MOBILE: AN INSTRUMENT OF THE MASSES

Best Practices Collected from South Asia during COVID-19
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AN INSTRUMENT OF THE MASSES

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Mobile: An Instrument of the Masses is published by Digital Empowerment Foundation under the banner of mBillionth Award 2020-21 to identify, understand and share some of the best mobile-based ICT practices across South Asia. mBillionth Award, now in its 11th year, is a platform that seeks to recognise and felicitate those initiatives that use mobile technology to tackle information poverty and facilitate access to services.

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The year 2021 marks 11 years of the mBillionth Award, a platform that was created in 2010 to identify and recognise mobile tech-based innovations for public good and benefit, serving through inclusion, diversity and at the bottom of the pyramid. With the mission of identifying, recognising and doing justice to the innovations and innovators, over the years, we’ve recognised several such initiatives that have create impacts in the country by dint of its purpose it was designed - such as Coke Studio Mobile Melodies, Jago Grahak Jago, Red Bus, OlaCabs, MobiKwik and Saavn. Nonetheless, many of them are now the household names and part of our daily information - service needs. And the innovations that are being picked and recognised in this edition is a part of this unflinching journey of innovations for community good and empowerment.

With the mobile ‘invading’ all aspects of society, sectors, communities, geographies and diversities, this ubiquitous platform stands tall in an increasing mobile networked national and global societies and representing an unparalleled mobility based handheld device that has changed the way humanity is engaged and served. No other global incident represents this epoch than the current COVID pandemic that all countries are inflicted with leading to the brink of ‘survival of the humanity’! And we see how digitally, networked and mobile connected each one of us has hold us together and giving us live sav-

CHAIRPERSON’S NOTE

‘Meet the Mobile Innovators Amidst COVID Serving Humanity’!

Osama Manzar
Founder & Director
Digital Empowerment Foundation
ing alternatives and solutions, lifting us to be resilient, cope, recover and overcome the pandemic. And this is what the mobile innovators of the 11th mBillionth Award 2020-21 have been doing and are being presented in this compilation.

As COVID has unsettled each one us, a new ‘dawn’ of ‘mobile and digital world’ is ushering the way the conversations around internet access, digital literacy, connectivity is happening on the mainstream. In fact, the pandemic is prompting the need for digital / mobile acceleration for resilience and recovery. The Smartphone, emerging as the instrument of the hoi polloi, is now playing the biggest empowerment and development role in this. Mobile applications are creating transformative content and services to augment mid- and long-term changes in the lives and livelihood of people, especially the underserved and socioeconomically disadvantaged segments. It is here, the purpose and objectives of scouting, identifying and recognising the mobile innovations for public good under the mBillionth framework finds its purpose and joy. The inspiration in the 11th edition can be thus drawn from the innovations that intrinsically worked for eradicating information darkness along with providing relief and aid, raise awareness and driving home solutions in this public health emergencies in India and South Asia.

The beauty of the innovators in the 11th COVID special edition is the usual ‘test of astuteness’ that each shortlisted finalist nomination went through in the hands of expert jury, passing through rigorous shortlisting processes determined by ‘technology for social change’ benchmarks. And this is how the mBillionth has been able to contribute to the mobile innovation’s ecosystem adding each year to the rich repository of incredible innovations for the mo-
bile phone and technology ecosystem.

Despite all the gloominess and disheartening circumstances that COVID has inflicted upon us, in 2020 and now in 2021, the mBillionth fraternity with the support of each one of you, we have tried best to carry forward this journey, despite the impending challenges. The nominations we received in 2020 and the virtual jury we had in March 2021 (first online jury in decade old journey), and now the final event and announcements in May 2021 without a formal event, is a journey to be cherished with all hopes and positivity that these innovations and innovators are driving us through.

Thinking about the COVID, the unprecedented sufferings and uncertainties around and the many fallouts that are and going to show up in months and years to come, what we can do best at mBillionth is dedicating the innovations of the 11th edition to the COVID-19 resilience, recovery and succor of the millions that constantly are needing support, helping hand and solutions to overcome this dark epoch of present history for a normal better world ahead.

Nonetheless, I must congratulate the winners, the special mentions and the finalists for their brilliant works that are serving key purposes and will continued to be challenged to serve communities better and meaningfully. With this, I wish bright days and future ahead for the Mobile COVID Innovators and fighters!

Let’s Stay Safe and Secured and Lend our Helping Hand to the next person needy!
The experience of serving as a juror for the mBillionth Mobile for Good Awards 2020 - 2021 was a challenge since there were numerous innovative and diverse projects. However, being an entrepreneur myself, it was rewarding to learn about the zeal the finalists had to offer in addition to their enlightening innovations.

India capacitates unexplored and unexploited markets with the potential of a genuine business problem. mBillionth Awards presented networking opportunities for upcoming businesses to be discovered. Furthermore, the small-scaled initiatives have the potential to resolve issues and grow into a vast solution.

Best Regards,

MUKUL CHHABRA
Swapeco Solutions Pvt. Ltd.
The effort of Digital Empowerment Foundation to enhance digital literacy at root levels have been nothing less than inspiring. Their continuous impact brings the initiatives to the forefront through the mBillionth Awards and sparked solution-oriented insight into the problems arising in our nation.

While browsing through the shortlisted innovations, my curiosity grew. I observed the initiatives tackled the issues concerning marginalized communities and the Covid-19 virus in a unique manner. Moreover, there are Government initiated projects that suggested the impact of technology in empowering effective solutions. The mBillionth Awards have successfully brought together innovators, impact creators, and visionaries to the same forum.
Digital Mobility, Social Mobility

Putting on the jury hat once again
It was the constant refrain
What surprises the entries hold
Or would it be stories just retold?
Challenges galore across society
Imbuing uncertainty and anxiety
Havoc wreaked by the pandemic
Went beyond health to Infodemic
Would we see similar innovations
From India and neighboring nations?

