

# BJP's IT VISION TRANSFORMING BHARAT



*Advani for PM*

Bharatiya Janata Party

# HIGHLIGHTS OF BJP'S IT VISION

- @ Multipurpose National Identity Card with Citizen Identification Number (CIN) in 3 years; to replace all other identification systems.
- @ 1.2 crore new IT-enabled jobs in rural areas.
- @ Raise farm productivity, bring cost of cultivation down and increase kisans' income through revolutionary transformation of agriculture using IT for water conservation, soil enrichment, procurement, marketing and credit needs of kisans', waste elimination, and taking R&D from 'lab to land'.
- @ Taking the benefits of IT to all shops, small and medium enterprises (SME), and the informal sector.
- @ 1 crore students to get laptop computers at Rs 10,000. Interest-free loan for anyone unable to afford it.
- @ All schools and colleges to have internet-enabled education.
- @ National Mission for Promotion of IT in Indian Languages.
- @ Broadband Internet in every town and village, with unlimited upload and download data transfer limits, at cable TV prices.
- @ Mobile penetration to be raised in five years from 40 crore to 100 crore subscribers. As many Internet users as mobile users. Every BPL family to be given free smart mobile phone.
- @ 100% financial inclusion through Bank accounts, with eBanking facilities, for all Indian citizens. Direct transfer of welfare funds. Our promise: ***Har Hindustani ka Bank Account; Har BPL parivar ko Smart Mobile Phone. Har goan mein broadband service; Har school mein Internet shiksha.***
- @ A basic health insurance scheme for every citizen, using the IT platform. Cash-less hospitalisation.
- @ All PHCs to be connected to a National Telemedicine Service Network.
- @ National eGovernance Plan to cover every Government office from the Centre to the Panchayats. The 'E-Gram Vishwa Gram' scheme in Gujarat to be implemented nationwide.



# HIGHLIGHTS OF BJP'S IT VISION

- @ India to equal China in every IT parameter in five years.
- @ National *Digital* Highway Development Project and Pradhan Mantri *Digital* Gram Sadak Yojana to create a next-generation network infrastructure that supports converged media: data, voice, and high-definition video.
- @ Unrestricted VoIP would be implemented immediately.
- @ Post Offices to be turned into IT-enabled Multi-Service Outlets. Telephone booths to be upgraded to internet kiosks.
- @ Citizens will have a simple 1-800 BSNL Toll Free Number, which is accessible 24 x 7x 365 days of the year, to contact their Member of Parliament.
- @ Government of India to standardise on 'open standard' and 'open source' software. An IT standards-setting body would be spun out of BIS (Bureau of Indian Standards).
- @ Video-conferencing to be made affordable and universally accessible.
- @ Land and property records to be digitised; use of GPS for this purpose.
- @ An independent body, Digital Security Agency, to be set up for cyber warfare, cyber counter-terrorism, and cyber security of national digital assets.
- @ Domestic IT hardware industry to be promoted to minimise dependence on imports.
- @ Domestic hosting industry to be promoted to minimise international bandwidth charges.
- @ Special focus to bring women, SC/STs, OBCs and other weaker sections of society within the ambit of IT-enabled development.
- @ Use of IT for the protection of India's priceless cultural and artistic heritage.





# IT 360° : BJP's Resolve to Transform India, Empower Bharat

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Dear Friends,

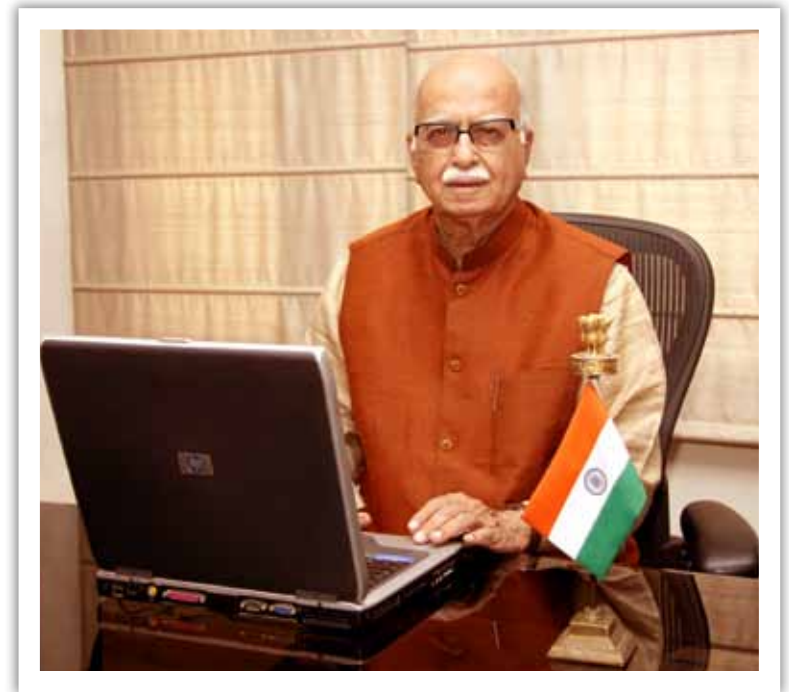
I am pleased to present to you my party's IT Vision, ahead of the elections to the 15th Lok Sabha.

The Bharatiya Janata Party believes that the revolution ushered in by Information and Communication Technologies has provided India with an unique opportunity to overcome the many daunting challenges in socio-economic development. The opportunity is all the greater, given the size of India's population and, especially, the existing and projected population of educated young people. India's youth is its greatest resource. The BJP is committed to enriching and empowering this resource for building a strong and prosperous nation.

India's progress and prosperity in the past ten years owes a great deal to IT. The BJP heartily applauds the accomplishments of our ambitious entrepreneurs and talented professionals in the IT sector. However, India's achievements in IT and IT-enabled development so far are just a fraction of what is possible and necessary. Our best is certainly yet to come.

The BJP, as the head of the NDA government (1998-2004) under the leadership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, is proud of its contribution to the growth of Digital Connectivity in India.

The NDA government laid the foundation for the explosive growth in the telecom sector with its farsighted New Telecom Policy. The policy boosted our software and IT-enabled services industry. It also helped India become the world's second largest mobile phone market. The Prime Minister's National IT Task Force helped India's software industry emerge as a global leader. For the first time, a separate Department of Information Technology was established, which,



among other things, drew up the National Plan for e-Governance.

In seeking a mandate from the people in the 2009 Lok Sabha elections, the BJP presents an even more ambitious vision on how to use IT to make a tangible difference to the life of every Indian. BJP's 360-degree vision offers a new IT-enabled economic model for India which is more relevant to the Indian reality of socio-cultural diversity, large number of diverse enterprises and geographically distributed markets, all of which calls for greater emphasis on localising the economy. Whereas much of our software industry labours to make foreign economies more competitive, a BJP-led government will create a new policy climate where we use technology mainly for India's — I would add, Bharat's — sustainable development. Specifically, this will mean a radical shift of emphasis in favour of agriculture, rural economy, infrastructure development, small and medium enterprises, informal sector of the economy, affordable healthcare for all, meaningful education for all, transparent governance, improved productivity, energy efficiency and security, environmental protection, safety, better justice delivery, and, last but not the least, NATIONAL SECURITY, both internal and external. Our overarching goal is a better quality of life in every part of India and for every section of our society.

The BJP's IT Vision will help India (a) overcome the current economic crisis; (b) create productive employment opportunities on a large scale; (c) accelerate human development through vastly improved and expanded education and healthcare services; (d) check corruption and (e) make India's national security more robust.

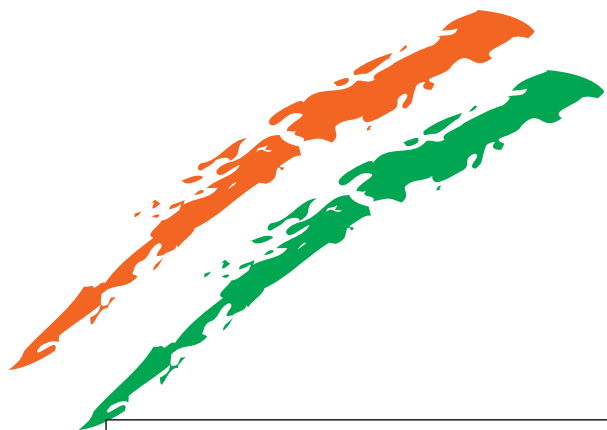
“If China has beaten the world in the physical infrastructure, India can beat the world in the IT infrastructure.”

For this, India will create a Next Generation Internet Network with enough bandwidth in every corner of our country, however remote. Internet will become as ubiquitous as electricity. With this, the economic and geographical disparities will melt away, and each citizen will have equal opportunities. The new IT infrastructure will empower homes and enlighten minds – integrating India into an egalitarian, harmonious and happy nation. This is the BJP's vision, is a part of our broader vision of making the 21st Century India's Century.

The BJP and NDA seek the support of the people of India in the coming elections. I assure you that a future NDA Government will implement this IT Vision with the speed, vigour, ambition and determination that our young IT professionals have demonstrated so splendidly in recent years.

