

Internet that has brought revolutionary changes to the world has taken some incredibly giant leaps in the last year. Emergence of many new players and exceptional growth of some Web leaders have created many a milestones in the online world. Let's look behind for a little while and foresee the days ahead at the threshold of the New Year.

### Happy New Year 2010

### *Looking behind*

We have seen a sea change in the World Wide Web as internet celebrated its forty year of existence. In a society, where people have no time to be social, has emerged a new online society in the form of social media networking.

We have seen the unprecedented growth of Facebook, the power of Twitter, the new incarnation of Yahoo and the word Googling getting a place in the dictionary because of unparalleled popularity. Along with the growth, the safety measures also have proceeded towards advancements. In the sphere of internet safety, Cyber safety initiatives by ITU, Microsoft and Verisign have occupied the distinguished place.

ICANN this year has opened the IDN ccTLD Fast Track Process to allow countries that use non-Latin based languages to also request top-level domains that reflect their country's name in local scripts thereby providing a boost for internet promotion in vernacular language.

In the Indian scenario, National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) has played a prominent role in promoting internet at the grassroot level through various initiatives, one such being the Safe surfing campaign organized with IAMAI.

#### **World News**

- China leads with 300 Mn + internet users.
- Facebook introduced 'vanity' urls
- Microsoft launched the new search engine "Bing"
- Online advertising overtakes TV advertising in the UK

### *The Road Ahead*

Let us welcome the New Year as a force with 500+mobile subscribers, 45 Million Active Internet Users, and 7.2 Million Broadband subscribers.

We look forward to Spectrum Allocation and introduction of technologies like WiMAX which would help in internet penetration in rural India making us bigger and bigger. Introduction of services like Internet Telephony and Telemedicine will also help in spreading internet amongst the people who need it the most thereby positioning India in a more respectable position in the number of Internet users. Along with this, what we need is more patronage of the cybercafés, which is the most feasible medium for mass penetration of internet and broadband in India. We also look forward to standardization of rules and regulations and safeguarding the interest of cyber cafes so that they can play a more significant role in spreading Internet awareness.

#### **WORLD UPDATE**

Election schedule for ICANN director for NRO seat announced

## *The Expanded Fraternity*

We have seen many new faces in the CCAOI fraternity. We proudly announce that Mr. Sanjay Aggarwal, General Manager (Operations) IRCTC, the person who revolutionized online ticketing services in the country has become the Patron of CCAOI. We believe that with his guidance the association will inspire to scale new height.

### *India –the future is here*

India with its more than one billion population is marching ahead to be a forerunner in Internet world. A few days ago the Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh has announced that by 2012 more than 2,50,000 villages across the nation would be connected. Today, thousands of cybercafés spread all over the nation are empowering the Indians to make use of the power of Internet and the use of vernacular languages in Internet will prove much beneficial for India. On the other hand the number of English educated people is also on rise. The endeavor of youth leaders like Rahul Gandhi to spread Internet literacy and English education is mention worthy.

### *The faces in 2009:*

In the dawn of the New Year, we offer our sincere gratitude to the people who played significant roles in the Indian world of internet in the last year. We remember the contribution of DIT Secretary Mr. Chandrasekhar, and Mr. N. Ravi Shankar for the efforts in promoting the 22 vernacular languages online, Chairman TRAI Mr. J. S. Sarma, DOT Secretary Mr. P. J. Thomas and Dr. Gulshan Rai without whose support Indian telecom and Internet industry would not have been where it is today.

In the telecom world Mr. TV Ramachandran, erstwhile Director General of COAI and currently the Resident Director Vodafone played a noteworthy role. Similarly Mr. Rajesh Chharia, President ISPAI was instrumental in bringing to the forefront the challenges of internet penetration in the country along with the possible solutions.

We also remember Mr. Vivek Sood, renowned lawyer and philanthropist who is currently offering free legal advice to cybercafés across the country through CCAOI.

Besides, DDG SA of TEC, Mr. RM Agarwal has been working relentlessly to promote IPv6 in the country and to create awareness on the benefits of IPV6 and why India needs it.

We also remember the initiatives of association of like IAMAI for promoting safe surfing and eCommerce over internet.

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