As people lost livelihoods and lives
From far and wide, the help arrives
Shelter, clothes, water and bread.
Beyond help, hope is the real need

Agriculture, Education, Environment
Citizen Engagement and Government
Health, well-being and Inclusion
Efforts for Covid’s expulsion

Mobile Apps? Yes, but not just Apps
To address the varying needs and gaps
Tools, transactions and what not
Puppets, videos and chatbot!

Salute to all the innovators
Changemakers, Educators
Keep spreading smiles and cheer
Continue healing, wipe a tear

Crisis will come and go away
Leaving some scars on the way
Amidst the pall of gloom
Optimist will still bloom

mBillionth awards are a way to celebrate
Efforts to empower, include, educate
Technology should serve the humanity
Digital, Social, Mobile beyond vanity!
This year’s mBillionth Awards were adjudged virtually. More than in any year, the sense of collaboration among the organizers, the innovators and the jury was evident. Digital Empowerment Foundation continued to provide ranging and diverse categories for innovators to showcase their work. The innovators were exceptional in the pursuit of excellence in their chosen field with each innovation in every field being meticulously planned and many being reoriented in response to changing circumstances.

Refreshingly, all the innovations that were nominated for awards in their respective categories were developed with thought for user acceptance versus merely deploying the latest technology. As an awardee, we can attest to the important role that a simple user interface plays in ensuring user compliance and program effectiveness. Most of the nominees were founded on or actively deployed data and analytics and AI to solve social and systemic problems. It was very gratifying to learn that nominees had identified the risks that would hinder the success of the innovation and had also developed mitigation measures. Most nominees had clearly defined their pathway to scale.

Despite the circumstances, I laud Digital Empowerment Foundation for staying true to its mission and continuing to provide a platform for innovators and entrepreneurs to showcase their efforts. I wish every innovator the best of success in their endeavors.
## NOMINATION STATISTICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Received Entries</th>
<th>185</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Valid Nominations</td>
<td>92</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Finalists</td>
<td>31</td>
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<td>Winners</td>
<td>12</td>
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<td>Special Mentions</td>
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<table>
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<th>COUNTRY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>31</td>
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<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nepal</td>
<td>02</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>08</td>
<td>01</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sri Lanka</td>
<td>04</td>
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## INDIAN STATE-WISE NOMINATIONS (144)

| Andhra Pradesh | 05 | Madhya Pradesh | 07 |
| Assam          | 03 | Maharashtra    | 16 |
| Bihar          | 09 | Rajasthan      | 04 |
| Delhi          | 34 | Tamil Nadu     | 02 |
| Gujarat        | 08 | Telangana      | 05 |
| Haryana        | 14 | Uttar Pradesh  | 10 |
| Karnataka      | 11 | West Bengal    | 06 |
| Kerala         | 10 |               |    |

Mobile: An Instrument of the Masses
### NOMINATION STATISTICS

<table>
<thead>
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<th>category</th>
<th>winner</th>
<th>special mention</th>
<th>nominations break-up</th>
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<td>07</td>
<td>185</td>
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<tr>
<td>Business &amp; Commerce</td>
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<td>Smart Settlements &amp; Urbanization</td>
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## WINNERS

### AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT – 02
- Croplytics - site-specific advisory and crop monitoring app - India
- “Machli” AI based Mobile application for Marine Fisher Folk” – India

### BUSINESS & COMMERCE – 02
- Udhaar – India
- Bridge2capital – India

### EDUCATION & LEARNING – 01
- First Bell Digital Classes – India
- WISE App – India
- Digital Sakshar Free Learning App – India

### GOVERNMENT & CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT – 02
- Letmebreathe.in – India
- Adhikar – Vaani – India

### HEALTH & WELL BEING – 01
- Piennacle, Onekeycare Ventures – India

### INCLUSION & EMPOWERMENT – 01
- Aangan’s Family vulnerability assessment tool – India

### INNOVATION@COVID-19 – 01
- ’Tara Hai Taiyar’” – India

## SPECIAL MENTION

### AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT – 01
- Farm Infinity – India

### EDUCATION & LEARNING – 01
- A/L Kuppiya - Sri Lanka

### GOVERNMENT & CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT – 01
- TS Govt Covid Info – Whatsapp Chatbot – India

### HEALTH & WELL BEING – 02
- TB Mukt Himachal – India
- Rx.mg – India

### INCLUSION & EMPOWERMENT – 01
- Farmmprecise Mobile Application – India

### INNOVATION@COVID-19 – 01
- COVA Punjab – India
## FINALISTS

### BUSINESS & COMMERCE – 01
- TheBorak – Bangladesh

### CULTURE & TOURISM – 01
- Sihasn – India

### EDUCATION & LEARNING – 01
- e-Vidyavahini – India

### GOVERNMENT & CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT – 02
- Know Your Paryatak (KYP) – India
- Healthy Haryana Portal and Mobile App – India

### INCLUSION & EMPOWERMENT – 02
- ScoutMe – India
- Louis Braille – India

### INNOVATION@COVID-19 - 03
- LocalQueue – India
- CoronaMAP – Bangladesh
- Technology driven solution addressing supply chain – India

### MEDIA & ENTERTAINMENT – 01
- App based Mobile Radio – India

### SMART SETTLEMENTS & URBANIZATION – 01
- RITS Browser – Bangladesh
AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

Under this rubric, nominations are invited for mobile applications that help farmers improve agricultural productivity or secure better crop prices or better returns on investment through access to information on new technologies and best practices, basic financial services, new markets and market prices. Moreover, nominations will also be accepted for those applications that prove mobile phones can play a huge role in responsible dissemination of information about environmental matters. The applications that seek to promote the important issues of the environment and supporting the “greening” of societies and economies for sustainable ways of living will also be invited.

