<u>Records of discussions of PRSG (Project Review Steering Group) meeting on e-district pilot project held on 10th September 2009 at DIT, New Delhi</u>

1. List of participants is enclosed.
2. Presentation was made by Shri Abhishek Singh, Director, DIT about overall progress of the pilot implementation in 14 states. He highlighted the key issues in delay of the project in stipulated time.
3. Shri Abhishek Singh emphasized the need of completing the pilot projects by December, 2009 so that EFC note could be submitted to Cabinet for approval of National Roll Out Scheme by October end and the plan to be put in action as early as February, 2010.
4. Shri Shankar Aggarwal, JS, DIT joined at this stage and asked all the states to present status of the pilot implementation and reason for delays so that a view could be taken about the duration which is required by the states to complete the Pilot project.

5. JS also stressed the need to have a discipline under which proposals from the states for funds allocation for the pilot strictly follow guidelines laid down by DIT. He further added that in case there is un-reasonable demand from the states it will not be possible for DIT to agree to such requests.

6. JS also informed that funds are available for Naxalite affected areas under different provisions and states may prepare proposal for such needs in a day or two to enable release of funds at the earliest.

7. He also suggested that states may explore the possibility of setting up digital certifying authority through SDA which will improve the problem of response time as being currently faced by UP and Assam.

8. In view of duplicate efforts and high cost involved in development of application software for e-district project all over the country, he touched upon the issue of developing core application software by NIC and then customisation by each state to suit local needs. After deliberations, it was agreed that a group be formed to identify the core modules and variations in few states to prepare a central application.

9. Director DIT informed that DIT is funding horizontal connectivity under the SWAN Scheme as per the 20-10-5 Rule (20 offices at DHQ level, 10 at Tehsil level and 5 at the Block level have been provided funds under SWAN for horizontal connectivity).

10. Some States voiced that Election related services may be discontinued as approval of Election Commission is required, which is not forthcoming. But it was decided by the PRSG that States may not stop the application development for these services as EC may use them subsequently.

11. JS asked PMU to call all consultants of e district pilot project for a knowledge sharing session on best practices being adopted across all States, for example on data digitization
12. JS then took a detailed assessment of all the activity pertaining to eDistrict by asking for Issues and Challenges faced by the State and the possible help required from DIT in resolving the Challenges.

Assam

1. The Secretary IT informed that application development and testing is complete. For RTI service, they and other states will require DIT's help.

2. JS appreciated the eGovernance Citizen Rules framed by Assam and asked other States to follow Assam's example. The Rules can be downloaded from the Assam DIT website. But State has been advised to circulate the Assam Citizen Service Rule (eGov), 2009 to all the other eDistrict states so that the same can be replicated in other eDistrict states. DIT would also be uploading the said document in their website for information and download by other states.
3. NICSI has been advised for immediate clearance of the transfer the fund to SDA, Assam as all the pending activity pertaining to Fund is completed by the SDA.
4. The NICCA digital signature issue was discussed with MS Neeta Verma Sr.Technical Director NIC who assured that she would speak to Mr. Madhav Reddy and inform him of the concerns voiced by the State.
   It was also suggested that to resolve this permanently the SDA could be made a CA and be authorized to issue certificates.
5. State has committed to launch services by first week of October, 09 as issues pertaining to SWAN Connectivity, Digital Certificate integration need to be completed.

Tamil Nadu

1. State IT Secretary mentioned that they could go live with few services by January, 2010.
2. It was also mentioned that the State had re-branded the CSCs by giving them a local name. Local MLAs have also been involved so that the project has their support which was appreciated by the JS.
3. The scope of Data digitization in the State is limited because family card database is ready to use.
4. State has also agreed to Go Live with BC/ MBC Scholarship by 1st Week of October, 09 as activity pertaining to Hardware Procurement and Installation, Training, Testing, Issue of GO, needs to complete before going Live with the committed date.

Maharashtra

1. Mr A.B. Pandey, Secretary IT presented the status of project. He informed that the CSC implementation is getting delayed in Divisions where 3i-Infotech is working.
JS requested State to take prompt action as it will affect the implementation of e-District.

2. It was shared that RFP has been floated and time lines for submission of bids is 22nd September 2009 but because of State elections code of conduct, the final decision for the selection of SI could be taken only by 20th October.
3 Secretary (IT) also shared that 25 services have been considered in the first phase. The JS stressed on launching few services by the end of January, 2010.

