



E-Connecting Anuppur Villages

Anuppur - Madhya Pradesh

In January 2017, the District Administration of Anuppur in Madhya Pradesh decided to cover some of the remotest tribal villages of Pushprajgarh Block in Anuppur viz., Padmnaiya, Baditummi and Sarai under 'SUGAM' initiative of Digital India Programme of the Government. These villages had no telecommunication facility, let alone internet facility. Predominantly tribal, these villages are surrounded



by forests and are still primarily dependent on them for their needs. Till recently, no conventional form of mobile communication was available in these villages because of its topography. The limited number of users, also made it financially and technically less viable for companies to set up towers in the region. This lack of connectivity hampered the overall development of these villages.

The District Administration of Anuppur, however, found a cost effective and sustainable solution to solve the problem of information lag with a customised railway tower. Hence, resolving the issue of delayed service delivery. Customised towers, provided by the railways are a means of providing internet connectivity in remote areas through Radio Frequency (RF). It is a point-to-point connectivity system with one point on the railway side and the other point on the user end.

CHALLENGES FACED

- Lack of mobile network and internet connections in these villages, due to which people had to travel to the nearby district headquarters to get their work done
- Difficulty experienced in communicating information
- No previous project to emulate from, thus, it was a challenge to start an innovative pilot study
- With limited vendor availability, carrying out detailed feasibility study and finding the perfect location for installation of the towers, was one of the challenges





FINAL OUTCOME

- Increase in effectiveness of service delivery at the village level
- At least 3,000 beneficiaries from the three village *Panchayats* and the nearby villages
- Villagers now have an e-kiosk in the village for banking transactions thus enabling ease in banking
- Villagers can apply for their Aadhaar and other government ID cards from their village using the internet café

A feasibility study was conducted to assess the technical viability of the project to provide uninterrupted power supply. The source point tower was taken from the railway station headquarters in Shahdol and solar panels were used to generate uninterrupted electricity/power supply. The entire setup operates independent of any grid supply of electricity.

With the availability of internet, an e-service shop was recently setup to help locals get their Aadhaar Card necessary for applying for ration cards and passports. This first-of-its-kind initiative in Madhya Pradesh has realised the dream of a digital tribal village in Digital India. Having been successfully tested on a pilot basis, this project is now being expanded to 10 more towers in the other village *Panchayats* of the district.

