

Shimla District

The Queen of Hills Going Digital

Edited by **MOHAN DAS VISWAM**

District Shimla has tough terrain and most of the area is snowbound, the automation and computerization activities are tough to implement in far-flung areas of the District. The citizen service centres named SUGAM have been set up in the lower offices up to Sub Division and Tehsils. One such centre was set up at Dodra Kwar, which has very poor road connectivity, the hardware and all the infrastructure were transported by Helicopter from Shimla, and centre was set up after fighting all the odds. The Sugam centres are the single point of contact for the citizens to get any of the services being provided by the Administration.



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Shimla, known as the Queen of Hills, was the summer capital of India during the pre-independence era and presently it is the State Capital of Himachal Pradesh. It is a famous tourist destination worldwide and every season of the year has something in store for the tourists. Shimla had been the centre of many historical events, which were held here before independence. The town has some marvelous buildings known for its Architect & Design. The District Centre of NIC was set up in the year 1988 and has witnessed how ICT has become part of life in offices and how it has brought changes in work culture. The advantage of digitization has benefitted the citizens in getting the services at their doorsteps.

ICT Initiatives in the District

Shimla District Website

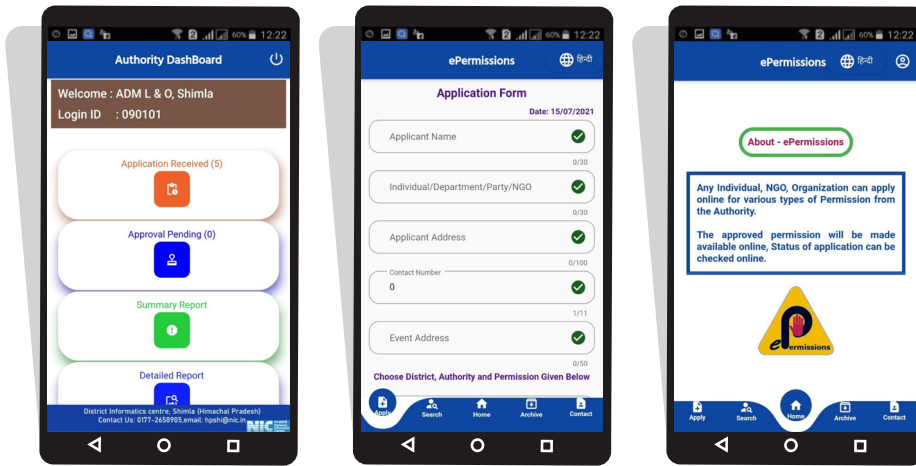
The website of District administration at <https://hpshimla.nic.in> covers various sections and emphasis has been given to G2C and G2G services. This website has separate sections such as Tourism, Citizen Services, Directory, Notifications, Events, etc. The Citizen Service section provides multiple services to the citizens. District web site is frequently visited by citizens and tourists for any type of authentic information. The website has been among the leading sites, which got migrated to the SWaaS platform. The website adheres to the GIGW guidelines and it has been awarded as Certified Accessible Website by STQC in compliance with these standards. The CAW logo is being displayed on the website.

Shimla District Website

The screenshot shows the Shimla District Website interface. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for HOME, COVID-19, ABOUT DISTRICT, DIRECTORY, DEPARTMENTS, TOURISM, DOCUMENTS, CITIZEN SERVICES, MEDIA GALLERY, and MORE. The header features the Shimla District logo and the Digital India logo. The main content area includes a large banner image of a heritage building in Shimla. Below the banner, there are four sections: DISTRICT FACTS (showing 363 Panchayat's), EVENTS (showing 'There is no Event.'), INFORMATION (with links for Red Cross Society-Shimla, Aadhaar Enrollment, and Helpline), and District Map (showing a map of Shimla with a 'View larger map' link).

Citizens should get the benefits of digitization at their doorsteps and ePermissions mobile application is a step towards achieving this goal. I Congratulate the NIC District team for developing such an excellent mobile app. It gives me immense pleasure that the Informatics Magazine of NIC will be covering Shimla District in its next edition. District Centre of NIC is playing a major role in the spread of ICT in the District and their work is commendable.

ADITYA NEGI, IAS
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▲ ePermission Mobile App Screens

NGDRS (National Generic Document Registration System)

The NGDRS Project has launched in District Shimla in two of its Tehsils on the Pilot basis by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh Shri Jai Ram Thakur, the software was successfully implemented in these two Tehsils and it was customized as per the local requirements. The successful implementation of NGDRS in these two Tehsils encouraged the District Administration to get it Rolled out in all the 25 Tehsils of the District.

Other Key Initiatives in the District/ Innovations Applied

ePermissions Mobile Application

The ePermission Mobile Application has been developed by NIC District Centre under the DGMC (District Governance Mobile Challenge). The District Administration is approached by various Individuals, NGOs, officials for grant of permission to hold Events, Functions, Rallies, plying of vehicles, Landing of Helicopter, etc. All this work was

done manually in DM Office and Police verification was also done manually, which resulted in a delay of processing the permission work.

The idea to develop the Mobile Application for automation of the Permission work was discussed with DC and ADM after the DGMC was announced, and after getting approval from the Administration, the development was started. The mobile app ePermissions is a Bilingual G2C application and it has been developed in Flutter Google UI Framework, DART as a development language. The backend is MSSQL 2008 R2 and the app has a proper user authentication mechanism built in it. The ePermissions Mobile App was awarded Bronze Certificate under the DGMC. The Mobile Application has helped the Administration in providing Faceless Service to the Citizens in a time-bound manner with standard procedures adopted and enforced in the application for granting the Permission.

Video Conference during Pandemic

The Covid Pandemic made it difficult for the officials to perform their duties, due to lockdown

and other restrictions as the movement was restricted. The Video conference system of NIC was used to its full capacity during this period. The Video Conference of the Deputy Commissioner and other Officers was conducted up to the Sub Division, Block, and Tehsils level by using the Vidyo Desktop facility of NIC. The VC studio of NIC remained fully occupied during this period as officers of Administration, Police, Health and other departments attended Video Conferences from NIC Centre, which were held with Hon'ble CM, Ministers, Chief Secretary and Other Department Heads of the State.

Sugam Centres

Sugam Centres are the single point of contact for the citizens, where more than 50 services are provided under one roof. These centres have been set up in Sub Divisions, Tehsils, and Sub Tehsils.

The major services provided in these centres are

- Vehicle Registration and allied services
- Issuance of 14 types of Certificates
- Issuance of New LL/DL and Allied services
- Issuance of eStamp papers
- Issuance of Nakal Jamabandi
- Issuance of Arms License and allied services

eProsecution

The eProsecution Module under ICJS (Inter Operable Criminal Justice System) was made operational in the State of HP as this project was coordinated from the District Centre of NIC. The hardware and manpower under the project have been provided to the District Attorney Office across the state. The training sessions were conducted over a virtual medium for the officers of the department. The Police Officials have started online submission of Challans and Draft Charge Sheet for opinion to the District Attorney.

Awards & Accolades

District Election Officer cum Deputy Commissioner gave appreciation letter during Parliament Elections for providing the ICT support for smooth conduct of Elections.

District Web Site has been audited and approved for certification by STQC for compliance to the GIGW guidelines and had issued CAW (Certified Accessible Website) certificate for District web site.

The Bronze Award is given for the mobile application ePermissions developed by NIC District Centre, Shimla.

▼ Launching of Mobile Application ePermissions by Worthy Deputy Commissioner Shimla Shri Aditya Negi

▼ Bronze Award



For further information, please contact:

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