The Culture of Mobile is a book published by Digital Empowerment Foundation under its mBillionth Awards platform, to celebrate some of the best mobile-based initiatives and applications across South Asia.

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As 2016 inched closer to 2017, India boasted over 600 million unique MOBILE users, making it the second largest mobile market in the world. Looking forward, India aims to add 330 million more mobile subscribers by 2020. But comparitively, mobile Internet penetration is expected to reach only 48% of the population, according to The Mobile Economy – India 2016. This is the paradox of India; home to the second largest online population of the world, home to 70 per cent of the country’s offline population.

It is also a country where on one side, a large percentage of people are going online for the first time through affordable smartphones and falling data rates, while millions still suffer from unaffordability. However, affordability alone is not the barrier to access; lack of infrastructure or seamless connectivity is a major barrier as well. As more and more businesses transition to online, ordinary citizens are encouraged and motivated to get online too. India’s feeble 109th ranking for mobile Internet speed (where global average stands at 20.28 mbps against India’s 8.80 mbps) and 76th global position for broadband speed, places us much below our South Asian neighbours Myanmar (94), Nepal (99) and Pakistan (89). The listing by popular speed testing service Ookla shows the long way we have to cover before we can make quality Internet connectivity a reality.

With rapidly expanding mobile penetration and massive growth potential for the data market, there is no doubt that possibilities are immense, especially given the entry of Jio in the market. But there is a long way to go before the Indian population can truly access online services envisaged under the envisioned dream of Digital India. Faster download speeds, wider coverage and low-cost data plans need to be championed by private companies and the government. Bullet trains can wait, India needs bullet Internet.

The shortlisted candidates and the winners of mBillionth Awards 2018 are a testimony to the power of telecom-based services and mobile applications that are democratising access to information and services. I congratulate the winners, and thank the wonderful Jury and the event partners for their support.
The journey for innovative social entrepreneurs and mobile technology wizards can be full of ups and downs and riddled with obstacles such as management or scalability issues. Three key ‘chasms’ or deep valleys that digital innovators must jump over are, from concept to prototype; from prototype to a sustainable model; and significant scaling up from early users to segments of society. Here are five ways in which mobile innovators can scale up their offerings.

SCALING THE PRODUCT
Product managers must be experienced in at least one of the four key areas (business, technology, social interactions or UX), and should be able to manage practice of all four. Product managers should be good at the operations’ side, as well as in team leadership roles. They need to creativity and cohesively, blend quantitative and qualitative user data, and must be up to date with market trends and research reports. The product or service should also keep up with the rapidly changing technology trends and adoption patterns amongst users. All products and services are becoming increasingly digitally-enabled, and mobiles have become the core platforms for a social innovator to scale their business nationally and globally.

METRICS
There are at least five kinds of metrics that innovators must keep in mind to scale up their businesses. These are, Activity metrics, which include entry level measures such as web traffic and application downloads; Process metrics that reflect progress in areas like acquisition costs, higher outreach efficiency, better conversion rates; Knowledge metrics, which cover best practices and validated user insights; People metrics, which include user and employee satisfaction; and Business and Social metrics that address revenue growth, sustainability and social impact.
LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT
Talent, leadership, culture and organisational structure vary across different points of an innovator’s journey. Motivation and perseverance are not enough at scale stage, founders need to sharpen social skills, business operations, and relationship management. As an organisation grows, more and more of the project experience becomes codified into repeatable efficient processes. The experimental culture in the early stages gives way to an efficiency-driven culture in later phases. Founders and the leadership team should also become comfortable with the tricky issues of hiring, promotions and firing. Founders themselves may need to coach and be coached, and improve collaboration and delegation.

INCUBATORS AND ACCELERATORS
Incubators help innovators with development of prototype, whereas accelerators help them scale the user-base beyond the early adopters. A number of activities are used in these phases such as: hackathons, boot camps, weekend sprints and community engagements with makerspaces. Funding can also be provided by incubators and accelerators via grants or investments. In addition to being tech and business focused, a number of accelerators and incubators in India are addressing the social sector as well, like Startup Oasis in Jaipur and NSRCEL at IIM Bangalore.

BOARDS OF ADVISORS AND DIRECTORS
A well-chosen and smoothly functioning board can support digital innovators, help understand milestones and help to achieve them faster, and hold the management accountable. Effective boards help start-ups and social enterprises prepare for grant applications, connect with partner organisations across the country, and recruit appropriate talent.

In sum, there are challenges that digital innovators face in areas ranging from product evolution to organisational management. The five steps described above can help harness the transformative power of technology for sustainable social advantage.
The mBillionth Grand Jury 2018 convened in New Delhi viewed some extraordinary entries which have used mobile phones to empower communities, create an equitable & inclusive society and alleviate human suffering. The ten categories effectively represent our world today along with its various dichotomies, such as urban and rural; or the millennials and people who have remained outside the fringes of development.

The innovative ways in which digital and mobile solutions have been deployed in healthcare, especially pre-natal and neo-natal, will pave the way for easy and affordable healthcare facilities even in remote areas. ‘Agriculture and Environment’ is another category that showcases brilliant use of mobiles as devices for communication, increased access to information and government services. This category depicts a fast-growing base for precision agriculture. Further, the inclusion of ‘Smart Settlements and Urbanization’ category with features such as digitising and aggregating parking spaces, toilets in cities and increasing Internet penetration in rural India through public Wi-Fi hotspots; has been an eye-opener as it has brought the rapidly increasing urban spaces into light. Another interesting feature noted was the breaking down of the language barrier. Most applications today are multi-lingual and multi-dimensional, giving technology a unique applicability and customization that was missing in the earlier innovations.

The mBillionth awards do a great job of collating new ideas, but that is not all they do. mBillionth Awards are quite literally documenting the history of the future.
Mobile technology has made the world a smaller place. Information proliferation such as content that caters to children, youth and adults alike, has enabled an information based, borderless world to live in. No bigger than the size of your palm, these devices have brought the world into our hands through applications that automate, simplify, and engage with audiences via mere taps and swipes.

