**Vol. 4 | No.9
DECEMBER, 2006**

e-Biometrics - Monitoring & Supervision

e-Biometrics

e-Governance News:

- Gujarat at India Tech Excellence Awards – 2006
- Gujarat bags Best e-Governance state at ELITEX-2007
- The ICT Thrust

Courtesy By
DDO Office, Vadodara District

Editorial Team
Dr. Neeta Shah Prashant Shah

Background

Even after 50 years of independence, the interior and rural areas of India have been gravely discriminated in terms of resource utilization for up-liftment of the downtrodden. Years after years the government brings umpteen number of welfare schemes to these sectors, however the poor delivery system ensured that the same did not reach the targeted sector. For example the health and education sectors are the worst affected ones in these areas mainly because of poor monitoring and supervision system. Absenteeism is rampant in the rural areas which was the only and major cause for all the poor indicators in various fields like IMR, MMR, high illiteracy and low level of awareness.

This initiative has been tried to ensure the employees' presence in time in rural areas and thus aims to bring down the absenteeism in government organization in the rural areas.

This initiative has been started at Taluka panchayats and PHCs in Vadodara district.

Pilot Project

As the experience of the pilot project at Taluka panchayat levels and at PHC has shown a great deal of discipline in employee's punctuality, the same can be replicated in other village panchayat levels and other government organization. First, the devise was integrated with existing computer system in PHC at Waghodiya and the employees' finger prints were registered with separate password and user name to doubly secure the system from malpractices. The biometric sensor-reporting system was linked with GSWAN based internet connectivity. Then the same has been replicated in taluka panchayat. This has ensured the presence of employees in the office and helped the monitoring quite easier at district level. Since the system is browser based it can be monitored anywhere in the world.

Online/offline Registration:

The online system works wherever internet connectivity is there, where as the offline works to register the attendance even when there is no internet connectivity. However it can change to online once the connectivity is restored and hence the back-up system has been ensured.

Following the success of this experimentation, it was decided to replicate the same in all 12 Taluka Panchayats of Vadodara district. Fund was organized from the best DDO – district award provision. The offices of Taluka Panchayat, Deputy Executive Engineer and BHO have also been integrated with one system.

Logistics Requirement

The following instruments are required for establishing the e-bio attendance system at village or at any office level.

- ❖ Computer:
  Most of the village panchayats are provided with computer under e-gram project. For example 543 of 861 villages in Vadodara district were already provided with computer and printers.

❖ **Biometric device:**

A small biometric device costing roughly 5,500 Rs. is required to register the attendance. One per office or village or school is required.

❖ **Software:**

NIC has already prepared the software which comprises username and password and reporting system.

❖ **Internet Connectivity:**

This requirement for the system is very important to enable the effective monitoring and supervision at higher level. It can be provided by either WiMAX or BSNL network.

Modus Operandi:

The NIC has already prepared the software to register the finger prints of employees of respective offices and it is easy to install in the system. Once the computer hardware is installed, the software can be installed. At inception stage the finger prints of the employees are registered with the help of NIC and District Panchayat employees and the employees are trained on the procedure for registering their finger prints through password operating window page. As explained in the previous part, the offline system helps to store the data in the absence of internet connectivity. However it automatically tunes in to online once the internet link is established and the data stored offline can also be transported to browser based system. Internet connectivity of few hours is enough to make the system browser based reporting system easily.

The software provides entry and exit (In & out timings) with time of finger print registration which actually instills discipline in the employees.

Internet Connectivity:

Internet connectivity can be established with BSNL – dialup connectivity. Connectivity can be an issue in interior areas and hilly terrains for which alternate option of WiMAX can be considered or through some other broadband connectivity.

Outcome/Impact

❖ The major problem in delivering the service in the rural areas, especially hilly terrain and interior areas is absenteeism of employees of grass root level administration. By way of bringing the e-bio-attendance the discipline of employees in terms of timely presence can be achieved.

❖ Punctuality and employees' presence can be the major outcome expected from this initiative. This will ultimately help to strengthen the delivery system

❖ It will enhance the accessibility of administration at lower level for rural people.

❖ It would help the employees to be more computer knowledgeable and accountable

❖ It can also increase the vistas of service areas like telemedicine, online booking, BPO and call centre, etc. in the near future.

Gujarat at TELECOMM India 2006

Gujarat State had participated at TELECOMM Indai 2006 as a Guest State in the 'Hall of States' at TELECOMM India 2006.

We had submitted nomination for the State Government in "Application of IT in Administration (e-Governance)". Following official from Gujarat State had attended the Valedictory function organized on December 9, 2006 at Mumbai.

1. Dr. Neeta Shah (e-Governance)
2. Shri Pankaj Kotak, ODS (Promotion)
3. Shri Ruchir Desai, Executive (Promotion)

Gujarat won 1st Runner-up Award at TELECOMM India 2006 Excellence Award.

Gujarat bags Best e-Governance State Award at ELITEX - 2007

Gujarat State was awarded as "Best e-Governed State" at ELITEX-2007 on January 11, 2007 at India Habitat Center, Lodi Road, New Delhi. Following representatives from Gujarat had participated in ELITEX-2007 at New Delhi.

