



Employment News



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Incredible North East!

Digital Village Project ; Governance at Door Step

Sujit Chakraborty

Manas Paul, Gauri Sarkar, Abinash Das ... all are excited. From their doorstep they will soon be able to get any government certificate and permit within a minimum time and will also be able to file complaint with the police ... thanks to the government's Rs.20,000 crore "digital village" project that will eventually cover all the 250,000 gram panchayats across India in a phase manner. "Through e-services, various scopes, ranging from education to entertainment, medical counseling to agricultural advices, government payments would be at our doorsteps. These are not dreams, all would be really soon," the semi-literate villagers at Panisagar said with cheers. All the residents of the block would get the facilities through the National Optical Fiber Network (NOFN). The proposed system would save time to a large extent and shall not face any official complications. "Also we would not lose several working days to get the official documents for numerous purposes."

The Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY) under the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, has put in

place the infrastructure for executing a pilot project in 59 gram panchayats in three blocks in three states across India to explore how citizens and institutions can be offered services through the NOFN. The government has set up Bharat Broadband Network Ltd (BBNL) to carry out this ambitious project.

The government of India approved the setting up of the NOFN to provide connectivity to the 250,000 gram panchayats in the country. The main object of this pilot project is to explore how NOFN can be best exploited to deliver services to the people by creating digitally empowered communities or digital villages. Under the projects, all government offices, including health institutions and police stations in the three blocks will be connected with the NOFN that will make videoconferencing possible too.

The DeitY as part of the National e-Governance Plan (NeGP) is also building a network of over 180,000 Common Services Centres (CSCs) to take a gamut of public services to the very doorstep of the common man in both urban, rural and remote areas of the country.

To be operated by the local youths, the

CSC network would link more than 800,000 villages across the country. The perspective behind CSCs is to provide an IT-based delivery platform to government, private and social sector organisations for reaching out to the rural people in the rural, remote and isolated areas. The implementation of CSCs involves public-private partnership, with an active participation of rural entrepreneurs offering jobs to thousands of youth.

E-governance has been gradually expanding its footsteps in the interior and rural areas of the mountainous North Eastern region comprising eight states with a population of 4.56 crore (as per 2011 census).

ARUNACHAL PRADESH

Through the online 'Jan-Suvidha' single window certificate delivery system, various certificates are being issued and renewed from the Deputy Commissioners' offices across the bordering state. The 'Jan Suvidha' centres charge a minimum fee for all the services. Under the generic 'Payroll and GFP Computerisation Project' payroll system has been developed and implemented in about 90 government offices

of Arunachal Pradesh. The wireless LAN connectivity is also provided to the Governor's Secretariat, Legislative Assembly, and Chief Minister's residence. Web hosting and e-mail services to various government departments have also been provided. NIC centres in Arunachal Pradesh also undertake web application development on request from government departments.

ASSAM

A work-flow based web-enabled system for land records named "Dhanitree" has been developed with multi-lingual support in Assamese and Bengali and it is being implemented throughout the state. Web-enabled counting system and web-based software were used in the electioneering since 2008 to conduct the election process smoothly. Geographic Information System or WebGIS application have also being gradually expanding their networks to make out human habitations, resources and other land based information. A data base of more than 68000 small tea growers built up for 14 districts together with Bought Leaf Factories and Estate Factories, Department of Industries and

Continued on page 48

Digital Village Project ... Continued from page 1
 Commerce of the Assam government published one volume on graphical analysis and three volumes of textual data. A Pilot project on tele-education implemented for nineteen Higher Secondary Schools in Assam for imparting Coaching classes for entrance examinations. Monitoring of regular classroom attendance of 18 schools and one college covered under the online tele-education project in Assam.

MANIPUR
 An online project-- Monitoring of Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCP) and Special Plan Assistance (SPA) -- was launched to facilitate proper monitoring of planned schemes of Manipur, improve data exchange between various departments and enable tracking of projects to understand the reasons of delay. A "Pay Roll Computerisation" system was developed for preparing salary bills and other entitlements for all the employees using a centralized database system. To increase tax collection and improve the tax administration of the department of taxes under the Manipur government, a VATSoft online application software has been developed and working well. Using this software, dealers can perform various activities online through the portal by selecting a branch/zone office. The activities include are, e-Registration e-Payment, e>Returns, e-Query, e-Refunds, e-Grievances and besides downloading statutory forms.

MEGHALAYA
 Various e-governance services have been launched to issue Caste Certificate, Tribe Certificate, Permanent Residential Certificate, Other Backward Community Certificate, Domicile Certificate, permission to hold special events, senior citizen certificate, addition deletion, modification in the electoral roll, e-Payment of Trade Taxes, e-Waybill (Taxation Dept), e-registration, application for job vacancy in Meghalaya Public Service Commission. Online financial management and government employees'

related various works are also operational in Meghalaya. Online system "PLASMA" has been designed creating employees' database of all the government departments in Meghalaya for the preparation of the monthly salaries of the employees. Through the online Pension Automated System, the monthly pension payment is centrally processed at the Central Pension Cell for the Pensioners of all Treasuries and sub treasuries and the Payment order or scroll is sent to SBI Shillong where the amount is credited directly to the accounts of the pensioners using the core banking facilities.