WINNERS

Croplytics- site-specific advisory and crop monitoring app – India

“Machli” AI based Mobile application for Marine Fisher Folk” – India

SPECIAL MENTION

Farm Infinity – India
Croplytics-site-specific advisory and crop monitoring application is Agsmartic Technologies solution for the agriculture industry. The application uses present-day information to monitor crop-water demand, growth patterns, crop stress levels, and wastage of inputs such as fertilizer, power, and seeds to lower the on-ground issues avoiding soil degradation and loss incurred by farmers.

The hybrid solution uses ground and remote sensors exclusive to farmers requirement while being affordable and easy to deploy, requires minimum maintenance, and is equipped with wireless Solar and LoRa based soil sensor with high scalability through LPWAN instead of GSM avoiding any issue with connectivity.

Croplytics has been deployed in Punjab, Bhopal, and Gaya with the results being – 25% savings of water and power, improved quality of crops increasing profits by 10%, reduced labour cost for crop monitoring, and surge in production by 20%.
Machli is an AI-based mobile application for fisherfolk who embark on the journey without knowing the ocean state forecast. Reliance foundation’s application supports the fisher by updating weather-based information in a radius of 150k.m., viewing GPS location of landing centres within 200k.m., holding a toll-free helpline for assistance while using the app, and suggest advisories presented in audio, text and tabulated numerically in over 9 languages such as Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Marathi, Gujarati, Kannada, Odia, Bengali, Hindi, and English. Further, the application is available free of cost on the Google Play Store.

Over 10,520 fisherfolks now rely on ‘Machli’ within one year. All users reported weather forecast helped in averting their losses, 77% noted an increase in income, 76% recorded additional fish capture through potential fishing zone advisories, 11 empty fishing expeditions were avoided saving input cost – INR. 12,800 using weather information, and the input material such as diesel was lowered by significant margins reducing the carbon emission.
Farm Infinity was initiated with the objective to resolve the lack of legitimate financial services for small and marginal farmers. The mobile application while providing farmers with a credit model to determine their financial capability, allows for access to cash credit, insurance, and loans without deepening on loansharks charging 10% rate of interest on the service through their data driven technology capturing over 80 parameters such as — KYC, total cultivable farmland, etc. Moreover, the rate of interest is 7% p.a. as per Govt. market standard for KCC (Kisan Credit Card) loans and 12% p.a. for other loans.

The impact of Farmeasy Technologies initiative is assessed by the number of farmers using the platform in addition to the number of financial services availed as loans or insurance.
This category seeks to identify and compliment mobile applications that support optimisation of business processes; create new m-Commerce business models in business-to-business and business-to-consumers areas; promote Internet security and other related topics; support small and medium enterprises in such areas as sales and marketing, operations, HR management and financial management. Nominations may also include those applications that seek to enhance socio-economic inclusion and financial security.

**WINNERS**

Udhaar – India

Bridge2capital – India

**FINALIST**

TheBorak – Bangladesh
Udhaar is the product of Consights Technology aiming for financial inclusion using technology. The objective is to enable micro-sized products for easier adoption of paperless technology while maintaining the security and privacy of the users by publishing content promoting securer financial practices. Through the application, users can avail and apply for loans digitally, and save money through deal tips services.

Udhaar has noted over positive ratings and over 5 lakh downloads without any advertisements.
Bridge2Capital is an application designed to empower small businesses in small cities of India by fulfilling their working capital needs. By using verified financial data flow of the customers, XTRACAP FINTECH India creates tailor-made financial plans including invoice financing platform for the informal economy, ensuring 100% end-utilization of loan to GST registered suppliers, reduced rate of interest, offering cashback to on-time paying customers, fixing a working capital limit to enhance business turnover, and a UI/UX with three-click experience.

Over 1,200 small businesses have noted an impact through Bridge2Capital with an increase in profits by 3% or 5% and growth in turnover by 20 to 30%. Moreover, the fintech application ensures 100% transparency and enhanced walk-in customer experience and retention leading to a 20% rise in customer demand fulfilment.
The Borak covers all major segments of digital payment by providing a subscription-based service. This allows for the application to offer service providers to set their own fares, enable safety guards using NID and phone verification, allows the users to transact through the inbuilt cashless digital banking system – the wallet, and ensure an ambulance service subscription, all at a price of 500 BDT per month.

The Advanced Apps Bangladesh is currently operating in rural areas with proper safety and security norms of rural service providers while providing social employment opportunities, wallet system to pay for services or utility bills, services to be availed by non-smartphone users through SMS/NID verification, the establishment of parcel delivery HUB in each Thana, access to job information, and enrollment in blood network.
CULTURE & TOURISM

This category recognises the use of mobile applications that seek to promote and conserve culture and heritage in such fields as literature, music, visual or performing arts, design, architecture and crafts, among others. Nominations may include applications that enable easy access to related information and services such as real-time travel booking, location and transport information, and also those that enhance intermodal use of public transport, support orientation in cities and the countryside, allow the hospitality industry to better serve customers, and provide navigation-based content.

FINALIST

Sihasn - India
Sihasn creates new avenues of employment for weavers and fabric retailers since the textile industry contributes 2.1% to India’s GDP and constitutes 39% of total exports. Due to the nationwide lockdown, the textile industry experienced a contraction of up to 70%. Sihasn sources and repurposes Indian textiles to be used as furniture upholstery. Reinventing existing products such as ‘Saree’ to create cloth for a chair allows covering the significant dip in the purchase of affected products.

Further to bring the light back on the industry — Sihasn Trails is a heritage textile and crafts tour to spread awareness around the texting tradition providing weavers to benefit from cross-selling opportunities from direct tourist contacts.

