

Marwahi to get virtual feel of Rajyotsav

■ Staff Reporter
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THE people of Marwahi would participate in the State-level Rajyotsava Celebrations without having to travel all the way to Raipur. Over the next 7 days beginning from 1st of November, people of places in the tribal interiors of Chhattisgarh such as Marwahi, Gorela, Pendra Road would have the virtual feel of participating in the Rajyotsava Celebrations with the help of Video Conferencing facilities installed at Gurukul at Pendra Road / Gorela and at the Rajyotsava grounds at Raipur.

This facility is being inaugurated by the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, Smt. Sonia Gandhi in Raipur. Smt. Gandhi and Chief Minister Mr. Ajit Jogi would participate at 12:50 pm in a Video-chat with the people of Marwahi who would assemble in the Gurukul. Today, Chief Minister Ajit Jogi participated in a test-run for this by talking to his constituents from his office room at the Mantralaya.

Later, in the night Chief Minister Ajit Jogi would do a virtual inauguration of Chhattisgarh's IT stall at the Bangalore IT.COM 2001 Trade Fair also beginning on 1st of November. Three way Video Conferencing would be possible between

IT.COM, Rajyotsava and Gurukul till November when the Bangalore Fair will end. The Gurukul and the Rajyotsava facilities will be open to public till the end of the Rajyotsava Fair on November 7. Thereafter, Video Conferencing would be possible between Chief Minister's Office and Gurukul.

• The Video Conferencing facility is a pilot Project which the State Government would scale up by networking the Mantralaya and the capital with Government offices at the District and Sub-district levels and also through similar facilities located in other remote rural areas from where the Government functionaries could access public grievances proactively while also enabling citizens to reach "into" the Government with ease. This facility is a part of CHOICE (Chhattisgarh Online information for Citizen Empowerment) Project, which would create a Wide Area Network affording a wide range of citizen services for the urban as well as rural population.

It may be mentioned that most other Projects in the field of e-Governance are exclusively serving either the urban or the rural population. CHOICE seeks to provide integrated system-wide and, eventually, State-wide service, thus eliminating the Urban-Rural Divide.

This prestigious project of the State Government would converge services and technologies. CHIPS, (Chhattisgarh Infotech Promotion Society) which is the prime mover for implementing State Government's IT policies and plans, is partnering with CMC Ltd. and the National Informatics Centre, who are implementing the various technological facets under CHOICE.

For Video-Conferencing between the Rajyotsava grounds and the Gurukul, the National Informatics Centre has provided V-SAT facilities. In addition, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. has also provided ISDN connectivity.

The Video Conferencing facility would remain open between 4 and 8 PM from 2nd of November till the 7th of November. Arrangements have been made for various Departmental Secretaries of the State Government and Ministers in-charge of Departments to interact with the participants from Marwahi. CHIPS has issued an appeal to the people of Marwahi and to IT enthusiasts at Raipur and Bangalore to take advantage of the Video Conferencing facilities in large numbers by participating in daily public Video-chat sessions at Rajyotsava, Gurukul and IT.COM every day at 6 PM from 2nd November till the end of the two Fairs.