According to a Statista report, India’s interest in smartphones has increased significantly. In 2018, India will have 28 per cent penetration of smartphones; that’s an 11 per cent growth in two years. The question beckons - do mobile solutions have a positive impact on the society? The answer is in the hands of the owner. Think about this, mobile applications have replaced several other devices of former prominence in our lives, and people are constantly moving further towards digital dependency in a growingly digital world. No more running errands to supermarkets, standing in long lines for travel tickets or paying bills, or waiting to connect with a loved one.

Connectivity is faster, information sharing is quicker, knowledge is more accessible and comfort is customisable; thanks to mobile solutions available to us today. Mobile technology has created world connectivity by way of a single device.
While we regularly celebrate entrepreneurs in the mainstream media, the Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF) has over the last decade and a half, built a growing community that recognizes initiatives that capture the imagination of the unspoken. DEF has been part of the journey of lakhs of people by slowly exposing them to world of Internet.

The mBillionth Awards 2018 awards Jury exposed me to initiatives that have brought together the government, private sector, entrepreneurs, civil society, reputed non-profits and individuals in using the mobile device as a tool to address a wide variety of challenges. Some of these challenges were focused on health and education industries, some focused on building awareness by using digital tools, some focused on enhancing service delivery and citizen engagement, while others on commerce. Discussing and debating these nominations in a day-long, undistracted session - thanks to host Facebook India – opened our eyes to a new, more diverse and creative South Asian region; and to how mobile devices and applications can be used imaginatively in constrained environments. mBillionth also reminds you of the mismatch in the larger narrative around digital illiteracy and service delivery. This is caused by either due to unavailability of reliable connectivity, lack of local language options and limited awareness or training programs.

If one were to drive India’s 21st century story on the strength of its digital backbone, it is imperative to recognize, support and solve more fundamental challenges. A recent article in a leading business newspaper stated that India has surpassed 120 million online shoppers, and if one is wondering why this is quite low for the scale of investments in comparison to say China, the mBillionth entrepreneurs may have some insightful insights.
Every year when I look at how organisations are leveraging mobile technology for social good, it gives me more confidence that we will be able to push the development agenda faster than ever before. The year 2018 is no different and I am really pleased to see the wide spectrum of innovative solutions that are emerging.

The vibrant technology ecosystem in India means that not only are we generating solutions for national development goals but that most of them can be offered to the rest of the world as well. This is indeed a huge opportunity for India to support global development goals.

My heartiest congratulations to all the winners across the award categories – you have something unique going on with your businesses and a recognition by a platform like mBillionth can only lead to better things for you in the future. I cannot wait for some of the nominated organisations to scale-up their solutions and possibly inspire a new wave of innovations.
NOMINATION

TOTAL NOMINATIONS
154

TOTAL NOMINATIONS AFTER SCREENING
130

SHORTLISTED
60

WINNERS
23

SPECIAL MENTIONS
04

CHAIRMAN’S DISTINCTIONS
02
STATISTICS

INDIA
NOMINATIONS RECEIVED - 121
SHORTLISTED NOMINATIONS - 46

NEPAL
NOMINATIONS RECEIVED - 02
SHORTLISTED NOMINATIONS - 02

PAKISTAN
NOMINATIONS RECEIVED - 05
SHORTLISTED NOMINATIONS - 03

SRI LANKA
NOMINATIONS RECEIVED - 04
SHORTLISTED NOMINATIONS - 02

BANGLADESH
NOMINATIONS RECEIVED - 22
SHORTLISTED NOMINATIONS - 07
INDIAN STATE-WISE NOMINATIONS (121)
SUMMARY OF NOMINATIONS

AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

WINNERS
02
Smart Krishi – Nepal
SourceTrace ESE™ Agri – India

SPECIAL MENTION
01
Pump Selection – India

SHORTLISTED
05
NaPanta - India
Smart Farm Solutions – India
Dhaan Mandi Crop Market – India
Krishi Call Centre - 16123– Bangladesh
Digital AgriMedia – India

BUSINESS & COMMERCE

WINNERS
03
Sixer Video – Sri Lanka
Jewelxy.com – India
forBinary – India

SHORTLISTED
05
Groww – India
I Got Skills – India
Foop – India
Daily Finance – India
Jugnoo – India
WINNER

01

Kashmir Through My Lens – India

SHORTLISTED

01

India Heritage Walks by Sahapedia – India

WINNERS

04

Bibhui – Bangladesh

KathaKhazana – India

Digital Tour Guide for Heritage Monuments – India

Savemom – India

SHORTLISTED

02

Her Ground – India

Stop Abortion Bring Life – Bangladesh

CULTURE & TOURISM

EARLY STAGE
WINNERS
02
SPECIAL MENTION
01
CHAIRMAN’S DISTINCTIONS
02
SHORTLISTED
03

GOVERNMENT & CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT

WINNERS
Community Policing Support Centre – India
Vara Koto – Bangladesh

SPECIAL MENTION
Nepal Immigration Mobile App – Nepal

CHAIRMAN’S DISTINCTIONS
MeeSeva - India
MPMobile App - India

SHORTLISTED
DESCO – Bangladesh
Digital Gujarat – India
Meri Sadak – India

HEALTH & WELL-BEING

WINNERS
Counseling Breast Cancer Patients – India
eChannelling Systems – Sri Lanka

SPECIAL MENTION
Transparent Hands – Pakistan

SHORTLISTED
Sammaan Foundation – India
Enable Blood – India
Hello Doctor – Bangladesh
INCLUSION & EMPOWERMENT

WINNERS
Drishti – India
MISSING – India
Jellow Communicator – India

SHORTLISTED
Baby Destination – India
Quick Self-Defense – India

LEARNING & EDUCATION

WINNERS
Eckovation: Social Learning Platform – India
EduRev – India

SHORTLISTED
Search English – Bangladesh
Aurat Raaj – Pakistan
Samagra – India
AAS Vidyalaya – India
Ben & Bella English – India
Digital Sakshar - Free Learning App – India
The Culture of Mobile

MEDIA & ENTERTAINMENT

WINNERS
- WebME – India
- Digital Goa – India

SPECIAL MENTION
- eTunes – Bangladesh

SHORTLISTED
- Girl Rising Game – India
- #SaveTheBoyChild #SaveTheGirls – India

SMART SETTLEMENTS AND URBANISATION

WINNERS
- Toilet Finder – India
- ParkEZ – India

SHORTLISTED
- IConnectWe – India
- Project Bazaar.in – India
On the following pages, you will read brief descriptions about 60 initiatives and projects from all over South Asia that have leveraged the power of mobile technology to reach out to a wider audience or target groups and build innovative solutions towards a digitally-inclusive society.
23 WINNERS

