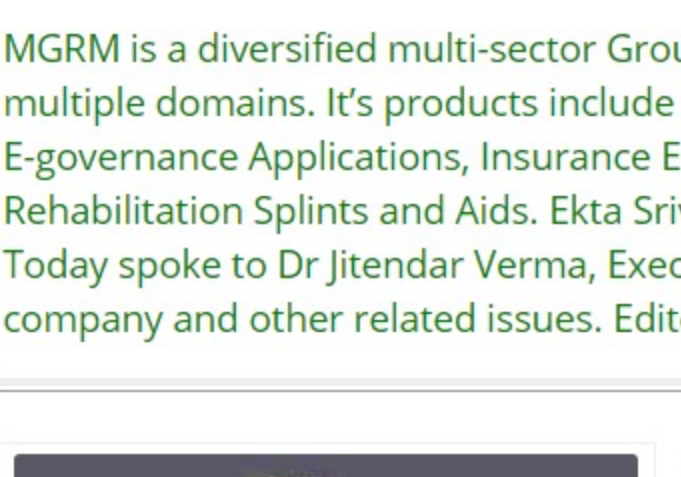


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## Digital India-Initiative Offers Multiple Opportunities

By Governance Today In Interview January 13, 2015 0 Comments 1112 Views



Dr. Jitendar Verma, Executive Director, MGRM

## Could you share the details of your solutions targeted towards education?

We firmly believe that there is a critical need to address the global challenges faced by today's education system and it is towards this that MGRM has developed the 'M-Star Educational E-governance Platform', a product of more than twenty years of research across global education systems.

The platform supports educational requirements from the 'delivery to development' phase of the human life cycle. It encompasses areas concerning pre-primary, elementary, secondary and tertiary education, early childhood development, woman and child development, adult literacy, vocational training, skills development, as well as social

programs targeted towards the girl child among others.

This integrated, proprietary platform comprises Public, Administration and Institutional layers that meet both vertical and horizontal growth requirements of global educational systems. The platform includes integrated systems offered on 'build, own, and operate' basis, ensuring minimum upfront investments and underwriting technology obsolescence. It also operates in an online environment as required and is highly customizable, thus enhancing overall scale, speed, and scope of the program.

## What kind of competition do you face?

Whilst most educational institutions are aware about E-governance, their current initiatives towards this are limited in scope and typically range from developing websites / portals to the much hyped ERP solutions and fragmented information systems.

Such systems and initiatives fall short when compared to MGRM's M-Star Educational E-governance Platform, which is an 'end to end education product'. We say this because, where ERP solutions focus typically on automating an activity, M-Star's clear focus is on a student, teacher and administration, with the objective to make an individual a complete personality.

Stakeholders in the education domain have specific needs to cater to different stages of the educational life cycle, which clearly spells out the need for an education specific product to address each of these effectively. Small time vendors with questionable credentials who often implement domain agnostic solutions that are not scalable or as one would say just 'fit' the current requirements often lure many an institution. Then of course, there are high-end solution providers who lack domain research and expertise. Mass proliferation of such solutions is proving counterproductive and actually regressing the pace of education reforms.

## Can you tell us a little about level of your work in Education and how it has been received in educational set up?

MGRM's focus is on the education domain towards which it has undertaken exhaustive research in the Indian sub-continent. Since the launch of the M-Star Educational E-governance Platform in 2001, we have conducted and completed several successful pilots across primary, secondary and tertiary educational institutions, in both public and private establishments.

Our work has received endorsements from leading academicians and administrators, some pilot projects have also been evaluated by State level committees and duly acknowledged for their expertise as integrated systems. In addition, we have also actively engaged as consultants with key statutory bodies. For example, MGRM was part of preparing CBSE's accreditation manual and is now an empanelled vendor for accrediting CBSE schools.

## Can you sketch out the main opportunities that lie ahead for your company over the next few years?

Our Prime Minister has set up an ambitious initiative with 'Digital India' and as part of the plan the government is expected to roll out broadband connectivity to over 2.5 lakh villages and ensuring as many Wi-Fi enabled schools by 2019.

This basic infrastructure would facilitate the government to use cloud technology based master E-governance systems and deliver effective services in an inclusive, accessible and affordable manner to all stakeholders.

The technology stack of MGRM's Educational E-governance Platform utilizes a combination of cloud, microprocessor based smart cards, analytics and integrated master E-governance systems. Accordingly, some of the opportunities we look forward to include implementing state-wide E-governance technology solutions, learning support platforms and online services such as admissions, recruitments and examinations.

We are already empanelled with a few government organizations for implementing E-governance systems in educational institutions. Additionally, we look forward to more opportunities in consulting and advisory roles.

