

**Resume of  
Prof. Anupam Basu *FNAE***

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1. Name: Anupam Basu

2. Present Responsibility

Chairman  
Center for Educational Technology,  
&  
Professor, Dept. of Computer Science & Engineering  
Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur

3. Address with telephone/Fax/Email:

(i) Official: Professor

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Tel: (03222)-283463

4. Date of Birth: July 01, 1957

5. Administrative Positions held:

- **Chairman, Educational Technology, IIT Kharagpur (2014 till date):**

**The position entails the complete responsibility towards,**

- Distance outreach educational programs of IIT Kharagpur
- Coordination of National level projects on Education and Pedagogy (NPTEL programs and Pedagogical training programs to Engineering college teachers, countrywide)
- Coordination of MOOC courses –preparation, dissemination and training
- Leading the TEQIP programs for Engineering teachers on Technology Enabled Education

- **Director, Society for Natural Language Technology Research (SNLTR)**, Kolkata, a Multi-Institute Research Organization for Language Technology Research, Dept. of IT, GoWB, (2009 – present)
  - The responsibility at SNLTR is to lead and **co-ordinate research** both in-house as well as through collaboration with other institutes like **Jadavpur University, Indian Statistical Institute, BESU, Calcutta University** and others in the area of Language Technology development for localization with an aim to more meaningful e-governance.
  - **Responsible for**
    - **empowering the different departments of the GoWB, with local language based e-governance.**
    - **Enabling the schools and colleges with localization tools for using computers**
  - **Coordination with the Govt. of India for Technology Development Mission in Indian Languages**
  - The responsibility also includes making SNLTR self sustaining and to enthuse language and linguistics students into allied technology research and to the area of Natural Language Processing in general.
- **Research Director**, Media Lab Asia program, IIT Kharagpur Hub (2002-2009)

The Media Lab Asia Research hub at IIT Kharagpur was focused on development of technology and field deployment in the area of assistive technology (technology that empowers the physically challenged), intelligent interfaces for more natural use of computers and computer enabled rural education. Though the hub was at IIT Kharagpur, co-ordination with other institutes and NGOs was a major challenge besides research and development. Several successful deployments at the grass-root level resulted.

- **Head of the Department of Computer Science & Engineering**, IIT Kharagpur (2004 – 2007)
- **Head of the Computer & Informatics Center**, IIT Kharagpur (2002-2004)  
The task was to provide complete computational and internet infrastructural support to the institute 24 X 7.

- **Member, Research Program Evaluation Committee, IIT Kharagpur (2005-2008)**

6. Academic and Scientific Positions held:

Sl. No.	Period	Place of Employment	Designation
1.	May 1999 till date	I.I.T. Kharagpur	Professor
2.	May 1998-May 1999	University of California Irvine	Visiting Professor
3.	May 1997 to April 1998	University of Dortmund Germany	Humboldt Fellow
4.	Jan. 1996 to April 1999	I.I.T. Kharagpur	Associate Professor
5.	March 1989 to July 1992	University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada	Visiting Professor
6.	Feb. 1989 to Dec. 1995	I.I.T. Kharagpur	Assistant Professor
7.	July 1984 to Jan. 1989	I.I.T. Kharagpur	Lecturer
8.	July 1982 to June 1984	Webel Computers Ltd.	Systems Engineer (R&D)

7. Academic Qualifications (Bachelor's Degree Onwards):

Sl. No.	Degree	Subject	Class/ Marks	Year	University	Additional Particulars
1.	Ph.D.	Computer Science & Engineering <u>Title of Thesis:</u> CONEX: An Expert System Structure for Control System Design and Analysis		1988	I.I.T. Kharagpur	Thesis adjudged excellent
2.	M.E.	Computer Engineering	1 <sup>st</sup> Class 85%	1982	Jadavpur University	Ranked 2 <sup>nd</sup> in CS specialization, 3 <sup>rd</sup> overall
3.	B.E.	Electronics and Tele-communication Engineering	1 <sup>st</sup> Class 84%	1980	Jadavpur University	Ranked 4 <sup>th</sup>

