THIS APP HELPS PEOPLE WITH SEVERE MOTOR IMPAIRMENT

TYPE ANY WORD WITH JUST ONE KEY

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We have all chuckled over mix-ups in messages thanks to predictive text in smart phones. For people with difficulties in moving fingers and limbs, writing text on tiny hypersensitive virtual keyboards with multiple keys is so despairing they resist or give up using smart phones.

Now, Prashanth L. Kamath, a Bengaluru-based information technology professional, who faced difficulties with writing on virtual keyboards, has developed "Okk", (One Key Keyboard), an application designed to aid people with severe motor impairment or autism to enter text into apps on smart phones.

Okk consists of a virtual keyboard with only one key. Users can type any character on the keyboard using the single key or button. It is available only in English and has no intelligent prediction. Sending typed text to other apps such as Save as Note may not work well always.

Mr. Kamath, who is passionate about working on for assistive technology solutions for people with disabilities so they can compete with others in schools, colleges and in workplaces, said, "The user interface may not be beautiful. It could even be ugly depending on the device. But it serves the purpose."

The application originated in the 'Hackathon for Developmental Disabilities', has been used by children at the Spastics Society of Karnataka and was launched on World Autism Awareness Day in April.

The app is available on Google Play Store

CHECK TRAIN PNR STATUS

BENGALURU: Here is now an app that will tell you what is the probability of your train ticket getting confirmed. It will also tell you if a seat is available on a specific train in a specific class.

Trainman (www.trainman.in) makes the predictions using a model trained with over five million PNRs. Getting a green means a high confirmation chance (of above 65 per cent), yellow means a chance of 50 and 65 per cent. Below 50 per cent (red colour) means confirmation is unlikely. Mohammed Amir, founder, Trainman, said, "Out of 10 times, it is correct eight to nine times." The app fetches the PNR number from the SMS for use in the app.

In two months, the app has seen 6,000 downloads on Android devices. The website has got 50,000 page views. It also works on iOS platform.

THIS IS HOW IT WORKS

The alphabets keep appearing like a scroll on the single key. The user has to press the key when he sees the letter he wants. The chosen letter appears on a screen above the key. After every five letters, the word "space" appears, which the user can choose if required.

The user can choose the group of characters appearing on the button (such as alphabets, numbers or combinations of them). It provides a basic level of word prediction.

An app for subsidised health scheme beneficiaries

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Beneficiaries of the Rajiv Arogya Bhagya (RAB), a subsidised health scheme for APL families, can now choose an affordable hospital of their choice through a mobile application.

The app, launched by Health Minister U.T. Khader recently, will provide beneficiaries information on the empanelled hospitals located in their neighbourhood.

The app will also display rates for treatment of various procedures in semi-private and private wards fixed by the empanelled hospitals.

The scheme envisages subsidised treatment for up to Rs. 1.5 lakh annually for APL families.

HOW TO ACCESS THE APP?

It can be downloaded from the Play Store on smart phones or can be accessed through by logging on to www.rajivarogya.org; www.rajivarogya.com and www.rajivarogya.in

It covers 447 surgical procedures. Under the scheme, those who opt for general wards will have to pay 30 per cent of the total cost of up to Rs. 1.5 lakh and the rest will be paid by the government.

Those who opt for semi-private and private wards will have to pay 50 per cent of the general ward rates in addition to the difference in the package rates for superior wards.