



# JIMS VIRTUAL WORLD

A NEWSLETTER BY THE IT DEPARTMENT

August 3, 2010

## Samsung Galaxy S in India



The 4-inch AMOLED screen with the home button makes it look a bit like an iPhone, but there are two more buttons: menu and back. The screen works great even in direct sunlight. The soft keys (*Menu* and *Back*) are very different from what Android users must have used before, and does take a little time getting used to. The phone is slimmer than expected, and the back panel is surprisingly like an iPhone, except that Apple's logo replaced with Google. The phone fits perfectly in your hand but typing on landscape mode with thumbs for long durations is uncomfortable. Samsung has integrated Swype in the phone, in addition to that there is a new feature called *Vlingo* which transcribes voice for text input. It has a 3.5mm jack and mini-USB both on the top. The headphones are equipped with a 5.1 effect, which gives a theatrical surround sound while watching movies. As for video, it is capable of HD recording and playback, watching a movie for the first time on a super-AMOLED screen is a magical experience. The camera is a five mega-pixel without LED-Flash, even at night the picture quality does not disappoint. The back just misses the Apple logo; which is replaced by Google. The finishing feels absolutely like the iPhone and to many the first impression is that its an iPhone. The impression isn't too wrong, the phone does have pretty much the same internals, layout and games like an iPhone.

**The Interface:** The phone is less Android 2.1 and more Apple in its user interface. The applications menu gives a default layout for accessing Phone, Contacts, Messaging and Home. The default applications that Samsung has provided are Aldiko, 3D gallery, Live wallpapers, Layar 3D browser, Daily Briefing, Mini-Diary, Samsung Apps, ThinkFree Office, Write and Go and Voice Dialer. Aldiko is impressive as ever and I'm glad that Samsung has decided to have it by default.

**3D gallery:** Samsung decided it was important to give it as a default media viewer, it is a pleasurable experience on a faster processor and a larger screen.

**Messaging:** The default application given by Samsung is as good as Handcent SMS, so no need to require installing anything for messaging.

**All Share:** Synchronize your phone with your computer via Wi-fi and play files from your phone to the computer or vice versa. If that does not suffice your needs then it is possible to play a file from the phone sent to a server and then to another computer.

**Mini-Diary:** A little chic application but pretty cool to just click pictures and write a description on it like the old school scrapbook.

**Live Wallpapers:** The screen is responsive with multi-touch .

**Write and Go:** A normal notepad app like AK notepad.

**ThinkFree Office:** is Samsung's Quick Office but with the edit feature. Which gives it an edge over other phones.

**Voice-Dialer:** Needs a lot of work; not that it does not recognise the voice but you need to talk in an accent.

**Radio:** Clear reception and no complains here.

**Widgets:** Nothing that will stand out except for *Feeds* and *Updates* that allows a certain customisation with feeds and updates you receive. Rests of the widgets are basic that are available on most phones.

**Samsung Applications:** Bundled apps include **RoadSMS**, **Vlingo**, **Robert Parker**, **This Day in History** and **Asphalt 5**.

**Vlingo:** is a speech tool that helps you tell your phone what to do and it is impressive. Vlingo can type a mail, message, call, open apps, search on map, tweet and type requiring only an internet connection. Very impressive!

**Asphalt 5:** is a racing arcade .The game is tasty with graphics, races, cars and even bikes.

**Road SMS:** Lets you type a SMS while walking but turning on the camera and enabling a transparent keyboard.

**PC Sync:** A cakewalk, but check out **Samsung Kies**, which has an amazing interface which resembles Apple's Mac OS.

**Street Price:** The listing says Rs 31,000 .