04 SPECIAL MENTIONS

02 CHAIRMAN’S DISTINCTIONS

60 SHORTLISTED
AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

WINNER

Smart Krishi – Nepal

WINNER

SourceTrace ESE™ Agri – India

SPECIAL MENTION

Pump Selection – India

SHORTLISTED

NaPanta – India

Smart Farm Solutions – India

Dhaan Mandi Crop Market – India

Krishi Call Centre 16123 – Bangladesh

Digital AgriMedia – India
Smart Krishi is a mobile application that leverages smart phone ubiquity and data connectivity in rural India by equipping farmers with critical information and inputs at every stage of farming. By utilising social media to deliver training in areas such as livestock farming, Smart Krishi is curating a flourishing market place for farmers to list and sell their produce.

With over a lakh downloads for their application, Smart Krishi is developing to become Nepal's largest agro application with a desire to soon extend to all cities of Nepal and even go international. With prominent features like daily market price, weather information and on-ground intervention, Smart Krishi is enabling farmers to enhance their capacity and businesses. While the application is currently available in android version, it will soon be launched in iOS version as well.
With over 100 thousand downloads, SourceTrace application is already a pioneer in agricultural innovation for digitally intervening in a majorly Internet-less market.

Available in many languages such as English, Hindi, Tamil, French, Spanish, Swahili and Bahai; SourceTrace Solution has impacted more than 600 thousand farmers across 22 countries in 3 continents. The application enables a smallholder farmer, at the edge of connectivity and digital literacy, to operate the application through simple interface. Thus enabling them to access a vast consumer market in developing countries.

It collects data from mobile devises and converts them into smart, easy and sophisticated analytics that enables a quick response to farmer's concern and requirement and also helps to provide better market linkage and advisory services.

**SourceTrace ESE™ Agri**

**SourceTrace System India Pvt Ltd.**

www.sourcetrace.com

India
Launched by Punjab Agricultural University, Pump Selection enables farmers to fully understand the operating conditions of their farm and increase the energy efficiency of the pump-set, by matching the right pump to the farm’s needs.

The application maps the area under different crops or measures the groundwater level and uses such inputs to assess pump requirements such as motor rating and size of delivery pipe. The application enhances the energy efficiency of a field and reduces electricity wastage.

The application is available in English, Punjabi and Hindi and addresses the need to find more suitable and sustainable irrigation methods. Pump Selection is India’s first mobile application that empowers farmers to understand their land’s requirements through digital mapping and enables them to utilise a suitable energy efficient pump set for irrigation.

Pump Selection
Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana (India)
www.pau.edu
https://goo.gl/8CSbFg
India
With over 80 thousand downloads since 2017, NaPanta, a digital platform for agriculture, is trying to address the gaps in pre-harvest management. Available in English and Telugu, NaPanta is growing rapidly in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. It equips a farmer with daily market prices, expense tracking and information about crop management techniques. It also provides an online market for farm equipments and produce.

Smart Farm Solutions, launched in 2010, offers a mobile-based solution to farmers by covering topics such as planning, sowing seeds, application of fertilisers and pesticides, weather tracking, harvesting and other day-to-day activities. It supports multiple languages and is characterised by prominent features such as farmers’ registrations, farm alerts, crop stage monitoring etc.
The Culture of Mobile

DHAAN MANDI

Dhaan Mandi is a unique and novel idea to provide farmers with their own market. Dhaan Mandi allows farmers to sell their crops, buy produce and assess market rates and demand from potential buyers from around the world. The application is available for free. Launched in 2016, with over 12 thousand downloads, the application is available both in English and Hindi languages.

KRISHI CALL CENTRE 16123

Launched in 2014, in Bangladesh, Krishi Call Centre - 16123 is a phone-based consultancy service that helps farmers and others to get advice on any pertaining matter such as agricultural practices, disease management, innovation, weather, price information etc. It is easy to use and caters to a farmer who may not be educated or might be technologically backward.
Digital AgriMedia Video Application has, in the span of 9 months, seen around 30 thousand downloads. Launched in early 2018, it is a video application dedicated to farmers. It provides videos on complete cultivation process, farmers’ success stories, farmers’ urgent question, agriculture news, latest agriculture technologies amongst others. It is assisting farmers through digital technology, to improve their agricultural practices.
BUSINESS & COMMERCE

WINNER
Sixer Video – Sri Lanka
WINNER
Jewelxy.com – India
WINNER
forBinary – India

SHORTLISTED
Groww – India
I Got Skills – India
Foop – India
Daily Finance – India
Jugnoo – India
A match between a company and aspiring talent needs to be perfect. Thus, the hiring process can take up to weeks to ensure that the teaming is right. Sixer Video enables recruiters to hire talent through an efficient system. It is primarily a screening process that provides tools to a hiring authority to assess candidates through video submissions to simplify and hasten the process. Recruiters can then decide whom to meet for the next round. This creates a linear mechanism to shortlist candidates by erasing the need to meet every candidate in the preliminary rounds. Launched in 2017, in Colombo, Sri Lanka, the application has already seen around 800 video uploads. Features like iOS and Android compatibility, simple user-interface amongst others, have enabled the company to expand to Bangladesh and Pakistan as well.
By creating an innovative online marketplace for the jewellery industry, Jewelxy Marketplace is reinventing how traders and buyers interact and trade, by creating a platform accessible for free. The application provides an online inventory of products to suppliers and dealers, while also enabling networking between a growing consumer base. A 24*7 available facility provides real time updates and analytics to producers and consumers, thus creating genuine opportunities and a successful online business presence. Jewellery is a booming business and one that caters to an ever growing business, especially in a country like India. Thus an innovative concept like Jewelxy.com is not only simplifying how jewellery traders can create new and more long lasting businesses for the jewellery industry, but is also ensuring a more strengthened trading system.
In a growing mobile-based economy, innovation in mobile phone technology and its uses, is finding new avenues every single day. forBinary is a mobile-first platform that caters to the Indian market and its Internet users, to build their own custom application for their businesses. Features such as broadcasting, information showcase, reporting, advanced forms, product listing, online payment facility etc. provide the organisation with easy-to-use tools to simplify their communications.

