

Chandaria's 'Gujarati Digital Dictionary' Is a Gift to New Millennium Literature

UK-based industrialist Ratilal Chandaria has presented the global Gujarati literature an invaluable new millennium gift -- Gujarati Digital Dictionary. The high-tech Dictionary with a spell checker is the product of a 20-year dedicated study and project by him.

This digital dictionary is expected to fulfill a critical need of the present and future generations in respect of Gujarati language. Significantly, at present, it is the only digital collection of lexicon derived from a wide range of language sources from Gujarati Diaspora settled in different parts of the globe.

Ratilal Chandaria, chief architect of this magnum opus, has made full use of information technology for catering to the needs of an increasingly IT-savvy Gen Next. Some of the important elements of it are:

- Words and their varied forms have been digitised.
- The digital dictionary has an easily usable Gujarati spell-checker. Making of this spell-checker is Ratilal Chandaria's major contribution. Those who use Gujarati language know that Gujarati spelling is not that easy. Printers of Gujarati language will find this immensely helpful.
- This digital dictionary is sourced from more than 2,500,000 words and has added additional words which are in vogue. The 'English to Gujarati' section has 32,034 words whereas 'Gujarati to English' section has 49,936 words. The 'Gujarati to Gujarati' dictionary has 149,709 words and there are 5,144 antonyms along with 15,694 conventional expressions.
- This dictionary can also be accessed on the World Wide Web at <http://www.gujaratilexicon.com/> in any part of the world.
- Gujarati Lexicon uses Unicode, which makes it easier to read the script. For correcting errors, one does not have to wait for a new edition of the software as one can correct errors as one finds them.
- The lexicon provides a keyboard for ease of writing in Gujarati. With the click of a mouse, anyone can use this keyboard. Simple instructions enable individuals to use it effectively and easily.

Most institutions, schools, colleges and universities, and publishers of books in Gujarati language, who have been finding it difficult to locate competent proofreaders, will heave a sigh of relief, thanks to Gujarati Digital Dictionary. Simply by using their computer keyboard and clicking of their mouse, users will be able to check the meaning of Gujarati words and learn how to spell them correctly.

Impressed by Ratilal Chandaria's work, the President of Gujarati Sahitya Parishad Dhiruben Patel has created a forum of scholars which includes Vinod Adhvaryu, Kulinchandra Yagnik, Rasendra Pandya, Babulal M. Shah and Chandubhai M. Shah for assessing this unique digital dictionary. Ratilal Chandaria plans to preserve the project by a strategic tie-up with Utkarsh, World's First Gujarati Operating System.

Those who require a copy of this digital dictionary can get it either from Chandaria Foundation (* address: 12 Sudhakar, Narayan Dabholkar Road, Mumbai - 400 006; *E-mail: <comcraft@vsnl.com>) or from Utkarsh (* address: Magnet Technologies, 104, Kent Gardens, 51st Rd., TPS3, Borivali West, Mumbai - 400 092 ;* Email: <support@utkarsh.org>)