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**Video Conferencing System  
between  
Jail & Court in Gujarat**

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# Video Conferencing System between Jail & Court in Gujarat

## **PREFACE**

Gujarat State has become 2<sup>nd</sup> State in the country who has introduced Video Conferencing System between Ahmedabad Central Prison and Bhadra Court Complex on 25-12-2003. Now the System is being installed in remaining Jails of Gujarat State. This System has proved to be most economical as it saves Government expenses.

“Gujarat has not only adopted technology for the welfare of the people, but has also scripted the state’s success story with the help of technology” - Honourable Chief Minister of Gujarat

This newsletter has covered Video Conferencing System and some of the E-Governance development in Jails - Home Department - of Gujarat State.

## **AGENDA**

- + Introduction
- + Objective of Video Conferencing System
- + Benefits Achieved
- + Future Plans
- + eGovernance in Jails

## Introduction

- ✚ The Jails of Gujarat State come within the Home Department of the State. There are 23 Jails in Gujarat. Out of that there are 2 Central Jails, 6 District Jails, 2 Special jails, 2 open Jails and 11 sub Jails. There are 11,631 prisoners as on year ending 2004 (11159 male & 472 female)
- ✚ Gujarat State has become **2nd State** in the country that has introduced Video Conferencing System between Ahmedabad Central Prison and Bhadra Court Complex on 25-12 2003.
- ✚ The Inauguration of this Historical event of Video Conferencing System was done by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Gujarat Shri Narendra Modi & Hon'ble Chief Justice of Gujarat High Court Shri Bhavanisinhji in presence of Hon'ble Minister of State for Law & Judiciary, Shri Ashokbhai Bhatt , Hon'ble Minister of State Home (Jail) Shri Amitbhai Shah, Chief Secretary Shri P.K.Laheri, IAS & Add. D.G.P. & I.G. of Prisons, Shri H. R. Gahlot.
- ✚ The whole system is maintained by employees of Sabarmati Central Jail & Bhadra Court.



આઈ.ટી. ક્ષેત્રમાં હરણફાળ ભરવાના ભાગ રૂપે ગુજરાત રાજ્યનાં જેલ વિભાગમાં સર્વ પ્રથમ વખત વિડીયો કોન્ફરન્સીંગ સીસ્ટમનું ઉદ્ઘાટન કરી રહેલ નામ. ગુજરાત હાઈકોર્ટના મુખ્ય ન્યાયમૂર્તિ શ્રી ભવાનીસિંઘજી, ગુજરાત રાજ્યના માનનીય મુખ્ય મંત્રી શ્રી નરેન્દ્રભાઈ મોદી, માનનીય કાયદા મંત્રી શ્રી અશોકભાઈ ભટ્ટ તથા માનનીય રાજ્ય કક્ષાના મંત્રી શ્રી (ગૃહ/જેલ) શ્રી અમીતભાઈ શાહ અને મુખ્ય સચિવ શ્રી પી. કે. લહેરી

### Inauguration of Video Conferencing System

#### Objectives

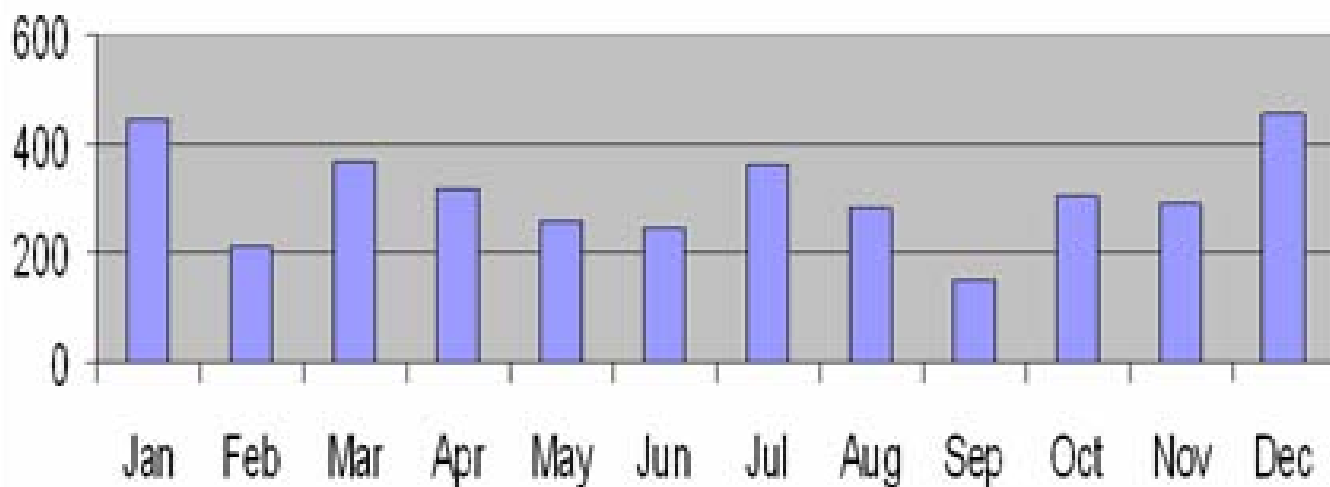
- ✚ To become most economical for saving Government Expenses on Police escorting & Transportation,
- ✚ To minimize the scope of escapes of the prisoners

- ✚ To minimize unauthorized communication and smuggling of contraband / prohibited articles
- ✚ To ensures maintenance of Prisoner’s dignity as they are not unnecessarily taken to courts and made to wait at courts only for taking remand extension.