L. K. Advani





## Background

- Vajpayee Govt's proud record
  - NDA Government laid the foundation for the explosive growth in the telecom sector with its farsighted New Telecom Policy.
  - Set up the Department of IT
  - PM's Task force on IT set the goal of making India a software superpower.
- Going forward
  - BJP presents an ambitious vision for India's IT-enabled all-round progress in the next five years.
  - Vision to guide us in the realization of our three goals and commitments: GOOD GOVERNANCE, DEVELOPMENT & SECURITY.

DIGITAL REVOLUTION

## Impact of this Vision

- Overcoming the current economic crisis.
- Creating productive and sustainable employment opportunities on a large scale.
- Accelerating human development through vastly improved and expanded education and healthcare services.
- Checking corruption.
- Making India's cyber-security robust.
- Giving India's IT industry (both software and hardware) a new growth area in the domestic (especially rural) economy.
- Reducing the migration to cities.

DIGITAL REVOLUTION



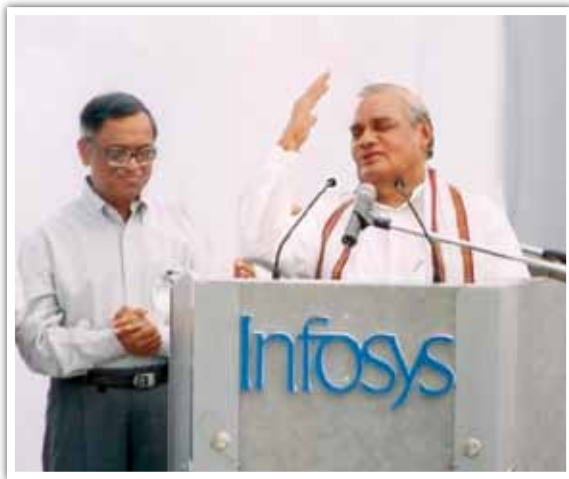
# Connectivity Revolution

## Carrying forward an unfinished task

Ambition is the mother of success. To aim small in Indian conditions, a popular former President of India once remarked, is a crime.

When former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee inaugurated the National Highway Development Project (NHDP) on 2 January 2000, declaring that

India would have a network of world-class highways, within five years, there were many naysayers who said that such ambition was misplaced in India. But the NDA Government proved them wrong. In the first 50 years of Independence, only 556 kms of 4/6 lane highways had been built in India at the rate of 11 kms per year. By the time the NDA Government



Former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee at Infosis campus, January 2001

demitted office in May 2004, 25,000 kms of 4/6 lane highways were under construction, with a completion rate of 11 kms per day.

Similarly, when Shri Vajpayee launched the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana on his birthday (December 25) in 2000, many doubted his promise to connect every Indian village with good roads. After all, as many as 1,86,000 villages, out of a total of 6,00,000, had still remained deprived of roads after more than five decades of Independence. “By building these highways and rural roads,” Shri Vajpayee once said, “we are not just drawing new lines on the map of India. Rather, we are re-writing the *bhagya rekha* (lines of destiny) of India and its people.”

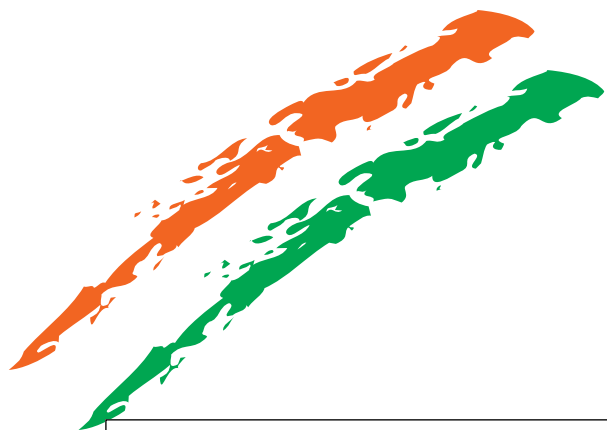
“Connectivity Revolution” is what described the overarching vision of the NDA Government, which had projected the goal of making India a ‘Developed Nation’ by 2020. The vision encompassed Physical Connectivity (expansion and modernization of India’s road and rail networks, inland waterways, and the infrastructure of ports, airports and civil aviation) as well as Digital Connectivity (telecom and information technology infrastructure and services). In addition, it had also drawn up a plan for River Connectivity.

Sadly, the five years of the UPA rule have proved to be a wasted period in terms of realizing this Connectivity Revolution. As the BJP seeks the pepole’s mandate in the 2009 elections, it pledges to fulfill the incomplete tasks set by the Vajpayee Government. It will also take India much farther ahead on the road of all-round development.

“Let a Hundred Bangalores Bloom.”

This was the call given by former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee when he inaugurated the Software Technology Park in Bangalore in November 1998. Sure enough, the past decade has seen the growth of IT businesses in many Indian cities — from Pune to Patna, from Coimbatore to Chandigarh; and from Gandhinagar to Guwahati.





## Paradigm Shifting Movements

1960s



Food Deficit

**GREEN REVOLUTION**

1970s



Nutrition Deficit

**WHITE REVOLUTION**

2009



Development Deficit

**DIGITAL REVOLUTION**

DIGITAL REVOLUTION

## What is this Digital Revolution?

*A comprehensive framework for the overall development of both urban and rural India by leveraging the power of information technology in the fields of poverty alleviation, agriculture & rural development, employment, education, healthcare, government services, financial services, justice delivery and security*



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# IT for Change

## How IT will change Bharat's Development Paradigm

The current global economic crisis is the surest sign that the world is changing rapidly. The West's monopoly over the world economy will soon be a thing of the past. The crisis presents new opportunities and challenges for India. How do we overcome the challenges and maximize the opportunities? The answer lies in the observation made by Shri L.K. Advani, while addressing the 81st annual general meeting of FICCI in February 2009: "Just as the centre of gravity of the world economy is shifting from the West to Asia, the centre of gravity of our national economy must shift from 'India' to 'Bharat'— to the revitalization of agriculture, rural economy, small and medium enterprises, and the organized and informal sectors."

'Bharat' means not only the rural population, but also the urban poor and middle-classes. They have been left behind in the development model of Congress governments, who have ruled our country for the longest period since Independence. Congress rule has created the legacy of an alarming urban-rural divide in India, besides a rich-poor divide in urban areas.

The BJP believes that Information Technology is one of the most effective tools for the rapid shift in India's development paradigm, in favour of balanced regional and social development. It is not a substitute for the essential physical infrastructure and services such as power, water, roads, railways, urban and rural amenities, etc. Nevertheless, IT not only enhances efficiency and productivity in every sector of India's economic and social development, but also gives altogether new tools for the empowerment of

citizens everywhere. So far, the amazing benefits of IT have been visible only in 'India'. Most of 'Bharat' remains untouched by IT. The BJP will bridge this Digital Divide.

A good example is the 'E Gram Vishwa Gram' scheme launched by the BJP government in Gujarat (*see page 16*). When a scheme like this is implemented all over the country, with the provision of broadband connectivity and all the attendant IT-enabled services in every Indian village — a future BJP-led government is committed to rolling it out nationwide — it will ensure significant empowerment of the rural population. It will thus contribute to fulfilling the concept of PURA (Provision of Urban Amenities in Rural Areas), which was popularized by India's former President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.

The Green Revolution in the 1960s and the White Revolution in the 1970s, though beneficial, were limited in their scope. In contrast, the BJP's vision of the Digital Revolution is all-encompassing. As this document attests, it can impact every facet of economic and social development — from manufacturing to agriculture, from education to telemedicine, from e-justice to e-security, from aiding women's self-help groups to planning energy-saving bus routes, and from protection of our cultural heritage to strengthening of democracy through good governance.

**Trust the BJP. This Digital Revolution is possible. IT can indeed transform India and empower Bharat.**

“ India's shining achievements in the IT sector so far have been achieved by only a small section of our talented youth, who have been empowered with good education. Imagine what India can achieve when every young Indian has access to quality education and world-class IT infrastructure.

- L.K. Advani ”





## Our Promise to India

# 1.2 Crore New Rural Jobs in IT Sector Alone

TOWARDS THE BJP'S BROADER OBJECTIVE OF CREATING AT LEAST  
ONE NEW NON-FARM JOB IN EACH RURAL HOUSEHOLD

**20 IT-enabled jobs on an average in each village.**

6 Lakh Villages x 20 IT-enabled Jobs = 1.2 Crore Jobs

1.2 Crore Earning Members + 4 Dependents Each =

**6 Crore**

Rural Indians Benefitted

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# Employment

## Employment, more employment, still more employment...

The BJP recognizes that one of the biggest challenges before India is to provide adequate employment opportunities to its large and growing young population. According to the Planning Commission's data, the rate of unemployment has increased since the advent of economic liberalization, the increase being higher among agricultural labour households. The Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-2012) document records that job creation under the NDA Government was much higher than that under its predecessors. "From 1999-2000 to 2004-05, about 4.7 crore work opportunities were created as compared to only 2.4 crore in the previous period of 1993-94 to 1999-2000". Under the UPA rule, not only did the rate of growth of new employment dip, but even existing jobs have come under threat.

