Use of Information Systems in State Planning Departments in India

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Abstract

All the State Governments in India have Planning Departments, under one name or the other, to look after economic planning in the respective states. As making, implementation and monitoring of plans is a complex task, there has been a growing realization about using information systems to carry out various tasks. There is need to develop an effective system for monitoring the implementation of Plan schemes and programmes, so that feedback from the same could be used for time to time correction of sectoral strategy and removal of bottlenecks in implementation. Large scale computerization of the functioning of the State Planning Departments can accomplish speed and accuracy in the matter of compilation of reports and returns, monitoring of implementation, regular processing of data and their analysis. This paper tries to explore and understand the extent of use of Information Systems for various purposes in the State Planning Departments. The websites of 28 states were scanned and content analysis was done to garner information about the information systems being used. It was found that use of computerised information systems is slowly catching up but a lot more needs to be done.

Keywords: Indian state planning departments, information systems, plan evaluation

1. Introduction

The National Planning Commission was set up by the Government of India in 1950 with a view to adopt planned approach to development and progress. This was considered to be the best alternative for a country of sub-continental size with diverse languages, cultures, faiths and geo-climatic conditions. However, planning in India is the concurrent responsibility of the Central and State Governments. It is being undertaken with States (and Union Territories) as the primary units. Below the State level, the primary units of administration and planning are the district, the block and the village (Nath, 2002).

All the State Governments in India have Planning Departments, under one name or the other (Table 1), to look after economic planning in the respective states. The position and effectiveness of the State Planning Departments (and other planning machinery) varies from state to state.

The 73rd and 74th Amendments of the Constitution of India vest the Panchayats (village local bodies) and urban municipal bodies with the authority to plan for economic development and social justice. The need for developing a database at the decentralised levels, i.e., at the district, block and panchayat levels has become vital following these amendments of the Constitution. One of the issues that concern decentralized planning and socio-economic and sustainable development is the availability of regular, timely, adequate and reliable information necessary for decentralized planning. It is well recognized that availability of data is essential for any meaningful process of decentralized planning for any substantial and participatory socio-economic development. At levels below the State like districts, blocks or villages there are qualitative and quantitative shortfalls in data availability resulting in huge information gap (Mohan 2003).
The Committee of the Study Group on Information Gap (CSGIG, 1998) set up by the Planning Commission of India, observed “that there were significant gaps in the availability of data / information at the sub-State level, as against the requirement of such data for planning. Basic information on several socio-economic aspects required for planning at the lower level was not available to users in time. Though a lot of data is collected at micro level which is processed and published for the country as a whole or for individual States, no disaggregation of the data for the sub-State levels is done. This results in a yawning gap in the data for effective planning at these levels. There is, therefore, an urgent need to fill in the gap and improve the information system.”

It has been felt that one of the critical elements in the planning process is the availability of a suitable information system. In the absence of an information system, there would be innumerable problems of co-ordination, both at the state and national levels. Also, there is a tendency to adopt uniform solutions for the entire country without respect to local variations, needs and problems. Therefore, it is necessary to form policies on the basis of a thorough examination of the local situations—something which can be done only when we have access to local knowledge and information (Department of Personnel & Training, GoI, n.d.).

As making, implementation and monitoring of plans is a complex task, there has been a growing realization about using information systems to carry out various tasks. There is need to develop an effective system for monitoring the implementation of Plan schemes and programmes, so that feedback from the same could be used for time to time correction of sectoral strategy and removal of bottlenecks in implementation. Large scale computerization of the functioning of the State Planning Departments can accomplish speed and accuracy in the matter of compilation of reports and returns, monitoring of implementation, regular processing of data and their analysis.

In the above background, the objective of this paper is to attempt to explore and understand the extent of use of Information Systems for various purposes in the State Planning Departments. The websites of 28 states¹ were scanned and content analysis was done to garner information about the information systems being used. It was found that use of computerised information systems is slowly catching up but a lot more needs to be done. Some areas of possible future research have also been indicated.