8. Recent Professional Contributions and Involvements:

- **Program Advisory Committee Member, SERB, of the Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India (2007 –till date)**
- **Technical Advisory Board Member of Microsoft Research, India.(2006- 2012)**
- **Technical Advisor, Indian Institute of Cerebral Palsy (2006- till date)**
- **Research Advisor, TCS Innovation Lab (2011 to present)**
- **Advisor, West Bengal Education Network (WB-EN)**
- **PRSG Member (Technology Development for Indian Languages), Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, Govt. of India (2008-till date)**
- **Member Technical Advisory Board (Technology Development for the Visually Impaired), Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, Govt. of India (2007-till date)**
- **Advisory Member of the Social Development & Community Affair Sub-Committee for Eastern India of the Confederation of Indian Industry (2007-08)**
- **Advisory Member (Science & Technology R&D Mission) – Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt. of India (2006-2009)**
- **Member Technical Advisory Board, National Institute of Mentally Handicapped (2006-2008)**
- **Technical Advisory Board Member of Media Lab Asia**

9. Teaching Areas:

**Basics:** Programming and Data Structure

**Systems:** Computer Architecture, Operating Systems, Embedded Systems

**Special Interest:** Artificial Intelligence, Intelligent Systems, Cognitive Science

10. Research

a) **Areas:**

- Natural Interface Design & Human Computer Interaction
  - Cognitive Modeling
  - Natural Language Processing
  - Communication and Education Tools for the Physically Challenged
    - Sign Languages
    - Iconic Modes of Communication
    - Access Mechanisms and Adaptive interfaces

- Embedded Systems
  - Design Issues
  - Tools for Assistive Devices
- ICT for Development
  - Education Tools for the Underprivileged Children andfor Children with Learning Disability

**b) A Summary of Research Contributions in Assistive Technology:**

See Annexure II

**c) Students:**

See Annexure III

11. Awards and Honours:

- i. State Award for Best Innovator for the Physically Challenged Community, Govt. of West Bengal, 2014
- ii. NCPEDP-MPhasis Universal Design Award 2011, for contributions in design for the disabled, by National Council for Promotion of Employment of Disabled Persons, India
- iii. National Award for Technology Development for Empowering Persons with Disability 2007, Ministry of Social Justice and Youth Empowerment
- iv. Da Vinci Award, Engineering Society of Detroit and Multiple Sclerosis Society of Michigan, for the technology for communication by the speech impaired and people with cerebral palsy, 2004.
- v. Fellow of Indian National Academy of Engineering, 2000
- vi. International Research Affiliate, Center for Embedded Computing Systems, University of California, Irvine, USA, 1999 for contributions in Embedded Systems
- vii. Humboldt Fellowship , Alexander von Humboldt Stiftung, Germany, 1997, for the nominee's works in Embedded Systems.

- viii. Jaycee Award for Outstanding Persons, Calcutta Chamber of Commerce, 1996, for research on Assistive Devices for the Physically Handicapped.
- ix. Young Scientist Award, Dept. of Science & Technology, Govt. of India, 1992, for R&D towards devices for visually handicapped.

12. List of Research Publications: Peer reviewed Journals and Conferences : 239

For details: Please see **Annexure I**

Books: 4

Int. Journals: 75

Int. Conferences: 160

**Citations** : 1914 as of date according to Google Scholar

**h-index**: 19

13. Significant Recent Projects Led: (Period 2002-2014)

- Aakash Application Development Laboratory, Ministry of Human Resource Development, 2013 – date, Rs 70 Lakhs
- Digital Contents for the Print Impaired Students, MHRD, 2010-12 (Pilot) 53 Lakhs
- An Open Source Web Browser for Blind People Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, Govt. of India, Rs. 29.94 Lakhs;
- Development of Bangla Linux and Standardized Bangla Keyboard, Society for Natural Language Technology Research, Rs. 15.0 Lakhs;
- Development of Multimedia Hardware-Software system for the Education of Students with Cerebral Palsy and Communication, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment GoI, Rs. 17.00 Lakhs
- Natural Language (Indian) and voice enabled communication system for the physically challenged, MHRD
- Shruti: Embedded Text to Speech Systems for Indian Languages (Client: Media Lab Asia, Value: 74.00 Lakhs;
- Sanyog: A Communication System for the Speech Impaired and Children with Cerebral Palsy Phase I and II, Media Lab Asia, Value: 160.00 Lakhs;
- A Low cost Off line Internet Access System for Rural Schools, Media Lab Asia, Value: 75.00 Lakhs;
- Multimodal Participatory Tutoring System for Rural Schools, Media Lab Asia, Value: 24.00 Lakhs;
- Named Entity Recognition, Microsoft Research Inc., Value: 10.00 Lakhs

