

Profile of GopalaKrishnan Devanathan (Kris Dev)

ICT and e-Governance Consultant specializing in decentralization and good governance with over three decades of hands-on experience in India and Americas. An ISO 9000:2000 certified lead auditor, SEI-CMM trained and specialized in ICT for Development (ICT4D) for anti-poverty initiatives.

Co-Founder of **International Transparency and Accountability Network (TrAcNet)**, a global, not-for-profit consortium of Social Activists for creation of Community Centric Sustainable Development.

President & CEO of **Life Line to Community (LL2C)** and **Life Line to Business (LL2B)**, specializing in innovation, good governance and anti-poverty initiatives to empower the child, youth, women, adults and senior citizens to achieve UN MDGs.

Registered as a DICON Consultant with the Asian Development Bank. Active member of UNDP - Solutions Exchange – Decentralization, Gender and ICT4D Community.

Developed and implemented (1) "e-Administration" a web based, platform neutral, paperless Communication and Collaboration Tool, using open source tools and (2) Unique Biometric Identification and Tracking of Citizens – for Right to Information, Transparency and Accountability in all G2C and G2G transactions, particularly welfare projects such as NREGP, NRHM, OAP, etc.

Recipient of: (1) **"Innovations 2009" Award** (Ideas in Practice) for implementing "e-Administration: e-Platform for e-Governance", from Indian Institute of Technology Bombay Alumni Association and The IndUS Entrepreneurs (TiE) Pune (<http://www.innovations-pune.com/homepage.htm>) and

(2) **"The Manthan-AIF Award 2006"** for "India's Best e-Content" in the category of "e-Inclusion and Livelihood" from 25 states in India for of "Biometric Tracking of Payments under NREGA" in remote parts of rural India (http://www.manthanaward.org/section_full_story.asp?id=507).

Mr. Alok Srivasthava, then Moderator, UNDP - Solutions Exchange - Decentralization Community said, "What is certainly good about your effort is the attempt to combine IT knowledge with practical programmes. I am sure your initiative will bring transparency in the overall implementation of Solution Exchange".

Carried out the following Unique Biometric Identification Projects for beneficiaries of Work for Food (W4F) Programme / National Rural Employment Guarantee programme (NREGP):

(1) Biometric Identification and Registration of beneficiaries of W4F / NREGP in remote Jakulla Kutha Palli (J.K. Palli) and Mahmabad, Amadagur Mandal, Anantapur District,

Andhra Pradesh carried out for Centre for Environment Concerns, Hyderabad / Rural Environment & Development Society, Kadiri, Anantapur District, Andhra Pradesh:

<http://www.solutionexchange-un.net.in/emp/cr-public/cr-se-emp-ictd-12050701-public.pdf>

<http://www.knowprose.com/node/14017>

<http://zunia.org/uploads/media/knowledge/Bio-metric%20tracking%20of%20citizens.pdf>

<http://mailman.apnic.net/mailling-lists/s-asia-it/archive/2006/04/msg00029.html>

<http://lists.indymedia.org/pipermail/imc-india/2006-July/0718-5d.html>

(2) Biometric Identification and Registration of beneficiaries of an international Flood Relief Payment made by Centre for World Solidarity through Vyavasayaka Mariyu Sanghika Abhivrudhi Samstha - Agriculture and Social Development Society (ASDS), Rekhapalli, V.R. Puram Mandal, Khammam District, Andhra Pradesh, to reverse the embezzlement of Flood Relief Funds using false thumb impression on paper, meant for the poorest of the poor of Gurrampeta Village who had to resort to eating rats for survival

Biometric tracking gives a tamper proof identity to villagers – The Indian Express – Jan 2007 <http://www.indianexpress.com/news/aids-counsel-a-call-away/21904/2>

(3) The Principal Secretary and Commissioner, Rural Development Department, Govt. of Bihar extended an invitation in 2007 to carry out a Proof of Concept for creating a e-Muster for beneficiaries of NREGP in Bihar to plug the leakages in the payments to beneficiaries of NREGP. The Pilot Project was carried out 100% successfully in two villages of Bihar with two different types of biometric devices including a hand-held device for field verification. Pursuant to the success of this proof of concept, the Government of Bihar has successfully launched the e-Sakthi project to issue 25 million biometric smart cards to the beneficiaries of NREGP, the largest project of its kind.