Punjab

1. The State IT Director mentioned that the RFP would finally be floated by September end and the State was committed to launch a few services by January itself. They presented their project plan showing how they have already planned to launch services in a phased manner.

Haryana

1. Haryana has informed the meeting that RFP has been floated in the State.
2. State's representative also requested DIT that the funds allocated to Application development in the State are not sufficient and they need additional funds for the same.
3. He also suggested DIT to organize a workshop on integration of CSC, e-District, SDC and SSDG.

Jharkhand

1. Mr. Shailesh Kumar Singh, IAS, Secretary IT through Video Conferencing informed that TCS has been selected as SI and the contract will be signed by end of this week.
2. Secretary (IT) also informed that Jharkhand is planning to go for solar panels for SWAN PoPs to address the power shortage and they need funds for same. JS told that that can be considered under Naxalite affected states special provisions.
3. JS stressed on launching at least a few services by the end of January, 2010 as the SI has been already selected.

Mizoram

1. Officers from Mizoram participated in the meeting through Video Conference. The State informed that the financial bids were opened on 9.9.09 and that M/s Teledata was the LI bidder. The State requested for additional funds for application development.
2. State has committed to Go Live by 31st Jan,09 as activity pertaining to Data Digitization, Training, Application Development, Hardware Procurement and

networking needs to be completed

Orissa

1. State expressed concern on the shortage of fund for the Ganjam and Mayurbhanj district. DT has advised the state to rationalize the cost by discussing with the System integrator vendor (SRIT) and then rediscuss with DIT on shortage of fund. Since the State had approved the vendor's LoI for am amount which was more than the approved cost, a follow-on meeting was decided to understand the scope and price discovery mechanism of the RFP process.

Madhya Pradesh

1. State mentioned that the project will go live by 30 November provided the hardware by provided by DGS&D in time.

2. The PRSG was informed that the application was being developed by Humanitics, a partner of Microsoft, in coordination with MPSEDC, a Govt. of MP Undertaking. MP also did a demonstration of their application after the PRSG meeting.
    State was advised to share the RFP for Biometric devises used for user Identification and authentication in the eDistrict project as the same can be used as replication in other eDistrict states.

Bihar
1. Mr. P.C Chaudhary from BELTRON informed the meeting that 24 sites are ready and servers, desktops, UPS are delivered in two districts (Nalanda and Aurangabad). Application Development is in progress.
2. Regarding the power backup in Naxalite effected districts, DIT has asked the proposal from the State for additional funds

West Bengal
1 Mr. M.S Kar, OSD and Deputy Secretary (IT) informed that LoI for TCS will be issued soon and then work is expected to commence thereafter.
2. The JS expressed his concerns over the delay in project and Mr. Kar replied that since review of BPR report at multiple levels was done in workshop mode it delayed the project initially. The earlier step of inviting NIC for application development also caused delays as this approach did not work out
3.JS stressed on launching few services by the end of January, 2010 as the SI already has been selected.

Uttar Pradesh

1. Mr. Ravindra Singh from CeG shared the status of six districts in Uttar Pradesh and expressed his concern over work of 3i-Infotech. JS took serious view of this and told 3i-

Infotech representative to convey DIT's displeasure to her higher bosses as DIT may consider blacklisting this company.

2. It was also informed by Mr. Ravindra Singh that the digital signature server of NIC is very slow and it is causing response problems in delivery of services. In response to which JS wanted the states to explore the possibly of setting up such services through SDA.

3. The JS was informed that as of now twelve services, scattered over six districts, are being delivered through this project.

4. State has been advised to increase the number of services delivered from the eDistrict centers and increase the number of CSCs who are delivering the eDistrict services.

5. State has been advised to share the payment Gateway process followed between the VLE (CSC centers) and SDA.

Uttarakhand

1. Mr. Anand Sharma from ITDA, informed that recently in the meeting held at Chief Secretary level, two services have been replaced by new services as suggested by the CS. In this regard, the field study for same has been taken up by the consultants and based on the approval of such reports, RFP could be floated.

2. JS expressed his concerns over the gross delay in CSC project and legal issues in setting up CSC. He further asked the state that in absence of such arrangements how state shall be able to implement the eDistrict Pilot. He advised that state may work out arrangements with either DOEACC or STPI to take the responsibility of managing such services. He stressed the need of urgency at state level.

