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**A STUDY OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY IN  
THE SCHOOLS OF HIMACHAL PRADESH**

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**ABSTRACT**

The Department of Higher Education, Government of Himachal Pradesh, had taken a number of initiatives in the past years to provide IT infrastructure and IT education in Government Senior Secondary Schools of the state. It had also provided basic IT infrastructure within the College premises to support and cater to the basic IT needs of the students. IT Labs are available in the colleges to meet the curriculum requirement of regular courses like Bachelors of Science, Computer Applications, Arts, and Commerce etc. It was however felt that a more comprehensive and integrated approach to Computer Aided Learning is required to prepare the students of schools to take maximum advantage of the knowledge economy. The Department of Higher Education also proposed to closely integrate the critical components into a framework, incorporating the learning and best practices from the similar initiatives at the global level and practical needs of the evolving knowledge society. In view of this, the Department of Higher Education, Himachal Pradesh intended to set up fully integrated Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Labs and smart classrooms in 628 Government Senior Secondary Schools of the state. Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in Government Senior Secondary Schools of Himachal Pradesh was a window of opportunity to the learners in the Government Senior Secondary Schools in Himachal Pradesh to bridge the digital divide. The scheme was a comprehensive and well-thought-out initiative to open new vistas of Computer Aided Learning (CAL) and to provide a level-playing field to government school students.