

ISOC Universal Acceptance Day - 2025

Universal Acceptance and Digital Inclusion

29th March 2025, Microsoft Campus, Gachibowli, Hyderabad

The Internet Society India Hyderabad Chapter, successfully hosted Universal Acceptance (UA) Day 2025 on March 29 at Microsoft's campus in Gachibowli, Hyderabad. Themed "Enabling a Multilingual Internet through Universal Acceptance," the event witnessed enthusiastic participation from over 530 delegates, including technologists, policy leaders, academia, startups, and digital inclusion advocates.

The day commenced with a warm welcome by Mr. Manish Gupta and Mr. Bala Peddigari, followed by a Message by Mr. Anil Jain, the Chair of the Universal Acceptance Steering Group (UASG) saying "**today, millions of people are able to use email addresses and domain names that are written in their native scripts**". A powerful inaugural session featured distinguished speakers K Mohan Raidu, President, ISoC Hyderabad Chapter, Mr. Jayesh Ranjan (Special Chief Secretary IT, Government of Telangana), Mr. Samiran Gupta (Vice President, APAC, ICANN), Mr. Sandeep Srivastava (Director Products, Microsoft), and Prof. Salman Abdul Moiz (Vice President, ISOC Hyderabad).

Mohan Raidu explained the journey of Internet Society Hyderabad Chapter activities. He said the strength of the Chapter lies on ISOC Academic Hubs, situated in various Universities and Engineering Colleges. He proudly introduced ISOC Encryption Forum and ISOC UA Forum to the audience. Mentioned the partnership with ISOC Foundation, ICANN, CDAC, DEF India, IGF, APriGF, inSIG, IIGF and IETF. As members of Global Encryption Coalition, we organized the Global Encryption Day. Events were organized on DNSSEC in sponsorship from ICANN and CDAC. DDCN-Designing and Deploying Computer Networks sponsored by the ISOC Foundation was a 5 Month Skill development programme with one week BootCamp and 3 months internship. This knowledge is the basis for IoT and Cyber Security.

From the time of Chapter inauguration, President K Mohan Raidu has focussed on Universal Acceptance with UA and EAI Workshops, attending the UASG Working Groups' meets and participating in all the UA Local Initiatives. The recent UA engagements at the Chapter are, a Universal Acceptance Awareness Programme by Champika Wijayatunga, ICANN; UA Curriculum meet for Faculties by Mr Samiran Gupta, a three day FDP on UA by Geraldo Ferreira, ICANN and now this UA Day 2025. ISOC Hyderabad has started ISOC UA Forum to ideate and develop and execute UA Projects at this Forum. We plan to establish a Centre of Excellence in UA.

Mr Jayesh Ranjan walked through the memory lane and journey of ICANN at Hyderabad and he indicated the importance of digital inclusion to rise the participation of citizens to leverage internet to raise their economic power. The keynote, delivered by Mr. Samiran Gupta, set the tone for the day by addressing the barriers and future of a truly multilingual internet. Samiran also provided a compelling perspective on how Universal Acceptance is vital for ensuring a truly global internet that accommodates diverse linguistic and cultural identities. Sandeep Srivastava from Microsoft explained the growing relevance of Universal Acceptance as part of Microsoft portfolio of products and services.

The technical sessions explored the intersection of AI and UA, the readiness of IDNs (Internationalized Domain Names), and policy implications. Microsoft's Manoo Kapoor presented a session on "**Universal Acceptance in AI's Hands: From Roadblocks to Roadmaps**." He explained how AI-driven solutions can be leveraged to break language barriers, making the internet more inclusive.

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A distinguished panel comprising **Seshu Venkata Kumar (Wipro)**, **Dr. Sriram Birudavolu (DSCI)**, **Manoo Kapoor (Microsoft)**, and **Prof. Salman Abdul Moiz (University of Hyderabad)** engaged in an insightful discussion on how technology, governance, and collaboration can drive Universal Acceptance forward..

Post-lunch sessions delved into real-world UA implementations, including website readiness, hosting on IDNs, and challenges in networking. Experts **Gopinath (Scientist, CDAC)**, **Sushanta Sinha (UA Ambassador, UASG)**, and **Samir Jain (Microsoft)** led insightful discussions. **Sushantha Sinha, UA Ambassador (UASG)** delivered a talk focusing on the challenges and opportunities associated with UA adoption. Sushantha's session provided real-world examples of UA implementation and its significance. **Gopinath (CDAC)** presented a session on website UA readiness and Internationalized Domain Names (IDN). He demonstrated how websites can be optimized to support different languages and scripts. **Samir Jain (Microsoft), Manager of Azure Networking** led a session on how networking plays a critical role in advancing Universal Acceptance, emphasizing collaboration among industries, academia, and policymakers.

Event was very well engaged by **Manish Gupta and Bala Peddigari leveraging Quizzing through Mentimeter on Universal Acceptance and its relevance** and leaders of the quiz were duly recognized through gift distribution. The event concluded with certificate distribution and a heartfelt vote of thanks by Dr. Salman Abdul Moiz.

The success of UA Day 2025 not only underscored the urgency of embracing Universal Acceptance but also spotlighted India's leadership in driving digital inclusivity at scale. **With over 530+ minds aligned, the day ended with a shared mission — to make the internet truly for everyone, in every language.**

Universal Acceptance Day 2025 successfully brought together experts and professionals dedicated to making the internet more inclusive. The discussions and sessions provided valuable insights into the technical, policy, and strategic aspects of UA. The event reaffirmed the commitment of the stakeholders toward achieving accessible and multilingual internet.



K. Mohan Raidu
President ISOC Hyderabad



Jayesh Ranjan
Special Chief Secretary, Govt of Telangana



Samiran Gupta
Vice President, APAC, ICANN



Sandeep Srivastava
Director Products, Microsoft



Manoo Kapoor
Grp Prd Manager, Microsoft



Panel Discussion
on UA for Multilingual Internet

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P Gopinath
Scientist, CDAC, Bangalore



Sushantha Sinha
UA Ambassador, UASG



Samir Jain
Director-Networks, Microsoft



Guests and Speakers

