

Books received

Sand to Silicon

The Amazing Story of Digital Technology

Author: Shivanand Kanavi

Publisher: Tata McGraw-Hill Publishing Company Limited, pages 259

ISBN 0-07-058330-7



This book is an endeavour and a journey into the past to investigate the development of technologies powering information technology and telecommunication. The book attempts to investigate the role played by the Indian scientists and engineers. It covers the entire array of developments in semiconductors, computers, fibre optics, telecommunications, optical technologies and the Internet. Kanavi in his book has

attempted to record IT's evolution, achievements, potential and the intellectual challenges that have motivated some of the best minds in the world to participate in its creation.

The book traces the history of the expedition that has made information technology and communications central to our existence. The book showcases a complex set of digital technologies in relatively simple terms. Stories and anecdotes have been recounted to provide a flavour of excitement. A bibliography is presented at the end of each chapter for the more adventurous readers along with website addresses wherever available. Kanavi has used an informal 'walk about' style and ramble around chip technology, computers, telephones and cell phones, satellites, lasers, fibre optics and the Internet. ■

Globalisation, ICT and Developing Nations

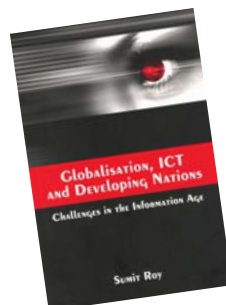
Challenges in the Information Age

Author: Sumit Roy

Publisher: Sage Publications, pages 245

ISBN 0-7619-3346-8

Roy in his book has focused on the critical relationship between globalisation and ICT. This book, focusing on this important relationship, emphasises that increasingly non-state institutions, as opposed to the state, are transforming economies. The author has highlighted the critical requirement for developing regions to shape ICT, which can stimulate development and usher in the information age. The analytical framework is based on a comparative political approach drawing on East and South Asia in particular Africa and India.

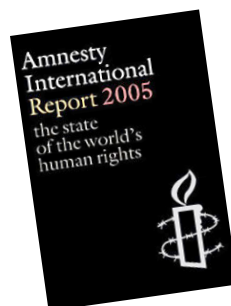


This comparative study of the political economies of East and South Asia, which enables new analytical and policy insights into the linkages between globalisation and ICT. The book discusses the concepts and policies underscoring the shift from state to non-state institutions in furthering the impulsion of globalisation and also its implications for development.

Roy explores the scope of different developing regions to participate in globalisation, based on a comparison of their experience of growth and development, namely, the different phases of integration, disintegration, marginalisation and reintegration into the international economy. It also explores the ways in which policies on ICT can be both a challenge and a unique opportunity for paving the way for development. ■

Amnesty International Report 2005

The state of the world's human rights



During 2004, the human rights of ordinary men, women and children were disregarded or grossly abused in every corner of the globe. Economic interests, political hypocrisy and socially orchestrated discrimination continued to fan the flames of conflict around the world. The 'war on terror' appeared more effective in eroding international human rights principles than in countering international 'terrorism'. The economic, social and cultural rights of marginalized communities were almost entirely neglected.

The Amnesty International Report, which covers 149 countries, highlights the failure of national governments and international organisations to deal with human rights violations, and calls for greater international accountability.

The report also acknowledges the opportunities for positive change that emerged in 2004, often spearheaded by human rights activists and civil society groups. Calls to reform the UN human rights machinery grew in strength, and there were vibrant campaigns to make corporations more accountable, strengthen international justice, control the arms trade and stop violence against women. Whether in a high profile conflict or a forgotten crisis, Amnesty International campaigns for justice and freedom for all and seeks to galvanise public support to build a better world. ■

<http://www.amnesty.org/ailib/aireport/>