

**PRESS NOTE REGARDING VIDEO CONFERENCE PRESIDED OVER
BY THE SECRETARY, IT, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA AND CHIEF
SECRETARY, GOVT. OF HIMACHAL PRADESH**

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Sh Brijesh Kumar, Secretary IT, Govt of India taking VC Session

Shri Brijesh Kumar, Secretary IT, Government of India, presided over the process of commencement of computerisation of land records in 15 tehsils through a video conference in 8 districts of Himachal Pradesh. Sri S.S. Parmar, Chief Secretary, Government of Himachal Pradesh also interacted with various Divisional Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, officers of

Revenue and IT Departments and technical professionals of National Informatics Centre including Dr. N. Vijayaditya, Director General of NIC, who joined the videoconference all the way from Port Blair in the Andaman Islands. In addition to this, implementation of Property Registration Software (HIMRIS) and e-Praman (Computerised issuance of certificates of 15 kinds required by the common man) was also extended to 8 and 38 tehsils /sub tehsils respectively. In this nation-wide video conference ranging from all the districts of Himachal Pradesh to New Delhi to the Andaman Island, the Chief Secretary, H.P. and Deputy Commissioners handed over computerised jamabandis to the concerned Tehsildars and record of rights to some farmers. Shri Brijesh Kumar lauded the role of the Department of I.T., Government of Himachal Pradesh and National Informatics Centre in taking various initiatives in the field of e-Governance in particular and promotion of IT in general. He revealed that 1 lac Community Services centres will be set up at village level by the year 2007. Thus there will be one community centre on an average for every six villages in the entire country. He informed that digitisation of cadastral maps shall be taken up as a

second phase of computerisation of land records. Mr. Brijesh Kumar said that some of the initiatives taken by Government of Himachal Pradesh in the field of IT deserve to be included in the compilation of best practices being prepared by the Department of Administrative Reforms, Government of India, so that the other States could also benefit from the experience of Himachal Pradesh. Shri Brijesh Kumar assured the Chief Secretary of financial assistance to the Government of Himachal Pradesh under STPI schemes for another Software Technology Park at a more suitable location.

Before this, the Chief Secretary congratulated every body involved in the process of implementation of land records computerisation. He said that despite topographical and climatic challenges, Himachal Pradesh had been able to computerise 51 out of its 109 functional tehsils and sub tehsils within 18 months of taking up this project in a mission mode. He declared that property registration software and e-Praman shall also be implemented in all the tehsils/sub-tehsils (where sustainability can be ensured) by 31-03-2006. He informed that Himachal Pradesh Government has already made a head start in implementation of projects proposed to be included under the national e-Governance Action Plan. He made a special mention of the REFNIC software which permits electronic tracking of movement of papers and files in the Government offices. He said that even before the Right to Information Act was implemented, the movement of files within the Secretariat could be located by anyone on the Internet. In order to attract investment in the field of IT, he called upon the Government of India to declare Information Technology as a 'thrust industry' for Himachal Pradesh.

Dr. N. Vijayaditya Director General NIC appreciated the efforts made by Himachal Pradesh in implementation of various projects in IT Sector. He said that NIC will provide band width through alternate routes also so that failure rate will be reduced almost to zero. He emphasised on the need for security enhancement through Disaster Recovery Centres.

Shri Sanjeev Gupta, Secretary IT made a presentation on IT scenario in Himachal Pradesh highlighting the major e-Governance activities taking place in the State. He mentioned that more than 80 e-Governance projects have been implemented in the State. He informed that Himachal Pradesh had already won numerous awards in the field of e-Governance for softwares which have been developed by the National Informatics Centre. He made a special mention of computerisation of Sales Tax Department including on-line filing of tax returns, e-Pensions, computerisation of employment exchanges, online hotel reservation for all hotels in Himachal Pradesh and Integrated Community Service Centres. He pointed out that only the software for computerisation of land records developed in Himachal Pradesh has unique features like automatic incorporation of mutations, shajra nazab, wazibul urge, bartandari, land reforms etc