

**Awards for Exemplary Implementation
of e-Governance Initiatives - Year 2004**

Awards facilitated by
National Productivity Council, New Delhi

Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances proposes to recognize excellence and award Organisations and Institutions which have implemented e-Governance initiatives in an exemplary manner

OBJECTIVE

The Eighth National Conference on e-Governance being convened at Bhubaneswar from 3rd to 5th February 2005 under the joint auspices of the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievance, Government of India, Department of Information Technology, Government of India, and the Department of Information Technology, Government of Orissa, will provide a forum for discussion of e-Government related issues among experts from administration, Industry and academia and lead to the formulation of regional and national e-Governance strategies.

The Citizen's "Right to Know" has been recognized today as a fundamental right. Transparency in government is the need of the hour. The growth of the Information Technology, in which India is a leading player, has provided the infrastructure where by Information on the governments policies and practices can readily be disseminated down the grassroots level. The various state governments have created their own portals which enable the common man to access information on different services and schemes and to avail such services through payment gate-ways. Citizen centric services are available today in the area of lands records, issuance and renewal of driving licences within the transport department. The Commercial tax departments have also successfully streamlined their operation of entry tax collection at check gates.

The Information Tecnology Department, Government of Orissa aims to bring information to the doorstep of the common man and gradually bridge the digital divide that exists in society. Creation of Employment opportunities amongst the educated unemployed is another mandate of the government today. The IT Department will facilitate private participation through revenue-sharing models.

What has been achieved so far is only a beginning. In the year ahead, there will be a need for re-engineering of government processes and capacity building for planning and implementing e-governance projects.

Although India is recognized as a leader in producing IT professionals, it has a poor e-governance index. In a list of 133 countries which provide e-governance, our rank is 37. Clearly, much more needs to be done in this area.

The national convention will enable delegates to share the success stories emanating from states which have already taken a lead in e-governance. There will be deliberations on landmark e-governance projects such as "bhoomi" in Karnataka, e-seva Kendras in Andhra Pradesh, and Gyandoot, the community owned rural internet kiosk scheme in Gujarat, to name a few.