The platform is accessible in many languages such as English, Hindi, Marathi, Kannada, Tamil and Malayalam and has already build a strong client base of over 220+ clients across SMEs, governments, enterprises and colleges.

forBinary

www.forbinary.com

https://goo.gl/KeJoch

India
**GROWW**

Groww is a one-year-old application, which has seen over a lakh downloads till date. Groww aims to make financial services accessible to everyone in India. By simplifying products like mutual funds and encouraging people to invest even a mere 100 rupees; it is making financial decisions democratic and accessible to all. Launched in 2017, Groww is enabling financial independence to those on the periphery of technological developments.

**I GOT SKILLS**

I Got Skills is an online digital marketplace for services and opportunities related to skill development and livelihood. To connect employers to job seekers, I Got Skills is providing candidates with training and counselling services to match them to their apt career choices. It was launched in March 2018 and is available in English and Kannada. It is trying to enhance proficiency and employability of job seekers by enhancing their skills and expanding their market.
FOOP

Foop brings together retailers, customers, brands and distributors together on a common platform to transact, interact and promote their products. Foop is powered by social media and provides an easy-to-use platform to those who are unable to adapt easily to technology. It was launched in 2017 and has seen over 6000 downloads so far. It is simplifying marketing via social media to give more ownership to small business owners.

DAILY FINANCE

Daily Finance simplifies financing for small-scale firms by helping them manage their monetary exchanges and transactions through an intuitive accounting software. The application provides complete information about all the loans transacted and all the due amounts. Users also have access to detailed reports. The application was launched in 2017 and is available in English, Hindi, Spanish, Telugu and Tamil.
Jugnoo works as an auto-rickshaw hailing application, and is trying to bridge the gap between underutilised auto-rickshaws and a high demand for quick and in-between mobility. Jugnoo is not only providing mobility solutions and also connecting shopkeepers and service providers to customers. Jugnoo’s focus is to become a leading player in these cities and become a household name for daily commute and local services provider for daily needs. Launched in 2014, Jugnoo has seen over 48 lakh downloads till date.
WINNER
Kashmir Through My Lens – India

SHORTLISTED
India Heritage Walks by Sahapedia – India
Kashmir, stricken with its own misrepresentations and violence, is also known as a paradise on earth. Kashmir Through My Lens is a platform that wishes to revive the latter image, which Kashmir has been known for since a long time.

The social media-based platform is trying to convert inaccurate stereotypes into more relevant representations, by using artistic tools such as photography, film, poetry and storytelling to bring forth real stories of Kashmiris.

With over 56 thousand followers on Instagram, the creative platform of compelling stories of Kashmir and its culture, homes, people and food is becoming a powerful medium for stories. The platform is available in Hindi and English languages.

Kashmir Through My Lens
www.kashmirthroughmylens.com
@kashmirthroughmylens
India
India Heritage Walks by Sahapedia aims to spread awareness about local cultures and landscapes, by bringing together nature enthusiasts and experts to create a unique learning experience. One can read articles, watch videos, listen to interviews, visit historic sites virtually and browse image galleries. One can also visit historic sites and natural spaces through its virtual walks. Sahapedia is an inclusive platform as it caters to participants with special needs and also with underprivileged audiences. It was launched in 2016 and is available in Hindi, English and other regional languages as well.
EARLY STAGE

WINNER

Bibhui – Bangladesh

WINNER

KathaKhazana – India

WINNER

Digital Tour Guide for Heritage Monuments – India

WINNER

Savemom – India

SHORTLISTED

Her Ground – India

Stop Abortion Bring Life – Bangladesh
Built by the Institute of Informatics and Development (IID) Bangladesh, Bibhui is a mobile based application aimed to serve the Bangladeshi migrant network across the world. It aims to provide feasible digital solutions to aspiring migrants, migrant workers and returning migrants.

Features such as preparatory information for seeking residence abroad, providing emergency contact information of technical training centres and Bangladesh embassies. The application wishes to create a one-stop destination for all migration-related issues.

By leveraging social media to promote and connect Bangladeshi migrants, the application is allowing victims of labour migration process to lodge complaints about recruiting agencies, training centres etc. Launched in March 2018, it has been able to reach more than 12 thousand users across 11 countries such as Saudi Arabia, UAE, Malaysia, Oman and Qatar.

Bibhui
Institute of Informatics and Development
www.bibhui.com
Bangladesh
KathaKhazana is a mobile-based reading application by Katha, available entirely in Hindi, which uses the power of immersive storytelling as a tool to make reading fun and interactive. Catering to children between the age bracket of 4-12 years, the application teaches six stories in form of digital books, animated videos and interactive games.

KathaKhazana works with volunteers who work with under-served communities to enable digital learning by mentoring and helping children to read. These stories are set in the Indian context and revolve around concepts of gender equality, inclusivity and diversity.

The application was launched in July 2018 and is being deployed in three waves, focusing on the NCR region, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. It focuses on collaborations with partners such as PVR, CRY, TFI; and translation of books into 21 Indian languages.

KathaKhazana
Katha, India (NGO)
www.katha.org
India
In a country rich in history and heritage, monuments and other historical sites don’t receive the attention, sanctity and care that they deserve.

By deploying a multilingual audio-visual tool, inclusive of features such as credible content, 360 degree digital tour and virtual interactivity; the DigiTour application wants to address gaps in the tourism-heritage industry such as scarcity of expert information and lack of awareness and responsibility amongst locals and limited availability of historical content. Compatible with VR technology, the application is an educational tool and is also entertaining and engaging platform.

The application is both mobile and browser-based. It has already been deployed in Hampi, and has seen over a thousand downloads since its launch in January 2018.
In an environment of high infant and maternal mortality rates in developing countries, where around 70% of rural women lack access to proper maternal care and proper information in local languages - Jivio has created Savemom.

As a medical intervention, Savemom aims to provide timely and appropriate care in the first 1000 days of maternal care through iOT and tele-medicine facility. A wearable device allows a monitor the health of a pregnant women, mothers and infants in remote places. Available in Tamil, English and Malayalam, it uses cloud storage to store patients’ data, thus giving doctors remote access to medical information of a patient.