2. Material and methods

This study is a mix of exploratory and descriptive studies based on content analysis. A lot of literature (too numerous to be cited here) is available on development/economic planning in the country at central level as well as decentralised planning. A significant body of literature is also available about use of information systems in the context of E-governance. Literature is also available about use and role of information systems in the management of public sector enterprises. However, no significant work seems to have been done exclusively regarding the use of information systems within the State Planning Departments for the purpose of planning.

Therefore, it was decided to explore this area only. Obtaining information from State Planning Departments through personal visits or by sending some sort of questionnaire was not found to be feasible as it would have taken a very long time. Keeping this in mind, only secondary information available on the websites of the State Planning Departments has been studied and analysed to find out and then discuss about the type of information systems being used by them.

3. Information Systems in State Planning Departments

As per Sundaram (1997), while the term "Information System" may refer to any apparatus or method, which allows the transfer of information between producers or sources and users of information, in the modern context it is used in the sense of sophisticated technology and computerization, with its components of human actors (users and staff), information, information

¹ The Union Territories of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu, Lakshadweep and Puducherry have not been considered. The national Capital Territory of Delhi has also not been considered as it is not a full-fledged state.
processes (i.e. relating one information element to another), data, data processes (i.e. processing of data) and hardware (equipment).

This section presents the **State-wise current status of Information Systems in Planning**

**Departments.** It is entirely based on the information culled from the websites of Planning Departments of different States. There is an inherent limitation in this approach as complete information about use of information may not have been uploaded/updated on some of the websites. But still, it gives a general idea about what is happening on this front.

**Andhra Pradesh**

The development planning work of the Andhra Pradesh Department of Planning is carried out by Andhra Pradesh State Development Society (APSDPS). The APSDPS website shows the units related to information management, which indicates the presence and use of computerized information system. They talk about an able **State Data Management System** and Server, integrating the data system and server with government departments and district data centres for regular and real time date updating, data analysis and graphical and spatial visualization of data for dissemination and providing decision support service to identified government departments at state level.

In the **Knowledge Management Unit**, supporting studies and analysis of key data parameters is done and the feedback put up in varied forms to assist policy makers in building a specialised unit providing feedback and inputs in charting future developmental process.

The **Geographical Management Information Systems Unit** supports the Planning Department in developing visualization based Decision Support System (DSS) and development & implementation of State annual plan and Govt. of India’s Five year plan.

Thus, we can infer that a strong information system comprising of different units is being used in the Andhra Pradesh Planning Department.

**Arunachal Pradesh**

The website of the Planning Department of Arunachal Pradesh shows that as of now, it is **proposed to develop an effective system for monitoring the implementation** of Plan schemes and programmes, so that feedback from the same could be used for time to time correction of sectoral strategy and removal of bottlenecks in implementation. It is also **proposed to undertake large scale computerization** of the functioning of the Planning Department to accomplish speed and accuracy in the matter of compilation of reports and returns, monitoring of implementation, regular processing of data of various departments and their analysis. (Department of Planning, Arunachal Pradesh, n.d.). As an effective system for monitoring the implementation of Plan schemes and programmes and large computerization are still ‘proposed’, it can be assumed that presently there is no elaborate computerized information system.

**Assam**

Planning and Development Department, Assam has a **Computer Application Division.** The main focus of the division is to make provision of **information systems** to support decision-making in the department (and delivery of government services). The division also makes assessment of hardware and software needs of the department and initiates steps for procurement of the same. Entrusted duties/works of the division are: looking after the department LAN, management of website, capacity building of officers/staff in basic IT applications, File Tracking and Dak Tracking Systems, compilation of draft Five Year Plans and Annual Plans and other reports published by the department from time to time.