A dominant trend in the Indian economy in the past two decades is "informalisation" of the workforce. The informal and unorganized sector now accounts for 93% of the workforce. Sadly, it is not supported by any structural system of education or skill upgradation, as a result of which both incomes and labour productivity are low. The Eleventh Plan document records: "Out of 46 crore workers, 9.4 crore earn so little that they are below the poverty line. If that is the lot of employed workers, the lot of the poor, who are unemployed, must be worse." Obviously, India cannot rely on conventional strategies for poverty alleviation employment generation or creation of better-educated and skilled manpower.

The BJP believes that IT can, and must, be used as a strategic tool to create large-scale employment opportunities both in rural and urban areas. A strong push for IT in the following areas can create, on an average, at

least 20 new employment and self-employment opportunities in each village. These jobs and local entrepreneurship opportunities can be created in following areas:

- Agriculture, value-added agribusinesses, animal husbandry, land and water management;
- Rural markets, market linkages with nearby towns and cities, banking and micro-finance services;
- Modernization of rural arts, crafts and industries;
- Internet-enabled education, and skill development of the rural workforce;
- Telemedicine; IT-enabled veterinary services;
- Panchayat-based E-governance initiatives, community monitoring of NREGS and other government schemes;
- Efficient maintenance of power, drinking water and other utilities;
- Local community-based infotainment,
- Common Service Centres (for online payment of bills, accessing of citizen-related information, etc);
- Rural content creation in local languages for all these diverse applications;
- Rural BPOs, supported by universally accessible broadband Internet at rock-bottom prices, to service the needs of the external economy.

There are nearly 6 lakh villages in India. Hence, it is possible to create at least 1.2 crore new IT-enabled jobs in rural areas. If all this is possible, the possibility must be translated into reality. The BJP has the vision and the will to do so.

**भाजपा का वादा : सभी का IT से नाता**

हर हिन्दुस्तानी का बैंक खाता

हर BPL परिवार को स्मार्ट फोन

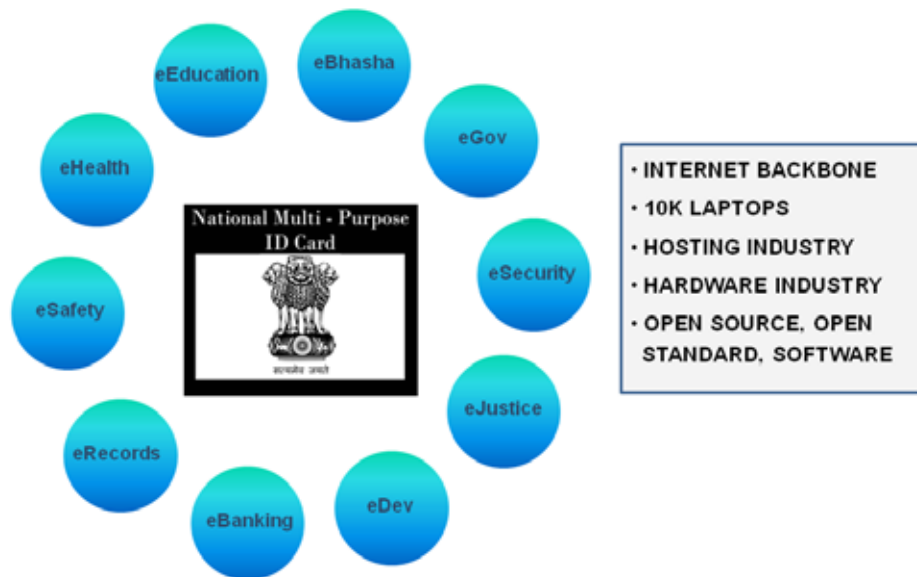
हर गांव में ब्रॉडबैंड सुविधा

हर स्कूल में इंटरनेट शिक्षा





## Coverage



DIGITAL REVOLUTION

## Multipurpose National ID Card

- Pivot of the Digital Revolution would be the MNIC.
- MNIC was launched by the NDA Government in its last tenure; ignored by the UPA Government.
- To be completed in 3 years.
- We would integrate all identities (Election ID, Income Tax PAN, Ration Card, Driving Licence numbers) into one common identity: Citizen Identification Number (CIN).
- All benefits via MNIC.

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# MNIC: Pivot of our Digital Strategy

The centrepiece of the implementation of the BJP's IT Vision is the Multipurpose National Identity Card (MNIC). As the name suggests, MNIC would be a single document that could be used as proof of identity in multiple situations such as applying for a BPL card or driver's licence or passport, or even applying for college admission.

The MNIC programme was started by the BJP-led NDA Government in its last tenure (1998-2004). Shri L.K. Advani who was then India's Home Minister, was its strongest votary. But the UPA Government has dragged its feet on the project, and five years later has nothing to show for it. Even the project website (<http://mnic.nic.in>) is shown as "under construction"! Only in January 2009 did the UPA Government make a token attempt to be seen as responsive on this issue when it set up a Unique Identification Authority of India (UIAI) as an attached office under the aegis of the Planning Commission.

Against this slipshod and half-hearted attempt of the UPA Government, a future BJP-led NDA Government would give this programme topmost priority. We would amend the Citizenship Act, 1955, to combine the offices

of the Registrar General of the Census of India and that of the UIAI to set up a Citizenship Regulatory Authority of India (CRAI). The CRAI would be responsible for maintaining a National Register of Citizenship (NRC), and keeping it current up to the minute.



Based on the NRC, CRAI would issue each citizen an MNIC with a unique Citizen Identification Number (CIN). CRAI would maintain a 24x7 online presence and enable government, law enforcement and authorised private institutions to let their computer systems "look up" the MNIC database in real time.

**Proof of the UPA Government's apathy: the MNIC website is still under construction!**

The amended Citizenship Act would make it mandatory under law for all citizens to acquire an MNIC, and parents of newly born infants would have to apply for one for their child, immediately after the baby's birth.

MNIC is expected to have multiple benefits, such as:

1. Removal of the need for ordinary citizens to carry multiple identification documents.
2. Ability of institutions and law enforcement agencies to do an instant check and validation of anyone's identity.
3. Tracking of tax collection and disbursement of welfare schemes.

The BJP promises to complete the MNIC rollout 3 years of taking office.





## Digital Highways

Digital  
National Highway Development  
Project



National Internet Backbone

Digital  
Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak  
Yojana



Last Mile Connectivity

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## Digital Highways

- Unlimited broadband Internet (2 Mbps upload and download) service at cable TV prices (Rs 200/month approx)
  - Revenue through VAS (value added services)
- Mobile penetration to be increased in five years from 40 crore to 100 crore subscribers
  - 3G to be implemented
- Target to increase the number of Internet users to equal mobile users.
- Video-conferencing to be made affordable and universally accessible.
- Unrestricted Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) telephony to be allowed.

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# Digital Highways

For MNIC and other programmes to run successfully, it is important that the country has a good computing and network infrastructure. Two things are implied by this: a national Internet backbone and last-mile connectivity to even the most remote and sparsely populated village.

The BJP-led NDA Government would initiate the creation of a fault-resilient, redundant-capacity, national Internet backbone. At the same time, any village that is not covered by commercial ISPs (Internet service providers) would be provided Internet service under a government-supported scheme.

## REDEFINING BROADBAND

The BJP wants the people of India to enjoy the benefits of the Internet, and the access to rich visual information that is made possible through the use of a good broadband connection.

Sadly in India, the term ‘broadband’ has lost all relevance. For many people the ‘world wide web’ is still ‘world wide wait’. First of all, the Indian definition of broadband is a measly 256 Kbps as opposed to the 2 Mbps definition in most developed countries. Secondly, even 256 Kbps of pure bandwidth is good enough for most data applications, provided

the end-user actually gets 256 Kbps of throughput. Unfortunately, when ISPs promise ‘broadband’, they share the same bandwidth pipe with multiple users, as a result of which most users in India receive only a fraction of the bandwidth promised to them. A BJP-led NDA Government would redefine broadband to mean 2 Mbps with a 1:1 contention ratio.

## RICH MEDIA FOR EDUCATION, HEALTH & ENTERTAINMENT

This redefinition of the term broadband would ensure that every Indian—whether in the cities or in the villages—would be able to get themselves checked by a doctor at a remote location through the telemedicine network; video conference with one another; and even see television-on-demand (IPTV). Farmers could be trained over video-conference by extension officers, as could school teachers by professors of education. And the law permitting, even testimonials of witnesses can be procured online. The opportunities are just enormous.