Savemom has been deployed in 25 villages, since its launch in 2017 and has been verified by Amrita Serve as a perfect solution for maternal care and support.
HER GROUND

An online platform that is catering to women's health, Her Ground serves as an online subscription service for providing quality hygiene products. In a society, like Pakistan, menstruation isn't an openly discussed topic as in many other countries as well. Her Ground makes it easier for women to shop using subscription model. Every online sale helps Her Ground to offer sanitary pads at affordable price to girls living in rural Punjab areas of Pakistan. The Lahore based start-up was launched in 2017.

STOP ABORTION BRING LIFE

Stop Abortion Bring Life is the brain child of an engineering student in Dhaka. The application that aims to reduce the abortion rates in Asian countries, provides features such as communication between pregnant women or couples and someone keen to adopt a child, shelter facility etc. It allows a person who wants to adopt a baby to create an account and provide information about their location, religion, shelter facility etc. The app facility is available both in Bengali and English.
GOVERNMENT & CITIZEN

WINNER

Community Policing Support Centre – India
Vara Koto – Bangladesh

SPECIAL MENTION

Nepal Immigration Mobile App – Nepal
MeeSeva App – India

CHAIRMAN’S DISTINCTIONS

MPMobile App – India

CHAIRMAN’S DISTINCTIONS

SHORTLISTED

DESCO – Bangladesh
Digital Gujarat – India
Meri Sadak – India
Community Policing Support Centre, launched in January 2018, is a first-of-its-kind application that embodies community policing as the mode of delivering law and order. By sharing the responsibility of solving problems with community members, safer neighbourhoods can be created through active citizen participation.

The application aims to deliver law & order maintenance, crime prevention, traffic regulation amongst other facilities. It identifies frontline police officers as community policing officers (CPO) who regularly interact with the public and are able to respond to problems directly. Features such as feedback collection, data collection, community liaison, monitoring etc. has led to over 15 thousand downloads so far.

The application works on any device that has Windows, Android and iOS based operating systems and has also won two awards - Hawkeye Mobile Application (2016) And Hydcop Mobile Application (2017).
Vara Koto is a user-friendly application based out of Bangladesh, which aims to reinvent how commuters travel in Dhaka. It enables users to smartly compare fares between multiple transport services to choose the most appropriate one.

As the application is multilingual, it supports Hindi, English and Bengali and enables users to access promo codes; see bus, train and rickshaw fares; and access the best deals.

It was launched in 2017 and has seen over 40 thousand downloads so far.
Over a year old, the Nepal Immigration Mobile Application comes directly under The Department of Immigration (DOI), which is the principal authority to execute and implement the immigration laws of Nepal.

The application is responsible for monitoring, controlling and regulating the entry, exit and stay of foreign nationals in Nepal, under the Ministry of Home Affairs (Government of Nepal). The application creates a fast access to information for all tourists who visit Nepal and is compatible with both android and iOS based smart phones.

Online VISA services, immigration-related information, etc. are some of the features users can have access to via this application.

Nepal Immigration Mobile App
FOCUSONE Nepal Pvt. Ltd.
www.focusone.com.np
http://bit.ly/2wIJ33o
Nepal
The Andhra Pradesh based MeeSeva application has made access to mGovernance faster, simpler and more accessible. With an aim to increase productivity of governance, the MeeSeva app delivers government services at citizens’ doorsteps. Citizens can avail services such as issuance of certificates, applying for benefits, paying fees and utility bills, etc. from 10 government departments and over 20 service providers.

Launched in 2015, the application has seen over a million downloads and is available in Hindi, English and Telugu. It is easy to use and compatible with various payment methods such as Internet banking or card payment. It also displays other features such as viewing and downloading certificates and past payments records and is working on improving governance, reducing the carbon footprint and bridging the urban and rural divide to avail services.

MeeSeva App
MeeSeva, Department of IT, Government of Andhra Pradesh
www.ap.meesevaapp.com
India
MPMobile App is a collaborative initiative between the MP Government and TATA Consultancy Services Ltd (TCS). Formulated in 2015, the application facilitates delivery of citizen centric services through a Public-Private Partnership model and has seen over 4 lakh downloads since its formation. Delivering citizen-centric services to the masses on their door steps, MPMobile is thus a new multi-channel that provides services from various government departments and other service providers.

The mobile app provides flexibility, immediacy and convenience; encourages citizens or service providers to make use of the information technology and resource access. It also creates a 24X7 availability of services. MPMobile App was also a finalist for the mBillionth Award in 2016 and has received the recognition of Chairman’s Distinction in mBillionth Awards 2018.
DESCO

Launched in 2016, with over 10 thousand downloads, Desco is Bangladesh’s first and only utility bill payment application. It is available in Bengali & English languages, supports multiple payment channels and was launched to provide extended support and services to consumers by letting them collect various information electricity usage etc. With DESCO application, the consumers can easily check and pay their monthly electricity bills from anywhere by using their smartphones.

DIGITAL GUJARAT

The application which is available in English and Gujarati, was launched in January 2018 and is aimed to create a single mobile application for common services for residents of Gujarat. As a part of its vision, the application intends to integrate other government departments to facilitate citizens further. Digital Gujarat was the winner of Aaple Sarkar in 2017 and was declared the winner in Government & Citizen Engagement Category.
Launched in 2015, Meri Sadak - available in English, Hindi, Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati and Kannada- has seen over 9 lakh downloads so far. It aims to enable citizens to register feedback on development around them such as bad quality of roads. It sends citizen feedback to State Governments / National Rural Roads Development Agency (NRRDA). The application also includes a redressal system and hopes to make the system transparent.
HEALTH & WELL-BEING

WINNER
Counseling Breast Cancer Patients – India

WINNER
eChannelling System – Sri Lanka

SPECIAL MENTION
Transparent Hands – Pakistan

SHORLISTED
Sammaan foundation – India
Enable Blood – India
Hello Doctor – Bangladesh
Owing to the ruthlessness and ominous presence of breast cancer, the Cancer Patients Aid Association has come up with an application that provides regular interventions to breast cancer patients. Breast cancer is claimed to be the 2nd most common cancer in rural areas and is characterised by lack of awareness, late detection, absence of diagnostic facilities and the low priority given to women's health.