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2A bill was passed in the Indian Parliament in February 2014, to carve out a new state of Telangana from Andhara Pradesh. Telangana officially starts working from 2nd June, 2014.
Process for setting up of a centralized documentation centre was started in 2010-11. The setting up of a Geographic Information System unit has also began in 2011-12. There is mention of a Training & User Consultation Workshop on MIS for monitoring of Centrally Sponsored Schemes, Flagship programmes and for Decentralized Planning, and discussions held on the software ‘PLANPLUS’ – for decentralized planning process. All this indicates that Planning and Development Department, Assam, is using information systems and is further consolidating the infrastructure.

Bihar

No information about information system in Department of Planning and Development, Bihar, has been provided on the website. However, the document related to Voluntary disclosures (Department of Planning and Development, Bihar, 2010) under Right to Information Act, 2005 shows that the Department employs IT Manager, System Analyst and Statistical Office/Assistant. Further, a system analyst, for instance, has to look after, among other things, the data management system for planning purposes and to build up a data bank and feed the information to the officials for formulation of Plans. Statistical officer/assistant collects the essential Planning data and compiles these data into tables. Thus, we can say that some sort of computerised information is there in the Department of Planning and Development, Bihar.

Chhattisgarh

There is no relevant information on the website of the State Planning Commission, Chhattisgarh (http://spc.cg.gov.in/Default.aspx). In the list of Government Departments, “Planning Economics and Statistics” (sic) has been indicated as a department but the link points to Directorate of Economics and Statistics (DES). DES has also been shown as a part of Department of Finance and Planning (http://descg.gov.in/HomePage.aspx), whereas, Finance Department has also been shown as a separate entity and has its independent website.

Nevertheless, we found that the Government of Chhattisgarh has decided to establish the State-wide Information Technology Network referred as CGSWAN that would provide the Information Technology backbone for carrying voice, data and video traffic for all departments in the state Chhattisgarh government (CGSWAN, 2014). The network will also enable integration of various functions and IT applications currently running in different departments.

Goa

In Goa, the Planning Division of the Directorate of Planning, Statistics & Evaluation is responsible for formulating the Five Year Plans and the Annual plan and assisting the State Planning Board and the Sub Committees appointed there under. The objective of the Statistics Division is to collect, compile and disseminate the data required for planning and decision making. The Evaluation Division is concerned with the monitoring and evaluation of ongoing/ completed programmes/projects/schemes undertaken by the Government (Directorate of Planning, Statistics & Evaluation, Govt. of Goa, n.d.). No information could be found about the MIS used in Directorate of Planning, Statistics & Evaluation, Govt. of Goa on their website (http://www.goadpse.gov.in/welcome.htm)

Gujarat

Gujarat doesn’t have a standalone planning department. In General Administration Department there are four Divisions, out of which one is ‘Planning Division’. On the website, there is no indication about the use of computerized information systems. However, Gujarat also has a wide area network for the whole State (GSWAN). The primary motivating factor for GSWAN is the modernization of the intra-governmental communication setup that would improve administrative effectiveness and efficiency and to bring reliability and accountability in overall system of Government-to-Government (G2G) functioning. GSWAN connects all 26 Districts, 225 Talukas ultimately interconnecting more than 3200 Government offices (GSWAN, 2014).
Haryana

No separate website for Planning Department could be found and a ‘Planning Wing’ has been shown under the Department of Economic and Statistical Analysis (DESA) (http://esaharyana.gov.in/Planning.aspx). Initially, no information could be found about the use of latest information systems. However, in the archives section, it was found that in February 2011, the Govt. of Haryana had floated tender for Appointment of a Competent System Integrator for Designing and Implementing a Computerized solution. At that time (DESA, 2011a) almost all types of data were collected/scrutinized manually before further processing. The data processing was done on stand-alone PCs by various sections at Head Quarter (HQ). The primary data and most of the secondary data at the district level offices were transmitted to the HQ either through floppies/CDs, e-mail or hard copy. The district level statistical reports were independently compiled. There was no unified, central data store, retrieval or processing. The work to be done by the system integrator (DESA, 2011b) included preparation of Plan document through software, monitoring of various Plan Schemes through software, monitoring of district Plan schemes through software, Plan evaluation and monitoring 20-Point programme through software. Implementation status of the project could not be verified.

