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**2020**

21st OCT 2020

₹200 / US \$20 / ISSN 0973-161X | OCTOBER 2020 | VOLUME 16 | ISSUE 02

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Owner, Publisher, Printer - Dr Ravi Gupta, Printed at Vinayak  
Print Media, D - 249, Sector-63, Noida 201 307. Uttar  
Pradesh and published from 710, Vasto Mahagun Manor, F-30  
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Joint Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation and  
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### Urban Development Summit, Jodhpur

Prafulla Kumar  
Commissioner of Police, Jodhpur



### Smart City Summit, Kanpur

Santosh Kumar Sharma  
Commissioner, Kanpur Municipal Corporation  
& CEO, Kanpur Smart City



## > MAGAZINE

It compiles ICT-related advancements being introduced, exercised by various government organisations via eGovernance module.

## > NEWS

Dealing with various key developments and policy-related decisions that define Indian governance style at large, this section throws light on the most important aspects.

## > WEBSITE

With a reach of sixty lakhs, the website is pushing the Digital India campaign of the Government of India. It highlights various dimensions of anything and everything related to the changing trends of governance in India.

## > EVENT REPORTS

This segment narrates the discussions and deliberations of participants at the occasional conferences held nationally or internationally.

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It deals with in-depth detail of various projects being implemented in any part of the country, worth inspiring others in providing solutions.

## > VIDEOS

The youtube channel 'EletsTV' deals with live recorded versions of tech-experts and key decision makers who participate in key debates or discussion of Elets knowledge conferences.

## > INTERVIEWS

This section highlights various stakeholders, bureaucrats and policy makers influencing governance in the country.

## Securing Digital Space, A Must!

Though India was heading towards becoming digital India, the COVID-19 pandemic gave a sudden push to the digitization. The pandemic posed a blessing in disguise and made the use of online platforms more or less the need and not the option. However, with a mass shift of processes, operations and huge data to online platforms raise cybersecurity alerts which are a must to answer.

The Government of India has taken various initiatives to augment the existing digital infrastructure in the country and adapt advanced technologies like AI, IoT, ICT, etc. And, India with its Aadhaar system, online payments through UPI, Digilocker, and more have set some benchmark globally. Moreover, the government offices now operate on 'e-office' which enables the employees for remote working, online file transfers, online meetings and so on and so forth. This has been a historical change when for the first time the government offices have shifted operations to online platforms. With this move, the government has also been taking steps to upgrade cybersecurity measures and create a system offering personalised services which are paperless, cashless, frictionless, presence less and consent-based.

The special issue of eGov Magazine on Secure IT is an effort to bring in light the present status of India's digital infra and where we are heading. The magazine focuses on cybersecurity as a core theme underlining the measures that the government in taking to safeguard our future as it is all going to be technology-driven. It features addresses from renowned and senior policymakers and industry leaders on India's digital transformation and securing digital space. Also, this issue of eGov Magazine carries a brief report of the India Transformation Summit 2020 which was organised by Elets Technomedia in the month of July this year.



रविगुप्त

**DR RAVI GUPTA**

Editor-in-Chief, eGov magazine, and  
Founder Publisher & CEO,  
Elets Technomedia Pvt Ltd



## 07 CYBERSECURITY SAFEGUARDING FUTURE



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# CYBERSECURITY

## Safeguarding FUTURE

From the past few years, India has been heading to be a country powered by digital interventions and advanced technology. Aadhaar system, UPI online payments, Digital India mission, Digilocker, etc. are evidence for the fact. However, the Coronavirus pandemic gave a sudden boost to the wave of digital transformation in India. And, with rapid digitization to keep the government, businesses, the economy running, 'Cybersecurity' takes the centre stage. - **Adarsh Som, Elets News Network (ENN).**



## Cybersecurity Policy - Background

The cybersecurity issues and cyber crimes in India are governed by Information Technology (Amendment) Bill 2008 and National Cyber Security Policy 2013. In the Information Technology (Amendment) Act, 2008, cybersecurity is exercised under sections 43 for data protection, 66 for hacking, 66A for measures against sending offensive messages, 66B for punishment for illegally possessing stolen computer resources or communication devices, 67 for protection against unauthorised access to data, 69 for cyberterrorism, 70 for securing access or attempting to secure access to a protected system and section 72 for privacy and confidentiality, etc.

However, in a move to strictly monitor the cyberspace and prevent hacks or other cyberattacks, the Government of India came out with the National Cyber Security Policy in 2013. According to the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), the objective of the policy is to safeguard information and the digital infrastructure, build capacity to prevent and respond to cyber threats, reduce vulnerabilities and minimise damage from cyber incidents through institutional structures, people, processes, technology and cooperation.

