

## Rajesh Aggarwal

Secretary, IT, Government of Maharashtra

A 1989 batch IAS officer, Rajesh Aggarwal's career, spanning more than two decades, has been marked by a number of challenging and exciting assignments. However, out of all the roles, he picks his stint as director, Election Commission of India during 2003-07 in Delhi as the most memorable.

"Working on large databases (comprising 700 million voters and 500 million photographs) in more than a dozen Indian languages was a great learning experience," says Aggarwal. "I, along with my team, developed several matching techniques to dedupe voter lists. We also executed the Photo Rolls project, which ensured that voters' photographs are carried on the voter list."

"Moreover, it is gratifying to have played a key role in convincing the Delimitation Commission to make new assembly and Parliament boundaries using geographic information system maps sourced from the Census of India."

Aggarwal finds his current role as secretary, IT, Government of Maharashtra, full of opportunities. He is responsible for formulating informa-

tion and communications technology (ICT) guidelines and policies for facilitating e-governance and creation of common state-owned ICT infrastructure including cloud and data centres. The key focus areas for him are ensuring that every government department in the state becomes IT savvy and uses ICT to increase internal efficiency and effectiveness, and improves the citizen interface.

Commenting on upcoming technology trends, he says that the industry is set to witness an exponential increase in data usage, a convergence between fixed line and mobile networks, the emergence of machine-to-machine services, and widespread adoption of software-defined networking.

Aggarwal describes his management style as collaborative and one that encourages individual accountability in a team. He values teamwork and open communication. "The idea is to allow team members to combine their strengths and collectively deliver better results. Such an approach positively influences employee morale and vendor relations, thereby leading to an enhanced user experience."

In his spare time, Aggarwal likes to read on technology and spend time developing his mathematical skills. "My love for mathematics comes from my father being a lecturer on the subject," he says. Besides his penchant for numbers, Aggarwal enjoys watching movies and listening to Sufi music. Travelling with his wife and children is another passion. ▲



## S. Krishnan

Director, Technology, Videocon Telecom

S. Krishnan, director, technology, at Videocon Telecom has his plate full. "The challenge before me is to cope with the new and innovative requirements of the business. We deployed the best possible technology and network architecture while commencing operations in 2008. Since then, every sphere of the telecom sector has changed significantly. We are aiming to align ourselves with these changes, induct new technologies in our networks and launch new services while retaining our USP of cost leadership," he says.

Krishnan has identified three major targets for himself, to be met over the next two years. "I am aiming to fill the gaps in business enablement by deploying systems such as enhanced workforce management, data management systems and business intelligence. I am aiming to keep the three mantras of network management – accessibility, availability and quality – aligned with the company's business requirements. Lastly, I am looking to further perfect the existing IT system to provide the right differentiation for our products in the marketplace. This will include deploying long term evolution (LTE) and system architecture evolution (SAE)-based networks, and venturing into cloud computing to maintain the company's technological edge," he asserts.

Krishnan likes to structure his day down to the last detail and

## Ravi Badwal

Head, Emerging Business, Viom Networks

A graduate in mechanical engineering from the Government Engineering College, Jabalpur, Ravi Badwal has always been interested in the telecom sector. "The telecom space was abuzz with activity in the mid-1980s, which is when I forayed into it. At the time, the government played a key role in providing telecom services, from intercoms to EPABX systems," he recalls.

Badwal began his telecom innings with Supreme Telecommunications in 1984. Thereafter, he moved to Emerson Network Power as vice-president of its telecom business. In this role, Badwal's areas of purview included telecom product sales, network roll-out and operations and maintenance services. "I was responsible for driving the development, manufacture and launch of digital meters for remote energy metering for telecom operators sharing cell sites. The product was a huge success and we won orders worth billions of rupees for DC Power Solutions," he says.

