

## 1. Digital parliament & ICT

e-Parliament or Digital Parliament is defined as the use of ICTs in parliamentary institutions with the objective of enhancing and strengthening their core functions and operations. e-Parliament helps in promoting e-Democracy and encourages participation of citizens in the democratic and socio-economic platforms. It helps in strengthening the interaction endeavors between the members of parliament and the general citizens. Besides this it also facilitates efficient public service delivery, enhances social inclusion, allows transparency in the public service, and facilitates cost savings in government's bid to involve citizens in its governing processes. Digital Parliament for Members consists of Digital House, Members' Portal, Mobile/Tablet apps (iOS, Android) .Main role ICT is to strengthen and transforming the parliaments in better way.

## 2. Experiential learning & Capacity building

Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly has become India's first ever high-tech Paperless Legislative Assembly by launching e-Vidhan system. Since launching of e-Vidhan System all documents related to the House are made available online to Hon'ble Members through touch screens installed on their tables and Mobile Apps. Major components of e-Vidhan are Paperless Assembly Sessions, Paperless Working of the House Committees & e-Constituency Management.

e-Vidhan is re-designated as National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) and Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs is Nodal Ministry for rolling out NeVA in all the 31 States/ UTs with Legislatures on the line of Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly.

In order to promote the rolling out NeVA, Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs consulted all the State Governments and constituted Central Project Monitoring Unit (CPMU) to provide complete technical support in terms of hardware, software and capacity building as well as financial support. CPMU, MPA has also come up with the NeVA Ver2.0 and the latest updated mobile application subject to various modifications in terms of design and functionality.



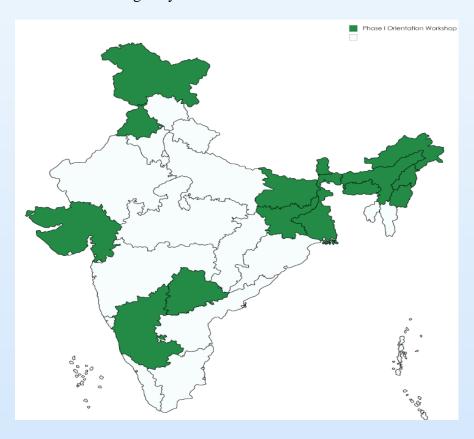
[Hon'ble Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal addressing Participants of National Orientation Workshop held on 24th and 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2018 in BPST, main lecture room, Parliament Library Building, New Delhil

A two day workshop, for appraising the Nodal & other Officers from State Legislatures/Councils to familiarize them with the features and functionalities of the NeVA App, was held on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2018 in BPST, main lecture room, Parliament Library Building, New Delhi. The Orientation Workshop included technical sessions and group discussions over 2 days facilitating exposure for the delegates about the positive attributes of NeVA.



[Group Photograph of Participants of National Orientation Workshop held on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2018 in BPST, main lecture room, Parliament Library Building, New Delhi]

To further strengthen the project, two day training workshops are also being conducted at various state assemblies to train and familiarise the officials of their secretariats, NIC as well as the Nodal officers of various departments with this application. So far, such successful trainings have taken place at 14 such states viz. Punjab, Telangana, Karnataka, Sikkim, Bihar, Manipur, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Kolkata, Assam, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand and Meghalaya.



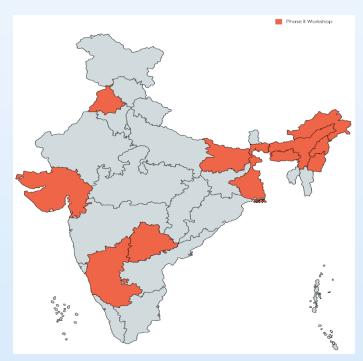


[Phase-I Orientation Workshop held for Karnataka Legislative Assembly and Council on 2nd-3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2018, 2018 at Karnataka Legislative Assembly, Bengaluru]



[Phase-I Orientation Workshop held for Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly on  $26^{th}$ - $27^{th}$  November, 2018 at Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly, Itanagar]

In continuation to the earlier capacity building measures, the 3 day Phase - II extensive training workshops were also conducted at CPMU NeVA, New Delhi wherein a team of Nodal officers and the staff from the different states, which have already undergone Phase I training were subjected to rigorous hands on training cum practical session.