Sihasn have directly impacted 7 weaving communities, 4 of which were solely run by women, and with over 300 jobs created in a year — Sihasn and Sihasn Trails are aiming to expand the domestic market even further.
EDUCATION & LEARNING

This category recognises the use of mobile applications that empower the education sector and serve the needs of learners to acquire knowledge and skills. The aim is to identify and honour applications that try to transform schools, universities and other educational institutions through interactive, personalised and distributed learning resources; address the learning needs of all, and create active e-Learning communities. Nominations may also include solutions for corporate training as well as lifelong learning or making science accessible to citizens.

WINNERS

First Bell Digital Classes - India
WISE App - India
Digital Sakshar Free Learning App – India

FINALIST

TheBorak – Bangladesh

SPECIAL MENTION

A/L. Kuppiya - Sri Lanka
First Bell Digital Classes is the byproduct of the pandemic providing digital classes through KITE VICTERS education channel irrespective of geographical and socio-economic background. Within 2 weeks, over 15,000 schools of Kerala received 1.2 lakh laptops, 27 TB of data was downloaded in a single day through the VICTERS website, the YouTube channel crossed 1 million subscribers, and the mobile application crossed the 16.60 lakh download mark. Furthermore, the content is available in Kannada and Tamil on the YouTube channel.

Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education’s effort to revive classes amidst the pandemic with limited resource availability is highly utilised and appreciated by parents, children, and teachers. With the successful completion of Hi-tech projects at Primary and Secondary levels, a sufficient number of ICT equipment ensured the students deprived of internet connectivity or television at their homes.
WISE App provides access to quality online education focusing on two aspects. It equips all features necessary to curate a holistic learning experience while also easing the tech adoption process for teachers/students through seamless enrollment of students, integrated live classes without logging in, assessments with written/oral feedback, sharing of study material, discussions for peer learning, automated attendance and the ability to work on low internet bandwidth.

The digital learning experience of Wise Leap Technologies is used by 15,000+ teachers and over 60,000 students spread across the country. Moreover, multiple NGO’s such as Aga Khan, Building Blocks, etc. are teaching underprivileged children through the medium and adoption by the J&K govt. is in the process considering its functionality on 2G bandwidth.

The digital learning experience of Wise Leap Technologies is used by 15,000+ teachers and over 60,000 students spread across the country
Digital Sakshar Free Learning App is for children enrolled in Govt. and low-income private schools, mostly from a weak socio-economic background providing a multimedia-rich experience that is enhanced and more informative in comparison to school textbooks including the reference material. To ease the process of learning, it allows the learner to choose the pace, communicate complex information with the option of on-demand video, access the digital content published in Marathi, Hindi and English, conduct regular assessments, and all at no cost.

Today, Pratham InfoTech Foundation’s content has reached 24 states and 2 union territories while approaching 5 lakhs+ students with its direct program, and 95 lakhs+ students in partnership with the Government of Maharashtra and Bihar through television and radio.
A/L Kuppiya is a supplementary class video-on-demand EOD system for advanced level students of Sri Lanka. By giving access to video lessons anytime — anywhere of highly recognised tutors available, the web and mobile-based application allow access to 21 core subjects streams of advanced level. Further, the division of teachers is based upon four categories: grade 12th, grade 13th, revision and practical, all compiled by the video editing team, verified by teachers, and published on A/L Kuppiya.

Crayons Education invited partnership with Sri Lanka largest communication and internet provider — Sri Lanka Telecom (SLT) as A/L Kuppiya is the one of a kind of platform maintaining quality.
e-Vidyavahini is the project of Jharkhand Education Project Council to create a single centralised dynamic platform for monitoring key parameters assuring the quality of education and serve as a grievance platform for schools and education officials. The mobile-first design creates a seamless user experience to provide — ‘Learning Outcome Monitoring’ to measure student performance, ‘Leave Management’ for teachers to manage sanctioned leaves, and ‘School Facility and Infrastructure Monitoring’ for resource management operable online and offline.

The e-Vidyavahini with its functionality ensures transparency and accountability of school administration, seamless communication and information exchange with departments and schools, and additional opportunity for scalability and interoperability with other existing systems through the application’s service-oriented architecture.

Until now, Jharkhand Education Project Council has been able to establish a unified database of students for the entire state, project transparency on school performances for public and administrators, monitor scheme implementations on learning outcomes, and efficient allocation of funds on educational projects.

A single centralised dynamic platform for monitoring key parameters assuring the quality of education and serve as a grievance platform for schools and education officials
This category honours applications/services which empower citizens and better serve public service clients; foster quality and efficiency in information exchange and communication services in governmental and public administrative processes; and strengthen participation of citizens in decision making by promoting an information-rich society. Nominations may include applications that help strengthen formulation of public policies and increase transparency and public participation in the processes of governance and administration.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WINNERS</th>
<th>FINALIST</th>
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<tr>
<td>Letmebreathe.in – India</td>
<td>Know Your Paryatak (KYP) – India</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adhikar – Vaani – India</td>
<td>Healthy Haryana Portal and Mobile App – India</td>
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<table>
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<th>SPECIAL MENTION</th>
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<td>TS Govt Covid Info – Whatsapp Chatbot – India</td>
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Letmebreathe.in is a storytelling platform engaging individuals with climate change and pollution by allowing them to initiate change using their mobile phones. People, organisations, and the government are collectively involved to find both — short and long term solution to air pollution through mainstream and social media. Letmebreathe.in provides the opportunity to connect with policy leaders, activists, fact-checkers, and corporates with the assistance of storytellers to connect to the larger narrative, add additional relevant data, and promote fact-checking.