### MEASURES FOR AUGMENTING EXISTING SYSTEM

The way to betterment begins with a robust and effective policy framework which the Government of India is constituting. Why is it so important? The policy framework will be a set of guidelines or rules governing the digital doings in India. Moreover, it will give a clear distinction on cyberspace regulations. Cybercrime or cyberattacks can be a threat to the social fabric of India, economy, and can even threaten the development of the nation, said PM Modi while addressing the gathering from the Red Fort. "The Government of India is well aware of the fact and is taking steps to combat these risks," he added.

In an effort to strengthen the digital infra in India and make it safer, the Ministry of Electronics and IT has launched various challenges for tech-based startups. These challenges include the development of video conferencing tools, AI-based monitoring and surveillance tools, online education system, etc. Also, the ministry is looking forward to upscale the winning technologies by providing aids in various ways to the entrepreneurs.

Privatization is one of the steps as many reputed firms have advanced technology-based systems which can help not only the government functions but services and functions in the public domain as well. Moreover, smart cities have also been in focus in terms of augmenting online security.

Security of cyberspace is not only limited to applying advanced tech for the safety of information, data or placing firewalls but also basic digital literacy so that people do not fall easy victims to the cyberattacks. So, one area where more than the robustness of the digital infra, its reach is important is 'digital literacy'. People living in rural areas and many remote corners of the country are not digitally literate enough to adapt to the sudden shift to online platforms. And, to bridge the gap, the government needs to provide capacity building programmes for such population. Considering capacity building, there is also a need to upscale the skills and knowledge of the government employees who are used to working in a traditional pen-paper manner and face challenges in operating through digital mediums.



### THE WAY FORWARD

This is not the first time that a need for cybersecurity has been realised. The coming times are witnessing a shift from digital silos to integrated and connected technology and hence the need for a more robust policy framework is realised. India already has the Information Technology (Amendment) Act 2008 which governs many cyber-related issues. However, with the evergrowing technology, there is a need for ever-developing rules governing and limiting the use of the tech. So, the Government of India came up with the National Cyber Security Policy in 2013 and today there is a need to further upgrade the policy.

Therefore, to realise the dream of digital India, a digitally secure India should be of primary concern. And with the Government of India's upscaled efforts, it seems we're close to achieving the so-called ambitious targets. However, there should be a move to build the capacity of the people and bridge the digital literacy gap along with providing affordable and accessible online services to make India, really, a digital India. [@gov](#)

# “CYBERSECURITY BY DESIGN SHOULD BE THE MANTRA”

With the wave of digital transformation in India, the question of cybersecurity and safety of data and digital platforms become the primary concern. Answering such questions and detailing on India's digital transformation, **Dr Rajendra Kumar**, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) interacted in an exclusive interview with **Nisha Samant Purbey** and **Adarsh Som** of **Elets News Network (ENN)**.

**How MeitY is ensuring safer and secure digital platforms, especially considering the shift of various services to online platforms?**

Security of platforms is of prime importance and it should be considered even while conceptualizing any development. Security is not confined to a single level but needs to be addressed at business (defining security policies), infrastructure (appropriate configurations at the network, data centre, and hardware), application (application deployment, OS hardening) and data (storage, access) levels. It is more cost-effective to plan for and implement security-specific functions in the planned architecture as early as possible in the platform development cycle to avoid costly retrofit or rework because the required building blocks for security were not added or used during systems development and deployment.

Safety and security of digital platform should be taken into account when the platform is being developed and after its development. Security by design should be the mantra for a safer and secure digital platform.

The Ministry has come up with the electronic consent management framework. MeitY organizations such as CERT-In



## DR RAJENDRA KUMAR

Additional Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)

& STQC empanel third-party security auditors for all Government applications, which are required to obtain a security audit certificate before deploying the application online. MeitY has empanelled cloud service providers and also issued security guidelines for cloud service providers, which may host Government applications. The Digital Service Standards published by the ministry extensively cover all the interventions required to ensure platform security.

**As online education is the norm today, how monitoring of quality education and misconducts can be controlled? Is the MeitY planning to have a common digital platform with apt security measures for all schools for equitable, quality and secured education?**

To monitor online education, the digital platform should allow the teacher to admit only genuine students who have been given credentials to log into the online class. To control misconduct during the classes, the digital platform to be used for teaching must provide controls for a teacher to take note of misconduct being done by any student. The teacher may warn the student during the class, else the student may be removed from the class if he/she does not mend his/her behaviour.

