

## CSI-Nihilent Showcase e-Gov Awards



Anurag Jain, secretary IT, Madhya Pradesh (extreme right) receiving the Computer Society of India and Nihilent Best e-Governed State Award 2008-09 from S Mahalingam, president, CSI (third from right) at the CSI Annual Convention at Pune. Also seen: Ravi Teja, country manager, India, Nihilent (second from right), Dr Deepak Shikarpur, chairman, OC CSI 2009 (fourth from right) and Anil Srivastava, MD, MP Warehousing and Logistic Corporation Madhya Pradesh (extreme left)

Currently running in its seventh year, the CSI-Nihilent e-Governance Awards for 2008-09 were announced during the CSI Annual Convention at Pune. These awards recognize the best e-governance initiatives in citizen services at the state, department, district and project level.

The state of Madhya Pradesh was conferred the 'Best e-Governed State Award' while the district of Jalgaon in Maharashtra won the award of excellence in the district category. The Education Department, Madhya Pradesh and the Finance Department, Gujarat received the awards of excellence in the department category. In all, twenty-three e-governance initiatives were awarded under various heads.

Madhya Pradesh was awarded for its initiatives such as computerization in government departments, manpower development for IT, guidelines for setting up of information kiosks and development of web sites by all government departments. Its major initiative, MPOnline, a citizen services portal that delivers a wide range of government services (copy of land records, forms for professional examination board, birth/death, caste certificates, etc), was also recognized.

The district administration of Jalgaon, Maharashtra received the award of excellence in the district category for developing an Integrated Voice Response System (e-Lokshahi) that provides twenty-four hour online public grievance redress system and FAQ forum being used widely through telephone and mobile.

Other projects that were awarded were e-Procurement, Karnataka; e-Krishi, Kerala; TWADNEST, Tamil Nadu; Geographical Information Systems (GIS), Chhattisgarh; ICT in Judiciary, Gujarat; and Indian National Tsunami Early Warning System (INCOIS), Goa.

The selection process included online submission of nomination forms, field visits by team of experts to assess project implementation and impact on people benefited by these projects and presentations by short listed nominations, followed by final selection based on combined score. All government agencies (both centre and state/UT governments, down to district levels), government organizations and semi-government corporations, district collectorate, municipal corporations, autonomous bodies including public sector, were eligible to apply for the awards.