The initiative has allowed for behavioural and policy level change using letmebreathe.in platform to build an unbiased climate movement by campaigns such as #CleanAirBharat with UNEP which occupied over 14 million Indians on the first-ever international day of clean air for blue skies, and #DRAFTEIA2020 involving over 5 lakh people to use the sample letter and voice their concerns.
Adhikar - Vani is a digital solution of Oxfam India with the objective of inclusion of excluded beneficiaries from the Government’s humanitarian relief and welfare programs resulting in improvised coping capacity. The digital tools are lead by local actors including CSOs and government line departments to safely provide the most marginalised communities with referral linkages to the Govt relief and social protection schemes, Public Health Promotion to minimize risks of community transmission and early warning dissemination. The cost-effective product has acted as a catalyst with a unified response from science volunteers, local NGOs, PRI members, District administration and State Offices in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

With over 6 lakhs audio modules disseminated, a brief evaluation concluded – 344 families in Uttar Pradesh mobilised INR 11,66,482 from five government schemes within a span of 3 months. Furthermore, the portal enabled Senior Government Officials and Government Line Departments to engage with the community to its full extent.
TS Govt. Covid Info – WhatsApp Chatbot is Digital Media Wing, ITE&C Dept., Government of Telangana’s initiative to tackle the current the Covid-19 crisis by providing locals of the state with useful and timely details such as protective measures to be taken by state authorities and its citizens, containment measures, and spread awareness regarding the virus. The WHO (World Health Organisation) has labelled the pandemic an ‘Infodemic’ due to the spread of misinformation in concern to the virus – WhatsApp chatbot of the Telangana Govt. has acted as an authentic and verified source of information.

With over 3 lakh registered users, Digital Media Wing, ITE&C Dept., Government of Telangana has estimated the information disseminated has impacted approximately 10 additional people from each of the registered user.
Know Your Paryatak (KYP) is an online and offline ticket verification system designed for the Forest Officers to register verified, cancelled, or unused tickets, reduce the long queues at the forest park since manual labour is time-consuming, and induce a transparent system. The application generates a QR code readable only by the KYP, verifies mapped and non-mapped tickets, downloads ticket information offline in case of low connectivity, reduce the number of intermediaries involved, and eliminate the requirement of physical documentation saving resources such as paper, time, and money, thus also minimising the cost of infrastructure.

MPOnline’s digital service promotes the use of integrated technology systems for its immediacy and convenience enabling the M-governance to be more transparent while allowing for feedback within a wide range of network.
Healthy Haryana Portal and Mobile app is the effort to eradicate Covid-19 by micro-management of positive cases and their families. The portal registers the full medical conditions of the citizen including the co-morbidity to help the state develop a database useful for the containment strategy of Covid19 and deployment of targeted interventions as deemed necessary.

The initiative of the Department of Information Technology, Electronics and Communication, Haryana generates heat maps of Haryana to visualise the spread patterns of the Covid-19 virus; enable on-ground and door to door household survey, MIS based monitoring and decision making in containment zones; functions in areas with poor connectivity; and since the application has been developed by the in-house team, allows for scalability.

Today, the Healthy Haryana Portal and Mobile app has surveyed 21,570+ users and over 672,880 have consented to their information on the mobile application.
HEALTH & WELL BEING

This category welcomes products/projects which use mobile solutions aimed at resolving individual and public health issues, thereby bringing about development of a mobile-based health care system. Nominations may include applications that enable delivery of mobile-based health care and/or health awareness services. The basic purpose of these innovative applications should be to meet the health care needs of citizens and patients, and support health care professionals and health care providers.

WINNERS

Piennacle, Onekeycare Ventures – India

SPECIAL MENTION

TB Mukt Himachal – India

Rx.mg – India
The initiative of OneKeyCare Ventures — ‘IoT solution which aids in accurately reporting and monitoring of low birth weight and reduces childhood morbidity’ is accurately measuring the birth weight to diagnose malnutrition; allow access to information remotely; reduce healthcare workers workload by capturing, feeding and reporting data, therefore also negating the margin of error; suggest involved beneficiaries to make data-driven decisions; interlink the data with state governments, and operate with limited digital literacy while maintaining accountability.

The solution of OneKeyCare Ventures is currently deployed in Jaipur and Udaipur, Rajasthan with 160 machines spread through 33 districts at 108 Primary Healthcare Centres. Today, over 57,000 babies have been weighed and over 92,000+ records have been monitored in a span of 14 months.
TB Mukt Himachal is the additional effort of combating Tuberculosis in India by equipping people of Himachal with updated information of testing facilities, contact information of lab technicians, distance and route to the nearest facility, and detailed information of the diseases symptoms, diagnosis and treatment. Currently the already established testing facilities are inaccessible due to the states terrain, however, the mobile application supports the National Strategic Plan 2017-2025 of eliminating TB by making the application available on android, displaying designated microscopy centres, CBNAAT test facilities, TB X-Ray Facilities, requiring to fill a form highlighting symptoms, and a “Join Us” section for volunteers to the associated with the cause in both, Hindi and English.

Today, E-Tech Services application accounts for over 19,100 downloads with appreciation from individuals, panchayat heads, and other stakeholders at state, district, block and village level.
Rx.mg is a telemedicine initiative practicing delivery of clinical services with the use of telecommunications and information technology to bridge the gap between healthcare provider and the patient by rendering immediate and remote clinical services. The application allows to add patients to a single database accessible anywhere; at any time, create prescription templates, review patient history from the secure database, entertaining information of numerous clinics and hospitals, edit prescriptions as needed, refer to another specialist depending on the requirement of the patient.

Sustain AI’s product currently involves over 5,000 doctors distributed across the country providing a centralised platform with the ability to upgrade.
INCLUSION & EMPOWERMENT

This section tries to discover and acclaim mobile applications that help bridge the digital divide and content gap between technologically empowered and technologically excluded communities such as those living in rural and remote areas or underserved urban areas through multimedia and rich content, thereby strengthening the social, economic and political participation of such information-dark individuals and groups in the information society. This category will look into various initiatives which directly target the lives, works, needs and socio-economic well-being of women and persons with disabilities.