Himachal Pradesh

In Himachal Pradesh State Planning Department, a Computer Division has been constituted for meeting the computer needs (Planning Department, Himachal Pradesh, n.d.). All the reports / publications undertaken by the Planning Department are processed on computers and later on get printed on off-set in Printing Press. This division has been catering to the needs of Application software of the department.

There was no reference on the website about any sort of MIS being used in Himachal Pradesh Planning Department.

J&K

The Planning and Development Department looks after the implementation of planning process in the state (http://www.jandkplanning.com/). No mention about MIS could be found on the website. However, the page on main functions of the Department gives a hint about information system to carry out functions like formulation of Perspective/Five year and Annual Plans, mid-term and project appraisal, preparation of progress reports, keeping account of Centrally Sponsored Schemes, collection of Plan related data from various Administrative/Head of Departments, monitoring the funds allotted for Border Area Development and 20 points Programmes, and maintaining the data bank of Annual Plan/District Plan and other related information (Planning & Development Department, J&K, n.d.). The list of employees of the department shows three programmers, thirteen statistical officers, sixteen statistical assistants, one EDP supervisor and six data entry operators. This shows that some sort of computerized information is definitely there.

Jharkhand

Under the Planning & Development Department, Jharkhand, Directorate of Economics and Statistics (DES) has been entrusted the task of collection, compilation, tabulation and analysis of various types of data. These data are useful for scientific and economic planning. District Statistical Officers are responsible for flow of these data to DES level. Apart from District Statistical Officers, data from different departments are also collected. (DES, 2014). No specific information could be found about the information system in use in the Planning & Development Department of the State or any of the Directorates under the department.

Karnataka

The Planning, Programme Monitoring and Statistics Department of Govt. of Karnataka has a number of functional divisions like Plan, Finance & Resources Division, Human Development Division, Plan, Monitoring & Information Division, District Planning Division, Project Formulation Division, Area Development Board Division, Manpower & Employment Division, Perspective
Planning Division, Evaluation Division, Joint Secretary, Special Cell (Special Development Plan) and Deputy Secretary (Administration). No information could be found on the website about the information system in use in the Planning, Programme Monitoring and Statistics Department of Govt. of Karnataka or any of its divisions.

**Kerala**

The Kerala State Planning Board (KSPB), under the Planning and Economic Affairs Department, has been assigned the task of preparing the Annual Economic Review to be presented along with the Budget Document to the State legislature. KSPB has its own Information and Technology Wing which monitors and updates its official website. Further, it provides 'Information Technology' based solutions to all the technical divisions and also to the administration sections of the Board. It also provides assistance for the computerisation of Economic Review, Plan Budget and also for the project details of the local bodies being undertaken in the District Planning Offices.

It was also found that the Online Plan Monitoring System PLAN SPACE of SPB is now being used as the Plan Monitoring System of Govt. of Kerala for Annual Plan review (Kerala State Planning Board, 2014).

**Madhya Pradesh**

Planning, Economic and Statistics Department, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh operates through State Planning Commission and Directorate of Economics & Statistics. As part of decentralized planning involving village panchayats, block development offices, urban local bodies and districts, the State Planning Commission has developed a computer application (offline as well as online) for filling up of data in standardized form which can later be consolidated to prepare district-wise plans for the entire state. To facilitate the entire process, guidelines and manuals have been prepared and uploaded on the commission website http://www.mpplanningcommission.gov.in/. A link to the planning application has also been provided on this website. There is also a dedicated planning portal which is managed by MP State Planning Commission (http://mpdecentralizedplanning.in/planningportal/default.aspx). This portal has the provision for online submission of plan proposals, tracking of documents and some planning tools.

**Maharashtra**

Directorate of Economics and Statistics under the Planning Department collects and processes statistical information. No idea could be made about the use of computerized information system from the website of the Planning Department, Maharashtra (https://plan.maharashtra.gov.in/).

