News

30 NDMC Schools to Impart Education through 'Smart Classes'

Under the Centre's Digital India initiative, 30 NDMC schools will impart education through 'Smart Classes', officials said in New Delhi on Wednesday.

In the first phase, this digital platform of imparting education will be adopted in over 440 classrooms of these schools, a release said. New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) has roped in Extra marks Education, a digital learning solution provider, for the purpose, it added. Extra marks will undertake the work of supplying, installing, commissioning and functioning of hardware and uploading of educational digital content.

The content will be provided in both Hindi and English medium sections from classes VI to XII. Union ministers M Venkaiah Naidu and Rao Inderjit Singh, along with NDMC Chairperson Naresh Kumar, inaugurated NP Co-ed Secondary School at Kidwai Nagar on Wednesday which will impart education through smart classes, the release added.

Source: http://www.hindustantimes.com/ education/30-ndmc-schools-to-impart- education-through-smart-classes/story- BIDmHthkL2XCZe8cTi48LK.html

Vice President Hamid Ansari: 21st century Libraries can help Fight Poverty

Libraries of the 21st century can help fight poverty and narrow the gap between rich and poor, said Vice President Hamid Ansari while inaugurating the three-day 19th National Convention on Knowledge, Library and Information Networking (NACLIN) at Tezpur University on Wednesday. "For the first time in history, perhaps, the poor have an opportunity to enhance their wealth through the creation and use of knowledge. And libraries can play a central role in this notable movement," said Ansari at the convention organized jointly by DELNET-Developing Library Network, New Delhi and Tezpur University.

"DELNET is a major resource sharing library network connecting more than 5,600 libraries in India and eight other countries. NACLIN 2016 will discuss a large number of latest issues under the theme Smart Libraries and Inspired Librarians: Managing New Technologies, Digital Content and Service," he said. Ansari highlighted the role of DELNET in promoting information technology in library sector across the nation

and the concept of smart library. He further said Internet not only accelerates the pace of knowledge dissemination, but also gives rise to changing conception of knowledge, production and use.

Source: http://indianexpress.com/article/ india/india-news-india/vice-president-hamid- ansari-21st-century-libraries-can-help-fight- poverty-3103981/

Govt starts Digitizing Delhi's Land Records

The Delhi government has started the process of digitizing land records and the data will soon be made available online. The Revenue Department is implementing the process to develop a comprehensive and transparent land records management system, said Deputy Commissioner (IT/Central) Rupesh Kumar Thakur. Starting Tuesday, the department will issue only digitally-signed Record of Rights (ROR) at the district offices of the Delhi government, for the 'khatas' that are digitally signed. The service of issuance of digitally signed ROR shall be offered to Delhi residents at Indraprastha Bhu-Lekh (Delhi Land Record Information) of the Revenue Department. Mr Thakur said that land records of all rural villages of Delhi — except for the villages of north district and the villages that are under consolidation, inquiry, PLR act or have mutilated records have been digitised and digitally signed.

Source: http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/ Delhi/govt-starts-digitising-delhis-land-records/ article9293174.ece?ref=tpnews

Centre discusses Fast-track Plan for Digital Payments Ecosystem

Following incidents of inconveniences being faced by citizens in light of government withdrawing old currency notes, a two-member ministerial group met on Monday to formulate a strategy to put the Centre's plans for creating an ecosystem for cashless transactions on the fast-track, a senior government official told *The Indian Express.* Coal and power minister, Piyush Goyal and IT minister, Ravi Shankar Prasad, on directive from the Prime Minister's Office, took a meeting to make a strategy to fast-track cashless transactions in the system to diffuse the current crisis. It was scheduled to be followed by another meeting at the PMO later in the evening to discuss ways to promote cashless transactions," the official said.

The issue of unified payments interface (UPI) was also raised in the meeting. The UPI system was launched in August this year by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), with 21 banks on board. However, the list did not include some of the major banks, which joined the system earlier this month. Banks such as the State Bank of India, HDFC Bank and Bank of Baroda did not go offer UPI services to their account holders in the first tranche. The official said that following the government's decision to discontinue old denominations of Rs 500 and Rs 1,000, more banks are likely to join the bandwagon. Even as mobile wallets in the country, operated by firms such as Paytm, MobiKwik, Oxigen, Freecharge, have seen phenomenal growth in the past few years, the number of transactions through these wallets, compared with other cashless means, was very low. According to data provided by the Reserve Bank of India, only 603.98 million transactions were made during 2015–16 through m-wallets, compared with 10.04 billion transactions on credit and debit cards.