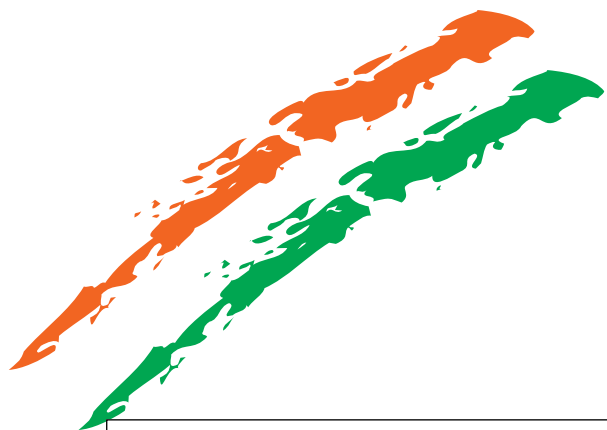
## EXTENDING THE COVERAGE OF TELEPHONY

The BJP wants the people of India to enjoy the benefits of very low telephony rates that enable even the poorest of the poor to be ‘connected’. Therefore, the BJP agrees with the recommendation of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) for the implementation of ‘unrestricted’ VoIP (Voice over IP). If a BJP-led NDA Government assumes power, VoIP would be made legal and the necessary roll-out plan worked out. VoIP would allow ordinary Indians to make national long distance (NLD) and international long distance (ILD) at close-to-local charges.

## MOBILE TELEPHONY

The BJP promises to bring in the right policy prescriptions to take the mobile subscriber base from the current 40 crores to 100 crores in five years. And by implementing 3G (3rd generation) mobile networks, these billion subscribers would not only be able to make voice calls but also video calls.





## eGovernance

- National e-Governance Plan to reach down to all panchayats.
- “Paperless working” in all the ministries of the central government.
- ‘E-Gram Vishwa Gram’ scheme of Gujarat Government to be implemented nationwide.
- RTI to have an additional component of DTI (Duty to Inform citizens) by making all citizen-related information mandatorily available to citizens even without their seeking it.

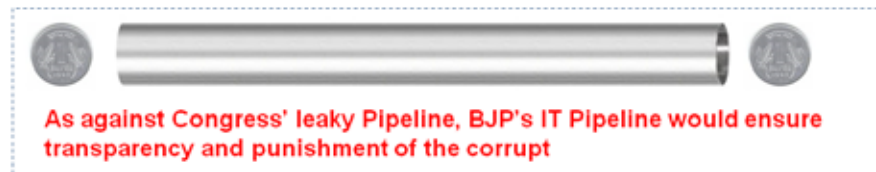
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## IT for Development



*"Of every rupee spent by the government, only 15 paise reaches the intended beneficiary"*

— A former Prime Minister during a visit to drought-affected Kalahandi district in Orissa, 1985



**As against Congress' leaky Pipeline, BJP's IT Pipeline would ensure transparency and punishment of the corrupt**

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# eGovernance for Good Governance

No political party in India has espoused the cause of Good Governance as vigorously and consistently as the BJP. When Shri Lal Krishna Advani undertook the Swarna Jayanti Rath Yatra in 1997 to commemorate the golden jubilee of India's Independence, his principal message to the people was this: "The goal of swaraj (self-governance) was attained fifty years ago. But why has the dream of su-raj (good governance) remained unfulfilled so far?"

As far as the ordinary people are concerned, Good Governance means honest, corruption-free, citizen-friendly and participative governance. It means that citizens are respected, their voice is heard and administration conducts itself as a servant of the people and not as its master. This goal can be attained only by introducing far-reaching administrative, judicial, political and electoral reforms. Also required is a major transformation in the mindset of the government machinery. An important additional requirement is the use of IT in governance, since it promotes transparency, accountability, efficiency, cost-effectiveness, innovation and participation of citizens.

Former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee announced the National

e-Governance initiative on 15 August 2002. Unfortunately, implementation of this plan has badly lagged behind under the UPA rule. A future BJP-led Government will implement eGovernance in its most comprehensive form at all levels of government — from the Centre to each panchayat. Here are our specific assurances:

- Taking government to the door of every citizen in the country.
- Making available government services online and in local languages in every village and town. As against the UPA's unfulfilled target of 100,000 Common Services Centres (CSCs), the NDA promises to create CSCs in each of the nearly 6,00,000 villages in India.
- Complete transparency in provision of services and individual accountability of government servants.
- Full financial inclusion by opening a bank account for every citizen. Money due to citizens will be directly credited into the beneficiary's bank account, preferably into the account of the woman of the household.
- All Government-to-Citizen (G-C), Government-to-Government (G-G) and Government-to-Business (G-B) transactions will be conducted electronically, with the objective of moving towards paperless governance. To begin with, paperless work-culture will be introduced in all the ministries of the central government.
- RTI to have an additional component of DTI (Duty to Inform citizens) by making all citizen-related information mandatorily available to citizens even without their seeking it.
- Content in local languages is the 'heart' of eGovernance. Government agencies will be mandated to ensure local - language content.
- Citizens will have a simple 1-800 BSNL Toll Free Number, which is accessible 24 x 7x 365 days of the year, to contact their Member of Parliament.

Lord Ganesha, the remover of all obstacles, occupies a special place in the Indian psyche. Ganesha's mouse is his ubiquitous vehicle. In its modern avatar, the digital mouse is the instrument that people have in their hands to overcome the traditional obstacles in dealing with government. The BJP promises obstacle-free governance, by empowering the citizens with eGovernance.





## 'E Gram Vishwa Gram': Gujarat's pioneering project that BJP pledges to implement nationwide

The Government of Gujarat, under the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi, has heralded a new era of technology-enabled rural empowerment. It was launched from Haripura village in South Gujarat on the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose (23 January 2009), with Shri Modi giving a call for 'Su-Rajya' (Good Governance). It was from this historic village that Netaji had given the call for 'Swarajya' (Self-Governance) in 1938.

The ambitious E-Gram Vishwa Gram (E-Village, Global Village) project aims

at providing broadband connectivity to all the 13,693 gram panchayats of Gujarat. On the lines of Netaji's clarion call of 'Dilli Chalo', Shri Modi gave a call of 'Gaon Chalo' for the all-round development of villages. Important features of the E Gram Vishwa Gram project are:

- Launching of "Pavan Channel" — Panchayat Wide Area Network.
- E-Utsav for the Rural Masses in all the Villages.
- Gram Panchayat to issue citizen related documents and certificates, and application forms for various development and welfare schemes, including 7/12 certificates to the farmers from panchayats.
- Video Conferencing and Video Broadcasting facilities at all the villages.
- VSAT-based broadband connectivity.
- Free of cost communication between panchayats.
- Common Service Centre facility for providing education, telemedicine, veterinary services, market linkage and other agriculture-related services to kisans, payment of electricity and telephone bills, issuance of death and birth certificates, land ownership records, postal services.
- Villagers may take advantage of Internet and email services.
- Reservation and purchase of bus and railway tickets.

E Gram Vishwa Gram will also help control corruption since all transactions between government and citizens will be computerised.

After successfully providing 24X7 electricity to every village in Gujarat under the Jyotigram scheme, the BJP government in the state has, for the first time in India, embarked upon a project to link every village with the Global Village, so that every rural household can avail the advantages of modern science and information technology.

## e-Galla: Empowering the kirana shopkeeper

Galla, a project of IIT Bombay's Developmental Informatics Lab, seeks to use IT to network small shopkeepers and to give them the advantage of scale in their operations (mainly stocking, billing and CRM or Customer Relationship Management). The goal is not only to protect employment in this sector but also to create a win-win situation for consumers and the small vendors. At a time when globalisation has placed many threats and challenges before India's unorganized retail shopkeepers, it is important that India uses IT to empower this

great institution that is extremely frugal and efficient in the use of its resources to get provisions out to the "aam-aadmi". It is necessary to capitalise on the strengths of the kirana store network — namely, the last-mile connect with the customer and personalized service using the knowledge it has about its customer base. Conceived with this in mind, Project Galla has produced an integrated special purpose hardware device with associated software and multilingual user interfaces for end-to-end shop automation solutions targeted at small retailers. Also under development is an integrated environment for small retailers to offer their items in a consolidated manner in cyber space.





### **Agrocom: an IIT-incubated weather-forecasting technology helps Nasik's grape-growers save upto Rs. 1 lakh per acre**

Agrocom is a startup company being incubated at IIT Bombay. In addition to providing professional support to aAqua technology for rural use, it has set up mini-weather stations (each with a catchment of 25 sq. kilometres) that are part of an innovative

system that permits measurement of parameters such as temperature, humidity and leaf-wetness for the purposes of farm-level disease forecasting, weather record validation for weather insurance and weather forecasts for decision support. Agrocom has showed that using the disease forecasts arising out of its 30 weather stations in Nasik Valley farmers can save 10-30% of their costs and at the same time reduce pesticide and chemical content in their agri-products. Grape farmers are saving Rs 10,000 to Rs 1 Lakh per acre in reduced sprays and better quality produce with lower residues. The latter is especially noteworthy given strict international norms set for agri-exports

### **aAqua : How IT helps kisans' questions answered by expert kisans**

aAQUA is a discussion forum that provides answers to questions relating to a variety of topics of interest to India's rural population — from agriculture and animal husbandry to education and entrepreneurship. Launched as a collaborative effort by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay, a Krishi Vigyan Kendra in Maharashtra and Vigyan Ashram in Pabal, near Pune, the effort attempts to build a bridge between knowledgeable agriculturists and knowledge-seeking users. As of April 2009, the aAQUA portal has more than

17000 posts from 7000 individual farmers, users from farmer organizations, small and medium-sized agribusinesses, and larger companies. Questions have come in from 290 of India's more than 600 districts as well as from members around the world. Experts from several KVKs and agri-universities respond to users' queries.