**Manipur**

No information about any information system was available on the website of the Planning Department, Manipur. However, as per the Department of IT, Manipur (2014), Government of Manipur is establishing a State Wide Area Network (SWAN). This network shall have a Data, Voice and Video transmission and dissemination. It shall be used for the inter-Departmental connectivity, multi-user and multi-service facilities, video conferencing, email, on-line application processing and query. The implementation of SWAN will cover strengthening of existing and future intranet at the State Secretariat, CM secretariat, Government Departments in the state capital, District Headquarters, Sub-Divisions and Block headquarters with the existing and proposed gateway infrastructure.

**Meghalaya**

The website of the Planning Department, Govt. of Meghalaya, doesn’t give any idea about the use of computerized information system. Letter No. PLR. 169/2013/46, dated 2nd January 2014, sent by the Planning Department to all Principal Secretaries / Commissioners / Secretaries / Heads of Departments, Govt. of Meghalaya, regarding Plan proposals for the Annual Plan 2014-15, asks for a note on the strategies and proposals for Annual Plan 2014-15 to be prepared in MS Word and the
statements to be prepared in MS Excel. It further requests to submit hard copies as well as the soft copies of the proposals (Planning Department, Meghalaya, 2014). This means that presently the work is being done manually (of course, computers are used) and then compilation is done.

With further search, we found that the IT Department, Meghalaya, launched Meghalaya State Wide Area Network (MSWAN) in August, 2011. To be implemented over a period of five years, it is setup to link Government Offices at State Head Quarter, Shillong, District Head Quarters, Sub-division Headquarters and Block Headquarters with each other (IT Department, Meghalaya, n.d.). We assume that the Planning Department will also take benefit of this facility.

Mizoram

Unlike many of the other states, Department of Planning and Implementation, Mizoram, doesn’t even have a website of its own. There is a link for the Department of Planning and Implementation (http://mizoram.nic.in/dept/planning.htm) on the state website hosted by National Informatics Centre, Mizoram State Centre. Information about some annual plans and projects is all that is available.

Nagaland

Planning Branch of the Planning & Co-ordination Department, Nagaland, deals with matters relating to planning and formulation of development programmes and their execution, evaluation and monitoring of the implementation of plan programmes, plan co-ordination, district planning machinery, co-ordination of the implementation of the schemes of Govt. of India and Geographical Information Systems (Planning & Coordination Department, Nagaland, n.d.). Beyond this, no other information on any type of information system is available on the website.

Odisha

In case of the Planning & Co-ordination Department, Govt. of Odisha, no explicit mention was found on the website about the type of information system in the department. However, a look at the distribution of work among the officers of P&C Department shows an Information Management Unit (IMU) headed by an officer of the rank of Deputy Director (Planning & Co-ordination Department, Odisha, n.d.). This points towards presence of an Information Management System.

Punjab

The Department of Planning deals with the formulation, follow up, and appraisal of Annual and Five Year Plans and sub-plans. It conducts business on all matters relating to coordination of Plans of the other Departments and the Planning Commission of India. It also handles the collection, compilation, analysis and interpretation of Economic and Statistical data and coordination of Statistical activities of other departments (Department of Planning, Punjab, n.d.). One of the authors, visited the office of the Planning Department in Chandigarh, the capital of Punjab, and met the officers. It was gathered that one post of the System Analyst is lying vacant since long and the lone Programmer (on contract basis) is looking after entire computer/IT related work. All officers in the Department have computers but no integrated information system is used.

Rajasthan

The website of the Planning Department, Rajasthan, shows a separate Computer Cell. Apart from other functions like overall supervision and submission of proposals and system feasibility reports to concerned Govt. Secretaries, report generation & preparation of Plan documentation, the Computer Cell also handles correspondence with IT & other departments pertaining to technical & administrative matters related to computerization, e-governance, capacity building and information technologies (Planning Department, Rajasthan, n.d.). Computer Cell is headed by Special Secretary, Plan & Nodal Officer (IT). From all this, we get an indication of some kind of information system within the Department.
Sikkim

The Development Planning, Economic Reforms & NEC Affairs Department is the nodal department for providing direction to the implementing departments/agencies. It also keeps a track of the important schemes undertaken by different departments. It formulates Annual / Five Year Plan, in co-ordination with the Planning Commission of India and State Planning Commission and also carries out monitoring activity (Development Planning, Economic Reforms & NEC Affairs Department, Sikkim, 2006). No separate website was found for the Department.

