Gurgaon schoolkid creates messaging app for students

Ajay Kumar Gautam

Yash Bansal at his school in Gurgaon

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Gurgaon's 16-year-old Yash Bansal might come across as any other teenager at first glance. Like others, he too loves spending time on his smartphone and computer. But while other children his age spend that time using various messaging and social media apps, Yash has gone ahead and actually designed one himself. Over the last year and a half, the class XI student has designed and developed a messaging app for students, and named it after his school.

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The Ajanta Live app, named after his institute Ajanta Public School, works like any other messaging app, but has additional features for students, including updates from CBSE and ICSE, health and fitness manager, and availability of exam papers. Yash is adding another feature where teachers will be able to add mock exam papers for students to access.

"Unlike other messaging apps, this does not have any limitation in terms of the size of the file that can you share and students can make groups of up to two lakh members. All the chats are stored on the server so there is no additional burden on the phone storage," Yash explains. The Sector 31 resident was inspired to make this app last year at the suggestion of his IT teacher when he was in class X. He tells us, "I had made small games and other apps in the past and wanted to make a messaging app. My teacher suggested that if I do that, I should differentiate it by making it useful for students' needs." Yash worked with his teacher and his uncle – who is a software engineer – for over an year on this app, often working in the school's computer lab after hours.

The app also features some educational games so that the app does not become too dreary and dull. "I wanted to add fun games in the app but my teachers and guides suggested that their use should be limited so students don't waste time. Hence, even though there are educational games within the app, they can only be accessed for an hour per day," he tells us.

The app received a shot in the arm when its security and functionality was verified by noted software development company Andolasoft. So far, it has been used by 30 students from the school for a test run, but the school says it is adopting the app for all its students and plans to launch it among the students in October. The creator says they have plans to expand it beyond the school to all the students in Gurgaon and Delhi first and then move to NCR by the end of the year.
— Abhimanyu.Mathur@timesgroup.com