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Special Feature

- NIC Co-operates with the Climate Change Secretariat on COP-8
- E-Governance Awards for Websites/Papers

NIC Co-operates with the Climate Change Secretariat on COP-8

From Kevin Grose, Climate Change Secretariat & Sanjay Gahlout, NIC HQ

From 23 October to 1 November 2002, India played host to the the 8th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The Climate Change Convention provides the framework for

governments around the world to take action to combat the threat of global warming caused by increasing economic and industrial activity, particularly in the North. The Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) was responsible for the hosting the conference at the Vigyan Bhawan. The MoEF selected the National Informatics Centre (NIC) to provide all needed information and communications technology to support conference activities as well as a full webcast of the proceedings over the Internet.

Preparations for the conference began in December 2001 with the first visit of the Climate Change Secretariat to Delhi. However, it was from February 2002 when detailed analysis of requirements and implementation plans were drawn up. Heading these missions from the UNFCCC secretariat in Bonn was Kevin Grose, Manager, Information Services together with John Kiarie, the secretariat's Network Administrator. Dr.N. Viijayaditya, Director General of NIC lined up the 'COP 8' team headed by Mr. Sanjay Gahlout.

Ms.J. Waller-Hunter, UNFCCC Exec. Secretary, Sh.Atal Behari Vajpayee, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Sh.T.R. Baalu, Hon'ble Union Minister (E&F) and Mr. R. Kinley, COP Secretary

Climate Change Conferences attract 5000 or more governmental delegates, observers from nongovernmental organizations, business and the media. These participants came to Delhi to negotiate on behalf of their governments or to influence government positions.

As such, information and communication technology was at the very heart of the meeting. All 168 delegations to the conference used email to communicate with their capitals throughout the meetings. The secretariat's website - **http://unfccc.int** - was the primary source for conference information and documents while a full on-demand COP8 webcast service provided thousands of people around the world with access to what was going on.

Internet connectivity and the MAN

The conference requirements provide for fast Internet access for 500 concurrent users and a stable VPN connection allowing for the synchronization of the secretariat's Lotus Notes R5 servers in Bonn with those on site in Delhi. As well, the VPN makes it possible to transform parts of the secretariat's LAN into a WAN.

R.S. Mani, NIC internet / network team leader and John Kiarie, UNFCCC

NIC undertook an analysis of the requirements based on the specifications provided by the Climate Change Secretariat. NIC proposed redundancy at all critical points. NICNET installed 11mbps (full duplex) RF along side 4 E1 lines (8 mbps full duplex) to connect NIC HQ to the Vigyan Bhawan.

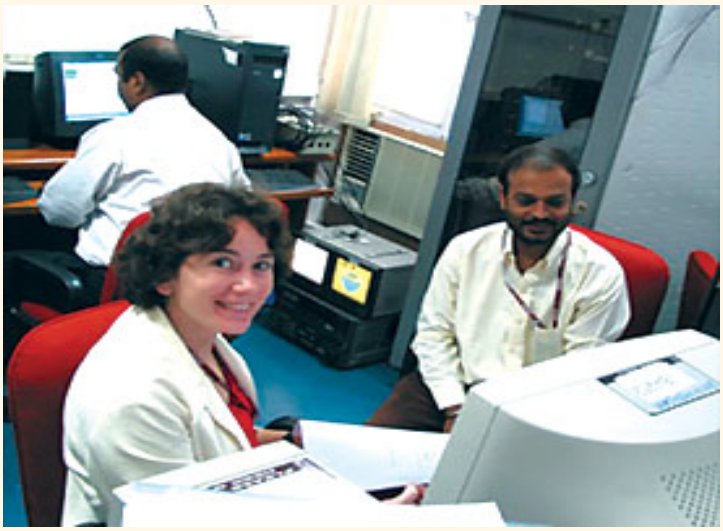
Participants at the computer centre in Vigyan Bhawan

This enabled load sharing and by using dynamic routing it proved possible to achieve auto-failover. Finally, the gateway router was configured in fully-redundant mode. A third level backup was also prepared - a VSAT link of 256/512Kbps. NIC put in place a pure link to the Internet with redundant gateways and capacity of 10x10mbps, and all running the BGP4 routing protocol.