In a typical aAQUA discussion thread, a farmer submits a problem, and agriculture experts or other farmers provide solutions. Currently, users can post a question through the Web site ([www.aqua.org](http://www.aqua.org)), via email, or via mobile SMS texting. Any noncommercial user can browse the forums for free.

### **Bhoomi: hassle-free issuance of land records to kisans**

The most crucial official document for any kisan is the one that validates information about his land-holding: the Record of Right Tenancy and RTC is required for land transactions, to obtain crop loans, other loans and concessions linked to the size of the land holding. In the manual system, these records are maintained by Village Accountants, who are often exploitative. Since the records are not open for public scrutiny, there is considerable scope for manipulation.

When the NDA Government was in office at Centre, it helped the Government

of Karnataka (which was then ruled by the Congress) launch a pioneering scheme for complete computerization of land records. Called 'Bhoomi', it facilitates easy maintenance and prompt updation of land records; makes land records tamper proof; provides farmers easy access to their land records; and enables usage of this database by courts, banks, private organizations and Internet Service Providers (ISPs). The time for issuance of the RTC in Karnataka has been reduced from several days to about 15 minutes. Nearly two crore users have used Bhoomi since its inception in 2000.

The BJP government in Karnataka has considerably improved upon this scheme to make it even more kisan-friendly.





## eBanking

- Every citizen to have a bank account
- All financial benefits accruing under governmental schemes to be transferred directly to the beneficiary's account, preferably the woman of the house



DIGITAL REVOLUTION

## eDevelopment

- Information required by farmers (about markets, inputs, farm operations, government schemes, etc) to be provided through the digital platform – eMandi , Agropedia, IT enabled Agri-clinics, etc.
- Induction of IT into arts, crafts, other areas of the informal sector, SMEs
- National Skill Development Mission to increase the number of skilled workers from 8% to 20% in five years
- Use of IT for reaching the United Nations Millennium Development Goals.
- Climate change to be addressed with Green Technologies.

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# eDevelopment for All

Today we truly live in a global village. But it is also a 'village' whose population is divided between information 'haves' and far more numerous information 'have-nots.' This is true about both India and the world. This Digital Divide closely parallels the socio-economic divide. The BJP considers this schism to be unacceptable and is committed to reducing it to the barest minimum possible.



The BJP will devise policies and strategies for use of IT to achieve the following strategic objectives:

- Reaching the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which would see crores of people lifted from poverty and able to access healthcare, education and secure livelihoods and clean drinking water. India has the resources necessary to end the sad state of poverty, hunger and underdevelopment, provided there is political will to vigorously implement measures to promote speedier socio-economic development and employment generation in rural as well as urban areas, extension of health care facilities, education, protection of the environment.
- Corruption has been the bane of government-funded development projects in India. The latest report of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has severely indicted the UPA Government for not showing proper accounts of how a whopping amount of over Rs

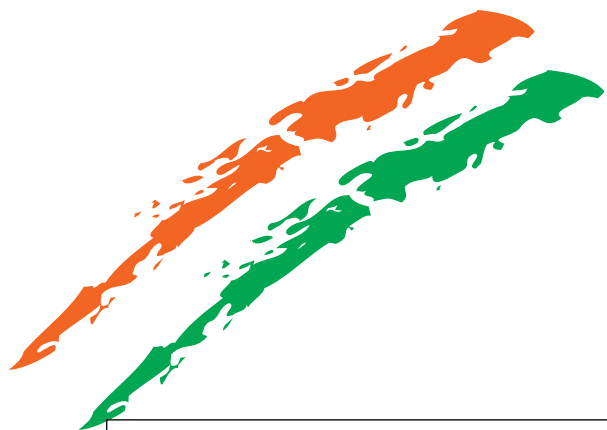
51,000 crore, allocated for various anti-poverty schemes in 2007-08, was spent. A future NDA Government will put in place a robust IT infrastructure, seamlessly connecting the central government, state governments, municipal bodies and panchayats, so that total transparency and accountability is ensured at all levels. Those responsible for misappropriating public funds will receive exemplary punishment.

- With a view to financial inclusion, every citizen of India would have a Bank Account and there would be direct transfers of welfare funds to beneficiaries.
- Every BPL family would be given a free smart mobile phone, which can be used even by illiterate people to access their bank accounts. This will help in plugging leakages in NREGS and other poverty-eradication scheme.
- Special focus on integrating gender justice and social justice for SCs/STs, OBCs and other weaker sections of society into the larger framework of IT-enabled development.
- Universalisation of use of IT in every sector of the economy to enhance productivity and employment opportunities. India's IT and ITES industry, which has until now focused on serving foreign markets, will be encouraged to serve the domestic economy.
- Food security, water security and energy security are India's strategic needs. We will evolve strategies with long-term and short-term goals, and IT will be employed comprehensively to achieve these goals.
- Climate Change issues will be addressed with innovative uses of IT and Green Technologies.

Another important goal before a BJP-led government will be to remove the Digital Divide between India and China (see table below). We are determined to enable India to equal China in every IT parameter in the next five years.

Parameter (in crores)	India 	China 
No. of personal computers	2.8	16.2
No. of broadband subscribers	0.54	8.5
No. of internet users	5.2	29.8
No. of mobile subscribers	40	65





## eEducation

- Every school and college to have Internet-enabled education.
- Knowledge connectivity among institutions and industry.
- Web-based, open-source learning resources in all Indian languages (Wikipedia-like, You Tube-like, etc.)
- National repository of best lectures in every subject by master-teachers.
- IT-enabled Teacher Training Programme to create job opportunities for 25 lakh new teachers.
- Expansion of the system of IT-enabled open and distance education.

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## Rs 10000/- laptop

- At least 1 crore students to get a fully loaded laptop (Core2Duo processor with 2 GB RAM) at Rs 10000/-
- Interest-free laptop loans for students who cannot afford it.
- Free, open source, software to power all laptops.



DIGITAL REVOLUTION

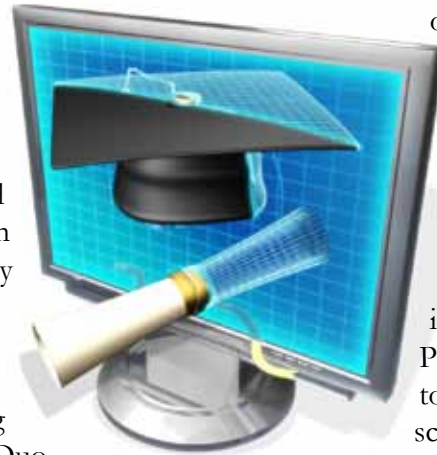


# eEducation

## Realising Rs. 10,000-laptop and other dreams

The BJP believes that we need to create both a demand for and domestic supply of computer assets—hardware, software, educational material, and trained human resources—to make the Digital Revolution possible. Recognising that IT-enabled education has revolutionised both learning and teaching, thereby unleashing the hidden potential of every student, our party commits itself to making the basic tool of E-education — laptop computer with internet connection — affordable to all students in India. Hence our promise of making available at least one crore top-of-the-line laptops (Core2Duo or equivalent processor; 2 GB RAM; 250 GB Hard Disk; built-in 2 megapixel webcam, microphone and speakers; Wifi and Bluetooth facilities; and a 13-inch screen) to school and college students at a price point of Rs 10,000 or less. Those who cannot afford to buy the laptop will be given an interest-free loan of Rs. 10,000.

Such a device in today's market costs over Rs 35,000. So how would it come at a price point of Rs 10,000? The answer is scale and innovation. We have already seen that the scale of demand, coupled with domestic manufacturing, has brought down the cost of a mobile phone to levels affordable to the common man. Our Government would therefore insist on indigenous and innovation-led manufacturing (not just assembling) of laptops and all its parts in India. This would also lay a strong foundation for the IT hardware manufacturing industry in India.



The dream of a Rs. 10,000-laptop cannot be realised with pre-loaded costly commercial software. Therefore, our Government will actively promote free open-source software, including the operating system, which would also introduce the habit of innovation ('tinkering') in the student community.

Extending eEducation to the classroom, the BJP promises web-enabled education in every school and college in India. This would create employment opportunities for at least 25 lakh new computer teachers and creators of IT courseware in various Indian languages. Also available would be a user-generated national knowledge repository (on the likes of Wikipedia) and a user-generated video sharing platform (like YouTube). Low-cost educational robots and other innovative learning tools will be introduced. For higher education particularly, there would be an online repository of best lectures by leading academicians from top institutes. For example, IIT-Bombay's Distance Education Program was launched during the NDA rule to provide IT courses to a large number of engineering college students in a massively scalable manner through VSAT communication. In a nutshell, our

Government will put IT-enabled education at as high a priority as "roti, kapda aur makaan" to accelerate the Knowledge Revolution in India.