WINNERS

Piennacle, Onekeycare Ventures – India

SPECIAL MENTION

TB Mukt Himachal – India

Rx.mg – India
Aangan’s mobile-based Family vulnerability assessment tool seeks to change the management of data by involving communities to get involved and share their innate understanding, anecdotal evidence, insight and socio-cultural groundings. This application is used by community women volunteers in addition to field staff as their local intel on prevalent child risks allows for stakeholders to take collective action. In the current Covid-19 crisis, Aangan’s mobile-based tool launched on DataOGram has accelerated the data collection process helping to assess priority risks experienced by vulnerable families, especially women and children, and take immediate steps to ensure their safety.

Aangan’s tool has observed 4782 women volunteers collect hyperlocal data from over 108,050 families who are at-risk of unsafe migration, don’t have access to healthcare insurance or formal financial system. This tool has helped community women volunteers and families keep over 225700 children safe from serious harms of early marriage, hazardous labour, trafficking and abuse.

Mobile: An Instrument of the Masses
Farmprecise mobile application attends to farmers requirement of a dynamic system tailored to specific farms with weather-responsive advisories across key aspects of agricultural operations to mitigate weather-induced risks, lower the losses and cost of production, increase productivity and improve income. With options such as weather forecast for up to 5 days, fertiliser calculator, integrated pest disease library, crop specific advisories based upon sowing date of crop, forum for inquiry, and news covering all farming factors.

Watershed Organisation Trust (WOTR) has noted a significant impact with the farmers of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, and Telangana who refer to the application for rainfall prediction. Further, the digital forum records grievances of approximately 50 farmers a day and the feature – ‘Mandi’ has allowed to safeguard hegemony of middlemen by sharing prices of nearby located Mandis.
Louie Voice Control is an accessibility application to help the visually impaired and blind users of smartphone applications. While leading voice assistants have their limitations of working within the selected application, Louie provides an end-to-end functionality, utilise each and all features of applications such as WhatsApp, YouTube, Uber, etc., and enable a continuous two-way interaction making the task more efficient.

The accessibility application holds the ability to do a complete booking including multiple stops, reading ride information, and if needed, making an emergency call. Visioapps Technology’s application is currently in its beta phase testing with nearly 300 users in 60 countries.

The accessibility application holds the ability to do a complete booking including multiple stops, reading ride information, and if needed, making an emergency call.
ScoutMe is an online scouting portal adopted by the All India Football Federation (AIFF) aiming to modernise the process of scouting in India by allowing to create, edit, organise and consult reports of potential talents. With 2 parallels — one being match based and the other being name-search based, any registered scout can publish a report of the player deemed fit.

The scouting parameters established to recruit talent were developed in consultation with professional coaches allowing for assessment of the player distributed across 5 categories — tactical, technical, mental, physical and social. Additionally, the scouts are required to upload legitimate identification of the player.

Within 6 months, ScoutMe has registered over 30,000 players and signed 8,000 scouts who have published 1,600 reports.
DEF’S RELIEF WORK DURING COVID 19

DEF’S COVID-19 RELIEF WORK ACROSS VILLAGES

- 24,000 sanitizers distributed locally
- 75,000+ people benefitted through entitlements
- 150,000 migrant workers identified for immediate relief
- 47,000+ people benefitted through financial and banking services
- 3.3 million people given emergency relief
- 100,000+ masks produced and distributed to frontline workers
- 100,000 people given medical consultation

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5000
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CREATING
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ACROSS
80 DISTRICTS
150 CIVIL SOCIETY ORGS
TO REACH OUT TO
300,000 CHILDREN & YOUTH
A new category introduced for the year 2020-21, Innovation@Covid-19 recognises initiatives helping communities cope with the health crisis. Any solution-based program working to ease issues born out of or during the pandemic may apply under this category. The mBillionth Awards would like to reward newly launched digital interventions with great potential, but who may still be in their early stage.

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SPECIAL MENTION

COVA Punjab – India
‘Tara Hai Tayar’ is UNICEF UP & The Puppetarians project to broadcast accurate information regarding the Covid-19 virus, dispelling myths and providing tools and methods to maintain physical and mental health with children, parents and teachers.

Through a video series with puppet characters, storytelling techniques are applied towards engaging with relatable content for children while disseminating accurate information regarding the ongoing pandemic.

‘Tara Hai Tayar’ relayed on Doordarshan and Doordarshan U.P., broadcasted on community radio, and is available on govt. school and college websites. The Department of Women and Children welfare spread the content to thousands of district officials, and Swachh Bharat Mission allowed for it to reach Gram Panchayats.
To facilitate effective contact tracing, quarantine enforcement, and provide reliable information to the citizens of the state, COVA Punjab is the digital solution developed by the Department of Governance Reforms and Public Grievances. The mobile application and portal has assisted multiple departments of the state by providing the option of labour registration, doctor-on-call, foreign travellers management, geo-tracking and breach management, issuing curfew passes, inventory management, and patient management including home isolation, contact tracing, etc.

COVA Punjab recorded approximately 58 lakh installations reaching almost every family in the state, generated 16 lakh e-passes, registered 10 lakh labourers ensuring convenient movement and provision of essential supplies, 10 lakh mission Fateh registration ensuring individuals are aware of the health protocols, managed 5 lakh incoming passengers, and 20,891 Covid-19 positive cases. Moreover, it was noted that 10,000 citizens breached the geo-fencing of home quarantine.
Local Queue is a platform acting as a market powered by Discoverability and Virtual Queues, built for both, vendors and consumers. The vendors provide a wide range of services in their locality to be availed by consumers on an open virtual marketplace. Consumers are able to utilise the service through the digital medium at the convenience and safety of their homes whilst avoiding unnecessary contact or waiting periods, and the vendors are given the opportunity of customer acquisition by promoting their product/service saving the cost of marketing.

