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भारत सरकार  
संचार और सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय  
इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स और सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग  
Government of India  
Ministry of Communications &  
Information Technology  
Department of Electronics &  
Information Technology (DeitY)

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**Subject: Release of "Policy on Adoption of Open Source Software for GoI" and "Framework for adoption of OSS in eGovernance applications"**

Dear IT Secretary,

As you are aware, GoI is implementing the "Digital India" programme to prepare India for a knowledge based transformation into a digitally empowered society and a knowledge economy. Under the overarching vision of Digital India, GoI aims to make Government services digitally accessible to citizens in their localities and to ensure efficiency, transparency and reliability of such services at affordable costs.

2. To meet this objective, there is a need for commensurate hardware and software infrastructure, which require significant resources. Also, the challenges in eGovernance are not technical rather, it is use of technology to improve capacity of government institutions while improving quality of life of citizens by redefining the association with them. In India, which has multiple languages, the Closed Source Software (CSS) based on one language (generally English) hinders the spread of information all over the country. Usage of Open Source Software (OSS) has increased worldwide and has led to innovations in implementation of ICT solutions across businesses and Governments. GoI has been promoting the use of open source technologies and has been keenly encouraging their adoption in the eGovernance applications in the country. The adoption of OSS by Government also reduces the dependency of Government on CSS and allows them to use their in-house skills and support from OSS communities to modify the source codes according to their needs. The flexibility to modify the source code to perform the specific task is probably one of the major benefits associated with the adoption of OSS. Another key benefit is its scalability.

3. With the objective to enable effective adoption of OSS, DeitY has formulated a "Policy on Adoption of Open Source Software for Government of India" which will encourage the formal adoption and use of Open Source Software (OSS) in Government Organizations.

4. As per this policy, all Government Organizations, while implementing eGovernance applications and systems must ensure compliance with this

