Major initiative to promote e-governance
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In a major initiative to promote e-governance, the state government has decided to create a comprehensive citizens database based on a unique ID (identity) code for every citizen.

Stating this while inaugurating '' IT@Himachal 2008 luminaries and thought leaders summit'' organised by Wisitex Foundation in collaboration with the government, here today, Chief Minister P.K.Dhumal said that the common database would not only help better planning and monitoring of schemes but also ensure efficient delivery of services to the people.

He said Himachal had taken the lead in promoting e-governance by setting up "lok mitra kendras"(community service centres) on pilot basis in Hamirpur in 2001 and setting up the first IT education university in the country.

With the highest tele-density, 26 per cent in rural and 94 per cent in urban areas in the country, a high literacy rate and excellent social indicator, the hill state was an ideal destination for IT companies. An IT Park was being set up shortly on "public-private partnership" model which would offer great opportunity to investors.

He assured all help to the investors by minimising the codal formalities for setting up their units.

He said the state was in the process of setting up of 3,366 common service centres to ensure at least one such centre in each gram panchayat in association with private players. The endeavour was to make every facility available at these centres to the people to help save their time and money. They would not have to visit the block, tehsil, sub-division, district and state headquarters for petty matters.

The government had also started redressal of grievances through 'e-Samadhan' to respond in a time-bound manner. He added that the computerization of land records and government treasuries was nearing completion.

Former MP Kripal Parmar said that globalisation without IT efficiency was meaningless and to keep pace with times the IT had to be introduced in a big way.

Secretary, IT, B.K.Aggarwal spoke about the government's efforts on the e-governance and said functioning of various departments was beig computerised in a phased manner.