Gir Somnath, Gujarat

Driving Transparent, Efficient, and Citizen-Centric e-Governance

Edited by **SUSHMA MISHRA**

Gir Somnath district was carved out of Junagadh district in August 2013. Since its inception, NIC Gir Somnath has played a central role in supporting the district administration by providing end-to-end ICT services and acting as a trusted e-Governance advisor.

Over the years, NIC Gir Somnath has evolved from being a technical support unit to becoming a strategic digital partner for the district administration. By aligning technology with administrative needs, the unit has consistently enabled timely, transparent, and efficient delivery of public services.

NIC Gir Somnath works in close coordination with the District Collectorate and line departments to identify governance challenges and design practical, scalable ICT solutions. The focus has been on replacing manual, error-prone processes with secure, reliable, and easy-to-use digital systems, while ensuring minimal dependency on proprietary software through the adoption of Free and Open Source Software (FOSS).

Key ICT Initiatives

Randomizer Application

During the Gujarat Legislative Assembly Elections, 2022, NIC Gir Somnath developed a FOSS-based utility named Randomizer for the randomization of Micro Observers. The application addressed limitations of legacy macro-based spreadsheet tools that were prone to deadlocks and manual intervention.

Following its successful deployment, the application was further refined and adopted by other districts during the 2024 General Elections.

Governance Impact:

- Ensured transparent and tamper-proof randomization

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Since its formation in 2013, NIC Gir Somnath has emerged as a key enabler of e-Governance in the district by providing comprehensive ICT support and acting as a trusted technology advisor to the district administration. The unit has successfully designed and deployed FOSS-based solutions such as Randomizer, which strengthened transparency and efficiency in election-related processes, and VisitorPass, which streamlined visitor management and grievance tracking at district offices. NIC Gir Somnath also manages the bilingual district website, ensuring timely dissemination of official information to citizens. In addition, it provides continuous support to major state and national platforms including Digital Gujarat, SWAGAT, eDHARA/iORA, and PDS. Its reliable ICT support during high-profile administrative and public events has further reinforced effective and responsive governance delivery.

- Reduced manual dependency and operational delays
- Enabled offline execution at secured counting locations
- Improved administrative confidence during high-stakes electoral processes

VisitorPass System

To overcome challenges in maintaining daily visitor records through spreadsheets, NIC Gir Somnath developed VisitorPass, a FOSS-based utility for issuing visitor slips and managing visitor data.

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Designation, Gir Somnath

Key Outcomes

- Single-window system for visitor entry and slip generation
- Structured tracking of grievances and resolution status

- Assignment of grievances to concerned branches or offices
- Generation of comprehensive analytical and summary reports

The system has significantly improved accuracy, accountability, and efficiency in managing public interactions at district offices.

