

Now, Faizabad to 'check' admin work at click of mouse

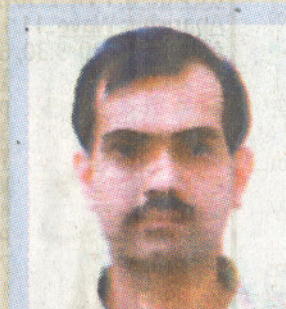
After success in Sitapur dist, new DM to replicate Lok Vani e-governance project in Faizabad

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AFTER ushering in a cyber revolution in Sitapur district, Amod Kumar, now the district magistrate of Faizabad, will introduce e-governance in the district through Lokvani, which empowers citizens to interact with government departments through the Internet.

Started in September 2004, Lokvani was hailed as a huge success in Sitapur, making it easy for people to register complaints and check the status and disposal of their grievances at the click of a mouse. Calling it a crusade to empower the common man, Kumar told Newsline that Lokvani was a joint initiative of the dis-



Amod Kumar, DM, Faizabad

trict administration and the National Informatics Center. The initiative, he said, not only gives a practical shape to the Right to Information (RTI) Act, but also creates job opportunities for the educated unemployed.

The next step, Kumar explained, is to create a website of

AUTHORITIES UNDER 'MOUSE ARREST'!

AVAILABLE ONLINE will be land records, arms license application status, GPF accounts of basic education teachers et al.

TO ENSURE TRANSPARENCY, details of development works, ration allotment to Fair Price Shop dealers, money sent to Gram Sabhas will be made available to people.

MOST POPULAR SERVICE will be Online Public Grievance Redress.

PROVIDE DETAILS of various government schemes, government-prescribed forms, development work in the district, old-age pensioners, scholarship beneficiaries, funds allotted in various state schemes, food-grain allotted to kotedars, funds to Gram Panchayats etc.

Faizabad, which can be accessed by every citizen of the district to register complaints and inquire about the status of development works through the Lokvani centres. Besides the city proper, these Lokvani centres, which will be run by locals, will be set up at tehsil/block headquarters, major

markets and village panchayats among other places to reach out to the people, the DM said.

Those running the Lokvani centre will provide the Internet connection with generator or battery for power backup, Kumar said.

Explaining how Lokvani will

create job opportunities, Kumar said those running the centres will get a fixed amount of service charge — varying from Rs 20 to 50 — per application. The centre in-charge will feed application details on the Lokvani website, and the details will be automatically marked to the concerned department or the officer, he said. According to the DM, all marked applications will be time-bound for disposal, and failure to dispose complaints in time will invite action against the concerned official.

Interestingly, besides giving the people an avenue to track the progress of the authorities, the project also provides the DM an effective tool to monitor the performance of various departments under his purview.