

Villagers gear up to make Nuthankal a digital corridor

Nuthankal, a peri-urban village in Medchal Mandal, Ranga Reddy district, Telangana, is poised to witness a new wave of transformation with a project to digitize governance processes at the panchayat level. Sehgal Foundation initiated implementation of the digital corridor project with technical support from the National Informatics Centre (NIC), Ministry of Information & Technology, Hyderabad, and the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), Hyderabad. Ultra Seed Tech (India) Pvt. Ltd., a Hyderabad-based company is financially supporting the project.

The project will provide services digitally to villagers such as issuing marriage/birth/death certificates; property valuation certificates; mutation of land, no objection certificates for small, medium, and large-scale industries; building and layout permissions; house tax collection; trade licenses; MNREGA job cards; distribution and monitoring of the public distribution system at fair price shops; technical advice to farmers on agricultural practices, tap connections, etc.

Unique features of the digital corridor project include electronic application filing to access government programs, digital maintenance of records, bar-codes, and digital signed certificates issued by panchayats. This will ensure online tracking and monitoring of government programs.

A model village

Under the project, a group of forty villagers from Nuthankal, including Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) members, village functionaries, and interested villagers attended a consultative workshop on August 28, 2017, held at NIRDPR, Hyderabad, and received training on roles and responsibilities of PRI, Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) and Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) tools. The excited villagers expressed their willingness to develop Nuthankal as a model village within the next two years.



Stakeholders in Nuthankal got together on August 29, 2017 for a training on the use of equipment for the digital corridor project. Resource persons included experts from National Informatics Centre and City Online, a company helping to provide instruments for digitalization of Nuthankal. The training, attended by over sixty villagers, also marked the launch of the project in the presence of Mr. Deva Sahay, Mandal Parishad development officer from Medchal district administration. Representatives from NIRD&PR, NIC, City Online, Ultra SeedTech, and Sehgal Foundation were also present during the event.



The digital corridor project is an ambitious initiative that will go a long way in strengthening the Digital India Mission promoted by Honorable Prime Minister, Mr. Narendra Modi. After successful implementation in Nuthankal, the idea holds great potential for replication to improve functioning of village panchayats across rural India.

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