Kevin Grose, Information Manager for the UN checks the arrival of first PCs on the site

Vigyan Bhawan gets its first LAN

320 PCs, 42 printers, and 10 servers, all provided by NIC were combined with 5 servers, 50 laptops, a 10 station photo-ID badge production system and various scanners and CD writers provided by the UN. All were connected to over 580 network nodes installed in both the main Vigyan Bhawan building, its Annexe as well as temporary structures that served as the Registration Hall. Given the scale of the requirements, the MoEF agreed early on to permanently network the entire Vigyan Bhawan, including the installation of a fibre optic backbone. This upgrade puts the Vigyan Bhawan on par with other international conference centres around the world.



Cécile Camenen, UN production coordinator, A. Rathore, NIC HQ

The MAN between the NIC and the Vigyan Bhawan was connected through a gateway router in the Vigyan Bhawan. All nodes were connected to the core switches (working back to back) using 37 distribution switches. Redundancy was provided to the core switches as well as UPS services. All nodes were connected using 100mbps to the distribution switches. VLANS were configured to provide necessary security and a reduced collision domain. Installations were

organized by the NIC.

Two hundred United Nations staff and a complement of 180 local staff were on site to support the conference proceedings, prepare documents and assist participants. During the meeting 2 million pages were printed or copied! Staff were accommodated in existing and temporary offices in the Vigyan Bhawan and its Annex.While the UN staff were on duty, so too were the thousands of participants. All 100 PCs in the computer center were in use from 0800hrs to 2200hrs every day. While the media centre was equally busy with 30 PCs connected to the Internet and even a special 'plug 'n play' centre (using phone cards from MTNL) provided laptop users with dial-up. The National Informatics Centre had responsibility for supporting the WAN/MAN/LAN connectivity, conference servers and participants network and computer centres. UN staff from the Climate Change Secretariat had responsibility for accessing and synchronization of data between Bonn and Delhi, management of the UN network and provision of support to UN staff.

NIC webcasts to the world

The Climate Change Secretariat (unfccc.int) has been webcasting the proceedings of conferences and other meetings since the famous Kyoto meeting in 1997 which attracted 14,000 participants. With up to 6 concurrent live language streams - Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish, the demands for climate summits are high indeed.

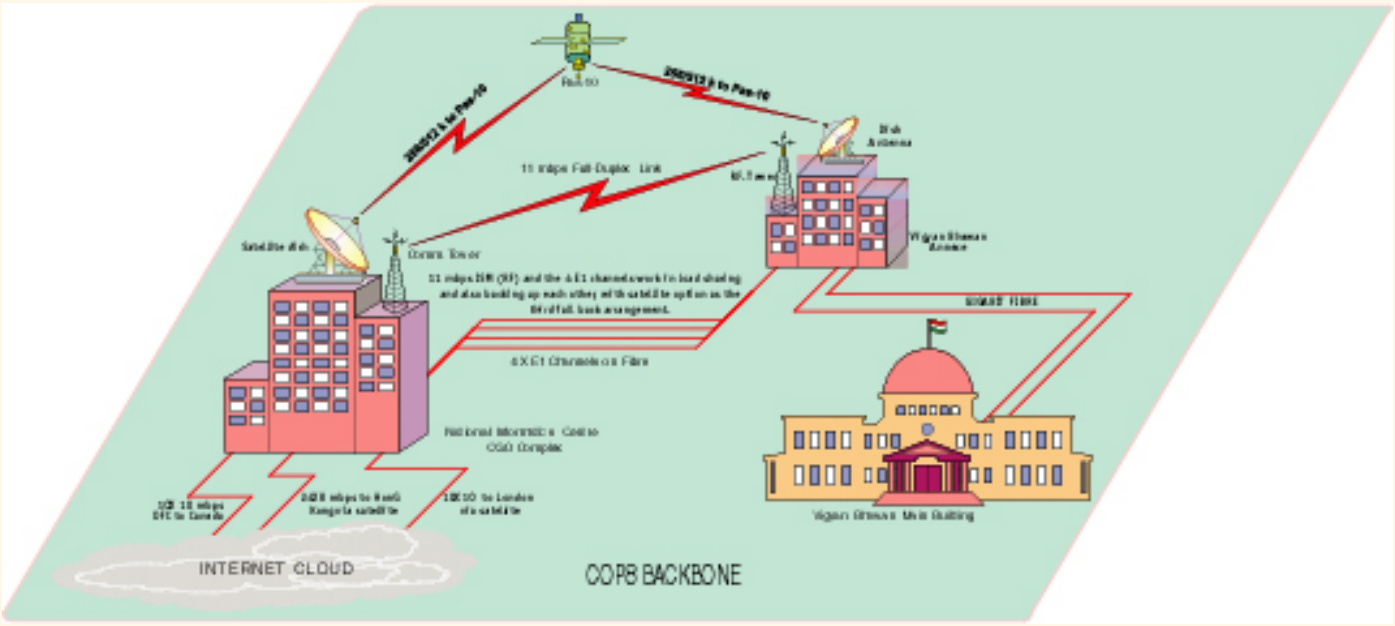
The NIC webcast team worked with the UNFCCC Information Services team on a full webcast programme for COP 8. The programme included live concurrent webcast from two halls and in two languages over the conference Intranet. From the public website, all streams were archived and were available on-demand. In addition, special events were recorded by Doodarshan on Betacam tapes and were then published over the conference Intranet and Internet. Doordarshan provided the facility to convert Betacam/SP tapes to digital files for encoding.