- Bihar shows smart card way to cleaner rural job scheme – The Indian Express – June 2007 <http://www.indianexpress.com/news/bihar-shows-smart-card-way-to-cleaner-rural-job-scheme/33365/>

- NREGA to go hi-tech in Bihar – Picture this: e-muster rolls, biometric smart cards and an efficient online system which creates an audit trail of all transactions - June 2007 – Civil Society magazine - <http://www.civilsocietyonline.com/June07/india07ngrea.asp>

Biometric payment tracking under NREGP, Bihar, India – i4d (information for development) July 2007 <http://www.i4donline.net/articles/current-article.asp?articleid=1334&typ=Features>

- Pilot Tracking of NREGP Beneficiaries Using Biometrics - Kurkuri and Dhuparchak Musahari, Gonpura Panchayat, Phulwarisharif Block, Patna district, Bihar <http://indiainvents.blogspot.com/2007/10/life-line-to-business-ll2b.html>

- The 'BSC' of Identity – A Biometric Smart Card Device can be a fool-proof ID for citizens, says this ICT Consultant – The Hindu Business Line – March 2007 <http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/ew/2007/03/19/stories/2007031900110300.htm>

- ID Cards get smarter – Business Standard - June 2008

<http://www.business-standard.com/india/storypage.php?autono=326049>

- Smart Voter-Ids needed – Business Standard - May 2009

<http://www.business-standard.com/india/news/geetanjali-krishna-smart-voter-ids-needed/356822/>

- 'A Prescription to end corruption' – 4Ps Business and Marketing Magazine, Plan Media Publications

<http://www.4psbusinessandmarketing.com/17072008/storyd.asp?sid=2112&pageno=1>

- Article on 'Biometric Smart Card' in:

'Information Technology in Developing Countries' newsletter of the [International Federation for Information Processing](#) (IFIP) [Working Group 9.4](#) titled Social Implications of Computers in Developing Countries. Previously supported by agencies like COMNET-IT, Malta and IDRC, Canada, the newsletter is now published on the web by the [Centre for Electronic Governance](#), Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad.

The newsletter carries articles on IT applications in developing countries which have created a socio-economic impact, evaluation of national policies on IT and telecommunications sectors, and paradigms to understand the impact of IT on development. Relevant conferences announcements, and reviews of conferences and books are also carried in the newsletter. The readership mainly consists of IT professionals, academics and administrators concerned with IT policy.

The newsletter has to its credit a legacy of over 10 years of print publication, reaching 750 individual subscribers and 45 libraries in 40 countries. Past issues can be accessed through the [WG 9.4 homepage](#).

<http://www.iimahd.ernet.in/egov/ifip/oct2008/oct2008.htm> and

<http://www.iimahd.ernet.in/egov/ifip/oct2008/kris-dev.htm>

Previous Consultancy Assignment: Executed a "Short term consultancy in July 2005 for submission of strategy paper and status report on ICTD interventions and roadmap for successful rollout and implementation of NREGA to plug the learning's in the overall National e-Governance Plan of Govt. of India, considering: People, Process, Technology and resources for National Institute for Smart Government, for submission to UNDP and Rural Development Department, GOI. Report was submitted, after discussions were held with various stakeholders and interest groups including governments, civil society organizations, citizen groups, to elicit views.

Current Consultancy Assignment: Currently executing a Short Term Consultancy Assignment as Resource Person for Data Capture and Identification of Information / Services / Needs of Rural Citizens for the e-Governance Programme of Ministry of

Panchayati Raj, Government of India called **e-PRI Project**, at the State, District, Block and Panchayat level for assessing the e-Readiness of Panchayats.