The application is mobile-based, owing to the ubiquity of smartphones, and the proliferated access of social media. It thus uses WhatsApp to communicate with groups.

The application enables users to share experiences actively with other patients and users. It further links doctors to different social media groups and via a 14-week programme provides alternate physical and psychological interventions to patients.

WINNER

Counseling Breast Cancer Patients
Cancer Patients Aid Association
www.cancer.org.in
India

Health & Well-being
Launched in 2001, and with over 40 thousand downloads in Sri Lanka, eChannelling System is trying to create a hassle free centralised platform for the general public to avail professional services.

Available in English, Sinhala and Tamil, the timely-updated database connects professionals and institutions to the general public for service delivery and sharing and consumption of knowledge. Services such as appointments, consultation, home delivery of medicines, appointments for audio/video medical consultation, Outdoor Patient Department (OPD) time reservation for government hospitals etc. are available via a network of over 5000 medical specialists from over 250 local private and ayurvedic hospitals and over 300 Government hospitals.

The plethora of delivery options provide users from rural areas a way around queues, while the streamlined platform provides access to users from the remotest areas of the country.

eChannelling System

www.echannelling.com

http://bit.ly/2oEnw8k

Sri Lanka
Transparent Hands enables donors to keep track of their contributions to the medical industry and ensures hassle-free donations, from anywhere in the world.

Launched in June 2018, the application has already seen more than 100 downloads in Pakistan. The application is the only crowd-funded platform in the healthcare sector of Pakistan with its own mobile application and is available to download in iOS and Android versions.

With safe payment options, it is strengthening the philanthropic community in Pakistan.

Transparent Hands
Transparent Hands
www.transparenthands.org
Pakistan
SAMMAAN FOUNDATION

Sammaan Foundation is a Bihar based non-profit organisation empowering vulnerable communities to improve their lives through better health, sustainable livelihood, food security and life skills. It reuses technology in innovative methods such as managing emergency healthcare through digital management and social media based communication. Sammaan works extensively in Bihar and Jharkhand and was launched in 2013.

HELLO DOCTOR

The Dhaka based application connects doctors to patients through smartphones. It caters to a user, a doctor and an agent. It integrates audio and video for live patient engagement and provides features like low bandwidth consumption, online appointment, 24*7 availability of specialised doctors, e-prescription etc. The platform is trying to help thousands of rural and urban patients for proper and fast medical consultation at low cost.
Launched in 2016, Enable Blood is a web-based initiative along with being an android application. It aims to make the real blood bag component counts available in different blood banks across the city. The application allows one to add or select the blood count requirement, and identify the nearest blood bank to ensure access in case of an emergency. It is trying to create a cloud-based inventory for banks to update their details and claims to have saved over a hundred lives in 2017.
INCLUSION & EMPOWERMENT

WINNER Drishti – India
WINNER MISSING – India
WINNER Jellow Communicator – India

SHORTLISTED Baby Destination – India
                Quick Self-Defense – India
Developed by Accenture and National Association for the Blind India, Drishti is a computer-based technology that uses advancements in machine learning and artificial learning to provide a more accurate version of the surrounding happenings and details.

Drishti is an accessibility solution for visually-impaired individuals that helps them to see the nearby world and reduces dependency on human assistance. Through narration of details such as the number of people in a room, their ages, gender and even emotions based on facial expressions;

Drishti can be used to literally help a visually impaired person understand their environment accurately. It is available in multiple languages and has been globally used now in various capacities across India, South Africa, Argentina and several other countries.
Statistics say that every hour, two girls are trafficked in India. MISSING - Game For A Cause, has been developed by Missing Link Trust to generate awareness around trafficking and comes under the genre of ‘Games for Change’ by tackling the first ‘P for Prevention’ of the United Nation’s four P’s against trafficking. Launched in 2016, available in five languages, the application has seen over 8 lakh downloads so far.

MISSING is a role-playing game which puts players in the shoes of the victim and provides them insights into the world of prostitution. The storyline is meant to invoke discomfort and through intense, claustrophobic experiences, it provides a real-time depiction of what a victim goes through. Through the game, the application aims to increase mass-awareness and build empathy amongst the players.

The MISSING game is the winner of the NASSCOM Indie game of the Year and a winner of SM4E 2018.

WINNER

MISSING

MISSING

Missing Link Trust

www.savemissinggirls.com

http://bit.ly/2wIFCty

India
The one-year-old Jellow Communicator is a friendly, Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) solution that uses icons to aid communication in people with learning and speech difficulties. The user-friendly interface and icons of Jellow enable beginners to adapt to the communication tool.

By utilising Visual Emotional Language Protocol (VELP) that comprises of 6 expressive side buttons i.e. 'like', 'don’t like', 'yes', 'no', 'more' and 'less', Jellow provides 9 categories that assemble daily activities through expressive icons.

Children with developmental disabilities including Cerebral Palsy, Autism Spectrum Disorder or Intellectual Disability, frequently have speech difficulties and Jellow allows children to communicate easily, feel empowered and enhance personal development.
BABY DESTINATION

Available in Hindi, English and Tamil, and launched in 2017, Baby Destination aims to be a one-stop destination for expecting mothers. It works as an online community for mothers to get support and information about motherhood and parenting through videos, texts etc. by deploying via social mediums like Facebook and WhatsApp.

QUICK SELF-DEFENSE

Available in over 15 languages, the application Quick Self-defence was launched in 2014 and has seen over 20 thousand downloads so far. It is a step-by-step guide that teaches self-defence through 9 techniques. The application requires an Internet connection only for downloading purposes whereas, after that the application can be accessed anytime without Internet.
LEARNING & EDUCATION

WINNER
Eckovation: Social Learning Platform – India

WINNER
EduRev – India

SHORTLISTED
Search English – Bangladesh
Raaji – Pakistan
Samagra – India
AAS Vidyalaya – India
Ben & Bella English – India
Digital Sakshar – India
Eckovation is a social learning platform that aims to bridge the gap between quality education and its demand. The three-year-old initiative has seen over 40 thousand downloads so far and is available in many languages such as Hindi, English, Tamil, Telegu and Urdu. Eckovation provides services like professional skill development to competitive exam preparation. It ropes in quality educators to impart knowledge to millions of learners scattered across the world via online media. With a strong users review and ratings mechanism, Eckovation displays features like quality content, assignments through interactive learning, hands-on experience and customisation. An SM4E finalist, Eckovation is working on projects in Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh and has also won the Prime Minister’s Innovation Award 2018.
With educational courses backed with artificial intelligence, the 2017-launched EduRev, offers a unique combination of video, notes and tests to provide a complete and cohesive learning experience.

