

State's forests to come under e-surveillance

TNN | Aug 11, 2016, 06.29 AM IST

The state's forest, which has 40 divisions and the Similipal Tiger Reserve, the fourth largest in the country, will come under e-surveillance with the department planning to extend its facilities to all the areas within the next three years.



At present the department has procured 600 such devices from Stesalit System, a Kolkata-based private firm.

The hand-held device, to be handled by the field personnel, can be used like a mobile phone as 3G SIM will be inserted in it for transmission of data.

Two devices will be allotted to each range office.

"The device, which receives geographical positioning data from the satellite, has such provision that it will automatically transmit the data to a central server. The senior officers can access the data from the website www.odishaforestgis.in and take further action," said chief conservator of forests (GIS cell), Prafulla Kumar Mallick.

At present, in cases of incidents like poaching and timber smuggling, the field personnel don't have the facility to pass on the information to the reporting officer, thus delaying further action.

"Now, the field personnel will get quick instruction from the officials on the action to be taken. The exact location (transmitted by the device) and the pictures of the spot will be viewed by the officer concerned sitting in the office," said Mallick.

For disseminating information and internal communication, the forest department currently relies on Very High Frequency (VHF) towers, through which the field staff transmit information verbally, and which are then noted down on a register for record. The PDA device will not replace the VHF-enabled communication system, but will be far more effective because of its inbuilt capacity to transmit photographs and visuals, an official said.