

World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Award 2023

March 22, 2023

In news- AuditOnline – Facilitating Online audits across Panchayati Raj Institutions awarded the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Prizes 2023 at the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Geneva.

About WSIS award-

- **World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) is an annual award event coordinated by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU)**, affiliated with the United Nations (UN), in collaboration with UNESCO, UNDP and UNCTAD to promote ICTs for achieving UN Sustainable Development Goals.
- This event is intended for ICT development initiatives that support Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- The WSIS Forum 2023 was organized on the theme, 'WSIS Action Lines for Building Back Better and Accelerating the Achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)'.
- The WSIS Prizes 2023 is an exceptional **international recognition of WSIS Stakeholders as Winners and Champions for their excellence in supporting the implementation of WSIS outcomes**, WSIS Action Lines and the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- The **Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) alongwith National Informatics Centre (NIC)**, functioning as technology partner of the Government, **has been recognized for its AuditOnline software programme at the WSIS Forum 2023** at the ITU Headquarters in Geneva **under Category 7 – Action**

Line (AL) C7 ICT Applications: e-Government – for conducting online audit of all Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).

- **AuditOnline** was developed as part of Panchayat Enterprise Suite under ePanchayat Mission Mode Project initiated by MoPR in virtual mode.
- After the due process per phase followed, AuditOnline has been awarded the WSIS Prizes Award 2023 under the Action Line category ICT Applications: e-Government based on the most voted project in the category.
- The prize **distribution ceremony was held at the Centre International de Conférence Genève (CICG), also known as International Conference Centre Geneva** in Switzerland on 14th March, 2023.

What is AuditOnline ?

- AuditOnline is one of the **generic and open source applications developed as a part of Panchayat Enterprise Suite (PES) under e-panchayat Mission Mode Project (MMP)** initiated by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR).
- It **facilitates the financial audit of accounts** at all the three levels of Panchayats viz District, Block and Village Panchayats, Urban Local Bodies (ULB) and Line department by Auditors (State AG/LFA).
- It facilitates **recording details for both Internal and External Audit as per the defined process.**
- The software not only facilitates the online and offline audit of accounts but also serves the purpose of **maintaining the past audit records of the auditee** with associated list of the auditors and audit team involved in the audit and acts as a good financial audit tool and improves transparency & accountability.
- Also the information is available in public domain and for usage by other PES applications.
- **The XV Finance Commission in its report laid down a two-point critical reform agenda wherein they emphasized on**

making available the accounts online, both before and after audit.

- To address this critical institution reform, **MoPR launched the AuditOnline application on 15th April 2020**, for carrying out online audits of accounts – further strengthening the financial management and transparency of the Panchayats.
- One of the unique aspects of the application is that it is configurable as per every States' Audit Act / Rules.