#### 14. Patents and Copyrights obtained:

- Title: Method and Apparatus for augmenting computational grids with data parallel execution on network edge; Patent ID:32/MUM/2014
- Title: Method and System for Identifying a sensor to be deployed in a Physical Environment Patent ID: 816/MUM/2014
- Title: A Multimodal System and Method facilitating Gesture Creation through Scalar and Vector , Application number PCT/IN2013/000139, Indian Application - 805/MUM/2012
- Title: A Method for Embedding and Multiplexing Audio Metadata in a Broadcasted Analog Video Stream Pub. No.: WO/2013/105116, International Application No.: PCT/IN2012/000859, Indian Application - 3702/MUM/2011
- System for an Intuitive, Customizable, Multilingual and Reconfigurable Augmentative Communication, Patent No.: 233682
- Title: Generating Spatial Proximity Model in Accordance with a User's Feedback, Copyright
- Title: Bharati Braille Transcription System, Copyright
- Title: Sparsha Transliteration System, Copyright
- Title: SparshaChitra : Tool for integrating diagrams in Braille Coded Material, Copyright

#### References:

- Prof. K.L. Chopra(Padmashri)  
Honorary Professor,IITD,IITBN;BESU and ITM  
Chairman ,BoG ,BBIT and HDF -SoM  
(Former Director, Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur)  
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## Annexure I

### Books:

T.Dasgupta and Anupam Basu, **Indian Sign Language Machine Translation and Lexical Data Acquisition**, LAMBERT Academic Publishing, Feb. 2013

Anupam Basu, T. Dasgupta and S. Banerjee, **ভাষা প্রযুক্তি পরিচয়** (Language Technology: an Introduction – in Bengali), SNLTR Pub, 2012

Srabona Mitra, Anirban Lahiri and Anupam Basu, **Battery-Aware Multiprocessor Task Scheduling**, LAMBERT Academic Publishing, April, 2012

Soumyajit Dey, Anupam Basu, **Embedded Architectures for Speech and Machine Learning: A Design Space Exploration Approach**, LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2010

### Journals

1. Tirthankar Dasgupta, Manjira Sinha, and Anupam Basu, “Development of Applications to Enhance Entertainment and Social Interaction Opportunities for People with Cerebral Palsy in India”, Journal of Assistive Technology (Taylor & Francis), to appear.
2. Tirthankar Dasgupta, Manjira Sinha, and Anupam Basu, “Development of a web browsing interface for people with severe speech and motor impairment”, Journal of Universal Access in the Information Society (UAIS), Springer, to appear.
3. Tirthankar Dasgupta and Anupam Basu, “Empirical Experiments to Study Compositionality in Bangla Compound Verbs”, Journal of Language Resource and Evaluation (LREV), Springer, to appear.
4. Tirthankar Dasgupta, Manjira Sinha, and Anupam Basu, “Computational Modelling of Morphological Effects in Bangla Visual Word Recognition”, Journal of Psycholinguistic Research (JOPR), DOI:10.1007/s10936-014-9302-x.
5. Tirthankar Dasgupta, Manjira Sinha and Anupam Basu, “Resource Creation and Development of an English-Bangla Back Transliteration System”, International Journal of Knowledge- Based and Intelligent Engineering Systems (KES), IOS Press, 2015, (Accepted).