It is available in English, Hindi, Sanskrit and Marathi and has seen over 2 lakh downloads so far. EduRev has garnered a strong user base of over 2.3 million registrations and was awarded as the Best App of 2017 by Google PlayStore Team and also holds the Editor’s Choice Badge.

It caters to Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities and also provides free services to financially handicapped students.
SEARCH ENGLISH

Search English is a language learning application, based out of Bangladesh, which is aimed at enhancing reading, writing and listening skills of users. Catering to different literacy levels, the application resources material depending on user’s learning ability. It leverages social media such as Facebook groups to polish writing practices. It also uses webinars to strengthen speaking and reading skills. With over 3 million monthly engaging members, the 2018 launched application has a growing user base all over the world.

SAMAGRA

Samagra is a comprehensive resource portal and mobile application developed in mid-2018 by KITE (Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education). It is positioned as a complete online learning management system benefitting for students, teachers and academicians. Samagra is a first-of-its-kind, State Education Department-driven resource repository for over 50 lakh students and 2 lakh teachers. It covers over 15 thousand schools in Kerala. Samagra also has e-textbooks of all subjects in four medium - Malayalam, English, Tamil and Kannada and also features discussion forums.
Raaji is a platform that connects experts to women from across developing countries, to answer queries pertaining to health, hygiene and safety. It works as a digital platform that uses a text/voice-enabled chat box to educate, empower & entertain women from developing countries through innovative & meaningful content. Launched in 2018, it is based out of Karachi, Pakistan.

Launched in 2017, and with over 20 thousand downloads, AAS Vidyalaya (Anytime Anywhere School) is a first-of-its-kind virtual school aimed at ensuring education reaches students who are willing to learn but are unable to, due to poor quality of education services or lack of infrastructure & support. By connecting students & teachers on one platform, it enables self-learning where students can access structured lectures, notes, continuous evaluation & receive continuous guidance through interaction with teachers.
Ben & Bella English is a mobile based application that relies on augmented reality, adaptive AI and a game. It aims to make learning more interesting and experiential for a student. Launched in 2017, the application has seen over 50 thousand downloads. Ben & Bella English helps in enhancing and revolutionising the way in which classroom teaching is conducted in pre-schools by creating a phygital ecosystem which uses a combination of physical products and digital tools.

Digital Sakshar is a free, learning app that displays over 29 courses and over 1000 videos. It focuses on four categories, i.e. academic, business, design tool and technology. While the academic courses focus on the Maharashtra Board syllabus and is delivered in Marathi, the rest of the content is available in Hindi and English as well. The app is free to download on Google Playstore and iOS store too. It was launched in February 2018 and has seen over 2700 downloads.
MEDIA & ENTERTAINMENT

WINNER
WebME – India

WINNER
Digital Goa – India

SPECIAL MENTION
eTunes – Bangladesh

SHORTLISTED
Girl Rising Game – India
#SaveTheBoyChild #SaveTheGirls – India
WEBME, created by SocialME is an award winning, interactive android game which teaches the nuances of cyber security through the practical approach of a game. So instead of teaching lessons through articles of sorts, WebME teaches cyber security through creative tasks relating to the use of Internet. Players are also alerted about common mistakes, important facts and good practices during the game and can validate their achievement through earned certificates.

It has been named the Best of Puzzle Games Amazon Apps - Product Hunt, four times consecutively.

It was launched in Feb 2018 and has seen over 700 downloads so far.

WebME
SocialME
www.webmethegame.blogspot.com
India
Digital Goa’s SMS-cum-WhatsApp Breaking News Service is a news service deployed and delivered through social media, which has been authentically delivering information for the past 14 years.

The application has four components: major news flashes, event listing, news bulletins and a roundup of 8-9 special stories by major English news channels. The subscribers receive news as and when it happens, while on the go, such as an accident; crime or a political developments. Extensive verification done from Digital Goa’s end ensures that the end users are saved from spam and fake news.

It was launched in 2005 and has cultivated a subscriber base of over 25 thousand people and holds the position of a finalist at Manthan Award in 2009 & SM4E Award.
eTunes, launched in 2009 is tackling piracy and illegal downloading by creating Bengal's first free music access application, which has seen over thousand downloads so far. A handy and user-friendly app, eTunes enables a user to browse, choose and listen to their favourite song or download it for a nominal fee through secure channels.

eTunes is a pioneer in online legal Bengali music distribution in Bangladesh and stands against music piracy. eTunes is working with renowned artists from across the country and is promoting and distributing their songs online.

It is the winner of BRAC Manthan Digital Innovation Award 2016 and The Manthan Award South Asia 2016-17.

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**eTunes**

**SPECIAL MENTION**

* eTunes
* Software Shop Limited (SSL Wireless)
* www.etunes.com.bd
* Bangladesh
GIRL RISING GAME

Girl Rising India, a registered non-profit, leverages powerful media tools to increase the agency of girls and women across the country and also encourages others to join the movement for gender equality. The game is a unique application developed by in 2018 by Girl Rising India, encouraging people to correct gender biases. It uses character-based games and quizzes to involve a user and increase their awareness. Girl Rising India has led a community-based intervention in Bihar and Rajasthan to increase the value of girls’ education.

#SaveTheBoyChild #SaveTheGirls

The film #SaveTheBoyChild #SaveTheGirls has been produced by Red Dot Foundation and works as an educative tool to create awareness on the sexual abuse women face on a regular basis. The film wishes to make everyone reflect upon the various stereotypes under a patriarchal setup and work towards a more progressive and positive education on gender equality and safety. The film has crowd-sourced personal stories of sexual harassment and abuse in public spaces.
SMART SETTLEMENTS & URBANISATION

WINNER
Toilet Finder – India

WINNER
ParkEZ

SHORTLISTED
IConnectWe – India
Project Bazaar.in – India
Launched in 2015, Toilet Finder is a three-in-one solution for sanitary requirements. Through a combination of a mobile application, a feedback platform and a sanitary kit, Toilet Finder provides access to nearby toilets and helps with hygiene requirements of users.