1. Dr. Neeta Shah, Director (e-Governance), GIL
2. Shri Pankaj Kotak, OSD (Promotion)
3. Shri Paritosh Shukla, BISAG
4. Shri Anand Shah, NIC - Gujarat
5. Shri Ruchir Desai, GIL

eGovernance News

ELITEX-2007 was organized during January 10-11, 2007 at India Habitat Center, Lodi Road, New Delhi by **DIT, Ministry of Information Technology Govt. of India.** The theme of ELITEX-2007 was **"Productivity Enhancement Using ICT".** Gujarat stall was put up in the exhibition where GIL, NIC and BISAG together presented major e-Governance initiatives and applications of Gujarat State like SWAGAT, Water Resources and Land Development Plan, RoR at Village, High court systems, Industry – Institute Linkage (College to Career – C2C) Initiative, e-Dhara, e-Gram etc.

Following states had participated and presented various e-governance initiatives at ELITEX-2007 for the theme **"Productivity Enhancement Using ICT".**

1. West Bengal
2. Gujarat
3. Delhi
4. Kerala
5. Hariyana
6. Uttaranchal
7. Himachal Pradesh
8. Panjab

Gujarat State was awarded as **"Best e-Governed State"** at ELITEX-2007 on January 11, 2007 at India Habitat Center, Lodi Road, New Delhi. Thiru Dayanidhi Maran, Hon'ble Union Minister of Communication & Information Technology, Shri Janinder Singh, Secretary (IT) – GoI and other senior scientist advisors & dignitaries of ICT sector visited Gujarat Stall and appreciated the efforts put by GoG in the area of eGovernance to reach to the grass root level citizens using ICT.

Evaluation for the Award was done based on various criteria with reference to the theme of the conference i.e. "Productivity Enhancement Using ICT". The Award Committee members had seen the initiatives with all the angles and discussed with GoG representatives in overall perspective of development and productivity enhancement. State wide focus and reaching to all the citizens' using ICT was appreciated by them.

During the Valedictory Session, the Award was presented. It is a matter of great pride and honor for all the stakeholders who have contributed at various levels in this eGovernance area.

eGovernance News

The ICT Thrust – Gujarat has left behind most states

Gujarat has left behind most states, introducing a slew of e-Governance projects in the past two years

Gujarat's IT endeavors began in 1998. Though a trifle late, there has been no looking back for the petro capital of India. While there has been steady growth in e-initiatives in the last couple of years, 2004 was the year of e-governance for Gujarat.

The major initiatives towards e-governance in Gujarat can be broadly classified as infrastructure projects, government-to-citizen (G2C), and government-to-government G2G. Infrastructure projects include the Gujarat State Wide Area (GSWAN). GSWAN – the largest IP based IT infrastructure network in Asia Pacific connects 25 districts and 225 talukas through 12,000 nodes. It is capable of voice, video, and data transfer and is being replicated by the other Indian states.

The Sachivalaya Integrated Communication Network –SICN- enables 5,500 electronic telephone connections and handles around 1,25,000 internal calls and 70,000 calls outside the network every day.

Then there is the Jan Seva Kendra, where people can walk in for services like birth an death certificates, ration card and other services of Municipal Corporations / Mamlatdar Office/Collector Office. Swagat online is a unique grievance redressal program, where the Chief Minister had directly addressed the issues of citizens, has so far addressed more than 17,000 grievances.

Aggressive efforts on the e-governance front have put Gujarat in a favourable spot in terms of perceived improvement in delivery of government services through e-Governance programs. Government shows impressive results in the area of citizen services, getting the highest scores for applying for driving license, e-initiatives related to the power utility, filing returns, filing of claims and PAN card application. For corporate services, these IT initiatives are the strength areas in addition to services such as power utility and passport.

Police and security and judiciary are pain areas like most of the other states. Significant improvements are seen in the e-initiatives of the income tax department as far as quality and availability of services are concerned.

e-Databank is a data warehouse meant for providing information and services through internet and intranet, in a user friendly and secured manner. GoG has also started Phase-I with 60 citizen centric services, which will be operational from April 2005. The Gyanganga project to connect rural Gujarat through the Wireless in Local Loop is one of the ongoing projects of the state.

WHERE THEY STAND

STRENGTH	Weaknesses
For Citizen	**For Citizens**
For Water utility service delivery and support	Police and security
Municipal tax payment and information	State transport services
Applying for birth/death/marriage certificate	Employment exchange
Power Utility service delivery and support	Passport Services
Applying for driving licence	Enquiry regarding ownership of land
For Corporate	**For Corporate**
Income tax department ling of tax return	Police and security, judicial services
Vehicle registration	Water utility
Passport services	Incentives and grants
Power utility	I-T department arbitration and legal
Financial assistance	settlement

WEB CORNER

National Portal of India

http://www.india.gov.in

New Website of Home Department,

Govt. of Gujarat

http://home.gujarat.gov.in//

For electronic subscription to the bulletin, please email us with your email address at:

webmaster@gujaratinformatics.com

or visit us at:

www.gujaratinformatics.com

Contact Address:
Gujarat Informatics Ltd.
Block No. 1, 8th Floor,
Udyog Bhavan,
Gandhinagar – 382017
Phone: 079 – 23256022
Fax: 079 – 23238925