The UN provided technical specifications for the webcast production and database design. These were implemented by NIC that was responsible for technical implementation of the project and hosting the live and on-demand services. UN staff coordinated the programme production and post-production data transfer to Bonn.

Audio and video signals were provided by Doordarshan. Doordarshan organized for 3 fixed camera positions in the plenary hall as well as the Press Conference Room in hall 6. 3 ENG crews were on site too for ad hoc filming in any other room.

The COP 8 information and communications technology project drew on expertise and services across the broadest spectrum of technology in the market today. Satellite communications services, leased line and radio connections, firewalls and network servers, client hardware and software applications as well as a global webcast were all required to make the COP 8 a success. These resources were then combined through an extensive planning and coordination process.

The Ministry of Environment and Forests, the UN Climate Change Secretariat and NIC worked closely together for nearly an year on the project. Work moved forward during three UN technical missions to Delhi, follow-up video conferences and planning meetings between NIC and MoEF. In addition, there were consultations with the Central Public Works Department. The CPWD is responsible for the buildings of the Vigyan Bhawan.



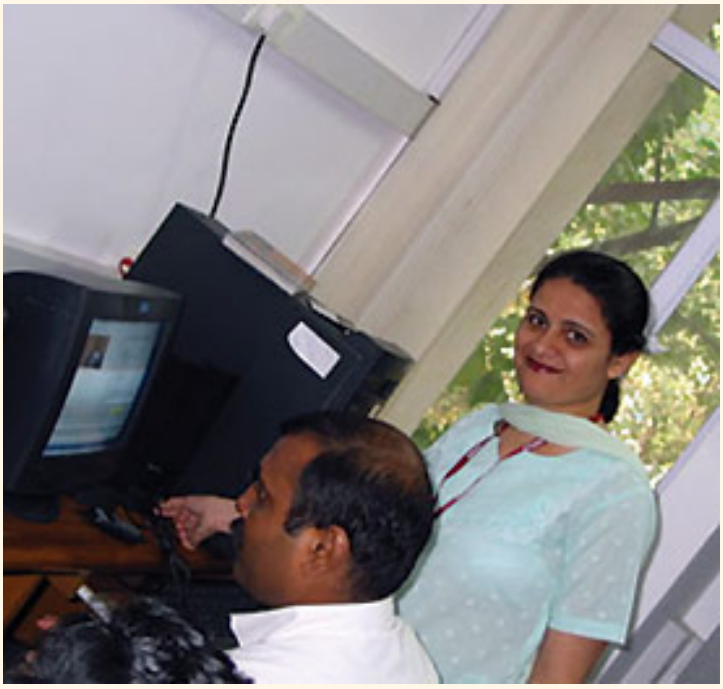
The UN Climate Change Secretariat is pleased to have had the opportunity to work with the MoEF and the National Informatics Centre on this conference project. The project provided an excellent opportunity to work together, share ideas and experience and even implement some new technologies along the way.