SocialME’s initiative has surveyed approximately 200 vendors and consumers with 76% signing up for early access, 54% vendors reporting a rise in sales, 78% recommending ‘Local Queue’ to others, 39% have rated it with 5 out of 5 stars, and 24% gave 4 out of 5 stars.
CoronaMAP is the initiative of Advanced Apps Bangladesh to gather information on moving Covid-19 affected patients to recommend a quick solution. The purpose of the application is to provide one platform for gathering information of Covid-19 suspected individuals including — tracking prior movement through smartphone GPS, alerting and instructing containment circles, ensuring home quarantine by establishing communication with concerned authorities, and spreading awareness regarding the virus. These efforts allow for speedy contact tracing, ensuring safety protocols avoiding large scale spread and infection amongst the medical staff, and serves to protect the privacy and data of the user.

Advanced Apps for Bangladesh enables access to information such as address and information of the hospitals, police stations, DC’s and civil surgeon offices, help those suffering from hunger, and measure perception of economics at the national and personal level.

The purpose of the application is to provide one platform for gathering information of Covid-19 suspected individuals including — tracking prior movement through smartphone GPS, alerting and instructing containment circles, ensuring home quarantine by establishing communication with concerned authorities, and spreading awareness regarding the virus.
Technology-driven solution addressing supply chain and sustaining rural livelihood during Covid-19 pandemic is Reliance Foundation effort to repair the interrupted supply chain of agricultural and livestock farmers due to the nation-wide lockdown. Since the markets remained inaccessible for farmers due to local conditions, through its information services — Reliance foundation leveraged existing technology platforms to bridge the supply chain gap by — connecting impacted producers with policymakers, department officials, scientists and other appropriate experts; organising interactive programmes across 177 districts of 18 states; resolve individual queries through virtual interaction; and assist in linkage with government schemes.

The impact was noted as 5,986 farmers were connected to various marketing avenues, 12,236MT. of produce was facilitated, INR 26.3crore worth of produce was sold through the digital outreach, and 50 FPO’s (under U.P. Bioenergy Board) submitted the E-NAM registration procedure with the help of Madni Parishad Officials in Uttar Pradesh.
This category recognises the use of mobile applications which use creative ways to spread the right message to the right people, ensure accessibility and encourage expression of alternative voices and use of alternative media. The category also encourages the use of mobile applications that enable delivery of entertainment products and services, offer users an opportunity to enjoy the linguistic and cultural diversity available around the world, support and promote the transition from one-way to two-way communication; provide a platform for interactive entertainment for single to multiple players, and enable synergy between analogue and digital platforms.

FINALIST

App based Mobile Radio – India
Raibar Communications introduced the first app-based community radio of Uttarakhand — ‘Radio Raibar’ with the purpose of establishing a proper communication channel in Uttarakhand sharing developmental information. Since almost every youth/adult has access to an internet connection, the low-cost solution allows for the dissemination of knowledge through audio programmes, interviews, and music in Hindi, Garhwali, Kumaoni, Jaunsari and Pahari vernaculars.

Radio Raibar functions as an effective tool to revive the cultural aspect of Uttarakhand. With over 2,500 families tuning in, the livelihood has holistically developed to preserve the art and heritage of the state. Moreover, the feedback is shared through WhatsApp by people all over the world.
SMART SETTLEMENTS & URBANIZATION

This category recognises the use of mobile applications that support mobility, crowdsourcing urban data and sharing information, sustainable living applications, smart cities and work environment applications.

FINALIST

RITS Browser – Bangladesh
RITS Browser is a private browser that curates content and services while safeguarding the privacy of the user. Web-based platforms hold an unlimited amount of information making it harder to distinguish between verified content, service or product. For the same, Raise IT Solutions provides a safe solution barring — internet marketers to exploit personal information and fake news, while smartly curating authentic stories, news, and videos at three times faster speed than a regular browser. Moreover, the application allows reward points to its users.

The private browser has over 2 million users spread across 210 nations, an average user rating of 4.1, with 90% of millennial users.

Raise IT Solutions provides a safe solution barring — internet marketers to exploit personal information and fake news, while smartly curating authentic stories, news, and videos at three times faster speed than a regular browser.
The Grand Jury for the 11th edition of mBillionth Awards 2020-21 was successfully held on March 16, 2021 in a virtual mode. This year, we have received a total of 185 nominations across 10 categories. Out of which, 31 entries were selected after the first round of screening for the final evaluation by our Jury members. A panel of 15 Jurors deliberated, voted, and shortlisted the filtered nominations for Winners and Special Mentions.

The list of Winners and Special Mentions will be revealed on May 14, 2021 in an online mBillionth Award ceremony.
Dr Gyana Ranjan Panda currently works as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Public Policy, Law and Governance at the Central University of Rajasthan. His expertise includes Public Policy, ICT and Development, Digital Policy and Regulation in India. He is also a visiting professor in the School of International Relations and Public Affairs in the Shanghai International Studies University (SISU), China. Dr. Panda was formerly associated with the Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability (CBGA), a New Delhi based Think-Tank on the issues pertaining to Budgets and Governance in India.

Anurati is a learning experience and game designer, creative technologist, and new media artist. She has over 5 years of experience working in the education sector with UN agencies, non-profits, and government bodies reimagining the future of learning using technology and human-centered design. Currently, she works in the Games for Learning team at UNESCO MGIEP, creating innovative online curricula, and visual narratives around digital games that promote social-emotional learning. Formerly, she was the Product Manager at Katha, where she led the product development of the storytelling and games mobile app KathaKhazana. She is passionate about using the power of play, creative storytelling, and emerging technologies to enable a generation of curious and empathetic learners.
Jagdish Kumar is a Managing Director of Digital AgriMedia. He has experience of more than 32 years in agriculture and allied fields. He has successfully established Digital AgriMedia, which is working on Digital Village for the farmers by providing them latest scientific agricultural knowledge and information to raise their productivity and prosperity since 2005.