As a part of Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, MeitY has invited proposals for e-Learning platform challenge. Further, MeitY, through an open grand challenge, invited proposals for video conferencing platform developed in the country. The winners of the e-Learning App and Video Conferencing platform challenges have already been declared. These platforms may be developed and enhanced further to make them secure and scalable to meet the needs of online classes.

### How portals like Government e-Marketplace (GeM) are contributing to making India self-reliant?

GeM is the national procurement portal for making procurement of goods and services by the central and state government departments and Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs). GeM provides inherent features of efficiency, transparency and ease of doing business with government buyers which attract the sellers to do business with the government and promote manufacturing in India due to faster acceptance of supplies and payments to sellers. More and more sellers are now inclined to do business with the government because they can transact with these buyers in a contactless and cashless manner in a secured environment.

The process of registration on GeM is very short & simple and does not require any elaborate documentation which has facilitated onboarding of large numbers of Self Help Groups (SHGs), artisans, weavers and other sellers to register and sell their products to government buyers. GeM also helps to implement the procurement policies formulated by various ministries at a fast pace which makes the implementation easy. The policies for the benefit and preference to MSMEs and the policy of Make in India are fully implemented on GeM, which supports and promote manufacturing in India. GeM also provides a platform for the startups to showcase their innovative products and sell them to these buyers. All these features and functionalities help in promoting manufacturing in India and making India less dependent on imports and more self-reliant for its needs.

### It seems that CSCs will be playing an instrumental role in bridging the gap between the online government services and citizens in rural and remote regions. What steps are being taken to further augment the service delivery?

Common Services Centres (CSCs) are playing a significant role in the dissemination of G2C and other citizen-centric services to citizens, especially in rural India. It is a self-sustainable, service delivery & transactions oriented model which has been run by the Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs). CSC-SPV has developed an integrated Digital Seva (DS) platform for the delivery of e-services, which has been integrated with various G2C, G2B and B2C services along with e-District services of 12 States/UTs and collectively offers a bouquet of 400+ e-services. Further, CSC-SPV is extending the Wi-Fi facilities in Gram Panchayats/villages where the BharatNet Phase-I project has been completed under the supervision of DoT and BBNL to facilitate the citizens and government departments.

Further, these CSCs are also facilitating the Aadhaar generation & correction, E-KYC & Authentication and

Aadhaar printing work with UIDAI, providing digital literacy, telecentre entrepreneurship programme, e-court services and other educational services including skill development. Also, the CSCs are delivering the services for PDS, labour registration, e-stamp, e-Vahan & Sarthi including other State Government services. CSCs are providing major central government services such as electoral application services, passport applications, PAN application, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, FSSAI registration/license, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PM-FBY), Jeevan Pramaan, Ayushman Bharat, PM Shram Yogi Mandhan Yojana (PM-SYM), PM Kisan Maandhan Yojana (PM-KMY), PM Merchant Pension scheme for traders, PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana, PM Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Yojana, PM Street Vendor Atmanirbhar Nidhi, Udhyaam Jyoti Parichay, 7th National Economic Census, etc. As on July 31, 2020, there are total 3,63,869 functional CSCs (including urban & rural). Out of them, 2,65,887 CSCs are functional at the Gram Panchayat (GP) level.

### What is the way forward for e-governance in India?

MeitY has initiated various schemes/projects to realise the vision of the Digital India Programme. Central ministries & state governments are providing various citizen-centric G2C and other services through different platforms, wherein MeitY has the vision to bring all of them onto a common integrated national digital platform for further dissemination to people. MeitY is working with various other ministries, state governments and the industries to adopt the emerging technologies to improve the quality of services and infrastructure.

With a focused approach, we are moving ahead in a proactive manner for delivery of G2C & other e-services through both web-based and mobile devices for better reach and anytime and anywhere delivery model. MeitY is also continuously focused on the use of ICT enabled services to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). E-governance can play a vital role to achieve broad public participation in decision-making, enhance access to information and to remove barriers to public service delivery.

Future of e-Governance is shifting from digital silos to connected services wherein implementation of the public digital platforms needs to be accelerated with a focus on providing the digital services through a seamless view of One-Government or Connected Government. This would include the transformation of services with the integration of Data Analytics, AI and other emerging technologies such as Blockchain, Geo-Spatial Technologies, etc. to make the services personalised, paperless, cashless, frictionless, presence less and consent-based. [e.gov](https://www.e.gov)

# AUGMENTING TOURISM FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY



## MUKESH KUMAR MESHARAM

Principal Secretary, Tourism and Culture Department,  
Government of Uttar Pradesh

The COVID pandemic has impacted the economic activities gravely and tourism is one among the worst affected. To overcome the challenges, the Government of Uttar Pradesh is coming up with new Culture Policy which is expected to boost spiritual, adventure, culture & heritage and eco-tourism in the State, says **Mukesh Kumar Meshram**, Principal Secretary, Tourism and Culture Department, Government of Uttar Pradesh in an exclusive interview with Arpit Gupta of Elets News Network (ENN).

