

Connecting Gaddchiroli³

Introduction:

A prime focus of the LWE affected districts is to enhance their capacity to resist LWE terror. Multiple initiatives in this regard have been taken by the Centre and the states to mitigate the challenge. One such initiative undertaken in Gaddchiroli, Maharashtra, to modernize its police force was 'Connecting Gadchiroli'. The district lacked telephone connectivity and majority of its villages and police outposts were outside network coverage. Absence of a reliable communication network had become a cause of concern for the government, which led to the initiation of the project. With this, the problem of communication for the police was solved and seamless communication network was made available for the district.

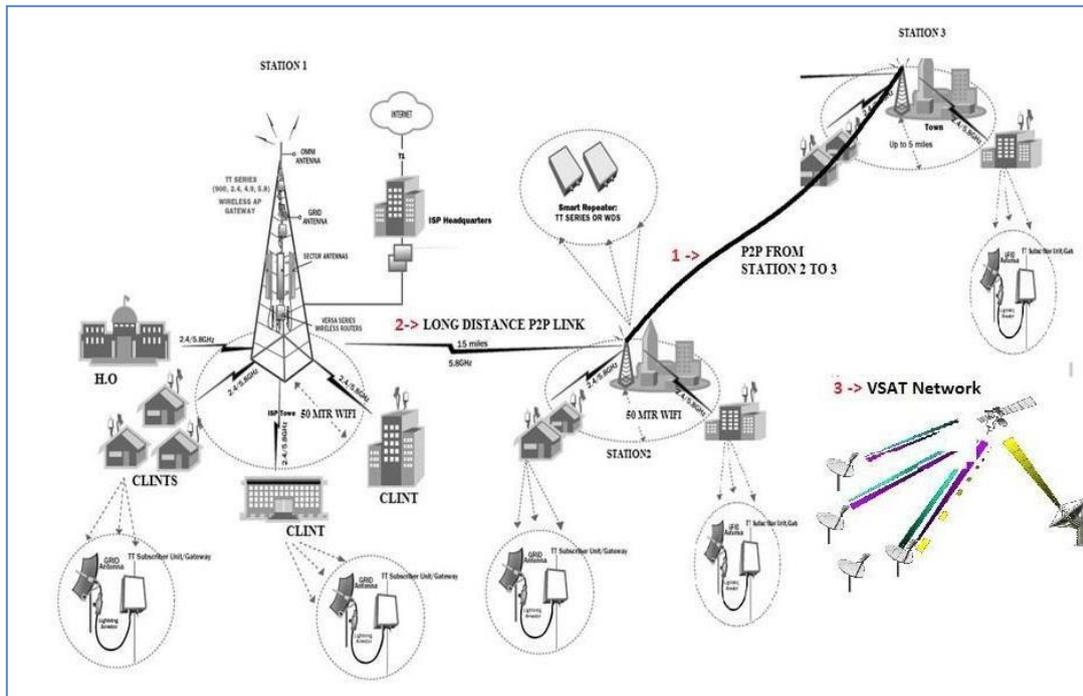
Intervention

A tender was prepared in consultation with officers and experts in National Informatics Centre (NIC). The opinion of experts in the field of networking and hardware was also sought for this purpose. Further, a special committee was constituted to evaluate and give recommendations regarding the technical details of the project and evaluate the tender process. The implementation strategy involved securing network coverage through three mediums, as elaborated below:

³ Primary Data Collection, SP, Gaddchiroli

3. **Point to Point Connectivity/Optical Fiber Connection (OFC):** Posts which were located at *tehsil* and other important villages with availability of BSNL OFC connectivity, were covered through OFC network of BSNL.
4. **Long Distance P2P Wireless Link:** Connecting the remote posts by wireless links was a challenge under the project. Thus, long distance P2P Wireless Link were used to transmit the data from OFC end points to remote posts. These links could cover up to 45 kms radius depending on the line of sight. At least half of the posts in Gadchiroli were covered using this technique.
5. **Satellite Based Connection (VSAT):** The posts not connected by either of the above techniques were connected through satellite-based internet connectivity. Though this technology was expensive, the bandwidth provided by this method proved efficient to address the purpose of the project.

Figure 5: Mechanism of assuring network coverage in Gadchiroli



Source: SP, Gadchiroli

Impact

Connecting Gadchiroli is a game-changing project in police administration and developmental history of Gadchiroli. The project has provided a platform and a foundation for new ideas and initiatives. Some of the impact created by the project has been elaborated below:

- Establishment of Secure Hot Line/Intercom:** The project has connected all the posts - subdivisions to headquarters - through a secure communication channel. Every location/office is provided with Voice over IP based telephone. Officers can directly make a call through these phones using a four-digit intercom number. This significantly helps supervisory officers to follow-up with their subordinates in their day-to-day work.
- Interactive Training through Video Conferencing:** Regular virtual training courses have been held in JTSC (Jungle Tactics and Survival Course) to train officers and men in warfare tactics, intelligence, law, etc. High speed, dedicated video conferencing facility are used to broadcast the training sessions in the head quarter to all the posts and offices in the district.
- Centralized CCTV Network:** Post the realization of Connecting Gaddchiroli, any IP based device can be brought into the network. IP based CCTV cameras can be installed at all posts and offices and the live video feed can be seen in the head office. Also, high definition night vision cameras can be installed at *Morchas* (Watch Towers) in the posts and the area can be monitored remotely. Any suspicious movement of enemy can be traced easily now.
- Base for e-Governance initiatives:** The district has undertaken e- governance initiatives such as file sharing and file tracking system where interior posts and offices can share their files or send a request through this application and they can track the movement of the file in the head office using unique identification number of the file. This will not only help the employees but also the supervisory officers to keep a watch on the working of administrative staff.
- Internet Facility and Online Library:** All the officers and men in the posts can be provided with internet access so that they do not miss out on the advantages of internet in their day- to-day life. Access has also been provided to online library server set up in the head quarter.

Source: KPMG's Key Informant Interview with SP, Gaddchiroli