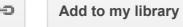
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## Andhra Pradesh Networked

Andhra Pradesh (AP) has become a model state by setting up the first state-wide network in the country — APSWAN — linking all its 25 districts headquarters to the state headquarters, Hyderabad, over high speed 2 Mbps lines. A sort of virtual EPABX, APSWAN will also substitute the tele-conferencing method used by the AP government to connect the state and district head quarters. The current network can migrate from the present 2 Mbs to 8, 16 and 32 Mbps.

United Telecom Ltd signed an agreement with the AP government on February 8, 1999, to commission the entire network, the first phase of which was completed in record time on November 1, 1999.

The network offers three services — voice, data and video conferencing. The voice services provide Hot Line, Remote Extension, PBX interconnect backbone of the state. It has enabled the creation of Virtual Private Networks by separate government departments. As local networks already exist in Andhra Pradesh, APSWAN becomes an integrator of the applications. The third service — video conferencing — offers point to multi-point video conferencing, which is programmable from 384 Kbps to 2 Mbps.

In subsequent stages, after integrating Intranets, an Internet gateway will be provided at Hyderabad, which will place the entire state machinery on the Net. Possibilities for application hosting and information kiosks exist.

The second phase would be in terms of extending connectivity. Further to the linking of the district headquarters with the state capital, this phase would connect the 1100 taluks/mandals in the state, with Hyderabad, the state capital. So far, the DoT has completed laying about 100,000 km of optical fiber connecting 950 mandals. This extended fiber optic connectivity will be a far cheaper solution to network the state.