Tamil Nadu

Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Department is primarily responsible for the State’s Plan preparations, Monitoring and Review of expenditure, Poverty Alleviation Programmes and the Centrally Sponsored Schemes (Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Department, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, n.d.). There is no information on the Department web-page about the information system in use. However, a Policy Note mentions that “the department is the nodal centre in Government for the provision of statistical information relating to the State and its economy. Such data is collected from primary and secondary sources and then compiled (Panneerselvam, 2013). We believe that to carry out these tasks, the department must have some information system.

Tripura

The State Planning Machinery under the Planning & Coordination Department helps in formulation of the State Plan and monitoring the Plan Programmes/Schemes (Planning Department, Sikkim, n.d.). No clear indication could be found on the website of the Department (http://planning.tripura.gov.in/) about use of computerized information system.

Uttar Pradesh

The Department of Planning in the state government is primarily responsible for making a development plan for the State, to initiate and undertake necessary exercises for this purpose and oversee and take an over-all view of the implementation of the plan, without diluting in any manner the role of different departments of the state government in the formulation and implementation of their respective plans (Planning Department, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh, n.d.).

Formats to be filled up for annual planning have been provided on the homepage of the Department website. It is obvious that these formats are filled-up manually and then consolidated.

Uttarakhand

The Department of Planning in the State Government is primarily responsible for making a development plan for the State, to initiate and undertake necessary exercises for this purpose and oversee and take an over-all view of the implementation of the plan (State Planning Department, Govt. of Uttarakhand, n.d.). The Administrative Structure (State Planning Commission, Government of Uttarakhand, 2014) shows the position of one MIS Specialist, one Computer Programmer and four Data Entry Operators. This points to use of MIS in the department.

Sector wise expenditure and proposed outlay for a district is prepared at district head-quarter annually. These details are sent to State head-quarter and different types of tables are generated by Directorate of Economics and Statistics under Planning Department.

West Bengal

The Planning Department formulates Annual Plans and Five-year Plans under guidance of the State Planning Board and in consultation with other Departments of the State Government. The Planning Department also administers various development schemes in the State (Department of Planning, Govt. of West Bengal (n.d.). There is no direct indication on the website about any information system. However, in one of the manuals under RTI, (Department of Planning, Govt. of West Bengal (2012), under ‘Computer Section’, two employees have been indicated—one System
Administrator and one Section Record Officer. This can be interpreted as existence of some sort of computerized information system.

4. Results and Discussion

From the previous section, we can draw a number of inferences. The results have been summarised in Table 2. These are discussed in the following paragraphs.

Planning Departments (by whatever name they may be known) of all the States, except Sikkim, have their own website or have at least a page on the respective State portals. From the information available on the websites, only in case of seven States (Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan) was there clear mention about information system in the Planning Departments. For instance, Andhra Pradesh Planning Department has State Data Management System, Knowledge Management Unit, GIS Unit, and Decision Support System; Assam has a Computer Application Division, LAN, File and Dak Tracking Systems, GIS, Centralized documentation centre, MIS for monitoring of Schemes and ‘Planplus’ software for planning; Kerala State Planning Board has an IT Wing and Online Plan Monitoring System PLAN SPACE now being used; and Madhya Pradesh State Planning Commission has Computer application for filling up of data in forms, Decentralized Planning Software and even a Planning portal for online submission of plan proposals, tracking of documents and some planning tools.