Our Government would use distance education and open-university models to increase Gross Enrolment Rate (GER) in higher education from the current 11% to 20% in five years. GER in China is over 30%. Another priority of our Government will be IT-enabled skill-development, using distance education and open-university models, for the nearly 95% of India's workforce in the informal and unorganised sector who have no formal training. The scale of challenge in this area can be gauged from the fact that, as against 8% of the workforce in India, 96% of the workforce in South Korea, 75% in Germany and 80% in Japan have skill training. Our Government will increase the number of ITIs in India from 5,000 to 50,000 (China has 500,000). It will involve the private sector in a big way in implementing skill development in a mission mode.





## eBhasha

- National Mission for Promotion of IT in Indian Languages
- All software sold in India would have to be compatible with all 22 official languages

**As a result of this, a huge employment-intensive language industry would be created**



DIGITAL REVOLUTION



# eBhasha

## Giving Indian languages their rightful place in IT

The fruits of IT are being reaped worldwide through various electronic media such as mobile, PC and TV. Convergence of technologies has enabled the Internet to link all of them and make an ocean of multiple-use contents accessible to users anytime and anywhere in the world. However, the biggest obstacle to the rapid growth of IT in India has been the lack of localisation of IT in Indian languages. IT in our country operates primarily in English, which is understood by less than 10% of our population. Countries such as China, Japan and Korea have successfully ensured that all their electronic media are equally proficient in English as well as in their local languages.

The BJP is committed to giving Indian languages their rightful place in the growth of IT in India. Apart from the enormous economic benefits that would accrue from this, it would also enhance the users' social status, strengthen their socio-cultural identity, enrich their mother-tongue, protect their artistic-literary heritage, and contribute to national integration.

Although the Indian scripts appear diverse, the Indian Standard Code for Information Interchange (ISCII) enables instant “transliteration” of the text content from one Indian script to another. Similarly, the Inscript Keyboard allows typing of all the Indian languages using common keys. Sites like Google now allow searches in Indian languages, and provide several tools too. The problem today is thus not of possibility, but universalisation of usability.

A future BJP-led Government will launch a National Mission for eBhasha,

for development of IT in all the 22 official languages through various convergent media, with following specific measures:

- The biggest hurdle in usage of Indian languages is not display, but typing. Typing Indian languages using English letters leads to lot of phonetic and spelling mistakes, which dampens the usage. Our Government will make the Indian language Inscript keyboard, compulsory for manufacturers.
- Development of many aesthetic fonts in all Indian languages, which can interoperate, as in English. Thus, word-processing, blogging and publishing in Indian languages will become as easy and aesthetic as in English. Software packages for improving handwriting will be promoted.
- Making school children proficient in the use of Indian language learning tools. Learning resources like digital dictionaries, thesaurus, grammar checkers and animation games will be made freely available.
- Development of digital courseware in Indian languages for different subjects such as science, history, geography for different classes, as prescribed by the central and state boards.
- Thanks to freely accessible video-sharing sites like YouTube, and online encyclopedia likes Wikipedia, it is possible for students to benefit from a huge worldwide repository of knowledge. Our Government will help develop such resources in Indian languages.
- Manufacturers of mobile phones will be required to promote rendition of messaging in Indian languages.
- The best medium for making the fruits of IT reach everyone is through the TV medium. Not only does the TV medium reach everyone in all geographic regions, its programming is predominantly in Indian languages. Our Government will make it compulsory for DTH service providers and manufacturers of set-top-boxes and remote controls to promote Indian languages. This can lead to the best of TV and film content being made available in multi-language subtitles.
- Promotion of online teaching and learning of Sanskrit, which has suffered prolonged neglect in independent India.
- Development of special software in all Indian languages for the use of blind and hearing-impaired people. This will help in providing them equal access to skill-based education and employment.







## eHealthcare

- Every hospital and every primary Healthcare Centre (PHC) in rural areas to be connected to the National Telemedicine Service Network .
- Health record of every citizen to be recorded
- Ayurveda and Yoga to be promoted.
- A basic health insurance scheme for every citizen, using the IT platform
- IT-enabled Mobile Diagnostic Vans in rural clusters
- Improve the quantity and quality of rural healthcare workforce using IT-enabled training system

DIGITAL REVOLUTION



# eHealthcare

## Why telemedicine is a priority for BJP

**D**r. Devi Shetty, a renowned heart surgeon in Bangalore, describes the need and potential for telemedicine in India in these words: “In terms of disease management, there is a 99% possibility that the person who is unwell does not require an operation. If you don’t operate you don’t need to touch the patient. And if you don’t need to touch the patient, you don’t need to be there. You can be anywhere, since the decision on healthcare management is based on history and interpretation of images and chemistry ... So, technically speaking, 99% of health-care problems can be managed by the doctors staying at a remote place — linked by telemedicine.”

Telemedicine involves linking hospitals and health centres in rural or remote areas with speciality hospitals in urban areas through communication satellites launched by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). The rural hospital is provided with a television monitor, computer hardware and specialised software, and some basic diagnostic equipment. It is linked via VSAT to a speciality hospital. The patient’s medical records are transmitted to the specialists well in advance. At the rural hospital, a videoconference is arranged between the specialists in the city and the patient and doctor at the rural end. The specialists provide diagnosis and advise the doctor on the course of

treatment to be followed.

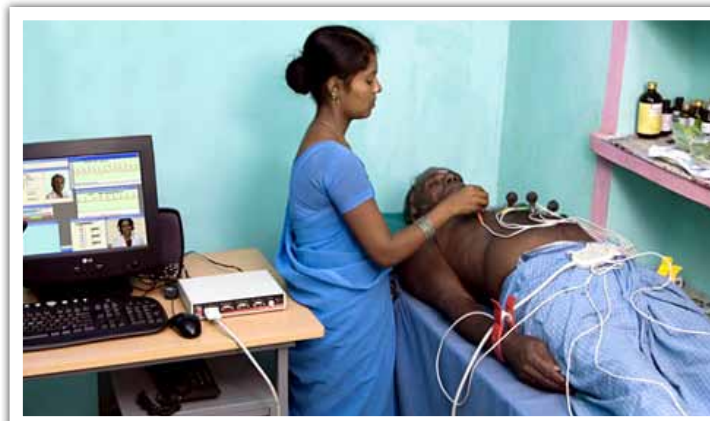
In July 2002, Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee inaugurated the national telemedicine project in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, linking the G.B. Pant Hospital in Port Blair with the Sri Ramachandra Medical College and Research Institute in Chennai. He observed that the contribution of Indian space scientists in the areas of telemedicine and distance learning outweighed the military applications of space technology.

There is huge inequality in health-care distribution in India. Although nearly 75% of Indians live in rural villages, more than 75% of Indian doctors are based in cities. A majority of the 70 crore rural Indians lack access to basic health care facilities. A recent study shows that 89% of rural Indian patients

have to travel about 8 km to access basic medical treatment. The problem is more acute in remote corners of the country. According to the Planning Commission, India is short of 600,000 doctors, 10 lakh nurses and 200,000 dental surgeons. For every 10,000 Indians, there is barely one doctor available.

Telemedicine is the cheapest and the fastest way to bridge the rural–urban health divide. Hence, the BJP is committed to promoting it in a big way.

A future BJP-led Government will use IT to promote preventive and community healthcare extensively. It will encourage Ayurveda, other traditional Indian systems of medicine, Yoga and naturopathy. India’s animal wealth is enormous, and an important source of livelihood for the rural population. Sadly, adequate veterinary services are lacking. IT will be used to remove this inadequacy.





## eRecords

- The official records of all ministries will be digitized.
- All land and property records to be computerized.
- All citizen-related records (birth, marriage, death, etc) to be available online.
- The National Manuscripts Mission, which was launched by the Vajpayee Government, will be implemented vigorously.
- A similar mission for protecting India's intangible heritage (music, oral history, folk arts, etc.) using IT tools will be launched.

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# leRecords

## GEOGRAPHIC RECORDS

Although India has a history of over 5,000 years, we, as a nation, have not done a good job of keeping historical as well as contemporary records. IT has now provided effective tools for preservation, cataloguing and practical utilisation of records, especially in economic development.



Geo-spatial and geo-economic data is crucial to making better economic decisions. According to experts, digitised data based on geographical information system (GIS) can be used by a huge number of public bodies -- from web-based travel services to precise identification of derelict land for house building; from efficient planning of public utilities (such as sewage and water pipelines) to increasing property taxes of municipal and panchayat bodies; and from regulating the flow of urban traffic to helping the police in crime detection. The private sector could also use this data in multiple ways, from targeted marketing to calculating insurance risks, and from providing location-based services to developing in-car navigation systems.

Sadly, India is yet to unlock the potential of comprehensive GIS-based services. Therefore, the BJP plans to rejuvenate the Survey of India and convert it from being a mere map-maker to being (a) a 24x7 online geo-information provider, and (b) a standards-setting body for land and property records.