Computerisation of Meghalaya Public Service Commission System caters to the need of Pre and Post-Examination processes of the Meghalaya Public Service Commission and includes activities like processing of application forms, assigning unique application code to applicants, retrieval of eligible candidates from the database, issuing of intimation letters, admit cards and so on and so forth. Hospital Management System (e-Hospitals) is a solution to manage patients, and provides health information to the patients, doctors, nurses, paramedical. Under the automated computerisation system in Shillong Municipal Board, Complaint Monitoring System, Property Assessment and Tax on Property and Birth and Death Registration works are being done providing hassle free services to the people.

Extensive information technology support and services to the district court and Meghalaya High Court in implementation of the e-Court project is also underway. A computer centre has been set up in the premises and all court rooms have been provided with a computer to record the proceedings. The Court Information System (CIS) has been implemented. Court cases are entered in the CIS system and case proceedings are updated from time to time.

MIZORAM
 In Mizoram a network through the Optical Fiber Cables connect the civil secretariat, Raj

Scholarship scheme for North East States

An exclusive scholarship scheme for the wards/widows of the ex-servicemen and the Coast Guard of the eight northeastern States has been introduced. The scheme would replace the Prime Minister's Scholarship Scheme, since the dependents of the ex-servicemen community were not in a position to avail the benefit under the scheme due to higher cut off eligibility percentage of 60 per cent. The proposed scholarship scheme would be called the "Raksha Mantri's Northeastern States Scholarship Scheme". The amount of scholarship would be as under: Rs 2,000 per month for boys and Rs. 2,250 per month for girls.

Bhawan, divisional commissioners' offices, post offices and High Court using leased line and 76 departments by Radio Frequency(RF). Various departments in the district are having Wimax connectivity. Serchhip district was selected as a Pilot Project for Land Records Computerisation. Bhumi software is developed by NIC. At present the software captures the workflow of the system. The Criminal Investigation Department - Special Branch (CID-SB) unit of Mizoram Police has been actively involved in operation against insurgent, arms smuggling, drugs trafficking etc, in and outside the state and the close monitoring of different political parties, NGOs, student organisations etc. To keep data related to transport information, online computerisation system has been launched. This application specifies requirements for the Intranet Based Web Enabled Software Package for Transport Department (Operations).

Through the web-based Fund Management System (FMS) Divisional Commissioners' offices are doing fund management for numerous purposes. New Land Use Policy Project (NLUP), a Mizoram government flagship mission, is an integrated and comprehensive planning.

NAGALAND

The Nagaland government envisions implementing e-governance in the mountainous state with a view to enhance transparency, efficiency and provide quality and prompt services to its citizens. Like few other North Eastern states, any person who is not an inhabitant of Nagaland and desiring to enter into the territory of the state is required to have Inner Line Permit (ILP). An online ILP Management System which has been imple-

mented at the eight districts and at Nagaland House in Kolkata. Due to the online management, state administration can effectively monitor ILPs issued, renewed, defaulted issues. Revenue eamed from ILP registration and renewal has grown manifold. State authorities can get various kinds of reports in required format. Through the online "Weather Information System (WIS)" daily weather data such as rainfall, temperature, relative humidity, wind speed and direction, barometric pressures, etc are being collected from the offices of the Indian Meteorological Department and provides this data to user agencies.

With the web based Employment Exchange Computerisation system, vacancies of the government departments and business organisations are available online. Employers can search the availability of qualified and suitable candidates from the database. The application is functioning at the Regional Employment Exchange in Kohima and District Employment Exchange in Dimapur. Under the web based Village Profile system, any citizen can get the village profile where comprehensive databases have been stored for the people.

SIKKIM

Online Registration and Certificates Handling, Issuance and Delivery (ORCHID) system is capable of processing all kinds of certificates including other backward community, birth and death certificate, scheduled caste and scheduled tribe. Registering all types of properties online and issued certificate of registration in a minimum time.

TRIPURA
 Online Energy Billing System (EBS) is implemented at electrical subdivisions across the state of Tripura. It also record and maintain the index of power distribution inventory that include pole, transformer, feeder besides details of consumers. E-Hospital@NIC, a workflow based ICT Solution for the state's two Medical Colleges and Hospitals, is a generic application, which deals with all the major functional areas of a hospital. For the "Land Records Computerisation system" revenue circles in Tripura since 1992 are providing computerised Resident of Ordinary Residents (ROR) certificate. The e-Pourasabha (Municipal Application) is an e-governance application for urban local bodies. Besides tax collection, various citizen centric works including issuing of certificates are being done through this online system. Under the e-PSC for Tripura Public Service Commissions various pre-examination works including filling of application, acknowledgement, short listing of candidates are being done for the past many years. Through the web based Physically Challenged Persons Information System (PCPIS) online issuance of Disability Certificate to the Physically Challenged Persons are being done on the same day of medical checkup. Various profiles of the people of otherwise abled are also maintained in the system.

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TRIPURA ATTAINS FIRST POSITION IN LITERACY

Tripura jumped to first position among the States of the country in literacy from the 12th position in the 2001 Census and the fourth position in the 2011 Census with 87.75 per cent literacy. The final evaluation of the neo-literate people was conducted across the state under the supervision of the Indian Statistical Institute stating that State's literacy had now risen to 94.65 per cent from 2011 census. The increased rate is attributed to involvement of local government bodies like gram panchayats, NGOs, local clubs under the close supervision of the State Literacy Mission Authority (SLMA).

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