### What steps, the Government of Uttar Pradesh, is taking to reverse the impact of COVID-19 on tourism?

People seek answers to history, spirituality, culture, etc. and Uttar Pradesh serves it best, hence, it is said, "If you haven't seen Uttar Pradesh, you have seen nothing." However, with time we have been lagging behind in projecting UP's vibrance and therefore the tourist attraction has dimmed. Today, the majority of tourism in the State is restricted to Agra. Moreover, in Agra, the tourists stay for a day or two at the most wherein they only visit a few places in the city and do not visit other tourist attractions nearby. This is another challenge and we are trying to improve and find ways out to bring back tourists.

This year our theme is 'Rural Tourism' and we have great potential in this subject. We are looking forward to developing tourist spots along the banks of the Ganga river wherein the tourists can experience nature's touch and can enjoy their stay. Such tourism also helps in leading a healthy lifestyle which is the need of the hour. We will ensure that only organic food with no pesticides or fertilizers is made available at these places to enhance the health factor for the tourists. Also, fresh cow milk, straight from the farms, will be available as it is rural and eco-tourism that we are targeting. Such tourism will be a medium for people to go 'back to basics' or back to nature and feel revived. Therefore, today people need to step out of the mainstream and crowded areas and visit rural areas which can offer them an abode in the lap of nature.

If we talk about health, over 50 per cent of diseases are psychosomatic which are caused due to unhealthy lifestyle, stress, restlessness, anxiety, etc. So, the way we are developing rural or eco-tourism, it will offer tourists a healthy and stress-free lifestyle. There are spiritual aspects that are inculcated for tourists like morning prayers at the banks of Ganga, yoga, meditation, etc. Also, for spiritual or religious tourism, Uttar Pradesh offers various circuits like the Ramayan circuit, Mathura and Vrindavan, Sarnath, Prayagraj, Kashi, Varanasi, Jain circuit, Buddhist circuit, Sufi circuit, etc. Furthermore, the State is developing culture and heritage tourism and adventure tourism for youngsters and enthusiasts.

One of the successful examples of how UP has been developing tourism is a recent status, wherein, it was seen that most tourists visited Uttar Pradesh in the year 2019. And, in the year 2020, as on October 19, the State was named second most visited. As many as 53,58,55,162 Indian tourists and 47,45,181 foreign tourists visited the State in 2019. This achievement can be attributed to the recurring efforts by the Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath-led Government of Uttar Pradesh.

### Kindly shed some light on the new Culture Policy.

Tourists tend to visit old monuments, temples, popular markets for authentic food and clothes, museums, ecological parks, forests, rivers, etc. So, the new culture policy is an effort to bring together the heritage, tourism and the culture to provide tourists with a feeling of completeness with all the three factors combined. Therefore, we are adding the cultural aspects to the tourist spots so that the visitors can experience the real Uttar Pradesh. One cannot expect the tourists to stay longer just to see the monuments so the cultural activities like food, music, dance, art, plays, craft, fairs, etc. become an added advantage for the tourists.

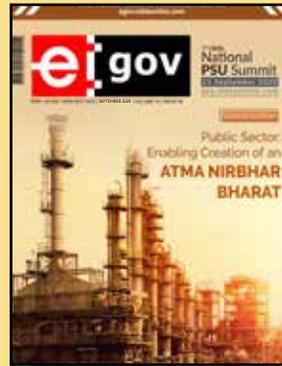
*Yes, the culture policy will definitely contribute to improving the economic scenario. Through the new culture policy, artisans, performing artists and many more will get employment opportunities.*

### Can culture policy contribute to economic recovery? How does enhancing tourism help economic bounce back?

Yes, the culture policy will definitely contribute to improving the economic scenario. Through the new culture policy, artisans, performing artists and many more will get employment opportunities. As of today, many of the artists, who do not belong to a well to do family, are struggling to keep their art alive due to lack of apt opportunities. These people are managing their daily household expenses by working as labourers, or involving in other such odd jobs. And, the COVID pandemic-induced nationwide lockdown weighed on their agony.