As a geo-information provider, the Survey of India would create a Geospatial Data Framework, whereby every square metre of Indian territory is mapped, marked and referenced. Further, the Survey of India would work with the Bhuvan Project of ISRO to combine satellite imagery with other economic data. As a standards-setting body, it would lay down the digital architecture for capturing land and property records.

## LAND & PROPERTY RECORDS

The Government of India would finance local bodies to complete digitisation of land and property records. The BJP plan is to have an effective land registration system and an easily accessible land records system that provides confidence in real estate dealings.

## HERITAGE RECORDS

India's principal keepers of records, knowledge and cultural artefacts are the National Archive, National Library, National Museum, National Gallery of Modern Art and other state-level museums. While all these institutions would be modernised and encouraged to exhibit their collections online, the BJP intends to create a new National Digital Archive & Library (NDAL) as (a) a means to speed up the process of making our information, knowledge and heritage resources available online, and (b) lay down a framework for current and future public-information capture. IT-enabled reservation of India's traditional knowledge in science, technology, medicine, bio-diversity and its priceless heritage in arts, culture, architecture etc. will be our priority. NDAL would contain all material in the National Archive that is past the 'classified' statute period, as would all books and written material, in all Indian languages, whose copyright has lapsed. NDAL would also contain all public stock photography put out by governmental agencies such as PIB, ISRO, DRDO, etc. Finally, the National Manuscripts Mission, launched by the Vajpayee Government, would be revived and its collection put online by NDAL.





## eJustice

- Article 21 of the Constitution talks about Right to a speedy trial; we are nowhere near it
- eJustice means:
  - Digitisation of past court records
  - Listing of current cases
  - People friendly justice administration
- eJustice shouldn't be seen simply in terms of the process—automation—but in terms of the result—removing the huge backlog of cases



DIGITAL REVOLUTION





# eJustice

## Making justice delivery work

Justice for All through legal and judicial reforms is a priority for the BJP. The strength of democracy is judged by the capacity of the judiciary to deliver equitable, expeditious and transparent services to citizens and its capability to enforce the rule of law. Of utmost urgency is the need to remove congestion of cases in various courts in India, which has led to enormous delays in justice delivery.



Reforms in this critical area entail improvement in the quality and efficiency of judicial administration; simplification and rationalization of laws and procedures; strengthening the independence as well as accountability of judges; upgradation of the physical facilities of the courts; improving legal education of citizens; improving the standards of lawyers; and expanding access to justice for the poor and other disadvantaged groups. In addition, what is required is introduction at all levels of the judicial system, tools of information and communication technologies, which have now made it possible to deliver justice in a more accessible, affordable, transparent, effective, quick and citizen-friendly manner.

Towards this end, a future NDA Government will do the following:

- Legislation to make judges declare their assets on a regular basis, and the information to be made available online.

- Computerization of all court-related records and arbitration records with easy searchability. This will help in clubbing similar litigation across courts, across states etc.
- Computerization of court judgments, which will lead to standardization of judgments.
- Computerization of court calendars, which will minimize constant change of court dates and help citizens avoid unnecessary visits to courts.
- Computerization of advocates' records, which will promote transparency in judicial appointments.
- Seamless accessibility of court, police, prison and municipal (birth, death, marriage, etc) records.
- Usage of video conferencing for speedier and safer justice mechanism.
- Promotion of legal literacy among citizens in easily understandable local languages
- Online payment of fines, court fees, alimony, child support.
- Promotion of Alternate Dispute Resolution mechanisms such as Lok Adalats, assistance of Legal Services Authorities, the Human Rights Commission and various civil society organizations.
- Encourage knowledge sharing and adoption of global best practices through digital libraries, databases, case management systems, and judicial administration systems.

Special emphasis will be placed on problems faced by women, children and other disadvantaged sections of the society. Accordingly, use of IT will be expedited in the enforcement of land-related laws, women-related laws, laws to protect SC and STs, labour laws and general laws affecting the common man in his day-to-day life. Our aim is to provide access to justice through IT to citizens residing in the rural and semi-urban areas; spread awareness about the roles and responsibilities of the governmental functionaries involved in the administration of statutes; and also to bring various support agencies such as Legal Aid Cells, Legal Services Authority, social workers (counselors) and other activists closer to ordinary citizens.





## eSafety

- Use of IT for Disaster prevention and management
- National Mission for Railways Safety to be expedited.
- National Mission for Road Safety to be launched.



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# eSafety

The BJP is committed to enhancing the safety of our citizens. Following the catastrophic earthquake in Gujarat in 2001, the Vajpayee Government had constituted a broadbased committee to draw up a plan for setting up a National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). All recommendations of this committee were accepted in 2003. The groundwork done by the NDA Government helped the UPA Government to introduce, in 2005, the National Disaster Management Act. A future NDA Government will further strengthen the functioning of the NDMA by appropriate use of IT.

We would create a Centrally-funded and managed National Emergency Service (NES). The role of the NES would be to run a country-wide network of contact centres, called Public Safety Answering Points (PASP), that would act as a single point of interface to all local police, fire and ambulance services. Any person facing an emergency would be able to dial a nationally unique number (let's say 123) and have the call routed to the nearest PASP, which would then coordinate with local agencies for immediate despatch of help.

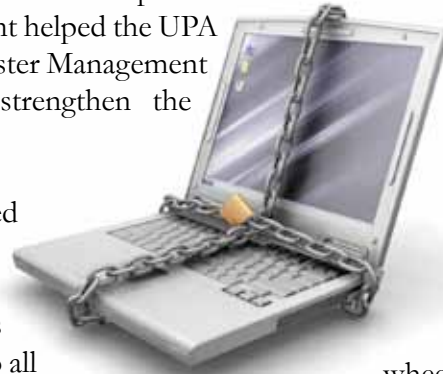
NES would also be used for broadcasting, telephoning and SMSing emergency warnings to inhabitants of particular zones that may be facing an imminent crisis (example: the Tsunami of 2004).

## RAIL & ROAD SAFETY

Railways have been the prime engine of economic growth and national integration in India. Sadly, railway safety had not received adequate

attention in the past. On Independence Day 2003, Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee announced the setting up of a Technology Mission for Railway Safety. The mission was launched as a collaboration between Indian Railways, Department of Science & Technology, IIT Kanpur and a consortium of private sector companies.

The goals and objectives of the mission included (i) development and adoption of state-of-art safety and control technologies through projects aimed towards achieving higher throughput, lower cost of transmission and safer train movement; (ii) encouraging and initiating indigenous R&D activities pertinent to Indian Railways in academic institutions and laboratories and establish convergence and synergy among them; (iii) dissemination of technologies through participatory approach to other application areas, such as road safety.



About a dozen projects have been undertaken under the mission, including Satellite based Rail Navigation (implemented now in nearly 70 trains: Rajdhani and Shatabdi starting from Delhi); Wheel Impact Load Detection System; Improved Wheel Metallurgy (Wheels & Axles Factory, Durgapur, that had taken up the project for implementation, reported an improvement of more than 13% in wheel life); Anti-corrosive Rails (chemistry being implemented by SAIL); Green Toilets (trials in progress in Chennai); and Derailment Prevention Mechanisms.

India's neglect of road safety is striking. Each year nearly 80,000 people die in road accidents in our country. In addition to building better roads, many strong legal, administrative and technological initiatives are required to improve India's record of road safety. Rail Safety Mission's projects have many spin-offs for road safety, such as in the area of GPS-based vehicle tracking and monitoring for roads, control and signalling systems, electronic stability control of small cars as well as trucks and buses. The BJP is committed to launching a Technology Mission for Road Safety.





## eSecurity

- National Cyber Security Plan, covering all aspects of external defence and internal security
- Digital Security Bureau, independent agency, responsible for:
  - Cyber warfare
  - Cyber counter-terrorism
  - Cyber security of national digital assets



DIGITAL REVOLUTION



# leSecurity

Of the several issues that the BJP consistently espouses, national security has been at the top of our agenda. We believe that while India needs tough anti-terror laws like POTA, it also needs a structurally integrated top-notch intelligence apparatus, a dynamic law enforcement force and, given the sophistication of crimes committed with the help of information technology, a mechanism for digital security. We are inspired by the fact that, due to the enhanced security measures taken after 9/11 terror attacks, the US has not yet had any terror incident thereafter.

**Modern Communication Network:** The quality of communication infrastructure linking the police forces of the various states is rather poor. POLNET, the satellite-based communication network that connects the police forces of the various states, is limited in its scope.

The BJP's plan is to implement a nation-wide high-bandwidth IP-based, GPS-backed, digital trunked radio system, using both optic fibre and satellites as backbones. It would connect every policeman to the national data monitoring center. It would be a converged system that allows for voice, video and data, in both broadcast and one-to-one mode. Every policeman in the country would carry a standardised handheld system that would both be a communicator and a computer.

