



## GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

### Abstract

Information Technology Department – “Bridging the Digital Divide” – Implementation of Pilot Project at an estimated Cost of Rs.150 lakhs in Malappuram and Thiruvananthapuram Districts – Administrative sanction accorded – Orders issued.

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### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (A) DEPARTMENT

G.O. (Ms) No. 22/2002/ITD

Dated, Thiruvananthapuram, 21.11.2002.

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*Read:- Letter No.KSITM/ADMN/PLAN/02,dated 18.09.2002 from the Director,  
Kerala State IT Mission.*

### ORDER

Government of Kerala has launched several initiatives in improving governance and introducing governance related reforms primarily to pave the way for improved delivery of essential services to citizens, particularly the disadvantaged sections of the society. The rapid diffusion of ICT to all sections of the Kerala society is fundamental for this new growth strategy being followed in the state. There is an increasing expectation in Kerala, on the prospect of ICT as growth engine for the region's economic development. This would require a planned intervention in terms of bridging the digital divide in the state, as a foundation for a knowledge economy. In this context, Information Technology Department, has structured an innovative Intervention strategy and a dissemination programme towards **Bridging the Digital Divide** in the state.

2. The project will address the issues on digital divide in the State in an integrated and holistic way. Providing ICT access to all sections of the society, even located in the remotest part of the State, development of minimum skill sets to all the people through functional IT literacy training, creation of relevant local contents to benefit all the interest groups, etc. are components of the project. This project will result in generating economic growth, creation of direct and indirect employment opportunities and would have a long-standing impact on the socio-political economy of the state.

3. The Multi-purpose Community Technology Centres set up throughout the State through private sector initiatives, which will initially act as the training centres for the IT literacy campaign, will continue to be the IT dissemination nodes and service delivery points for the local population. Each Centre will have a catchment of about 600 – 750 households. As the locations of these centres are strategically planned and spatially distributed to cater to the people in all parts of the State and are connected through the internet, they will form a powerful network to guide and support the e-governance initiatives, communication advancements, e-commerce and information dissemination.

## Highlights of the Programme

- At least one person in every family will be made IT Literate to make Kerala, the first 100% IT literate State.
  - One person each from all the 64 lakh families in the State will be trained;
  - The focus of training will be to provide functional literacy, enabling the trainees to use the computers without fear for common uses like sending e-mails, watching CDs, searching for information from the Internet etc;
  - The training module designed in local language is for 15 hours for each person.
- Multi-purpose Communication Technology Centres will be developed within 2Km radius of any household through private sector initiatives.
  - 9000 Multi-purpose Community Technology Centres will be developed in the State with the objective of one centre each per two wards:
  - Each centre will cater to approximately 600-750 households;
  - The Centres will be spatially distributed through out the state and will be connected through Internet;
  - Development of these centres will provide direct sustained employment to at least 45000 people (5 Nos. per unit) and attract a direct investment of about Rs.5000 million (Rs.0.5 million per unit) in the IT Sector.
- Large number of content relevant in Kerala's context will be developed for the use of the local population.
  - The contents will be mainly in local language;
  - The contents will aim at all categories of people;
  - This activity will boost the content generation sector of IT Industry.
- Focused campaign on the benefits of IT to the masses supported by skill development, increased accessibility and relevant content is expected to increase the PC penetration to the families to at least 5% and regular Internet users to at least 20% within the next 3 years.
  - The present PC penetration to the families and the regular Internet users in the State are less than 0.50%.

- 5% PC penetration to the families will necessitate about 3,00,000 computers and its accessories. This will involve a business of about Rs.10,000 million and will benefit all sectors of IT industry.

4. The project will be taken up for the entire State of Kerala. As the first phase, pilot projects will be taken up in Malappuram and Thiruvananthapuram districts. Malappuram District Panchayath has completed the surveys required for the campaign and the implementation is proposed from January 2003 to May 2003. In Thiruvananthapuram, District the pilot project is being initiated. The entire State is proposed to be covered in the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase from November 2003 to May 2004. The project will be implemented with the active participation of Panchayathi Raj Institutions, NGOs and private sector in the state.

5. The Director, KSITM has informed that during 2002-03 an amount of Rs.150 lakhs has to be incurred for the implementation of the Project Funds for the 'Bridging the Digital Divide' has not been included in the budget for 2002-03. The Governing Body Meeting of KSITM held in July 2002 has approved the proposal for taking up the above project during 2002-03 by using the funds allocated to KSITM. The Governing Council also proposed that the amount set apart for the following projects may be utilised for the Digital Divide Project:

1. Supply Chain Management operations : Rs.100 lakhs
2. Setting up of International Business School: Rs. 50 lakhs

**TOTAL        Rs.150 lakhs**  
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5. Government have examined the matter in detail and are pleased to accord sanction for the implementation of the pilot project "Bridging the Digital Divide" at an estimated cost of Rs.150 lakhs (Rupees One hundred and fifty lakhs) by utilising the funds set apart for the projects viz. supply Chain Management Operations (Rs.100 lakhs) and Setting up of International Business School (Rs.50 lakhs) during 2002-03. The pilot project will be implemented in Malappuram and Thiruvananthapuram Districts.

6. The expenditure on this account will be debited to the Head of Account '3451-101-87-KITSS Grant-in-aid' during the current financial year.

7. Government also orders that new service procedure will be followed for incurring the expenditure.

(By Order of the Governor)

ARUNA SUNDARARAJAN  
SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To:

The Member Secretary, State Planning Board.

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The Director, KSITM, Sasthamangalam, Thiruvananthapuram.  
The Accountant General (A&E/Audit), Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram(This issue  
with the concurrence of Finance Department)  
The Principal Secretary, Finance Department.  
The Secretary (LSG) Rural Department.  
The Secretary (LSG) Urban Department.  
The Secretary, Planning and Economic Affairs Department.  
The Principal Secretary to Chief Minister.  
The Secretary, General Education Department.  
The Director of Panchayaths, Thiruvananthapuram.  
The Director, Public Relations  
The Director C-Dit.  
The Executive Director, IKM.  
The District Collector, Thiruvananthapuram.  
The District Collector, Malappuram.  
The District Panchayath President, Malappuram.  
The District Panchayath President, Thiruvananthapuram.  
The General Administration (SC) Department (Vide item No.1500 dated  
13.11.2002 of the proceedings by the council of Ministers).  
The Finance Department (Vide U.O.No.83884/Exp.A3/2002/Fin dated 5.11.02).

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Private Secretary to Minister (Industries & Social Welfare)  
Private Secretary to Minister LSG  
CA to Secretary (IT)  
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