Hence, the policy will be a new beginning for such artists who have been keeping the culture and tradition of UP alive. Moreover, it has been observed that when the State and society join hands together, the results are more benefitting for all. The work of the government is to facilitate or provide apt infrastructure and opportunities, while, NGOs, activists or public agencies should come up to own such facilities to do good for people and good for society. CSR initiatives, PPP models are some successful examples of such an approach. 

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# KALI NADI REJUVENATION: A SUSTAINABLE & SUCCESSFUL APPROACH

In an effort to undertake comprehensive development of river Kali and the adjoining areas, the district administration of Muzzafar Nagar under the effective leadership of Selva Kumari J rolled out Kali Nadi Rejuvenation project. Detailing on the project, **Selva Kumari J**, Collector and District Magistrate, Muzzafar Nagar interacted in an exclusive interview with **Arpit Gupta** of **Elets News Network (ENN)**.

**In brief, please throw some light on what is Kali Nadi Rejuvenation project?**

Kali Nadi Rejuvenation, Perfection and Management is an ambitious project undertaken for the comprehensive development of the Kali river and the adjoining areas. The project encompasses economic, environmental, physical and socio-cultural aspects of the river and its catchment area. The river, at present, flows for about 64 km of length within the district boundary. It passes through three tehsils and seven blocks of the district crossing 48 Gram panchayats.

The river Rejuvenation project undertaken is a multi-dimensional project for cleaning and maintaining the river and creating sustainable livelihood in the adjoining areas of the river. The interventions included embankment or bund making for the protection of an adjoining area of the river and provide connectivity along the bank for the local population. Also, the creation of parks, walking place and plantations along the banks for leisure activities such as walking, running, playing etc. A massive plantation exercise has been undertaken on the river banks as well as the adjoining areas. The plantation has helped create a green belt and improve the river's condition. It has also improved the aesthetic appeal of the water body on the whole.



## SELVA KUMARI J

Collector and District Magistrate, Muzzafar Nagar

SOAK PIT CONSTRUCTION IN NEAR KALI NADI



**Kindly underline the key objective of the project and the innovative initiatives taken under the project?**

The core objective of the project is rejuvenation, protection and management of the Kali river along with the economic development in the catchment areas. Also, the cultivation of community leadership for ownership of the environmentally fragile entity such as river Kali was one among the major objectives.

Some of the various innovative initiatives were taken under the river rejuvenation project but not limited to are as follows:

- Bringing convergence of multiple departments which were working in silos before.
- Wholistic approach for rejuvenation i.e. working to improve water table level, quality of water, maintaining environmental flow and stopping the inflow of waste, etc.

POND DEVELOPMENT TEHSIL SADAR AND TEHSIL KHATAULI IN MUZAFFARNAGAR NEAR KALI NADI



- Enhancing livelihood opportunities and economic well-being of the population dependent on the river thus helping create an 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'.
- Local involvement of community created ownership among locals generating an integrated bottom-up approach for watershed area development.
- Existing resources and schemes were dovetailed creating sustainable practice and frugal infrastructure for the rejuvenation of Kali.

**What were the major works carried out under the river rejuvenation project?**

Under the project, works for clearing and cleaning of the riverbanks and all drains & sub-drains of all non-biodegradable waste were taken up. Also, the channels for the inflow of all rainwater from the drainage area were also cleared. The project saw interventions at all levels and one of the examples could be the construction of soak pits at the Gram Panchayat level.

For the processing of organic waste, NADEP compost pits were

POND DEVELOPMENT IN VILLAGE RAMPUR TEHSIL SADAR AND TEHSIL KHATAULI IN MUZAFFARNAGAR NEAR KALI NADI



constructed and 'Khad-gadde' for other wastes. These initiatives have facilitated comprehensive solid-liquid waste management in Gram Panchayat along with rejuvenation of ponds and other water bodies. The village-level interventions were completed by local funds available with Gram Panchayat and MGNREGA. Moreover, the cleaning of ponds and development of other such water bodies and adjoining areas as recreational area helped in the awareness of conservation of water bodies and the environment in general. Further, the project included cleaning of the river surface which is being undertaken with the help of local Zila Panchayat resources and local Gram Panchayat resources.

How did the river rejuvenation project answer water pollution issues? How STPs came in handy for controlling the pollution levels in the river?

The river rejuvenation project also included interventions for decreasing pollution through a comprehensive approach to

*“The river Rejuvenation project undertaken is a multi-dimensional project for cleaning and maintaining the river and creating sustainable livelihood in the adjoining areas of the river.”*

reducing pollutants of all kinds. It included daily monitoring of all industrial units by nodal officers on the points of air & water pollution as mandated by the state pollution control board.