For further information , please contact
Environment and Forest Informatics Division, NIC HQ
Email : **gahlout@envfor.delhi.nic.in**

For queries related to Webcast, please contact
Web Services and Multimedia Applications Divison, NIC HQ
Email : **wsmad@hub.nic.in**

NIC at COP8

The COP 8 IT team -UNFCC Secretariat IT Staff together with NIC staff



Neeta Verma, NIC webcast project leader

V. Pasricha, B.K. Das, John Kiarie, A. Goel, P. Vinod.

L to R: V. Pasricha, A. Kumar, N.Ahmed, R.K. Pathak,
S. Gahlout, L. Kanotra, R. Gaikwad, P. Chand

Anil Kumar, Dr. N. Vijayaditya, Sanjay Gahlout, R. K. Pathak

UN information services staff at work in their temporary conference offices

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E-Governance Awards for Websites/Papers

From Sonal Kalra, Editor (with Inputs from Sunil Kumar, NIC-Haryana, Ajay Chahal, NIC Himachal, Alka Aggarwal, NIC Yojana Bhawan Unit, Gautam Gupta, NIC A&N and Ravish Azad, NIC HQ)

The Government of India is committed to building up an organisational environment that inspires and facilitates developing and deploying processes and web enabled applications which provide better citizen services and encourages participation of users/stakeholders. With an aim to encourage the drive for modernization and e-governance, the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances recently instituted awards, at various levels for the websites of those government/semi-govt departments, organizations and offices that operationalize and institutionalize in an exemplary way, the framework of the underlying principles encompassing 'good governance'. Awards were also instituted for exemplary Papers written on themes related to e-governance.

The Awards were in the form of an icon status and stars (Gold Icon : 5 stars ; Silver Icon : 4 stars ; Bronze Icon : 3 stars and Merit Icon : 3 stars) and were presented as mementoes and certificates to the Head of the Organization/Team owning and managing the websites and to the author(s) of the selected Papers.

Nominations were received for forty seven websites of various State Governments, Departments, Undertakings etc. as well as forty-five papers on themes related to e-governance.

True to the spirit of carrying out work of the highest order, websites designed by NIC were nominated in large numbers and three out of the fours websites which finally bagged the coveted awards turned out to be developed by NIC. Also, a paper by NIC Haryana team won the Silver icon for its effective content. The winners were awarded at a special ceremony during the 6th National Conference on E-Governance held at Chandigarh on 24th and 25th October'2002 by Capt. Amarinder Singh, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Punjab. Here's a brief glimpse of the winners…..

Winner Websites

Gold Icon Status : Andhra Pradesh State Portal
(**http://www.aponline.gov.in**)

The website is a true example of how Internet can be effectively used to reach out to the common citizens and make their lives easy. The features of the site include a one-stop link to online citizen services, application forms for various services, query facility for request status by citizens, secured e-payments, integration with wireless devices etc. Designed by Tata Consultancy Services, the website has won other awards too, in the past.

Silver Icon Status : Himachal Pradesh Government Portal
(**http://himachal.nic.in**)

The official web portal of the Himachal Pradesh Government has a plethora of useful information and links for the visitors. A special feature is the link to Lokmitra Citizen Government Interface which provides services like downloadable forms, government telephone directory, online electoral rolls, causelist of the State High Court, daily market rates of food items and commodities, admission notices, civil list, exam results, blood donors' database, weather, events etc. Since Himachal Pradesh is a tourism intensive state, the website also provides link to the hotel directory and the online hotel reservation system. The website , designed and developed by NIC Himachal Pradesh State Unit is simple but smart and a major step towards E-Governance in the State.