Kerala

1. The Director IT from Kerala could not attend the meeting on time but he later met the Director DIT and updated him of project progress. Though a MoU has been signed between NIC and KSITM, the state wants NIC to own up to the SLAs indicated in the MoU. State has asked for support from DIT in expediting the development process by NIC.

2. State has asked for extra fund amounting to Rs 1.20 Crore for hardware requirement at villages offices as state is going to roll out the eDistrict services upto the village level.

Decision:

JS informed that period of the implementation of Pilot projects (go live) for all states has been agreed by PRSG to extend up to 31ˢᵗ March 2010 .But states need to ensure that few services are available even from December-January itself.

Broad Action Requirements at States
1. To have a discipline under which proposals for funds allocation for the pilot strictly follow guidelines laid down by DIT.
2. To submit proposals for fund requirements for Naxalite affected areas under different provisions a day or two to enable speedy release of funds..
3. To explore the possibility of setting up digital certifying authority through SDA which will improve the problem of response time
4. To identify the core modules and variations in few states to prepare a central application. software
5. Not to stop the application development for the election services as these services may be used by EC subsequently.
6. To share the best practices being adopted across all States, for example on data digitization through a knowledge sharing session
7. To share the eGovernance Citizen Rules framed by Assam and to follow Assam's example. To circulate the Assam Citizen Service Rule (eGov), 2009 to all the other eDistrict states so that the same can be replicated in other eDistrict states.

The meeting ended with Thanks to the Chair.

Action Items

SN	Action as per clause	Brief action details	Action by
1	3.0	EFC note	Director(AS),DIT
2	8.0	Application software core group formation	Sr Consultant (PKG)
3	11	Knowledge sharing	Sr Consultant (MC)
4	Assam point 1	RTI services	Sr Consultant (MC)
5	Assam point 2	Assam citizen service Rule (eGov) 2009 circulation	Sr Consultant (MC)
6	Assam point 3	Slow response of NIC digital signature server	Sr TD, NIC (NV)
7	Haryana point 3.0	Workshop on integration of e district with e form ,etc	Pr. Consultant (B M)
8	Orissa	Amount of LOI exceeding DIT guidelines	Sr Consultant (MC)
9	UP point 1	Action to black list 3i Infotech	Director(AS) DIT
10	Uttrakhand point2	Non starting CSC and managing e services through STP/DOEAC	Sr Consultant (PKG)
11	Kerala point 1	Help required from DIT to get expedited NIC development	Sr Consultant (MC)
12	MP point3	Sharing of RFP of Biometric	Sr Consultant (MC)

List of Participants:

1. Mr. Shankar Aggarwal, Joint Secretary, DIT, Govt. of India,   Chairman
2. Mr. Abhishek Singh, Director, DIT, Govt. of India   Convenor
3. Mr. Ajay Bhushan Pandey, Secretary IT, Govt. of Maharashtra
4. Mr. V.S Bhaskar, Secretary IT, Govt. of Assam
5. Mr. P.K Mohapatra, Secretary IT, Govt. of Orissa
6. Mr. M.K Yadava, MD, AMTRON
7. Mr. A.K Burman, Dy. Manager, AMTRON
8. Mr. Aditya Mohapatra, OSD, OCAC, Orissa
9. Mr. Ravindra Singh, Member, CeG, Uttar Pradesh
10. Mr. Ashis Sanyal, Sr. Director, DIT, Govt. of India
11. Mr. Anand Sharma, Chief Technical Officer, DIT, Govt. of Uttarakhand
12. Ms. Seema Jain, Director IT, Punjab
13 Mr. Saranjit Singh, SM (ESG), Haryana
14. Mrs. Neeta Verma, Sr. Technical Director, NIC
15. Mr M S Kar, Deputy Secretary IT, Govt. of West Bengal
16. Mr. P.K Gupta, Sr. Consultant, PMU, DIT
17. Mr. Manish Chadha, Sr. Consultant, PMU, DIT
18. Mr. Koushlendra Singh, Sr. Executive, PMU, DIT
19. Mr. Milan Narendra, Principal Consultant, Wipro
20. Mr. Ramendra Verma, Managing Consultant, PwC
21. Mrs. Harshita Bhatnagar, Programme Manager, 3i-Infotech
22. Mr. Amit Singh, Manager, Wipro
23. Mr. Anurag Saxena, Sr. Consultant, PwC
24. Mr. P.C Chaudhary, Technical Secretary to MD, BELTRON
25. Mr. Bhushan Mohan, Principal Consultant, DIT