In addition, sewage treatment plant (STP) lying defunct in Muzaffar Nagar district were restarted which resulted in the reduction of non-treated wastewater. Besides this, setting up of two more STPs along the river has been approved under the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG). The move is expected to further reduce the effluent problem of municipal waste in the river. Additionally, local solutions were implemented for cleaning up of sludge in the industrial drains so as the adsorption capacity of the soil is improved have been undertaken improving water quality. The solid waste clogging drains have been stopped through innovative and cost-effective methods like using metal mesh cover.

## PERIPHERAL BUND WORK IN VILLAGE LACHEDA TEHSIL SADAR MUZAFFARNAGAR NEAR KALI NADI



What was the significance of community participation in executing the project successfully?

The project laid significant emphasis on community participation, especially considering the developmental and environmental activities. The use of village-level sanitation committee was instrumental in bringing the local community on board in these interventions. Committees were at the forefront in all these Gram Panchayats. The initiatives were explained in the term which was easier to understand and implement by the local community. Community participation made the task easier to implement.

The task of motivating farmers near the river to adopt organic farming or reducing the utilization of chemical-based fertilizers was also achieved with the help of community participation.

What were the key challenges faced by the district authorities to successfully implement the river rejuvenation project? How did the authorities manage to overcome the challenges?

There were a few challenges faced by the district authorities while rejuvenating the river Kali, however, with recurring efforts and innovative approach, we overcame the hurdles and completed the project up to the mark.

**Arranging Resources** - Most of the departments do not have funds relating to activities in the project and also MGNREGA has many constraints over man-material rates. These were overcome by pooling of resources of all departments. Such as material was used for Gram Panchayat Labour for MGNREGA etc. other line departments were also motivated to take-up work under MGNREGA.

**River Shifting its course** - Due to constant shifting of river-come due to physical force of river the land titles of the land being worked were hard to ascertain and many conflicting claims were there. Effective stakeholder consultations and extensive measurement by revenue team along the banks were used to overcome the challenge.

**Industrial Pollution**- Industrial pollution reaching the river through storm drains was a big challenge due to the location of heavy-polluting industries effectively paper manufacturing units. The

PERIPHERAL BUND WORK IN VILLAGE MIPLANA AND RAMPUR MUZAFFARNAGAR NEAR KALI NADI



challenge was overcome with strict compliance of pollution board & NGT guidelines and daily monitoring of feedback from special nodal officers allocated industrial units for pollution monitoring.

**Convergence of resources-** It was a challenge to converge the various resources available through various schemes and departments. The myriad eligibility criterion and technical specifications made it very hard to achieve synergy between schemes. The combined meetings and efforts and timely preparation in the yearly development plan for all schemes and departments made it easy for the dovetailing of the schemes.

**Lack of technical knowledge-** The lack of technical expertise in the district level worker is a big challenge especially in implementing environmental solutions. It was overcome with implementing organic & simple solutions including local wisdom rather than going for a large and complex infrastructure-based solution.

**What are the key achievements of the Kali Nadi Rejuvenation project?**

The key achievements of the project include:

**Pollution control-** The levels of BOD were down remarkably as measured by the sampling of Jal Nigam & Regional Officer, UPPCB. It was controlled by way of effective monitoring & reduction of industrial waste, municipal waste, rural household and agricultural fertilizer runoff etc.

**Health Impact-** Incidence of illness related to pollution in the water area reduced in a significant proportion due to the reduction of pollution levels in the water.

**Connectivity Leisure-** Continuous embankment along the river provides direct connectivity for a small vehicle, motorbike/cycle travellers of the adjoining villages via river bank. The development of parks/plantation sites/walking areas provides avenues for leisure activities such as walking, running or sitting & playing along the banks.

**Employment-** The employment opportunities are generated directly through Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment

Guarantee Scheme with most of the physical works being completed with MGNREGA & Gram Panchayat Funds. The Self Help Groups under National Rural Livelihood Mission are also benefiting directly made the project as their products are marketed prominently.

**Agriculture & Plantation-** As the organic agricultural practices have been undertaken in the concerned area, the quality of soil has also improved. Plantation along the banks is also improving water table and air quality as well.

**What are the possible key factors which make the project replicable in other districts as well?**

Considering the replicability of the project, community involvement is one of the main aspects of the project making it replicable is the universal public sentiment of attachment with river and other traditional water bodies found everywhere across societies and cultures.

