

Uttarakhand State Towards g-Governance through Kumaun University

We are living in the age of e-Governance. The present global trend of applications of geospatial technologies (i.e., GIS, Remote Sensing, GPS, Computer Cartography) in administration and planning reveals that the next decade would be of g-Governance, i.e., GIS based Governance. In e-Governance we are accessing information electronically in the form of text, tables and analog maps but in g-Governance system, information are accessed with geographic map/s showing coordinates of the targeted place/area/region. The quick information with geographic map and coordinates helps in administration, planning, monitoring and in management works and taking quick decisions; which ultimately helps in developing good and decentralised governance.

The Kumaun University initiated the work of GIS development for e-Governance in the State since 2003 by establishing a District level Centre at SSJ Campus Almora, viz., District Natural Resources Data Management (NRDMS) Almora with the financial support of DST, Government of India. Based on the progress on GIS development of this District NRDMS Centre, the DST, New Delhi upgraded this District Centre in 2010 as the Centre of Excellence for NRDMS in Uttarakhand (COE NRDMS) to develop g-Governance system in Uttarakhand.

In view of the significance of GIS in good and decentralised governance, the State Council of Science and Technology (UCOST). Government of Uttarakhand join hands together with the Kumaun University and formulated a joint collaborative programme, viz., on **“Development of Standard based Uttarakhand Geoportal for g-Governance”**. This programme is funded jointly by DST New Delhi (70%) and State Government (30%) and the total cost of the project

is about 3.00 crores. The Director General, UCOST, Dehradun (Dr, R.Dobhal) and Director (COE NRDMS), Kumaun University are jointly implementing this project, respectively, as Principal Investigator and CO-Principal Investigator of this project.

All the GIS digital data is being stored in the GIS Server of Uttarakhand Geoportal is COE NRDMS, Kumaun University which is linked through web based GIS with India Geoportal located at the NSDI (National Spatial Data Infrastructure), DST New Delhi. Scientists at NSDI, DST New Delhi are monitoring our work on daily basis through India Geoportal by web GIS technology and also extending their technical support.

The uniqueness of this programme is that the GIS of different districts is being developed through the Officers of users departments as per their own needs with the technical support of the Kumaun University COE NRDMS, rather than through the Vendors. For the management of g-Governance works in the State, the State Government OF Uttarakhand has constituted a **Steering Committee for Developing Uttarakhand Geoportal** under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary, Government of Uttarakhand and all the Secretaries of the State and COE NRDMS, Kumaun University; and UCOST are Member of this committee. The First Meeting of this Committee was held on 31st March 2015. In this Meeting GIS development programme for the year 2015-16 were identified.

As per this Steering Committee instructions, to expedite the work of GIS Development, the Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, Government of Uttrakhand has issued necessary instructions to appoint:

- 1) Head of each State Government Department as Nodal Officers for GIS Development of his/her own Department and
- 2) Chief Development Officer as Nodal Officer for GIS Development of each districts.

In association of the various district line departments, the Kumaun University through COE NRDMS has developed Core GIS Infrastructure (i.e., consisting of roads, rivers, land use, health centre, education centres, development blocks, tehsils and villages) of Six Districts (viz., Almora, Nainital, Champawat, Bageshwer, Tehri and Pauri) of Uttarakhand State. Development of GIS of other districts is in progress.

Based on the g-Governance works of the Kumaun University, the PWD, Government of Uttarakhand has also decided to develop Web based Road Information System of Uttarakhand State. In this respect, the Chief Engineer and Head of PWD, Government of Uttarakhand has given necessary instructions to the State and District Officers to develop State and District level GIS Cells at their each district PWD Divisional Head Offices with the technical support of COE NRDMS.

The final objective of this g-Governance Programme of the Kumaun University and UCOST (which is being implemented in a Mission Mode in the State) , is to develop a Data Storage and Data Clearing House at the UCOST, Dehradun which will be linked with each District GIS Cell for updation of GIS and each State Government Department at the State Capital including the Advisor of the Hon'ble Chief Minister for quick access of information for administration, planning, management, monitoring works for good governance.

It is hoped that within the next two years, we shall have web based GIS infrastructure for all the 13 district of Uttarakhand and g-Governance system shall be fully operational for good and decentralised governance in the Uttarakhand State. It would be a great achievement of the Kumaun University in the context of DIGITAL INDIA and may be first State in India having fully updated g-Governance System.

With Regards

and Good wishes on account of Happy Deepawali Sir.