## With your company and many other companies doing so much good work regarding E-governance, what do you think of the prospects of the developing world?

Satisfied, happy citizens lead to a physically, psychologically and socially progressive nation. The benefit of implementing E-governance solutions is that it brings in a culture of good governance that boosts citizen confidence. International bodies, governments and citizens unequivocally want more accountability, greater transparency and increased responsiveness. Countries are beginning to experience a wave of innovative, domain specific, master E-governance solutions that would help them re-think and re-engineer their existing processes to achieve success in policy implementations and reforms at grassroots level.

## What about challenges? What would your company worry about over the next few years?

As MGRM's focus is on education, in this context we believe that the following challenges would affect educational reforms, market penetration and user adoption:

## Proliferation of amateur solution providers

Providers that lack domain expertise, have no vision to address unique domain specific expectations and requirements. The solutions offered are unable to handle complex multidimensional issues operating within the educational environment. This results in complications, opening opportunities for corruption and malpractice.

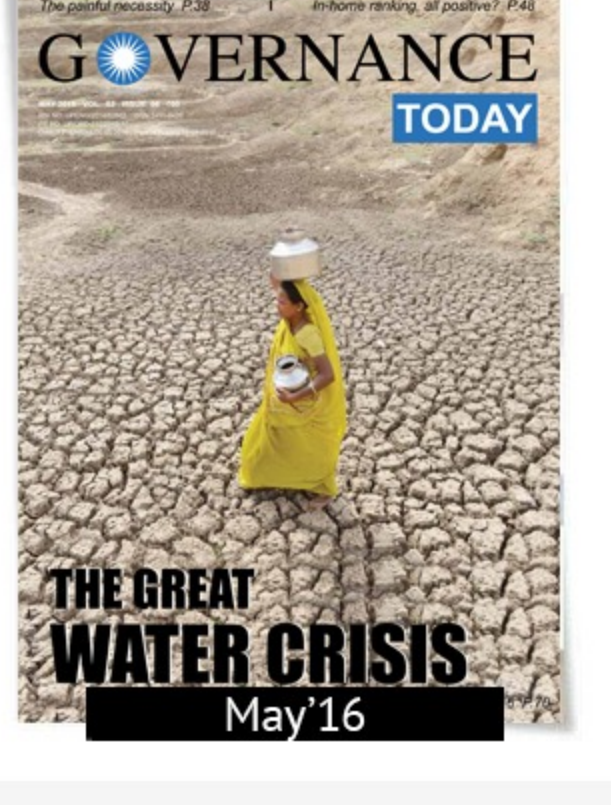
## Lack of management trust

Educational institutes are increasingly getting discouraged and flustered with the high cost of procurement, inefficient implementation practices and long cycle of implementation and customization. Significant time is spent on regaining management confidence, leading to sharp rise in acquisition costs.

## User mindset

In a top-down approach, users at the end of the ladder have a deep resistance to change, especially towards systems that demand process accountability and transparency. The involvement of senior leadership becomes extremely crucial in making the users 'use' the system. And more often, the task force committees prove to be insufficient and ineffective. These issues invariably lead to delays in project closure, thereby escalating project implementation cost, time and effort.

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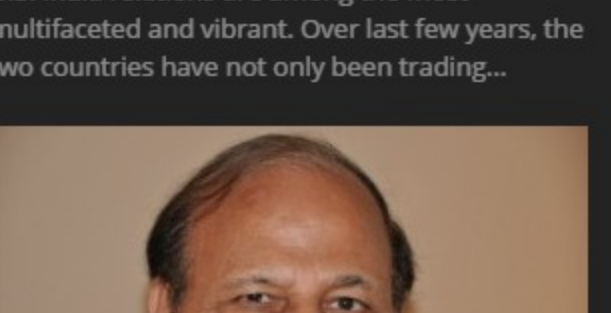
## Interviews



## India's growing food processing sector offers real opportunities

Mon, June 13 2016 - 3:12 pm

U.S. India relations are among the most multifaceted and vibrant. Over last few years, the two countries have not only been trading...



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Ajit Jain is a who-to-who in India Canada relations and India Diaspora in Canada. A veteran journalist of over three decades exper...



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Wed, May 4 2016 - 12:21 pm

Capturing one's creditworthiness has traditionally been confined to tracking financial activities of an individual, but that has ch...



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Wed, May 4 2016 - 11:52 am

Prasad Kaipa is the CEO of the Kaipa Group in California and is a thought leader in the areas of innovation, leadership development...