There was no information on the homepage of website of Planning Departments of as many as fourteen states (50%), namely, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Tripura and Uttar Pradesh. However, elsewhere on the websites or in some departmental documents available on the websites, the use of expressions/words like Wide Area Network, integration of IT applications running in different departments, compilation and dissemination of the data for planning, Computer Division, reports/publications processed on computers, Application software of the department, Monitoring & Information Division, Formats and Programmer, give an indication of existence of some sort of information system. Most likely, there is a mix of stand-alone PCs with some independent software/IT applications, with Internet connectivity and partially manual processing of the information.

In case of the other states, namely, Bihar, Haryana, J&K, Odisha, Uttrakhand and West Bengal, the status is either not clear or it is not indicated directly. However, in some sections of the website or in the RTI documents, use of words and expressions like IT Manager, System Analyst and Statistical Officer/Assistant, data management system for planning purposes, Designing and Implementing a Computerized solution, Information System for formulation and appraisal of Plans, Programmers, Statistical officers/assistants, EDP supervisor, Information Management Unit, Computer Section, System Administrator and Section Record Officer, points towards existence of some sort of information system.

5. Conclusions

From the above discussion we can conclude that almost all the State Planning Departments have some sort of computerised environment related with planning and allied activities. A few of them are further upgrading and developing the information system capabilities. Many of them, apparently, continue to use stand-alone computers without integrating them and creating an information system. A few states are also using customised software solutions for planning and monitoring. GIS has also been found to being used by some of the states. State Data Management System, Knowledge Management Unit, GIS Unit, Decision Support System. Some states have already implemented / are in the process implementing Wide Area Networking for different government departments. As this would include the planning departments also, we believe that this will be of great help in planning related activities.

As said earlier, this paper is solely based on the information gleaned from the websites of State Planning Departments. It is possible that some of the websites may not be having complete or updated information about use of computerised information systems. Thus, further in-depth studies need to be conducted. Further research in this area can try to study lesser number of States in more detail by
communicating with respective Planning Departments. Studies can also be conducted to find out the level of system integration. Another possible research area is to find out the impact of State Wide Area Networking on the working of Planning Departments.

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Table 1 List of State Planning Departments in India