Deepak Maheshwari has a keen research interest in the interplay of policy with technological innovations and socio-economic development, especially in the Digital Ecosystem. He is a Senior Fellow at Centre For The Digital Future (CDF); a Senior Visiting Fellow at Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER); a Distinguished Fellow at Consumer Unity and Trust Society (CUTS) and Advisory Board Member at the Software Freedom Law Centre, India (sflc.in). He has served as Global Chair of the IEEE Internet Initiative; Secretary of the ISP Association of India; Chair of the BSA Asia-Pacific Policy Committee, Chair of the AMCHAM India Cyber Security Committee and on the Board of IIM Ahmedabad-Idea Telecom Center of Excellence. He was also a member of the Committee on Artificial Intelligence and the Working Group on Cloud Computing, both constituted by the Government of India. A strong believer in the transformative power of public – private partnerships, he co-founded National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) and the ITU-APT Foundation of India.
An entrepreneur at heart, Rohit currently spearheads business and marketing for Leap.is (Previously Jiny). Through Jiny (the parent co. of leap) he set out to solve a huge problem that exists in our country – Digital Literacy. Prior to this, he has co-founded 2 startups Campus Hash and DoSelect. He also acts as a consultant to help several non-profit organizations.

ROHIT TIRKEY
Head of Business & Marketing,
Jiny, Inc.

Dr Sanjaya Mishra joined COL as Education Specialist: eLearning at its headquarters in Canada in 2015. Previously, he served COL as Director of the Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA).

Dr Mishra is one of the leading scholars in open, distance and online Learning. Prior to joining COL, he was Programme Specialist (ICT in Education, Science and Culture) at UNESCO, Paris.

SANJAYA MISHRA
Education Specialist,
Commonwealth Of Learning
A post graduate in Mass Communications, Natasha started her career as one of India’s first women camera persons in news television. She has worked with NDTV for 13 years and resigned as Vice President, Training and Development. Along with Harsh Mander and John Dayal, she has co-edited Reconciliation – Karwan e Mohabbat’s journey of solidarity through a wounded India. She leads the media team at Karwan e Mohabbat – a people’s campaign devoted to the universal values of the constitution. She is also an author of many popular memoirs.

Ms Chetna Chawla is Technology transformation/innovations professional with over 20 years of progressively responsible positions in leadership roles. She works with DAI Global Technology Director leading the digital health portfolio for South-East Asia and supports large global strategic initiatives cutting across other sectors. For the past 8 years, Chetna has been engaged with International Social Enterprises focusing on delivery of digital/eGovernance solutions and leadership on digital health programs in under developed & developing countries. Prior to this, She has been part of large technology consulting organizations – Deloitte and KPMG.
Mukul is a Co-founder & CEO at “Swapeco”, a waste management startup that provides a digital recycling platform (App/Web) where users can dispose of their recyclables in an organised and rewarding way. He was also a Co-founder & Ex-CTO at DroneMed. Mukul is an Electronics & Communication Engineering Graduate from IIIT Delhi.

Subhashish Bhadra is a Principal at Omidyar Network India, and invests in both for-profit and non-profit entrepreneurs who help make the data economy more inclusive, privacy-protective, secure, transparent, and well-governed. He writes extensively on data protection, internet governance, digital ID and regulatory design.

A Rhodes Scholar, Subhashish received an M.Phil. in economics from Oxford University and a B.A. in economics from St. Stephen’s College, Delhi.
Hema Murthy is Vice President & Chief Analytics Officer at EnglishHelper Education Technologies. EnglishHelper is an education technology company providing affordable learning solutions to millions of learners from underserved & low-income segments in India and globally. Hema has over two decades’ experience in data analytics. At EnglishHelper, she is instrumental in applying her experience in analytics, measurement and assessment to enhance product & service delivery to customers.

Vikas Chauhan is the Co-founder at 1mg, which is India’s largest digital health platform offering a wide range of health care services. Prior to 1mg, he worked at HealthKart, which is India’s largest nutrition eCommerce business. Vikas started his entrepreneurial journey with FreshnDaily, which was India’s first e-grocery. Post that, he forayed into healthcare with HealthKart and then 1mg. At 1mg, Vikas drives all Strategic initiatives, with a focus on Pharma, Insurance and Corporates. He has a bachelor’s degree in Engineering and an MBA from K. J. Somaiya Institute of Management.
Naghma Mulla serves as the President, the Chief Operating Officer (COO) and Board Member of EdelGive Foundation, the philanthropic initiative of Edelweiss Group – one of India’s leading diversified financial services group.

Over the last nine years, Naghma has been instrumental in strategically driving the vision of social transformation by steering the holistic development of small to medium-sized grassroots NGOs spread across the span of India. Naghma is also a member of the Core Committee of the India Climate Collaborative (ICC) – a collaboration of India’s leading philanthropies committed to addressing the climate crisis in India.

Dr Kazi is a development professional and working in the space of ICT for Development and Social Innovation for over 17 years now. He has worked in various capacities and areas including programme design, development, implementation, assessment, partnership development, fund raising, research, and advocacy. He is currently heading the Council for Social and Digital Development (CSDD), a research, policy organisation for social and digital innovations for sustainable development in North East India. He is also Advisor and Consultant at Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF), a pan India ICT for development agency. He is serving the Improving Public Library Movement (IPLM) Trust as the Secretary. He is founder of North East Development Foundation (a pan North East India Sustainable Development Agency). Mr. Kazi has few research and published works. He is an MPhil and PhD from the Centre for the Study of Law & Governance, Jawaharlal Nehru University. His hobby is creative and development writing.
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.

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.
Civil Society Organisations Adopting Digital Tools Across South Asia

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MOBILE: AN INSTRUMENT OF THE MASSES

Best Practices Collected from South Asia during COVID-19