## Increase Awareness, Save Lives

Wed, May 4 2016 - 12:45 pm

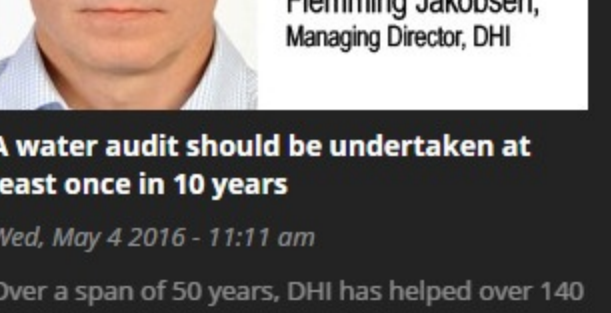
Human Organ Transplantation is a boon for the medical industry as it has helped save lives of countless patients with dysfunctional o...



## There is a lot of ways that Canadian expertise can be brought to benefit India in the urba [...]

Wed, May 4 2016 - 11:18 am

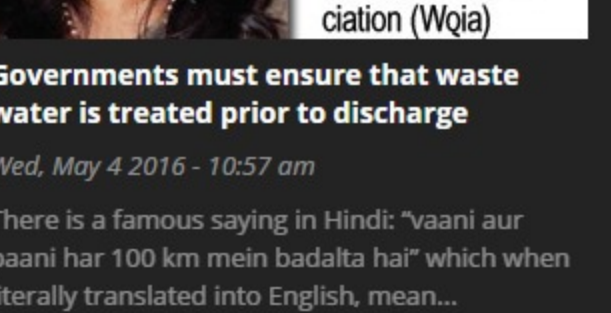
Canada is the home to one of the largest Indian communities outside India. Canada and India also have thriving economic relations. ...



## A water audit should be undertaken at least once in 10 years

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Over a span of 50 years, DHI has helped over 140 countries deal with challenges in water management. The company started its operat...

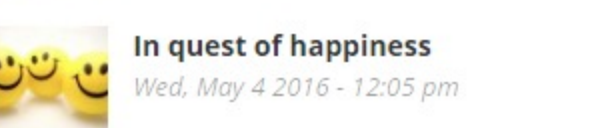
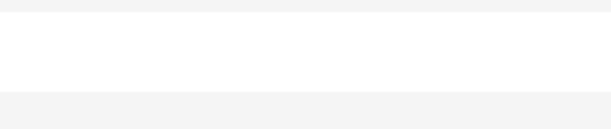


## Governments must ensure that waste water is treated prior to discharge

Wed, May 4 2016 - 10:57 am

There is a famous saying in Hindi: "naani aur paani har 100 km mein bashta hai" which when literally translated into English, mean...

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Wed, May 4 2016 - 12:00 pmLet's stand together for the cause of sustainable development  
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Promoting Urban Co-operative Banking into New Future

Highlights

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## Cushion to housing

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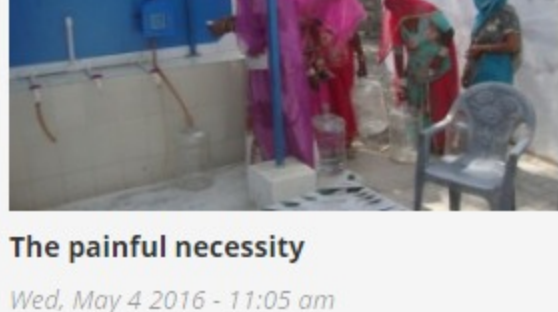
Will RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan's advice to realtors to bring down the prices to help revive the sector do wonder for ...



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Between April 18 and 22, Mayor of the city of Ottawa Jim Watson led a trade mission to India, which showcased Ottawa's ...



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Thanks to the unique concept of Water ATMs that even the poor now realise that paying for clean water can save much mor...



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Harvest rainwater or pay fine from May 1 2016 T.M. Vijay Bhaskar, Chairman of Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewage Board ...



## River-linking project: Motley of hopes and threats

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The project has a potential to generate 34 Giga-watts of power and spell displacement of 5.5 million tribal people and ...



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On March 12th, the 2,300-megawatt Farakka power plant of NTPC suspended power generation for the first time in its 30 y...

## Economy



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To tackle the menace of TB, the Government must ensure access to quality, affordable diagnosis and treatment, regardless...



## Towards a new educated, informed and strong India

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The classrooms are being thrown open to new possibilities, new initiatives and ideas to revamp our education system Dur...



## Smart Class introduced in Jharkhand government schools

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With the aim to improve the quality of education, Smart Class' have marked their entry in government schools. In the L...

## E Governance



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Tue, April 7 2015 - 4:04 pm

'The problem with following the herd is stepping in the gap it leaves behind' The GDP or the Gross Domestic Product has...



## Unethical Management Biggest Source of Misgovernance

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Corporate governance is still a relatively lesser known area in Indian business arena. Could you throw some light on it...