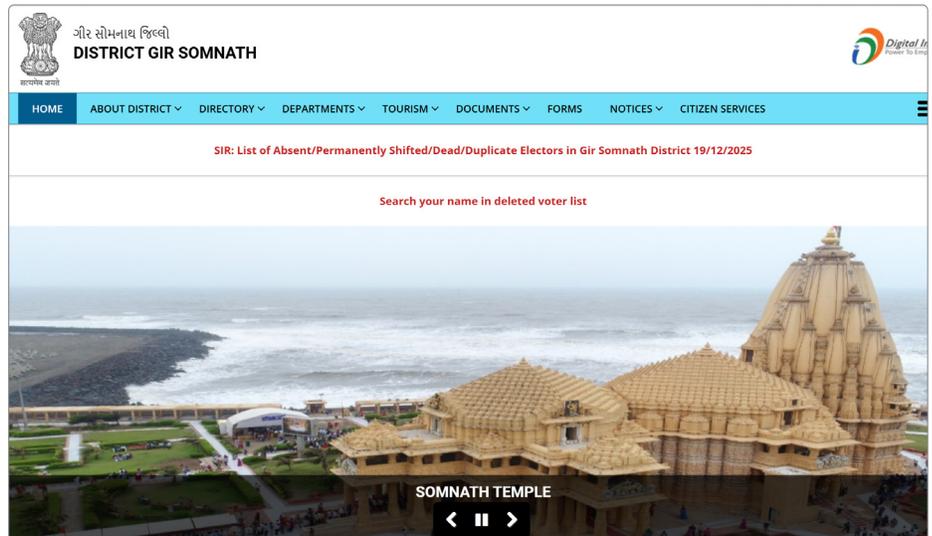## Gir Somnath District Website

girsomnath.nic.in

The Gir Somnath district website serves as the official digital gateway of the district administration, providing citizens with easy access to essential information, notices, and services. Developed on the S3WAAS platform, the bilingual website (English and Gujarati) offers comprehensive details on district administration, departments, public utilities, tourism, helplines, and citizen services, along with links to key government portals. With over 3.44 lakh visits, the website reflects growing citizen reliance on digital channels and plays a significant role in enhancing transparency, accessibility, and public communication.

Support to Major Applications

NIC Gir Somnath provides continuous ICT support for several flagship applications that underpin service delivery and governance transparency:

- **Digital Gujarat:** A single-window platform enabling citizens to access certificates, scholarships, pensions, and welfare services
- **SWAGAT:** State-level grievance redressal system ensuring time-bound resolution with a defined escalation framework
- **eDHARA / iORA:** Digital land record systems handling mutation, ownership, and revenue services, improving transparency and efficiency
- **PDS / FPS:** Technology-enabled Public Distribution System ensuring accountability in ration distribution and supply chain management

▲ Fig 4.2 : Gir Somnath District Website Home Page

Through these platforms, NIC Gir Somnath supports both administrators and citizens in delivering and accessing services efficiently.

ICT Support for Major Events

NIC Gir Somnath has consistently demonstrated strong operational capability in delivering reliable and secure ICT support for high-profile district, state, and national-level events. The unit has played a crucial role in planning, deploying, and managing technological infrastructure under strict timelines and high-security environments.

Key engagements include end-to-end ICT support during the three-day State-level Chintan Shibir, ensuring uninterrupted digital connectivity and system availability throughout the event. NIC Gir Somnath also managed comprehensive ICT arrangements during visits of the Hon'ble Prime Minister and the Hon'ble President to the Somnath Temple, supporting administrative coordination and secure communications.

Additionally, the unit enabled two-way digital communication during the Saurashtra–Tamil Sangam, facilitated technical operations for the Ahmedpur–Mandvi Beach Festival, and provided ICT support for multiple flagship initiatives and official engagements, including PM-JANMAN, Parliamentary Committee visits, PM-AY, PM-SURAJ, PM-SVAMITVA, and the Somnath Beach Festival.

These engagements underline NIC Gir Somnath's preparedness, reliability, and ability to deliver mission-critical ICT services in time-bound and high-stakes governance scenarios.

Accolades

Shri Adnan Ahmed, District Informatics Officer, NIC Gir Somnath, received a Letter of Appreciation on 26 January 2025 for his meritorious services during the three-day State-level Chintan Shibir. The recognition reflects the district administration's confidence in NIC Gir Somnath and underscores the unit's commitment to excellence in service delivery.

Conclusion

Looking ahead, NIC Gir Somnath aims to further strengthen district e-Governance by expanding the use of FOSS-based utilities, enhancing data-driven decision-support systems, and improving citizen-facing digital experiences. With continued focus on reliability, security, and usability, NIC remains committed to supporting the district administration in addressing evolving governance challenges.

▼ Fig 4.1 : Smt. M. Muchhaar, District Panchayat President, Gir Somnath Presenting letter of appreciation to Shri Adnan Ahmed, Scientist B and DIO, Gir Somnath

Contact for more details

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