6. Tirthankar Dasgupta, and Anupam Basu, "Computational Models of the Lexical Representation of Bangla Compound Words in the Mental Lexicon", Journal of Psycholinguistic Research (JOPR), Springer, 2015, (Accepted).
7. Manjira Sinha and Anupam Basu, "A Study of Readability of Texts in Bangla through Machine Learning Approaches", International Journal of Education and Information Technologies (EAIT), Springer, 2014, (Accepted).
8. Sanjay Chatterji, Tanaya Mukherjee Sarkar, PragatiDhang, Samhita Deb, SudeshnaSarkar, JayshreeChakraborty, Anupam Basu, "A dependency annotation scheme for Bangla treebank" In Language Resources and Evaluation, Springer, pp. 1-35, 2014
9. Biswajit Das, SandipanMandal, PabitraMitra, Anupam Basu, "Aging Speech Recognition with Speaker Adaptation Techniques: Study on Medium Vocabulary Continuous Bengali Speech", Pattern Recognition Letters,34(3) pp. 335-343 (2013)
10. Debatri Chatterjee, Aniruddha Sinha, Arpan Pal, Anupam Basu, "An Iterative Methodolgy to Improve TV Onscreen Keyboard Layout Design through Evaluation of User Studies", Advances in Computing, Vol.2 No.5, 2012, pp. 81-91
11. B. Das, S. Mandal,P.Mitra and Anupam Basu, " Effect of Aging on Speech Features and Phoneme Recognition: A Study on Bengali Voicing Vowels", International Journal of Speech Technology, pp. 1-13, 2012.
12. Soumyajit Dey, Dipankar Sarkar and Anupam Basu "A Kleene Algebra of Tagged System Actors for Reasoning about Heterogeneous Embedded Systems" in IEEE Transaction on Computers (accepted, early access preprint available at <http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/xpl/articleDetails.jsp?arnumber=6216352> )
13. Soumyajit Dey, D.Sarkar and Anupam Basu, "A Kleene Algebra of Tagged System Actors", IEEE Embedded Systems Letters, Vol.3, No.1, March 2011, pp. 28-31
14. Soumyajit Dey, Praveen Rokkam and Anupam Basu, "Modeling and Analysis of Embedded Multimedia Applications using Colored Petri Nets", InternationalJournal of Modeling, Simulation, and Scientific Computing (IJMSSC), Vol.2, No. 2, 2011, World Scientific, pp. 169-193
15. Bhattacharya, S., Samanta, D. & Basu, Anupam, "Model-based Design of Scanning Input Communication Aids: State of the Art and Research Issues". International Journal of Computers and Applications (IJCA). ACTA Press, 32(3), pp. 290-296.
16. Bhowmick P. K., Basu A. and Mitra P. Do we agree? Measuring agreement on the human judgements in emotion annotation of news sentences, Journal of Cybernetics and Systems, 41 (7),469-488