PERIPHERAL BUND WORK IN VILLAGE KALLARPUR, SHABUDDINPUR, HUSSAINPUR BOPADA AND KHEDI TAGAN MUZAFFARNAGAR NEAR KALI NADI



In addition to this, the usage of existing government schemes was the resource pool utilized for funding the project like MGNREGA, NRLM, Finance Commission and Gram Panchayat Funds and DMF, which are available at almost all the places.

Moreover, the rejuvenation, protection and management of the river are essentially required everywhere. The river bed, riverbank and drainage area imposes almost similar kind of challenges every district so these solutions are applicable to a variety of problems related to river management.

Further, with proper resources and manpower which are available in all the districts across the country makes the project easily replicable. Also, replicability is easier as it is a requirement in all environment-related projects and is being monitored especially by Regulators and Controllers. 

# Improving Water Availability in Bastar

As the climatic conditions and lack of irrigation potential, people in Bastar region of Chhattisgarh has been affected adversely. Hence, the Naruwa project was planned which is purely a watershed-based concept under the guidelines of MGNREGA for rainwater harvesting and water conservation for irrigation and livelihood, writes **Rajat Bansal**, Collector and District Magistrate, Bastar, Chhattisgarh.

**T**he Naruwa project based on watershed concept focusses on rainwater harvesting and aims to improve the water scenario in the Bastar region. Under the project, the detailed project report (DPR) was prepared as per the ridge to valley concept for rainwater harvesting. The plan was to make structures which are able to hold rainwater and recharge groundwater via surface storage.

As per the climatic changes and lack of irrigation potential many livelihoods have been affected due to low rainfall and low irrigation potential. The 65 drainage systems have a total of 4813 works proposed for the catchment area of 1,70,796.62 hectare of a stretch of 573.221 km of the drainage systems. The entire stretch covers a total of 158 Gram Panchayats. As per the analysis of the scenario and implementation of the project, various works like SCT, CCT, plantation, brushwood, gully plug, LBC, gabion, stop dam, check dam, irrigation canal, farm pond, dugwell, navin talab, etc. are considered essential for the treatment of drains under the watershed concept.

For the initial planning, the district authorities used GIS method and conducted a survey at the gram panchayat level for data collection and providing solutions for the water-related issues people were facing. GIS-based software like Google Earth and other important web portals like Bhuvan was used for planning and using ridge to valley concept. However, for better implementation of the works, the district authorities used different layers of Bhuvan portal for better understanding of the drainage systems and plan its treatment.

The administration actively involved gram panchayats and



**RAJAT BANSAL**

Collector and District Magistrate, Bastar, Chhattisgarh

people to make maximum out of the project and enhance the efficiency of the works. The project focussed on increasing water availability and irrigation potential to strengthen the livelihoods in the area.

According to the DPR, the output of the project aimed to increase groundwater levels, increase in irrigation potential in 13,200.867 hectares both in a direct and indirect manner, increase in water availability throughout the year, and a significant reduction in soil erosion via different works like plantations.

However, the main motive of the plan is to make a secure livelihood of the rural area as they mostly depend on the rainwater. All the seven blocks of Bastar district comes under the MWC as water-stressed blocks. Overexploited, critical and deprived of irrigation. In the recent past years, the rainfall pattern in the district has changed a lot and creates a shortage of availability of water for irrigation and decrease in groundwater levels and due to these reasons, it was a significant project for the district.

### Innovative Approach

This was the first time when the rainwater harvesting plan was executed at a mass level in the district. The project also involved work on barren lands wherein many pieces of barren lands were treated to improve soil quality and fertility, carry out plantations and reducing soil erosion. Many works were carried out by implementing successful combinations of traditional and modern concepts for the first time in the district.



### Challenges

Many approaches taken were implemented for the first time in the district like the use of different types of software and data for planning, involvement various government bodies like PHE, WRD, Forest and plan was guided by these different expert departments. Citizen involvement was seen a major level for the first time which was very important which otherwise would have affected the outcome on the ground level.

### Key Achievements

- The works carried under the project like SCT, CCT, Plantation, Brushwood, Earthen Gully Plug and in drainage lines LBC, Gabion, Stop dam, Check Dam and in area treatment Farm Pond, Well, Field channel, Plantation etc. were completed to augment rainwater harvesting in the district.
- MGNREGA works in this project provided employments to the registered labours which in turn improved livelihoods.
- In times of less rainfall, the structure under the plan was used to make water available for irrigation to the farmers.
- The water stored is used for fish farming.
- In some parts, the water stored is used as a primary source for the production of vegetables via badi run by the SHG which provides better nutrition and source of income for them.
- The rainwater is essential for the irrigation and in the shortage of rainfall the structures constructed to provide water for irrigation and the maximum rainwater was wasted as free run off which can be slowed down and can recharge the ground level of the treatment area which is very important for securing the future and store water for use. 

