solutions for Uttar Pradesh;

(3) IIT Roorkee – IT localization solutions for Uttaranchal;

(4) New Government Polytechnic, Patna – IT localization solutions for Bihar;

(5) BIT, Ranchi – IT localization solutions for Jharkhand;

(6) IIITM, Gwalior – IT localization solutions for Madhya Pradesh;

(7) G G University, Bilaspur – IT localization solutions for Chattisgarh;

(8) C-DAC, Pune – Core Technology Development for Hindi;

(9) IIT, Kanpur – Hindi to English Machine Translation;

(10) IGNCA, New Delhi – Development of Digital Library for Regional Heritage;

(11) IETE, New Delhi – Books/Monographs in Hindi in emerging ICTs.

Overall monitoring and the review of the CoIL-Net programme is coordinated by Department of Information Technology, Ministry of Communications and Information technology, Govt. of India to ensure:

1. Enhancing awareness;

2. Improving IT penetration;

3. Deployment of IT localised solutions;

4. Availability of IT learning material in Hindi;

5. Standardisation.

The various activities and targets defined for the CoIL-Net centres are described below:

(A) Application Development

The application development in **e-health** aims at providing

i. Information for first-aid, general health, hygiene and nutrition.

ii. Model for providing integrated information on hospitals, blood banks & labs for doctors and patients.

iii. Linking primary health centres with city hospitals

iv. Computerization of Ayurvedic dispensary in the region

The application development in **e-education** aims at

i. Learning modules for competitive examinations.

ii. Development of interactive learning content.

iii. Distance education for selected schools.

iv. Information on vocational courses

v. School Information Management System

The application development **e-governance** aims at

i. Providing Mandi rates to farmers

ii. Other business related information.

The application development in **e-tourism** aims at

i. Tourism Portal for the State Government

ii. Providing information on tribal tradition & culture.

The application development in **e-business** aims at

i. A model for small and medium enterprises.

ii. Employment opportunities in IT.

(B) Content Creation in Hindi

It aims at development and make available

i. Digital content on classic works of other Indian languages translated into Hindi on website.

ii. Cultural Digital Library in Hindi with special focus on Hindi speaking areas.

iii. Creating contents in Hindi on emerging technologies by way of publication (Books & Monographs) & Electronic Contents CD's and web portal.

(C) IT Localization Clinic / Awareness Programme

All the CoIL-Net Centres would organize the IT Localization Clinic to train software entrepreneurs for developments and deployments of IT localized applications. Also they would organize the Trainer's Training programme and IT Awareness programme in their region for increasing the Information Technology penetration.

(D) IT Primer Modules/Books on IT in Hindi

CoIL-Net centres could develop IT Primer Module, IT Course material for introducing IT to University and bring out the books in Hindi on emerging technologies in IT.

(E) Tools and Technology Development

Technology support centre of Pune would provide technical support to CoIL-Net centres and make available the Unicode fonts with key board drivers, Transliteration tools, ISCII/ Unicode search engine, Java tools for Hindi and Plugin fonts converters.

The progress of the CoIL-Net centres is presented in the subsequent articles.