17. Soumyajit Dey, Dipankar Sarkar, Anupam Basu "A Tag Machine based Performance Evaluation Method for Job-Shop Schedules", *IEEE TCAD*, vol 29(7), pp 1028-1041, 2010 . Digital Object Identifier : 10.1109/TCAD.2010.2049067.
18. Tirthankar Dasgupta, Anupam Basu and Pabitra Mitra, "A Framework for the Automatic Generation of Indian Sign Language", *Journal of Intelligent Systems (JIS)*, 2010, Vol 19, no. 2, pp-125-144
19. Bhowmick P. K., Basu A., Mitra P. and Prasad A. (2010). Sentence level news emotion analysis in fuzzy multi-label classification framework, Special issue on Natural Language Processing and its Applications: Research in Computing Science, vol. 46, pp. 143–154.
20. Bhowmick P. K., Sarkar S. and Basu A. (2010). Ontology based user modeling for personalized information access, Special issue on Web Semantics & Ontology-I: International Journal of Computer Science & Applications, vol. 7, no. 1, pp. 1–22.
21. Bhowmick P. K., Roy D., Sarkar S. and Basu A. (2010). A framework for manual ontology engineering for management of learning material repository, Special issue on Web Semantics & Ontology-II: International Journal of Computer Science & Applications, vol. 7, no. 2, pp. 30–51.
22. Bhattacharya, S. and Basu, A. (2010). "Design of a Word to Sentence Generator for Augmentative Communication". International Journal of Computers and Applications (IJCA). ACTA Press, 32(1), pp. 73-83.
23. C.Misra, B.Bhattacharya and Anupam Basu, "A New Framework to Preserve Tagore Songs", Int. Journal of World Digital Libraries, WDL, TERI, pp. 63-72, 2010
24. S. Chakrabarty, D.Roy, Anupam Basu, "Development of Knowledge Based Intelligent Tutoring System", in Advanced Knowledge Based Systems, TMRF e-Book Series, P S. Sajja and R. Akerkar eds., pp.74-100, 2010
25. Mukherjee, A., Choudhury, M., Basu, A., and Ganguly, N. (2009). Self-organization of the Sound Inventories: Analysis and Synthesis of the Occurrence and Co-occurrence Networks of Consonants, *Journal of Quantitative Linguistics*, 16(2), 157—184.
26. Tirthankar Dasgupta and Anupam Basu, "Automatic Transliteration of Indian Language Text to Braille for the Visually Challenged in India", *Information Technology in Developing Countries, International Federation for Information Processing (IFIP)*, 2009, Volume 19, Number 3, pp-11-18.
27. Bhowmick P. K., Basu A. and Mitra P. (2009). Reader perspective emotion analysis in text through ensemble based multi-Label classification framework, Computer and

Information Science, vol. 2, no. 4, pp. 64–74.

28. Bhattacharya, S. and Basu, A. (2009). “Design of an Iconic Communication Aid for the Individuals with Speech and Motor Impairments in India”. *Assistive Technology (AT)*, Taylor and Francis, 21(4), pp 173-187.
29. Mukherjee, A., Chakraborty, K., and Basu, A.(2008). SweepSticks - An Adaptive Virtual Mouse for People with Neuro-Motor Disorders, *Assistive Technology Journal of the Rehabilitation Engineering Society of North America*, **20**(2), 111—124.
30. Mukherjee, A., Choudhury, M., Roy Chowdhury, S., Basu, A., and Ganguly, N. (2008). Rediscovering the Co-occurrence Principles of the Vowel Inventories: A Complex Network Approach, *Advances in Complex Systems*, **11**(3), 371—392.
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35. Mukherjee A., Choudhury M., Basu A. and Ganguly N. (2007). Modeling the Co-occurrence Principles of Consonant Inventories: A Complex Network Approach. *International Journal of Modern Physics C*, 18(2), 281--295.
36. Prodip Bhowal, Dipankar Sarkar, Siddhartha Mukhopadhyay, Anupam Basu, Fault diagnosis in discrete time hybrid systems - A case study. *Inf. Sci.* 177(5): 1290-1308 (2007)
37. Choudhury M., Basu A. and Sarkar S. Multi-agent Simulation of Emergence of the Schwa Deletion Pattern in Hindi. *Journal of Artificial Societies and Social Simulation* 9(2). (2006) <<http://jasss.soc.surrey.ac.uk/9/2/2.html>>
38. Mukhopadhyay A., Chakraborty S., Choudhury M., Lahiri A., Dey S. and Basu A.

