CSC’s Part In ‘Mission E-Literacy’

The Government approved the National Policy on Information Technology last month for development and well-being of the ICT sector. Among many significant objectives, the Policy seeks to make at least one individual in every household an e-literate. In this light, CSC SPV and National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT) Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is relevant.

The signing of MOU reflects – the importance of the e-literacy mission for CSC SPV, and also our efforts towards aligning goals with the Governments overall vision on e-literacy. As per the MOU, NIELIT and CSC SPV will be offering technology courses through Common Service Centers (CSC). It will also aim to make one crore people e-literate by 2013-14.

At the MoU signing ceremony, Shri Sachin Pilot, IT Minister, while congratulating SPV and NIELIT for the alliance, envisioned the need to create a “time-bound agenda for implementing the mission of enabling people to easily interface with technology.”

With the signing of MOU, CSCs across the country will enable students to get facilities like online registration, examination form filling, accreditation form filling, expert registration, result certificate printing among others. NIELIT will also train the Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLE) so that they can further impart training to people in the rural areas. This will also provide an option for people to learn from any institute and just clear tests through CSCs for a nominal fee.

CSC SPV will also fund NIELIT for automation of its activities related to citizens, especially students, and these services will be delivered through CSCs. So far, Kerala was one of the few States pioneering in driving e-literacy as a mission through its much acclaimed – Akshaya project.

Malappuram was declared as the first e-literate district in India. Malappuram and Kannur districts are declared 100% e-literate. Through this agreement with NIELIT, it is our endeavor, to play the part of a facilitator in the mission to a fine finish while also on ground enabling CSCs to become more and more vibrant.
NPR: A Status Update

As a part of its commitment under the National Population Register (NPR) project, CSC SPV has completed close to 93% of the set targets under Phase I. NPR is a project involving data digitization of usual residents of the country. For rural areas, the project has been divided into different Zones in Phase I and II of the project. The first phase involved the work of data digitization of 1109.13 lakh in 19 rural zones of five states. The remaining target population of Phase I is expected to be covered by October 31, 2012.

The NPR is being prepared at the local (village level), sub district (Tehsil/Taluk level), district, State and national level under provisions of the Citizenship Act 1955 and the Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003. Under this Government of India project, CSC SPV is the monitoring authority on behalf of NIELIT, which is the tendering authority for all Zones that fall under the rural areas. The census data is being digitized by the selected Managed Service Providers (MSP).

Other Highlights

Phase I
- First level quality check by MSP (QC) has completed: 96% of total digitized TIFFs (a format for scanned documents).
- Second level of quality check by tendering authority (QA) has completed: 17.1% of total QC TIFFs.
- Data for one zone in Uttarakhand has been handed over. Also data digitization, QC & QA has been completed in seven zones.

Phase II
- In this phase, the target population of 369,3.76 lakh falls under 48 rural zones (with 268 districts in 10 states & one UT).
- Digitization has completed for 17% of this target.
- Forty seven zones are ready with infrastructure.
- At 43 zones data entry has started.
- There are 295 No of data entry points, and they are operational in each district.
- The completion of data digitization and QC work for phase II is expected to happen by Dec 31, 2012. The 100% data handover to take place by January 31, 2013.
Manipur Empowers CSCs with Solar Power Panels

The Department of Information Technology in collaboration with MANEREDA Renewable Energy Agency, Government of Manipur has set a target to empower all 399 CSCs in the State with solar power panel for running the Centers. The first phase of the project has been completed. With that installation of solar power panels in 133 CSCs has been achieved. The State is now entering the 2nd phase of implementation.

Tripura Takes the Lead: Delivers MNREGA Payments Online

The State Bank of India and SCA—BASIX INDIA has initiated the online delivery of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA) based payments through five CSCs (out of eight SBI Kiosks) in Tripura with effect from September 27, 2012. This has made Tripura the first north eastern state to deliver MNREGA services online. So far, five beneficiaries’ accounts have been transacted using this system.

On the other hand, the State has also taken a lead in completing their activities under the National Population Register (NPR) Project. Vision InfoTech, a managed service provider is expected to complete the entire work of data digitization by the end of October, 2012. Under the data digitization work, Vision InfoTech needs to digitize records of over 27 Lakh citizens from rural areas of Tripura.

DIT and AMTRON officials visit CSCs in Assam

Mr Rajib Bora, Principal Secretary, IT and Mr. Anurag Goel, Commissioner Secretary IT, DC Sonitpur, MD Amtron visited CSCs in Sonitpur District of Assam. The Secretary expressed his satisfaction with the functioning of the CSCs.
A new CSC was launched on Sept 2012 a CSC was opened at Warulwadi, Pune District.

Imphal, Manipur: Thirty three VLEs were trained by Zoom Developers in Imphal, on delivering DLF Pramerica insurance and some other B2C services. Workshop was held on September, 26, 2012.

SCA BASIX launched an online course for learning spoken English at the Nasik district, Maharashtra last month. The course fee would be payable in two installments. A VLE is expected to make Rs. 800 per student registration.
A VLE from Ratnagiri being felicitated by Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB) on September 5, 2012 for doing maximum MSEB bill payment transaction in August 2012.

Shri Rajiv Gauba has taken over as the new Additional Secretary of the Department of Electronics and Information Technology, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology.

As per a cabinet decision in Rajasthan, the citizen centric services of Government Depts. are to be delivered on an end-to-end basis through e-Mitra Kiosks in urban areas and through CSCs in rural areas. Close to 2500 CSCs and 900 e-Mitra Kiosks are catering to a population of 20 lakh people in the State.

In the light of importance CSC SPV attaches to delivering financial services through the CSCs, the company is proposing to organize a workshop on Financial Inclusion in November, 2012. Broadly, the objective is to enable all stakeholders involved—DEITY, DFS, Banks, SPs, SCAs, SDAs, VLEs to come together to network, share best practices and implementation challenges, chalk out clear plans among other.

The Thane District of Maharashtra has now got the clearance form the Government to deliver ration card service. The service will be given to Thane CSCs through Spanco. Ration card was one of the most awaited service in Thane.

Close to 536 VSAT installations have been completed out of 2500 in the north eastern States.