**Comprehensive Information System:** A police communication network isn't even half its worth if it is not coupled with a strong crime information system. The BJP's plan is to upgrade the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) and, in addition to its role as the national crime database manager, make it the standards-setting body for all similar state-level bureaux. NCRB and its affiliates will input and store crime-related data in a device-

neutral standard format (akin to the Global Justice XML Data Model), such that any information can be queried anytime, by any policeman, through any hand-held or desktop computing device. Currently only about 10-15% of the police stations in the country have the necessary physical infrastructure and the competent personnel to enter data into a NCRB-developed software system; in other places such data is entered, if at all, only at the district level.

It is worth mentioning here that, for the first time since Independence, the NDA Government (1998-2004) started a fully centrally provided Police Modernisation Fund to help state police forces. This was one of the several initiatives taken by Shri L.K. Advani as the Union Home Minister.

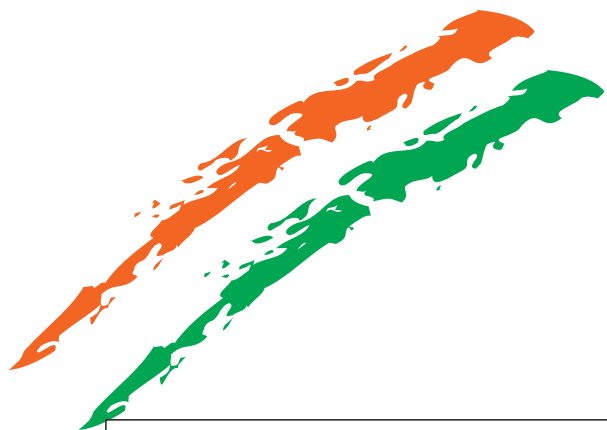
**External Security:** In an era where cyber space intrusions can be aimed at destroying or degrading critical infrastructure and facilitating terrorist communications, use of cyber space for undertaking subversive activities can seriously threaten our vital security interests. Countries with adversarial relations to India are already working on doctrines that aim to cripple our communications and information networks, thereby paralyzing our command and control structures in the event of hostilities. Sadly, this is an area that was ignored by the UPA Government at great peril to India's security concerns.

The BJP believes that, besides building defensive and offensive capabilities for electronic warfare, a coherent policy is required to secure our networks. The National Technical Facilities Organisation (NTFO), which was established by the NDA Government and was mandated to undertake these tasks, has been neglected by UPA Government. This needs to be upgraded to build required capabilities. This will not only enable our country to counter the adversaries in cyberspace, but also prove to be an effective platform for interception, intelligence gathering and analysis on a real time basis.

While this calls for an integrated National Cyber Security Plan, covering all aspects of external defence and internal security, the country also needs an independent **Digital Security Agency**, responsible for cyber warfare, cyber counter-terrorism and cyber security of national digital assets.







## Domestic Hosting Industry

- Promote the domestic hosting industry.
- Today, 90% of servers are hosted abroad.
- If moved to India, we would save 50% of international internet bandwidth charges.
- SIZs (Special Internet Zones): Guaranteed availability of power; fool-proof security.



After software and BPO, the hosting industry would be the next focus area

DIGITAL REVOLUTION

## Domestic Hardware Industry

- Less than 50% of India's \$36 bn electronics hardware requirements are produced locally.
- India has only 2.5% of the \$1.5 trillion global hardware industry.
- Incentivise India's domestic hardware industry grows to capture 5% of the global market by 2012.



DIGITAL REVOLUTION



# Hardware & Hosting Industries

The BJP is committed to lowering the cost of computing, and our concerns about the cost of computer hardware and Internet hosting is no exception. India has already taken the leadership in the software and BPO industries. Our plan is to make India seize the leadership in hardware and hosting as well.



## DOMESTIC HARDWARE INDUSTRY

In 2007-2008, India's electronics (IT + industrial & consumer electronics) hardware demand was \$36 bn. However, only 50% of that was produced domestically, the rest being imported. Also, what was produced domestically represents a miniscule 2.5% of the \$ 1.5 trillion global hardware manufacturing industry.

Coming specifically to IT hardware (a component of the overall electronics hardware pie), 70% of the \$ 10 bn domestic IT hardware requirement is

imported.

The BJP is committed to developing a robust electronics and IT hardware industry in order to have a balanced and comprehensive IT industry in the country. We propose to set up IT hardware parks with reduced indirect taxation on electronics hardware to spur domestic manufacturing and consumption. In addition, appropriate incentives will be provided to the manufacturers. There will be clarity and certainty in the taxation system, to enable long term investments. We will ensure that India's domestic hardware industry grows to capture 5% of the global market by 2012.

## DOMESTIC HOSTING INDUSTRY

More than 90% of the servers that host Indian websites are located outside of India. This not only makes Indian websites and therefore Indian businesses highly dependent on regulations and vagaries of foreign governments, but also increases the cost of hosting, since it leads to a much higher consumption of expensive international Internet bandwidth.

A strong policy, which encourages the hosting industry to relocate to India, would help in saving over 50% of the international Internet bandwidth charges. It would also encourage many related industries to move to India, such as IT manufacturing industry and shared services industry.

It is therefore proposed to have SIZs (Special Internet Zones) connected to a high-bandwidth national internet backbone. SIZ's would guarantee availability of power, fool-proof security and disaster recovery setups between SIZs that would be placed in different seismic zones.

The main running cost of a hosting company is electricity, as it is needed both to fuel power-hungry servers and to cool the enormous heat generated by them. Therefore SIZs would be encouraged to be located in the hill states of North and Northeast India where the cool climate will reduce electricity consumption.





## Digital Sovereignty

- Concerns about digital sovereignty
- All software used by the Govt would be based on 'open standards'
- The role of IT standards setting would be spun out of BIS into a new body



DIGITAL REVOLUTION



# Digital Sovereignty

The BJP, as a nationalist party, believes in putting the interests of India first. So whether it is economic sovereignty or nuclear sovereignty, the BJP stands second to none in protecting our national interests. Therefore, when the BJP looks at the unfolding digital age and examines to what extent the country has retained its digital sovereignty, the Party finds that we have not been proactive enough in protecting our rights. Two examples:

- The URL naming (eg: www.example.com) process is controlled by a US-based company called ICANN, completely under US jurisdiction. For every domain name in India, we pay directly or indirectly to ICANN. That isn't so much a problem, as the fact that we have no direct or indirect influence on the way URL naming policies are framed. So why taxation without representation?
- The second issue is the whole business of digital standards. Western entities patent various trivial technologies, and then legitimise them through international standards organizations such as ISO and IEEE to ensure that the entire world adheres to such standards. And by using these 'standards', the world ends up paying royalties directly or indirectly to western entities that hold the IPR on these technologies. If we don't pay for using physical standards like meter, gram, litre, etc., what is the logic of paying royalties for digital standards?

The BJP proposes to create international opinion that the governance of the internet be passed on to an international body, or else ICANN be placed under the jurisdiction of the United Nations. And India as a leading digital economy be given a seat on its governing body. The BJP also proposes to create a new Indian digital standards-setting body that would lead the world in the creation of royalty-free, open standards, and thereby reduce the cost of computing not just in India but all over the world.

## Dr. Swaminathan's Information Village: Internet and satellite at the service of the poor

The MS Swaminathan Research Foundation has set up an Information Village project in Pondicherry. In order to deliver benefits of IT to the poor and encourage participative action for the spread of technology, the project has connected ten villages near Pondicherry by using modern information and communications technologies. It has developed software in the local language (Tamil) and other audio-visual features to facilitate illiterate and semi-literate users. More than 100 databases have been created that provide regularly updated and free-of-cost information to villagers on prices of agricultural inputs (seeds, fertilizers, and pesticides) and outputs (rice and vegetables); citizens' entitlements under various central and state government programs; health care (including a list of doctors and paramedics in nearby hospitals and health information specifically related to women); cattle diseases; transport (road conditions and cancellations of bus trips); and weather (the appropriate time for sowing, areas of abundant fish catches, and wave heights on the sea).

Each center is equipped with three computers, telephones, a printer, a wireless device, and a solar panel. Village volunteers, with a minimum schooling of eight years, are given training for three months. Training pertains to the operation of computers, use of a data and voice network, handling queries from illiterate customers, and the basics of management. The project guarantees access to members of the Dalit population. It also ensures that at least half of the trained volunteer operators are women. As a result, nearly half the users are women. Village students have used the centers for browsing interactive CDs, designing slides on PowerPoint, and downloading examination results from the Internet. Because fishermen constitute a majority of the population, information on fish aggregation in the sea is provided by the National Remote Sensing Agency and routed through the Information Village project. A perfect example of how technology can benefit the masses.



# IT for Development



*"Of every rupee spent by the government, only 15 paise reaches the intended beneficiary"*

—A former Prime Minister during a visit to drought-affected Kalahandi district in Orissa, 1985



**As against Congress' leaky Pipeline, BJP's IT Pipeline would ensure transparency and punishment of the corrupt**

## The BJP's IT Vision will help India:

1. Overcome the current economic crisis;
2. Create productive employment opportunities on a large scale;
3. Accelerate human development through vastly improved and expanded education and healthcare services;
4. Check corruption and
5. Make India's national security more robust.

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