# TECHNOLOGICAL INTERVENTIONS RESHAPING GOVERNANCE

With the onset of COVID pandemic, rapid adoption of technologies and digital platforms were seen in the governments and industry to ensure continuity in service delivery and businesses. Highlighting the role of technology in transforming India, **Arpan Bansal**, Global Head COE (Govt), Newgen Software, interacts with **Arpit Gupta** of **Elets News Network (ENN)** in an exclusive interview.

**What kind of positive changes do you see in the government-industry in India due to this pandemic?**

The pandemic has led to the rapid adoption of digital by government agencies, with the e-office application witnessing a significant surge in demand. Now, technology is at the core of all strategies and initiatives by government agencies. The mainstream acceptance and implementation of e-office—a solution for paperless and automated administration—is enabling government organisations to ensure effective service delivery, transparency, and better accountability to their citizens. The application is creating a safe and secure working environment for the employees in this new normal.

**How is the government ensuring the delivery of critical public services in these challenging times?**

Government organisations are leveraging digital platforms to mitigate the challenges caused by COVID-19. They are bridging the silos between government, businesses, and citizens by fostering a digitally connected ecosystem. This enables government agencies to address citizen requests efficiently and allow access to services and information on-the-go for citizens and businesses across multiple channels.

Furthermore, government agencies are automating their internal and external correspondences with the help of electronically driven note sheets.



## ARPAN BANSAL

Global Head COE (Govt), Newgen Software



**What kind of technology solutions are required for more efficient e-governance during this pandemic and beyond?**

Government organisations need a robust and scalable e-governance framework that leverages digital automation of products and modern technologies to streamline key processes and develop an agile operational infrastructure. Accelerating digital initiatives with the help of a digital platform, with low code and cloud capabilities, can help governments to become more efficient, effective, and citizen-centric.

Additionally, government agencies need to leverage digital document processing to digitize, import, store, and archive paper and electronic documents. A comprehensive and cloud-based solution can foster a paperless, secure, and collaborative work environment.





# GOVERNANCE EVENTS



## Elets Initiatives

Magazine | Knowledge Portals | Conferences | Contract Publishing | Survey & Research | Consulting | Digital Marketing



# 10<sup>th</sup> elets Knowledge

## Exchange Summit & Awards

10-12 DECEMBER 2020

DIGITAL GOVERNANCE | SMART CITIES | AGRI TRANSFORMATION

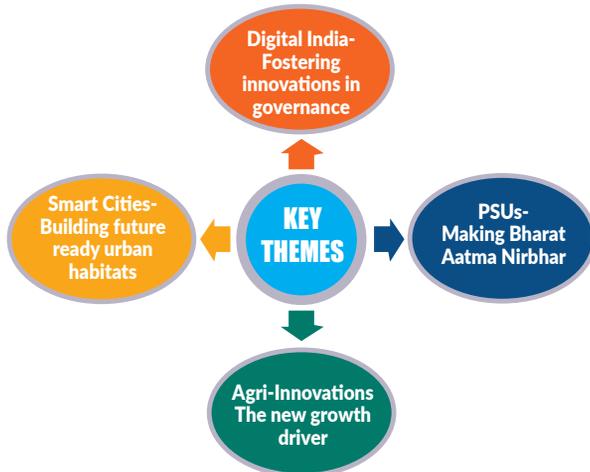


Elets Technomedia is delighted to announce “10<sup>th</sup> Elets Knowledge Exchange Summit” from 10-12 December 2020- a 3-days virtual summit on the theme of Transforming Governance amidst the New Normal.

### A NEW DIGITAL CONFERENCING EXPERIENCE

The 10<sup>th</sup> Elets Knowledge Exchange Summit has been designed as an immersive and engaging digital experience to offer delegates the following features:

- Three full-day power packed live-streamed sessions of keynotes, panel discussions and workshops addressing various challenges and opportunities
- On-demand presentations from industry leaders and sector experts
- A virtual exhibition space, where delegates would be able to engage and network with government representatives
- Opportunity to interact with other delegates from around the world in a virtual networking space
- Access to all the digital contents (print and video) after the Summit.



### WHO WILL BE THERE

Key Policy Makers from Government of India

Policy Think Tanks

Senior Officers from States & UTs

Captains of Industry

NITI Aayog

PSU Leaders

International agencies & experts

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