Mr K.M. Chandrasekhar (right), Cabinet Secretary, and Mr R. Chandrashekhar, IT Secretary, at a press conference in the Capital on Friday. — Kamal Narang

Govt to spend Rs 20,000 cr more on e-gov projects

Move may augur well for IT services companies

Our Bureau

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Even as Euro zone worries linger, tech spending by the Indian Government may offer IT services companies a reason to smile. The Centre, which has already spent about Rs 10,000 crore till now in such initiatives, will pump-in another Rs 20,000 crore in various projects under the National e-Governance Plan (NeGP) in the next few years. While 14 major e-governance projects, including some high-profile ones such as MCA-21 have already gone live, the Government expects all the 27 mission mode projects envisaged under the e-governance blueprint, to take off by end of 2014.

"Of 27 mission mode projects under NeGP, 14 have commenced delivery of services in different parts of the country. By end of 2014, all mission mode projects will go live — this will enable the delivery of public service to citizens of the country as outlined in the programme," the Cabinet Secretary, Mr K.M. Chandrashekhar, told newspersons here.

Projects such as MCA21, Pensions, Central Excise, Income Tax, Passport, Banking and Insurance, Land Records and Common Services Centre have already been flagged off, and others such as modernisation of employment exchange are next in the line. It may be recalled that TCS had earlier clinched MCA-21 and the passport seva projects, while Infosys last year bagged eBiz project of the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP).

"In all, the total outlay for all projects together is almost Rs 30,000 crore, inclusive of both capital expenditure and the operational expenditure. Almost Rs 10,000 crore has already been done, and another Rs 20,000 crore will be incurred during the remaining project life. Since this includes the operational expenditure, it will spill even beyond 2014," the IT Secretary, Mr R. Chandrashekhar, said.

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