- (2006). Shruti - An Embedded Text-to-Speech System for Indian Languages. *IEEE Proceedings on Software Engineering*, 153 (2): 75-79, April 2006
39. Lahiri A., Basu A., Choudhury M. and Mitra S., Battery Aware Power Savings. *Electronics Systems and Software Magazine*, IET, April/May 2006.
  40. U. Deshpande, A. Gupta, and A. Basu, "Performance Enhancement of a Contract Net Protocol Based System through Instance Based Learning", Communicated to *IEEE Transactions on Systems, Man, and Cybernetics, Part B – Cybernetics*, Vol. 35, No. 2, April 2005, pp. 345-358.
  41. U. Deshpande, A. Gupta, and A. Basu, "Multi-agent Modeling and Fuzzy Task Assignment for Real-Time Operation in a Supply Chain", Multi-agent Based Supply Chain Management (Edited Book, Editors – B. Chaibdraa, J.P. Muller) published by Springer, Berlin, in 2005.
  42. U. Deshpande, A. Gupta, and A. Basu, "Task Assignment with Imprecise Information for Real-Time Operation in a Supply Chain", *The Journal of Applied Soft Computing*, Elsevier Science, Vol. 5, Nov. 2004, pp.101-117.
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  44. Dandapat S., Sarkar S., Basu A..A Hybrid Model for Part-of-Speech Tagging and its Application to Bengali. *International Journal of Information Technology(IJIT)*, Volume 1 Number 4 2004, pp 169-173.
  45. Anupam Basu, "Computer Based Interfaces for People with Special Needs", *Computing and Information Science: Systems and Applications*, Narosa Pub. 2003,pp.179-215.
  46. U. Deshpande, A. Gupta, and A. Basu, "A distributed hospital resource scheduling system using a multi-agent framework", *IETE Technical Review*, Vol. 18, No. 4, 2001, pp. 263-275.
  47. Raj S. Mitra, Anupam Basu: Hardware-Software Partitioning: A Case for Constraint Satisfaction. *IEEE Intelligent Systems* 15(1): 54-63 (2000)
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49. A. Basu, S. Roy, P. Dutta and S.Banerjee, " A PC Based Multi-user Braille Reading System for the Blind Libraries", IEEE Transactions on Rehabilitation Systems, March 1998, pp.60--68.
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51. A. Basu, S. Sarkar and A.K.Majumdar, " DOORS: An Object Oriented CAD System for High Level Synthesis", IEE Proceedings on Computers and Digital Techniques, vol.144, no.5, 1997, pp. 331-341.
52. A. Basu, S. Mukhopadhyay and P. Bhowal, " Issues in Hardware Software Co-Design of PLC Based Controllers", in Advances in Nuclear and Allied Instrumentation, Tata McGraw Hill Pub. 1997, pp. 193-199.
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54. R. S. Mitra, P.S.Roop, and A. Basu , "A New Algorithm for Implementation of Design Functions by Available Devices", IEEE Transactions on VLSI Systems, Vol.4, No.2, June 1996, pp. 170-180.
55. R.S.Mitra, P.S.Roop, and A. Basu , "An Overview of MICKEY: An Expert System for Automating the Design of Microprocessor Based Systems", SADHANA, Journal of the Indian Academy of Science , Vol.21, Pt.6, December 1996, pp. 719-739.
56. A. Basu ,S. Sarkar, K.A.Rao, A.K.Majumdar, "SRT:A Knowledge Engineering Tool for Scene Recognition", accepted for publication in Journal of Indian Institute of Science , special issue on Intelligent Systems ,Vol. 76, Nov-Dec 1996, pp. 793-812.
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63. R.S.Mitra and A. Basu, "Design and Redesign of Microprocessor based Application Systems", in Cybernetics and Systems, Jan. 1993, pp.315-321.
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## Annexure II

### Summary statement on Research in Assistive Technology

#### A. **Sanyog – An Iconic Multimodal Communication Device for the Children with Neuro-Motor Disorders and Speech Impairment**

Sanyog is an iconic communication device that accepts icons as input from the user (using special access switches for those who have neuro-motor impairments and cannot use the mouse), forms syntactically and semantically correct natural language sentences in Indian languages (using Natural Language sentence Generator, at present for Bengali, Hindi and English). The sentences can be modified and inflected with the desired tense and mood. The sentences can be spoken out using Shruti (text to speech system).

Iconic sentences are also formed – so that the preliterate children can also understand and communicate. There are various modes of operation such as Iconic (mentioned above), Stored Sentence or On-Screen Keyboard.

It interfaces with different types of indigenously made access switches (single or two-switch modes). These switches allow the user to navigate across the panel and select icons from an auto-scan display.

It is possible for a user to integrate a different text to speech system according to her choice and allows personalization, i.e., the icon set can be modified at ease and icons suitable for a specific user can be easily incorporated.