### **Benefits Achieved**

- ✚ Upto March 2005 around 4890 Prisoners hearing have been done through Video Conferencing System ( Around 300 per Month).

### **No of Cases Processed through Jail - Court Videoconferencing System for Year 2004**



- + Approximately Rs. 50,00,000 have been saved by this system.
- + This system operates on Broad Band Wireless link, against on ISDN lines used in many other states. This will save tremendous cost payable towards ISDN rent and usage charge.
- + Becomes economical for saving Government Expenses on Police escorting & Transportation.
- + Fast hearing of cases has been done by Bhadra Court
- + The system is easily maintained by employees of Both Court & Jail.

### **Future Plans**

- + Installation of Video Conferencing System at Vadodara Central Prison, Rajkot, Bhavnagar, Junagadh District Prison, Bhuj & Mirzapur Court Complexes have been completed.
- + Remaining district and special Jails & respective courts will also be covered within this system.
- + GSWAN connectivity will be provided to all Jails & respective Courts by the end of this Year.
- + System Requirement Study and Functional Specifications for the Jails are carried out by a high level committee, constituted to prepare a detailed report with blue print.
- + All the jails will be connected with Inspector General of Prison's Office and I.G. Office with Home Department of State Government by GSWAN connectivity.

- ✚ Web-site of Home Department is being prepared.
- ✚ National Informatics Centre, New Delhi has prepared a cost estimation report for setting up a LAN and biometric security Set-up for authentication and verification of prisoners as well as staff in two central jails.

# eGovernance News

## Gujarat bags three Awards at CSI-2004

Founded in 1965, the Computer Society of India (CSI) is the largest association of Information Technology Professionals in India, with over 25,000 members on its rolls. CSI has been the only professional body in the country to institute a series of awards for recognizing the contributions made in the field of e-Governance. The basic objective of these awards has been to recognize and appreciate the successful efforts by the states and / or organizations in achieving good governance using ICT. Awards are also for the best e-Governance implementation from the point of view of achieving the pre-defined objectives for the same. GoG has participated in CSI Nihilent e-Governance Competition, organized at National Level.

In the final round, total 17 entries through out the Country were short-listed for presentation **out of more than 100 entries** before the Selection Committee on 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2005 at IIT, Delhi. Following 3 entries were awarded in the specified category from Gujarat:

- e-Governance State (Best Citizen Facilitation)
- e-Governance Project - Ahmedabad Collector Office (Category : Service Orientation)
- e-Governance Project PKI (Category : Technology) - GNFC

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Recently, a National Award is obtained in the Best Product Category for **Pragati Software of BISAG** at Elitex 2005.

The theme for ELITEX-2005 this year was “Gross root Applications using ICT”. The Hon’ble Minister of Communication & Information, Shri Dayanidhi Maran had inaugurated the exposition on April 25, 2005. Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Dy. Chairman, Planning Commission delivered the keynote address. Gujarat State & 13 other State Governments and National Institutes like NIC, C-DAC etc. under Dept. of Information Technology & 45 other institutes had participated in this event.

# eGovernance News

## **SWAGAT bags Manthan Award 2005 in e-Governance**

SWAGAT has bagged the Special Mention Award in the e-Governance category of the Manthan Award 2005. SWAGAT is a unique grievance redressal program, where the Hon'ble Chief Minister directly addresses the issues of citizens. Earlier, SWAGAT has been internationally acclaimed for bringing in transparency in the administration (Commonwealth award for transparency).

SWAGAT program is organized on every 4th Thursday of the month to resolve the long-pending grievances of citizens. Concerned Government officials including the Secretaries/Collectors/DDOs/ SPs remain present in the meeting through Video Conferencing and participate in the discussion. Hon. Chief Minister directs the concerned officials to take appropriate steps, to resolve the issue.

Gujarat also bagged 2 more awards in the Manthan Award 2005. They are for Automatic Milk Collection System and for Honey Bee Network.

Automatic Milk Collection System of Shree Kamdhenu Electronics Pvt. Ltd. has bagged the Gold Award in the e-Business category. The simple technology has enabled the timely collection of milk and generated high profits for milk producers. It comprises of measuring weight of milk with Electronic Weighing Scale, Fat testing using Milk-o-Tester, capturing of unique member ID by the PC Software and printing of pay slip.

Honey Bee Network of SRISTI has bagged the Gold Award in the e-Culture category. The Honey Bee Network is a huge database of grassroots innovations and technologies collected over a period of 15 years. It incorporates grassroots innovations including examples of ecological and technological knowledge of farmers, artisans, pastoralists, fishermen and women from more than 4,000 villages of India and several other countries.

Organised by Digital Empowerment Foundation, a Delhi-based non-governmental organisation, and World Summit Award (WSA) in partnership with Planet Finance India, the objective of Manthan Award is to recognise the best e-content practices in India. 104 Nominations from 21 States across the country were received in 8 different categories. Gujarat thus bagged award in 3 categories.



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