The project envisages devolution of powers to Gram Panchayats across the country, depending upon the administrative arrangements in a particular State/UT. This implies that the services which could be delivered to the citizens by Village Panchayats in one State/UT could differ from another. Consequently, design of the process re-engineering, computerization and capacity building programmes would face significant challenges. This also leads to related challenges around Stakeholder Involvement in the programme.

The project has been conceptualized to be executed in four phases out of which the second phase, the needs assessment phase will involve interaction, including a survey, with the identified stakeholders. This phase will result in forming an understanding of the needs of the stakeholders and will help in identification of the services.

The Key Activities of the resource professional includes:

- Conduct interviews and discussions at district, block and gram Panchayats.
- Support the project team to review ICT infrastructure at Panchayats.
- Review CSS and activity mapping at Panchayats.
- Prioritization of information and services needs.
- Field survey for identifying information and services needs of rural citizens

The Survey at the 3 levels (District / Block and Panchayats) aims at assessing the following:

- Review and validate Activity Mapping for the site (District / Block and Panchayats) on the basis of activity mapping list provided by Panchayat officials at State level
- Provide support to review existing ICT infrastructure, in the context of citizen services, at the site (District / Block and Panchayats)
- Assess training requirements for panchayat officials at the site, for supporting current e-Governance initiatives by the ministry.
- Assess extent of awareness amongst rural citizens about services available to them.

The Methodology includes conducting discussion with the stakeholders as required for the study:

- At district, block Panchayats and VPs, by holding discussions with panchayat officials at various levels and village representatives in Gram Sabha if possible.
- Key officials in the district administration would include the district collector, additional Collector (in charge of development), CEO Zilla Panchayat, DDO, PD-DRDA).
- The field unit will conduct the study by spending 2 weeks at the District Panchayat level, 1 week at the Block Panchayat level and 1 week at the Gram Panchayat level in succession.
- The survey tools will be developed in local language by the support resource person in consultation with the project team.

The Key Deliverables includes the needs of Information & Services Needs Assessment Report:

- The results of the survey conducted for assessing the Information and service needs of villagers.
- List the services currently being provided by District / Block / Gram Panchayats as well as the services that are expected by citizens, but are currently not being provided by Panchayats.
- The information needs of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) from other government organizations and vice versa.
- The entire report will be given in soft copy after completion of the assignment in English Language.

Other related experiences: As President & CEO of Life Line to Business (LL2B), India, an organization specializing in good governance for poverty alleviation, developed an e-Platform for e-Governance, a web based, platform neutral, paper less communication and work flow solution developed using open source tools (java, jboss, postgresql all running on Linux).

The tool has the provision for self customization by the user organization and can help to create the entire geographic branches, the functional departments, positions and officials for G2C / G2G / B2B / B2C communications.

It helps to integrate the working of the entire vertical and horizontal hierarchy of any community or organization and introduce transparency and accountability. It can also help to create unique identity for every citizen and help track the benefits extended to citizens. Mobile phones can be integrated into the application for seamless communication.

e-Administration initiatives are covered in many newspapers/magazines, as detailed below:

1. The Business Standard, Mumbai http://www.business-standard.com/search/storypage_new.php?leftnm=lmnu2&leftindx=2&lselect=1&autono=159162

2. The New Indian Express
<http://www.newindpress.com/NewsItems.asp?ID=IET20040705124325&Page=T&Title=Southern+News+%2D+Tamil+Nadu&Topic=0&aDate=7%2F6%2F2004>

3. The Hindu, Metro Plus, Chennai on "Paperless or less paper?" on Saturday Jan 08, 2005 can be seen at <http://www.hindu.com/mp/2005/01/08/stories/2005010802070100.htm>