Thus Sanyog is a complete device that can be used by speech-impaired users or by people with severe speech and motor impairments (SSMI) allowing them means to form their own messages and speak it out. It won the prestigious “da Vinci” award in 2004. Special educators have also pointed out that Sanyog is an excellent device for the children with Autism. The system has been deployed at several schools for children with such special needs, namely, Indian Institute of Cerebral Palsy (IICP), Kolkata, Action for Ability Development and Inclusion (AADI), New Delhi, VidyaSagar, Chennai.

Currently, the sentence generation in Sanyog is verb-directed, and work is in progress towards making it also object-directed. Plan is also there to make it possible to generate compound and complex sentences.

**Sanyog has received the Da Vinci Award awarded by the Engineering Society of Detroit and the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Michigan in 2004 and the National Award for Technology Development for Empowering Persons with Disability 2007, Ministry of Social Justice and Youth Empowerment.**

#### B. **Special Access Switches:**

Special Access Switches are designed to enable persons with Cerebral Palsy, Motor Neuron disease or other disabilities to operate Communication Software (such as Sanyog), Toys, Electrical Devices and Appliances, with suitable adaptations. The adaptations are mostly simple but will be different according to the application or device to be operated.

Various types of Special Access Switches have been developed (hand operated, foot operated, lip operated etc.). One such switch was designed and is being manufactured by Electrosoft Consultants, Kharagpur. These have been deployed at several special schools (all over India, including IICP, Kolkata, AADI, New Delhi, VidyaSagar, Chennai) for such children.

### **C. Chitra Katha:**

Chitra Katha is a portable communication aid for the Cerebral Palsy affected people. It can store up to 16 pre-recorded messages per layer (total 64 messages in 4 layers). The top of the device has a sheet of icons (as used by CP affected people for communication), these icons being scanned by LED lights, and selectable by an external access switch. When a particular icon is selected, the recorded message corresponding to that icon is played back. Four icon sheets can be prepared for the four layers as required, and the corresponding messages recorded by the parents or teachers. The layer, scanning speed etc. will have to be set by the parents/teachers after which the CP affected person can operate the device with the external switch only.

This has also been prototyped by Electrosoft Consultants, Kharagpur in collaboration with IIT Kharagpur and field-tested at IICP, Kolkata.

A new version of the system is being developed for National Trust.

### **D. Sparsha – Text to Braille Transliteration System for Indian Language Texts:**

Sparsha was developed with the objective of providing on-demand Braille transliteration and printing of Indian language texts at an affordable cost. The languages supported at present are Hindi, Bengali, Marathi, Gujarati, Tamil, Telugu, Oriya and Kannada and the supported file formats are ileap (.lp2 files), ISCII (.aci files) and Unicode. Other Indian languages may be added on demand, within short notice.

It also offers transliteration of English text to its corresponding Braille representation, in Grade I or Grade II, the file formats supported are Text (.txt), MS Word (.doc), web-page (.html) and Adobe Acrobat (.pdf).

Sparsha provides support for printing the transliterated Braille text using any standard Braille printer (Index, Braillo etc.).

**Sparsha is further equipped to translate mathematical and scientific notations (based on Nemeth code – 1972) to their corresponding Braille versions.**

There are numerous other features of Sparsha as well as provision for upgradation as per the needs of the visually impaired people.

Sparsha has been successfully deployed in a number of institutes of national importance, such as, The National Association for the Blind, Delhi, Blind Peoples' Association, Ahmedabad, National Institute for the Visually Handicapped, Dehradun, Vivekananda Mission Ashram, Chaitanyapur, Haldia, and Blind Persons' Association, West Bengal. It is also being currently used by a large number of individual users from various parts of the country.

For further details please see <http://www.cel.iitkgp.ernet.in/Sparsha.htm> and <http://www.facweb.iitkgp.ernet.in/~anupam/sparsha/index.htm>

## **E. Shruti – Indian Language Speech Support for the Visually Impaired**

The Shruti project includes development of a Text to Speech engine, that will convert Bengali and Hindi texts to speech and a Automatic Speech Recognition system for Bengali and Hindi. These can serve as: Computer interfaces for the visually challenged, the voice of the speech impaired, computer interfaces for neo-literates and pre-literates. Modules in software to help pre-literates learn languages using a computer, Interfacing modules in multilingual environments, where, depending on the need, the computer can talk in different languages.