Source: http://indianexpress.com/article/business/ business-others/centre-discusses-fast-track-plan- for-digital-payments-ecosystem-4388582/

Digital Dabbawalas: From delivering dabbas to offering Click-based Services

It's been more than a decade that the world woke up to the reality that Mumbai's lunch-dabba system is an act of urban genius, some called it as the most ingenious food delivery system

in the world. The Forbes magazine gave the dabbawalas (lunchbox deliverymen) a Six Sigma performance rating or a 99.99999 percent of precision, which means they make one error in 16 million deliveries!

In recent times, with the world and India taking digital leaps, the dabbawalla's too have found the need to embrace technology and offer click-based services.

"Most of our staff is semi-literate. We earn around Rs. 10,000 to 12,000 per month and were looking for opportunities to have an additional source of income. Our Prime Minister is working towards Digital India mission, and when we got an opportunity from Anulom Technologies for rental registrations, we too decided to offer digital services," says UlhasMuke, President, Mumbai Tiffin Box Suppliers Association.

Around 5,000 dabbawalas travel over 60 to 70 km daily to deliver over 2 lakh lunchboxes across Mumbai, and have earned a reputation for their meticulous operations, integrity and honesty. In October this year, with the launch of digitaldabbawala.com, they are now expanding their delivery from just lunch boxes to last-mile delivery of digital services. This is a combined initiative with Anulom Technologies, a government approved rental-agreement registration website.

Source: http://cio.economictimes.indiatimes.com/ dobig/news/detail/1024

Degree screening goes digital

With the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 27th October, 2016, approving the establishment of a National Academic Depository (NAD), all academic degrees, certificates and awards in the country would soon be digitally available for verification.

"The NAD would be established and operationalized in three months and would be rolled out throughout the country in 2017-18," said a Cabinet release. Union Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar said

after the Cabinet meeting that the measure would be implemented with this administrative decision and it would not require the introduction of a Bill. Academic institutions would be directed to upload and authenticate all documents in digital form.

Source: http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/ Degree-screening-goes-digital/article15833558.ece

Digital India gets local language booster

At a time when global technology giants such as Google and Microsoft are exploring ways to incorporate Indian languages in their products and services, a government-run research organizational has developed a language interface that facilitates real-time translation of online content in more than 15 languages. Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), a research organization of the Department of Electronics and Information Technology, has developed a localization framework that translates content from websites, applications and databases into multiple Indian languages, said Rajat Moona, director-general, C-DAC. "There is a huge government focus on e-governance. Under Digital India, the government has been talking about making digital information databases and services available to citizens... This requires massive inputs in languages, because 90 per cent of people require their local language to be able to consume that information," explained Moona.

The Digital India initiative aims to connect 1.2 billion Indians through internet and provide government services online at an estimated investment of Rs 1.13 lakh crore over the next three to five years. "If a government website is in English, it's a challenge to automatically translate it into Indian languages. We have been working on a mechanism that can automatically translate content into Indian languages," said Moona.

Earlier this month, C-DAC collaborated with the Election Commission to launch an application under which the enrolment forms

and electoral services were made available in 15 Indian languages. These forms, which were earlier available in one official language, can now be converted into 15 Indian languages in real time. C-DAC is also implementing the language interfacing abilities for mygov.in and farmer.gov.in. "We have been doing it in an automated manner without doing content development. Content development is being done by appropriate agencies, we only do language interface, and that is a major focus area," Moona added.

Source: http://www.business-standard.com/article/technology/digital-india-gets-local-language-booster-116092400708_1.html

Karnataka: Rural Wi-Fi for 'digital inclusion' of village entrepreneurs

Karnataka government on Monday launched rural Wi-Fi services in 11 gram panchayats, with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah saying such a 'digital inclusion' will give village-level entrepreneurs ready access to online market place for their products and services. He also launched the "Grand Challenge Karnataka", an initiative under the multi-sector Start-up Policy

to scout for new technologies or innovations that can offer solutions to some of the prevalent problems in the state. At the inauguration of Bengaluru ITE.Biz 2016, an annual IT event, Siddaramaiah said with "digital inclusion becoming the most important parameter of growth and economic development", it is the intention of the government to see that the last mile connectivity is provided in all villages. "For this we will be banking on the availability of National Optic Fibre Network up to the Gram Panchayat level," he added.

The gram panchayats benefitting from the Wi-Fi initiative include two each in Mysuru, Tumkuru, Gadag, Ballari and Kalburgi and one in Bagalkot district. The rural population in these gram panchayats can make use of the services by buying concessional Wi-Fi vouchers.The impact of digital inclusion will be manifold which would enable village-level entrepreneurs ready access to online market place and have opportunity to explore new markets for their products and services, he said.

Source: http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-news-india/rural-wi-fi-for-digital-inclusion-of-village-entrepreneurs-4400328/