## Time to Take Off

Wed, April 1 2015 - 4:11 pm

In her recent visit to India, IMF Chief Christine Lagarde said that because of the recent policy reforms and improved bu...



## NDA Government Brought Back Hope to Consumers and Industry

Wed, April 1 2015 - 4:07 pm

How do you assess the current status of the Indian economy? Also, how did you find the budget? The present government i...

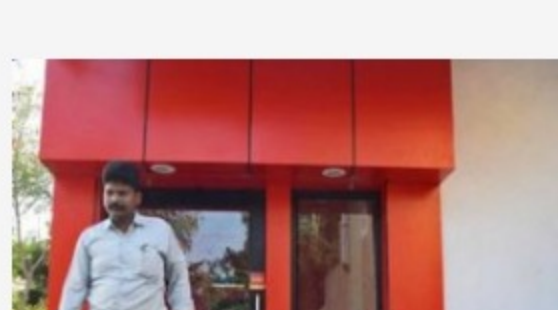
## Banking &amp; Finance



## Government to push for consolidation of PSBs

Wed, April 6 2016 - 2:30 pm

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley has revealed that the government will push for consolidation of the public sector banks o...



## Postal Department to open 1,000 ATMs by March 2016

Tue, January 19 2016 - 12:32 pm

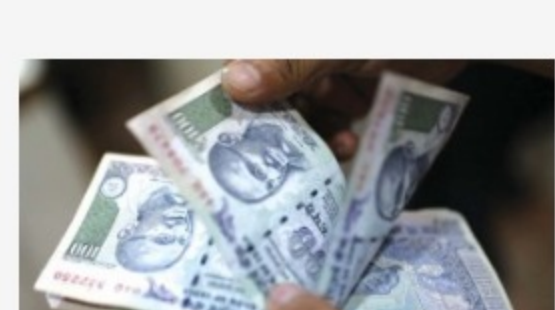
With the aim to bring all 25,000 departmental post offices under CBS (core banking system), the postal department has...



## Women Entrepreneurs: a dire need for India's development

Mon, September 14 2015 - 3:15 pm

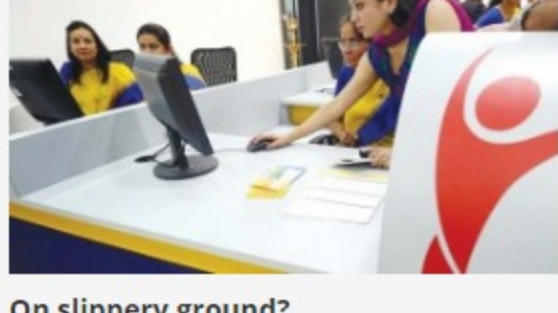
IN INDIA, women comprise about 30 percent of corporate senior management positions, which is notably higher than the gl...



## UCBs drudging towards oblivion

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Effective intervention is required to infuse life back in the segment A SOUND financial sector is supremely important f...



## On slippery ground?

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After nearly two years of existence, Mahila Bank struggles to carve a niche INAUGURATED WITH much fanfare on November 1...



## Serving the bottom of pyramid

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THE MICROFINANCE institutions (MFIs) play a vital role in providing short term loans and other financial services in re...



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NPAs are fast becoming a nightmare for banking sector NPA OR the non-performing asset of a bank is defined as a credit ...



## New kids on the block

Wed, July 23 2015 - 12:48 pm

Payments banks could radically alter basic banking at grassroot level VERY SOON, the nearest general store to your house...

## Agriculture



## PM declares Sikkim as India's first organic state

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi has declared Sikkim as the first organic state in the country. PM handed over the Organic...



## Water Pollution In India Seen but Not Heard

Thu, July 23 2015 - 1:06 pm

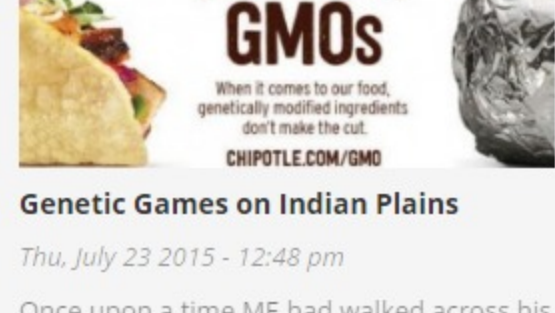
Water pollution is a paramount problem in India as almost 80 per cent of its surface water resources are contaminated...



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Over a span of last couple of months, two similar and shocking news hit the headlines. First came from the state of UP ...



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Once upon a time ME had walked across his field satisfied with his yield. The sand clock ticked ME's calculations were ...

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Revealing the current status of railways in the country, the government has stated that around 2,376 railway stations l...



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