At present a Hindi and a Bengali Text to Speech synthesizers have been developed. This has been deployed as a built-in engine with devices for the speech impaired. This is also being used to provide a text reader for the sightless people.

Text to speech has been one of the greatest challenges of modern computational science. While the utterance of flat speech by a computer has been achieved – the challenges of imposing natural intonation and prosody is being worked on.

The Speech recognition system is being developed and used for developing speech enabled interfaces for the blind people.

For details see <http://www.cel.iitkgp.ernet.in/Shruti.htm>

## **F. An Open Source Web Browser for the Blind people:**

The objective of the project is to develop a framework, with the required toolset, to enable the sightless people browse the web. Moreover, the system will be open source, enabling future developments by different groups.

The proposed system will be having the following key features:

- i) A web browser that can be accessible by any blind person,
- ii) Facilities to provide proper voice feedback to any keyboard operation performed by a blind user,
- iii) Facilities to recognize mouse input methods that allow a blind user to browse the web,
- iv) Facilitate recognition of speech input methods allowing a blind user to browse the web using some pre-defined speech commands,
- v) Extraction of texts from web pages, formatting the extracted text into a system friendly representation which the TTS or the Braille transliteration engine can easily access,
- vi) Represent the selected text in the form of Braille,
- vii) Represent the selected text in the form of speech.

## **G. Creating Accessible Study Material for the Print Impaired (Blind and Low Vision) Students**

This project aims to solve the problem of non-availability of reading materials for print impaired students pursuing higher education courses in universities across the country. This will be achieved by converting and distributing course books and recommended

reference books for a few courses which are popular amongst visually impaired students into an accessible e-text DAISY format. The material shall include books in English and regional medium languages. The e-text content can also be used to generate the text books in Braille, large print and audio formats.

Once the text books have been converted into an e-text format, the content will be saved on DVDs and distributed to all registered Universities in India. It is hoped that once this project is completed, print impaired students pursuing higher education will get study material at no extra cost and at the same time as their sighted contemporaries, thus enabling them to enjoy a full and participatory academic life.

In the pilot phase the target is to convert a total of 200 books in six languages and distribute for the benefit of Print Impaired students through libraries of Indian Universities and Academic Institutes. Fifty books each in English and Hindi and twenty-five each in four regional languages (Bengali, Tamil, Marathi and Assamese) will be taken up in this phase.

Through this project a large number of agencies and people including students will be involved in the book conversion process. Thus a larger pool of resources will be developed for future requirements as well as more people will be sensitized about the problems of the print impaired.

For more details see <http://www.cel.iitkgp.ernet.in/asm>

### Annexure III

#### List of Ph.D Students

Sl. No.	Names	Title of the Thesis	Year
1	Raj SekharMitra	Rapid prototyping of Microprocessor-based Systems	1995
2	SantanuSarkar	Object Oriented VLSI Design Framework	1996
3	Prodip Bhowal	On Fault Diagnosis of Timed Discrete Event Systems and Hybrid Systems	2003
4	Umesh Ashok Deshpande	Collaborative Problem Solving among Organizations using a Multiagent Framework	2005
5	Monojit Choudhury	Computational Models of Real World Phonological Change	2007
6	Animesh Mukherjee	Self Organization of Speech Sound Inventories in the Framework of Complex Networks	2009
7	Samit Bhattacharya	Models and Algorithms for Virtual Scanning Keyboard Design	2009
8	PlabanBhaumik	Emotion Recognition from Textual Data	2010
9	Soumyaji tDey	Formal Analysis of Heterogenous Embedded systems using Tagged signal Models	2011
10	Sanjay Chatterjee	A Framework to Improve Bangla to Hindi Translation of Texts	2014
11	Manjira Sinha	Readability of Text: A Deeper Look into Semantics and Sociological Factors	submitted
12	TirthankarDasgupta	Discovering Individual Mental Lexicon	submitted
13	PriyankaSinha	Faceted Text Mining	Ongoing