The application also allows users to add, comment, rate and give feedback about a toilet. Additionally, users can add feedback such as quality of toilets, bins availability, disabled friendly access etc. The additional sanitary kit is a user-friendly kit targeted towards daily commuters and travellers. It includes sanitisers, sheet sprays, tissues, stand pee apparatus for women etc. that can be used and carried easily.

The application is available in android version and has been successfully downloaded over 100 thousand times.
ValetEZ is building a smart parking platform that digitises and aggregates parking spaces around the city and connects them to a single network so that drivers can search and reserve parking spaces. ParkEZ can be deployed at low cost across parking lots of all sizes such as private parking spaces to large parking lots at railways stations and airports.

ParkEZ is designed to function with an open architecture that allows it to connect with all types of hardware required for parking operations such as smartphones. Parking plays a key role in shaping a city and urban mobility.

ParkEZ connects with third party platforms that allow users to find and access parking spaces remotely, thus ensuring effective parking management, provision of parking assistance and effective enforcement mechanism.

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ValetEZ Services Pvt. Ltd.
www.valetez.com
http://bit.ly/2oEC2gG
India
With an aim to bridge the digital divide between rural and urban settlements, ICon-nectWe is trying to create a Public Wi-Fi network across India. Launched in 2016, the portal wishes to develop a state-of-art wireless technology, backed by a strong customer support centre. It aims to help and facilitate citizens with a hope that one day rural India too, will become visible on the digital map of India. It is available in four languages: English, Hindi, Gujarati and Bengali.

With a mission to develop a simulation tool that can help to analyse construction projects, Project Bazaar is trying to improve urban settlements in developing countries. The collated data is part of an open data platform, which helps the society to see the illegal construction or informal settlement. Launched in 2016, the application aims to contribute on the lines of United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals and make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.
The Grand Jury for the 9th edition of mBillionth Awards 2018 was successfully held on August 31, 2018 in New Delhi. This year, we received a total of 154 stupendous nominations across 10 categories. The virtual Jury members managed to shortlist 64 finalists from 130 valid entries for the final evaluation by the Grand Jury. A panel of 14 Jury members deliberated, voted and shortlisted the filtered nominations for Winners and Special Mentions.

The list of Winners and Special Mentions will be revealed on the stage at the 9th mBillionth Awards 2018 at The Eros Hotel, Nehru Place, New Delhi on October 03, 2018.
ORGANISER

Digital Empowerment Foundation

Digital Empowerment Foundation aims to connect unreached and underserved communities of India in an effort to bring them out of the digital darkness and empower them with information access through last mile connectivity, digital literacy and digital interventions. With the motto to ‘Inform, Communicate and Empower,’ DEF aims to find sustainable ICT solutions to overcome information poverty in remote and rural locations of India. In an effort to achieve this aim, DEF has adopted a multi-stakeholder approach and a six-fold path to enable communities, governments, schools, civil society organisations and micro-enterprises to avail the benefits of the Information Age. Under this six-fold programme approach, DEF initiates projects in the areas of Access & Infrastructure; Education & Empowerment; Governance & Citizen Services; Markets & Social Enterprises; Knowledge Hub & Network; Research & Advocacy.

INSTITUTIONAL PARTNER

The World Summit Award

The World Summit Award (WSA) is a global activity to select and promote the world’s best e-Content and most innovative ICT applications. It offers a worldwide platform for all who value the creative use of ICTs and who are committed to making today’s information society more inclusive. WSA was initiated by Austria in 2003 in the framework of the United Nations’ World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and is organised by a global partner network, coordinated by the International Center for New Media. WSA partners come from governments, the private sector and civil society in over 178 UN member states.

KNOWLEDGE PARTNER

Facebook

Founded in 2004, Facebook’s mission is to give people the power to build community and bring the world closer together. People use Facebook to stay connected with friends and family, to discover what’s going on in the world, and to share and express what matters to them. To know more about Facebook – https://newsroom.fb.com/company-info/

STRATEGIC PARTNER

Mint

Mint is one of India’s premium business news publications – 76% of Mint readers do not read another business paper, making Mint a critical reach vehicle for the top end audience. Mint is the clear No.2 among business papers in terms of readership. The representative of an integrated newsroom, www.livemint.com is Mint’s online portal and is among the fastest growing news websites in India. Livemint provides daily national, international and business news, tracks market movements and detailed coverage of significant events. The site has evolved multimedia features like videos, podcasts and slideshows. Mint comes out with a premium weekend magazine Lounge that focuses on the lifestyle, passions and other related interests of readers. The lounge is known to avoid run on the mill stories and is immensely popular.
LIVE-STREAMING PARTNER

GoNews

GoNews is India’s first-of-its-kind app-based television news channel that delivers personalised news to viewers on their smartphones and smart TVs at a time of their choosing. The recently launched channel is collaborating with content generators in rural India to offer news and stories, not more than 90 seconds long, which often go unreported or which are not available at other commercial news outlets. The narratives are specific, crisp and compelling; and cover a wide variety of Indian and global subjects from politics to public policy; from agriculture to the arts; from technology to travel; from the environment to entertainment; from economy to enrichment of life. It is also the first digital news platform in the country to adhere and abide by the self-regulatory mechanism of the News Broadcasters Association.

EVENT PARTNER

INOMY

INOMY is a Media and Technology company providing services like e-content, e-learning, Documentary Film Making, Web and Online Software Development, Web Designing, Designing, Printing and content development at various levels. It was formed in 1999 to focus on the emerging new economy, information economy, and knowledge society. INOMY started with publishing e-newsletter and later expanding itself in publishing e-books, and other formal electronic.

OUTREACH PARTNER

MP Post

MP Post Internet media is active for the last 2 decades and it is coming out in new design. In Hindi speaking states, it is in infancy stage of Internet journalism. Looking at possibilities of Internet journalism first Hindi Internet newspaper MPPost was started from 1st January, 2005.
The Culture of Mobile is a book published by Digital Empowerment Foundation, under its mBillionth Awards platform, to celebrate some of the best mobile-based initiatives or applications from South Asia.