Secretary, MPA along with the CPMU NeVA team, has been imparting of training to the Nodal Officers of State Legislatures, through video conferencing to familiarise them with the core operation of the application besides addressing various issues regarding the same. The VCs have proved beneficial for soliciting different ideas and suggestions put forth by the various Nodal officers which have been a motivating factor in taking this project forward. So far, 12 VCs have been conducted for the training of various stakeholders comprising Nodal officers of State/UT Assemblies, NIC officials as well as the concerned officers of various departments of State Govt with more than 1000 manhours trained.

EFC has granted in-principle approval with the direction that the Ministry may carry on with the software application development and capacity building measures with all the State/Union Legislatures

In addition, an interactive session to orient the Rajya Sabha officials in their secretariat for the adoption of the web application of NeVA and the mobile application was conducted. The officials participated in the session with great enthusiasm and showed much inquisitiveness in learning about the core functionality of the application. Existing Systems of Rajya Sabha are linked to NeVA Platform and all information pertaining to Rajya Sabha is now available on NeVA Application.

Following this, a presentation on National e-Vidhan Application was delivered by Secretary, Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, under the Chairmanship of Sh. Venkaiah Naidu, Vice-President of India & Chairman Rajya Sabha at Vice President's Secretariat. The Chair appreciated the initiative and efforts taken by MoPA in the direction of digitising the legislature through the development of the NeVA application and directed to find possibilities of adopting NeVA in Rajya Sabha.

Besides this, the web as well as the mobile application portal for Lok Sabha is also ready for use by the Members and various officials of the secretariat. The House has already been updated with the data of the last three sessions. Recently, the inner functionality has also undergone minor variations for the ease of use besides making the platform dynamic and interactive.

## 3. States response

States have shown tremendous enthusiasm in adopting NeVA portal. Coming together of states will make India stronger and will be a shining example of Cooperative Federalism. The capacity building measures taken up by the Ministry have led to the fruition of the efforts in the direction of promoting the application. So far the average turnout in the National Orientation Workshop, Phase I training workshops at various states' Legislative Assemblies, Phase II extensive workshops at CPMU and the video conferencing that took place, has crossed over 5000 man-days. States like Punjab, Gujarat, Bihar, Meghalaya & Karnataka have taken the lead and have completed all prerequisite training on the application and are ready for Live testing of NeVA Application during upcoming Assembly Sessions.



[Group Photograph of Participants of Karnataka Legislative Assembly attending Phase-II workshop held on 18th-20<sup>th</sup> March, 2019 at CPMU NeVA, Parliament Annexe Building, New Delhi]

The States like Maharashtra, Goa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala and Delhi having rich historical databases and have already developed software for state legislatures can be linked to NeVA through API web integration. This API web integration will not interface in the existing databases and will help Members with access to consolidated data of all legislatures at one platform.

Hon'ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Coal and Mines has also requested Hon'ble Finance Minister to make special provision of Rs. 100 crores token amount for NeVA in upcoming Union Budget so that financial needs of the States ready to adopt NeVA platform can be met.

## 4. Neva salient features

NeVA is a **Cloud-based and Mobile-friendly application**, language and multi-platform compliant designed for in-house automation —as it happens, the application is designed in a member centric and House centric manner.

Neva is developed to function as a **member-centric** application, device neutral and user-friendly app to equip all the members to handle diverse House Business smartly by putting entire information needed by them in their hand held devices/ tablets and equip all the

Branches of Legislatures/ Department to handle it efficiently, creating an efficient, inclusive, zero emission-based database thereby overhauling the way our legislatures work.



NeVA aims to **bring all the legislatures of the country together**, in one platform thereby creating a massive data depository without having the complexity of multiple applications. This initiative will not only bring democracy closer to our citizens by bringing working of legislatures closer to them, by giving the citizens access to the bills, the question-answers, the documents tabled in the house in an easy manner, but will also provide an opportunity to the citizens for meaningful engagement with the democracy, thereby taking a strong step in direction of attaining substantive democracy.