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<th>Sr. No.</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Planning Deptt.</th>
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<td>Arunachal Pradesh</td>
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<td>Kerala</td>
<td>Planning &amp; Economic Affairs Department</td>
<td><a href="http://spb.kerala.gov.in/index.php/home.html">http://spb.kerala.gov.in/index.php/home.html</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Madhya Pradesh</td>
<td>Planning, Economic and Statistics Department</td>
<td><a href="http://www.planning.mp.gov.in/">http://www.planning.mp.gov.in/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Maharashtra</td>
<td>Planning Department</td>
<td><a href="https://plan.maharashtra.gov.in/">https://plan.maharashtra.gov.in/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Manipur</td>
<td>Planning Department</td>
<td><a href="http://planningmanipur.gov.in/">http://planningmanipur.gov.in/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Meghalaya</td>
<td>Planning Department</td>
<td><a href="http://www.megplanning.gov.in/">http://www.megplanning.gov.in/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Mizoram</td>
<td>Department of Planning &amp; Implementation</td>
<td><a href="http://mizoram.nic.in/dept/planning.htm">http://mizoram.nic.in/dept/planning.htm</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Nagaland</td>
<td>Department of Planning &amp; Co-Ordination</td>
<td><a href="http://nagaland.nic.in/planning&amp;coord/About%20us.htm">http://nagaland.nic.in/planning&amp;coord/About%20us.htm</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Odisha</td>
<td>Planning &amp; Co-ordination Department</td>
<td><a href="http://www.odisha.gov.in/pc/">http://www.odisha.gov.in/pc/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Punjab</td>
<td>Department of Planning</td>
<td><a href="http://pbplanning.gov.in/">http://pbplanning.gov.in/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Rajasthan</td>
<td>Planning Department</td>
<td><a href="http://www.planning.rajasthan.gov.in/">http://www.planning.rajasthan.gov.in/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Sikkim</td>
<td>Development Planning, Economic Reforms &amp; NECA Department</td>
<td>----</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Tamilnadu</td>
<td>Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Department</td>
<td><a href="http://www.tn.gov.in/department/23">http://www.tn.gov.in/department/23</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sr. No.</td>
<td>State</td>
<td>Indication on the Website</td>
<td>Key Words found</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------</td>
<td>--------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Andhra Pradesh</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>State Data Management System, Knowledge Management Unit, GIS Unit, Decision Support System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Arunachal Pradesh</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Proposed to develop a system for monitoring the implementation; proposed to undertake large scale computerization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Assam</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Computer Application Division, LAN, File and Dak Tracking Systems, setting up of GIS, Centralized documentation centre, MIS for monitoring of Schemes, ‘Planplus’ software for planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Bihar</td>
<td>Not clear</td>
<td>IT Manager, System Analyst and Statistical Officer/Assistant, data management system for planning purposes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Chhattisgarh</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Chhatisgarh State Wide Area Network, integration of various functions and IT applications currently running in different departments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Goa</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Statistics Division to collect, compile and disseminate the data for planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Gujarat</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Gujarat has a wide area network for the whole State (GSWAN)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Haryana</td>
<td>Not clear</td>
<td>Appointment of a Competent System Integrator for Designing and Implementing a Computerized solution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Himachal Pradesh</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Computer Division, reports/publications processed on computers, Application software of the department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>J&amp;K</td>
<td>Not clear</td>
<td>IS for formulation of Plans, mid-term appraisal, preparation of progress reports etc.; Programmers, Statistical officers/assistants, EDP supervisor etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Jharkhand</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Collection, compilation, tabulation and analysis of data useful for planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Karnataka</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Plan, Monitoring &amp; Information Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Kerala</td>
<td>Yes, for KSPB</td>
<td>IT Wing of the Kerala State Planning Board (KSPB); Online Plan Monitoring System PLAN SPACE now being used</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Madhya Pradesh</td>
<td>Yes, for SPC</td>
<td>State Planning Commission (SPC)’s Computer application for filling up of data in forms;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>Available</td>
<td>Software/Portal/Network Details</td>
<td>Status</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maharashtra</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Decentralized Planning Software; Planning portal for online submission of plan proposals, tracking of documents and planning tools.</td>
<td>Not clear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manipur</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Directorate of Economics and Statistics under the Planning Department collects and processes statistical information.</td>
<td>Partially exists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meghalaya</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Govt. of Manipur is establishing a State Wide Area Network (SWAN) for the inter-Departmental connectivity, multi-user and multi-service facilities etc.</td>
<td>Not clear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Plan proposals in MS Word and the statements in MS Excel. IT Department launched Meghalaya State Wide Area Network (MSWAN) in August, 2011. To be implemented in five years.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mizoram</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Annual plans and projects</td>
<td>Not clear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nagaland</td>
<td>Not much</td>
<td>Geographical Information Systems</td>
<td>Partially exists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Odisha</td>
<td>Not directly</td>
<td>Information Management Unit</td>
<td>Partially exists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Punjab</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Formats, Programmer</td>
<td>Stand-alone PCs used</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rajasthan</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Computer Cell, information technologies, Plan &amp; Nodal Officer (IT).</td>
<td>Exists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sikkim</td>
<td>No website</td>
<td>Provision of statistical information relating to the State and its economy. Data are collected and compiled from primary and secondary sources.</td>
<td>Not clear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tamilnadu</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Formulation of the State Plan and monitoring the Plan Programmes/ Schemes</td>
<td>Not clear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tripura</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Making a development plan for the State, Formats to be filled up for annual planning</td>
<td>Stand-alone PCs used</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uttar Pradesh</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Making a development plan for the State, MIS Specialist, Computer Programmer</td>
<td>Partially exists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uttarakhand</td>
<td>Not directly</td>
<td>Making a development plan for the State</td>
<td>Partially exists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Bengal</td>
<td>Not directly</td>
<td>Computer Section, System Administrator, Section Record Officer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>