

REPORT ON
CSI-Nihilent e-Governance Awards 2012-13
*A touchstone for excellence and a chronicle of
e-Governance in India*

By
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Introduction

The Special interest group on e-Governance of Computer Society of India (CSI-SIGeGov), jointly with Nihilent Technologies, has been organising CSI-Nihilent e-Governance Awards as an annual event since 2002. The Awards function for 2012-13 was held in Visakhapatnam on 14th December, 2013, in conjunction with 48th Annual convention of CSI [CSI-2013].

Mr.J.Satyanarayanan IAS, Secretary GOI Deity was the chief guest during a well attended ceremony where award of excellence was received by Team from Himachal Pradesh.



Award of Excellence being handed over to
Govt of Himachal Pradesh Team by Mr. J.Satyanarayana in presence
of president CSI Dr S V Raghavan and Dr Piyush Gupta, Chairman CSI-SIGeGov

Back ground

One of the most coveted and eagerly awaited by the Government community, the CSI-Nihilent e-Governance Awards has been a pioneering initiative for two reasons. Not only has it played a key role in recognising the inspiring efforts of officials from all corners of India who have strived to improve the quality of governance through a judicious use of ICT, it has also served as an important forum for exchange of knowledge relating to the domain of e-Governance. Over its eleven year journey, the CSI-Nihilent e-Governance Awards [CNEA] must have received and reviewed over a 1,000 nominations.

Project Awards 2012-13

To participate in the Awards, the nominees submit very detailed, and highly structured information, which address a whole gamut of questions ranging from a project's outcome, the processes reengineered, the technological challenges faced, the value considerations factored etc. For the Awards of 2012-13, over 200 nominations were received with information running to over 1,400 pages. These nominations, received from over twenty five States in the Country, are a

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rich source of information which, individually and taken together are able to contribute much to understanding the e-Governance landscape of the Country. This year a Record number of 51 Projects from 18 States were Honoured with project awards during the awards functions including 5 appreciation for sustenance.



The DSIR team from Delhi receiving project award from Chief Guest with the President CSI

Knowledge Sharing Summit

CSI SIGeGov had been regularly conducting Knowledge Sharing Summits (KSS) in different states in the country during the previous 4 years with a view to spreading best practices with Government officials and other stakeholders. This year KSS-2013 was held during CSI-2013, in a special track, where over 150 Government officials and delegates participated.



Dr.Piyush Gupta Chairman CSI-SIG e Gov Chairing a panel discussion with Important award winners Kerala, Gujarat, Haryana, Punjab and Goa.

The Compendium

With a view to ensuring that such a rich source of knowledge on the growth and evolution of e-Governance in India finds permanent record, the Awards committee has been publishing, in the form of annual compendium, selected initiatives from the year's nominations. Since 2006,

eight such books have been published. The publication for 2013, titled **Compendium of selected e-Governance initiatives in India – 2013**, was formally released at CSI-2013 on 14 Dec 2013. The book contains, in edited form, highly structured information relating to forty six nominations, which were visited on the field by selection committee experts for the Awards and with whose key personnel, in-depth interactions were had. The book can be downloaded from <http://www.csi-sigegov.org/publications.php>. A CD containing current volume and case studies of previous 7 books from year 2006-2012 was also distributed to all.

Analysis of CNEA-2013-14

The information obtained during various stages of the Awards processes on e-Governance initiatives in the Country is quite revealing. Here are some highlights of the first cut analysis.

Open Source Usage

One analysis of the detailed write-ups received for 2012-13 suggests that only 31% of nominations [out of a sample size of 85] were using an open source database [PostgreSQL, for instance] in their project [**Figure-1**]. At 65%, the number using proprietary databases [Oracle, Microsoft SQL Server etc] were more than double. Some initiatives were not database oriented. On the Operating system front too, the figures were not very different. Only Web servers showed a measure of balance with 36% of eGov projects preferring open source choices [Apache, for instance] to 44% who preferred proprietary solutions [Microsoft IIS etc]

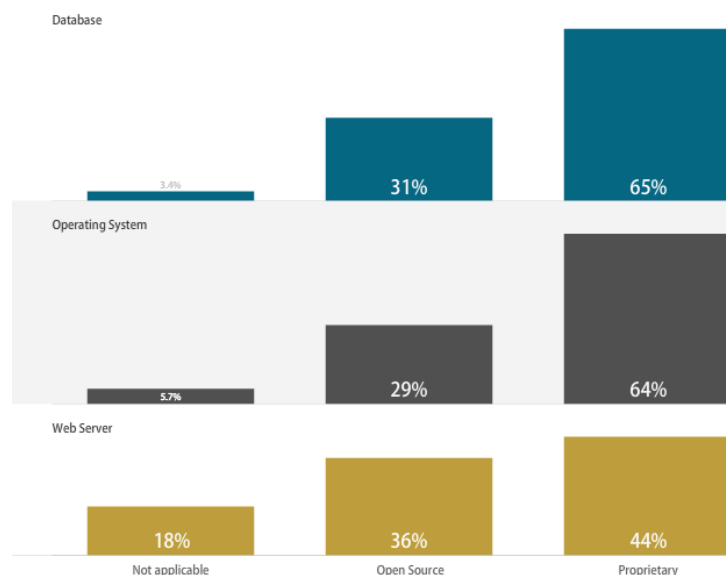


Figure-1
Open Source Vs Proprietary ICT tools

Such findings are significant and revealing given that there is always a debate whether a Government should invest in proprietary ICT tools when open source alternatives have their own merits and a matching functionality.

Key Areas / Domain of e Gov

As a requirement of nomination for the Awards, an important information sought from the nominees was a written description of the challenges they faced in their effort at Capacity building to aid their e-Government initiative. An analysis of the key words the nominees had used to describe the challenges is shown in **Figure-2**. The analysis is based on a sample of 15 nomination forms.

format in which nomination details are required to be submitted for participation in the Awards renders such analyses quite feasible. Such information as is being published through the annual compendium [freely available for download from the CSI SIGeGOV website] when subjected to formal studies and research, is fully capable of guiding India towards a position of pre-eminence in e-Governance.

After having pioneered, established and applied most stringent standards for assessing e-Governance projects over a eleven year period, the CSI-Nihilent e-Governance Awards attracts highest quality of nominations and is considered by many as a benchmark. Running to nearly 5,000 pages, the published volumes of selected nominations papers of the CSI-Nihilent e-Governance Awards are a treasure trove of knowledge and learning for all who have the domain of e-Governance as their focus.

Reference

1. Compendium of Selected e-Governance Initiatives in India-2013
2. 11th Anniversary of the Awards Souvenir (www.csi-sigegov.org)