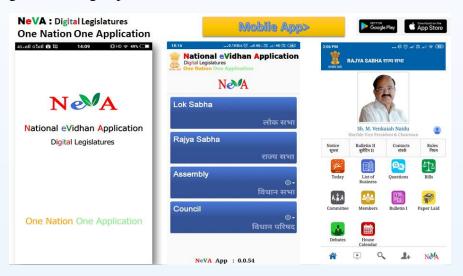
This application provides all relevant information like Notices, Bulletins being issued by legislatures from time to time for information of all members and other stakeholders besides contact details, Rules of Procedure, list of business, Starred/Unstarred Questions and Answers, text of Bills for introduction, consideration and passing, text of all papers laid, Committee Report, Proceedings of the House, synopsis of proceedings, provisional calendar and rotation of Ministries, News and press releases and reference materials, information relating to composition of all Committees including details of Committee meetings, their agendas, information relating to personal claims of Members like Salary and Allowances etc. Live webcasting/TV facility is also available on this application live telecast of Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha TVs,



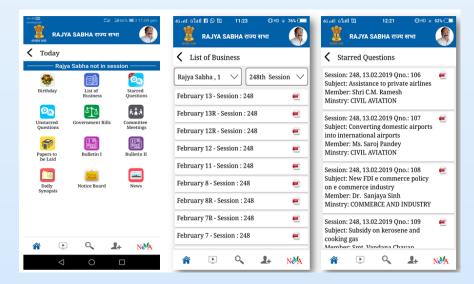
During the session, e-Notes may be sent between Hon'ble Speaker and Secretary of House. E-Voting is possible using touch screens along with display of results. Raising matters of urgent public importance, visual presentations may also be given by Hon'ble MP/MLAs with prior permission of Hon'ble Speaker. Video Conferencing is also possible in the House. Timing of Hon'ble Members in discussion is recorded digitally and displayed on LEDs in the House. Touch screens have also been provided to the media persons for viewing papers laying in the House.

NeVA is a **de-centralized** standalone generic digital application designed on HP Pattern on .NET technology. It is hosted on National Cloud -Meghraj with mirroring at local Data Centre and

maintenance, security and disaster recovery for all 40 Houses have been taken care of. Recently the occurrence of disastrous cyclone Fani in Orissa which took heavy toll on both lives and property, posed high risks to the NeVA servers currently deployed at Bhubaneshwar and Application remained shut for 2 days due to power failure. The NeVA data and application were shifted to Delhi based servers which have added features like Emergency backup Mirroring along with Disaster Recovery, thus making NeVA Application fail proof. CPMU NeVA team worked day and night to migrate servers and the System was up in record time. This was a great learning experience for all of us.



m-NeVA will facilitate Ministers/Members get the entire House Business including replies to questions and papers to be laid in the House, 45 minutes before the beginning of the daily proceedings whereas Hon'ble Speaker will get the entire **House Business as and when available**. It will also be the repository of the Contacts which will caters to around 20 thousand contacts including all Legislative Members, Ministry/Department Secretaries, Secretariat Officials District Administrative Officers and many more. Approximately, 5374 Members are projected to be linked through telephone and email.



**NeVA will also help the presiding officers also in the management of the House** via House Management Applications. Hon'ble Ministers who have to reply to the House, can seek supplementary replies on their mobiles from the Administrative Secretaries. In order to provide assistance to the Members, Officials of the Legislatures & Departments a **NeVA Kendra** (e-Facilitation Centre) will be setup at each location under the Nodal Officer.

There will be Installation of Touch Screen / Tablet devices in the Legislatures. One Tablet Device will be provided to each Member of the Legislature. A robust Network Infrastructure facility with backup for high speed LAN/WAN network and secured WIFI network will be set-up. Necessary Hardware/access devices will be deployed in the House(s) of Legislature for electronic delivery of Service.