4. The Hindu Business Line Monday, Sep 06, 2004, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India
eWorld - E-Governance - Take those files away - Raja Simhan T.E. raja@thehindu.co.in
<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/ew/2004/09/06/stories/2004090600020100.htm>

5. The Budget 2004-2004 address to the State assembly of the Lt. Governor of Pondicherry::
<http://pondicherry.nic.in> and <http://www.pon.nic.in/open/depts/finance/lgspeech2004.pdf>

Item 20 of the speech, reads as follows: "Industrial Guidance Bureau with integrated e-Platform has been established by substituting single window clearance system to speed up the process of industrial clearance / permission for setting up of new industrial units. A total of 21 Departments including Municipalities / Commune Panchayats have been integrated with a dedicated electronic network for granting permission to set up an industry and also to commence production".

6. The "Journal of Orissa Information Technology Society" in the Case study on: "ICT and e-Gov" - Quarterly progress Report (April - June 2003) at
<http://www.oits.org/bulletin/bltn0412.pdf>.

7. The customized e-Platform for the Industrial Guidance Bureau of the Government of Pondicherry, India, implemented with technical support from Life Line to Business (LL2B), Chennai, was evaluated for the Best IT Implementations of the year 2007 in the Government Sector by PC Quest, a Cybermedia publication.

PC Quest June 2007 issue has rated 250 enterprise projects - 'The Ultimate Guide to IT Implementations in India' has evaluated the Best IT Implementations of the year 2007 in various sectors, with 'Analysis of Who is Deploying What in IT', 'Tech & Trends in IT Implementations' and identifying 'Top 10 Challenges in Deploying IT', by an independent jury'. http://forums.pcquest.com/itimplementation/june_2007-30.html

Papers presented in national and international conferences: Presented many papers in national and international conferences. The most recent being:

"Unique Biometric Identification of citizens for better Governance" at the Decentralization and Local Governance meet for Northern States organized by KILA and supported by UNDP SE-DC Community at Patna in June 2009.

"Unique Biometric Identification and Tracking for Anti-Counterfeiting" in the first International Conference on Anti-Counterfeiting organized by Centre for Digital Imaging and Technologies, held in May 2009 in Thiruvanthapuram.

Other work experiences: Worked in North America as Director and Board Member of a Mexican subsidiary company of ISPAT International NV, from 1994-1999. Instrumental in reviving a closed company and achieve a turnaround of its operations, in short span of time.

Previous posts held include Senior Manager and Staff Officer to Chairman, Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), one of the largest Public Sector in India from 1992 to 1994. Responsible for governance and liaising; I assisted the Chief Executive of SAIL to achieve

turnaround of SAIL. Earlier served as Regional Manager of SAIL, Salem Steel Plant at New Delhi from 1990-92.

Instrumental in the introduction of domestic stainless steel coin blank supply through the indigenous route for the India Government Mints, saving valuable foreign exchange for the country. Recipient of the prestigious "**Jawaharlal Nehru Best Executive Award**" in 1992. Joined SAIL as Management Trainee in 1977 and served in various administrative positions from 1979 to 1990 to become Senior Manager in SAIL.

Other social activities:

Adopted Natham Village, Sholavaram Panchayat Union, Ponneri Taluk, Thiruvallur District, a rural village in Tamil Nadu for community empowerment and set up Integrated Knowledge Centre with support from faculty and students of Indian Institute of technology, Madras http://www.solutionexchange-un.net.in/decn/comm_update/res-29-201108-01.pdf

Co-ordinator for National Election Watch for Tamil Nadu, a watchdog organization for socio-political reforms along with a Professor of Institute of technology, Madras.

Member of various professional bodies and social organizations. Extensively travelled in India and abroad. I hold a post graduate degree with specialization in electronics. I conduct workshops on empowerment, human rights, right to know, self development, communication skills, anti-corruption, etc for students, teachers, professionals and citizens.

My goal: "**Transform the World for the betterment of every individual, family, community and society**".

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