Sh.Ajay Chahal, NIC HPSU receiving the award from Capt Amarinder Singh, Hon'ble CM of Punjab.

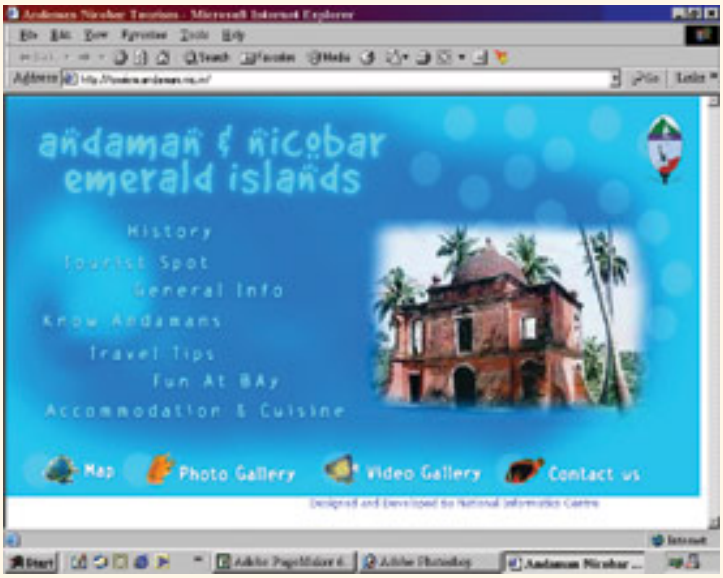
Bronze Icon Status : Planning Commission Website
(**http://planningcommission.nic.in**)

The website of the Planning Commission provides in-depth details about the various five year plans, related reports, data and statistics on various economic and social indicators and a large number of useful links to the Government of India websites. Several useful reference papers and reports about the five year plans have been provided in an 'easy-to-download' manner for the visitors. The site has been designed and developed by the Yojana Bhawan Unit of NIC.

Special Award : Andaman & Nicobar Islands Tourism Website
(**http://tourism.andaman.nic.in**)

This website, exclusively on the tourism aspect of the picturesque islands of Andaman and Nicobar islands acts as a one-

stop guide to all one needs to know about visiting the islands. The site, designed and developed jointly by NIC –A&N Unit and the Web Services Division at NIC HQ , provides information on the History of the Islands, the favourite tourist spots, general info, travel tips and accommodation etc,. A highlighting feature is the photo gallery depicting beautiful images of the emerald islands.



Best Paper Silver Award

Apart from the websites, a paper submitted by NIC Haryana State Unit also won the Best Paper “Silver” Award at the event. The Paper on “Enhancing Transparency in Welfare Pension Schemes through IT” has been co-authored by Sh. Dharam Vir, IAS, Principal Secretary IT Haryana, Sh. Ghan Shyam Bansal, SIO, NIC-Haryana State Unit and Sh.Susheel Kumar, PSA, NIC-HSU. The paper deals with various categories of welfare pension schemes and salient features of the HaPPIS (Haryana Pension Processing and Information System) software developed by NIC Haryana State Unit.

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State in focus

- GUJARAT
- CHHATTISGARH

GUJARAT- Scaling heights in difficult times

From Rajnish Mahajan & Manoj. P. A., NIC Gujarat

NIC Gujarat State Unit has consistently and efficiently supported the government by providing infrastructure design and development for IT in the field of Network set up. It has also executed turnkey projects in the application of electronic means for the interaction between government and the citizen as also in internal government operations.

BHULEKH Soft Gujarat

With the objective to maintain and update the land records data of each district at its Taluka Offices and generate various village forms for administration as well as for public demand, in tandem with other States, Government of Gujarat started the Land Records Computerisation project in 1998-99 and is funded by Government of India. NIC Gujarat has developed Bhulekh in Gujarati. The software supports the recording of all type of transactions pertaining to land and various village forms can be generated. The crop information for each season as well as number of trees, irrigation details and tenant details if any are recorded. Different taxes to be collected on these lands from the owners can also be generated.

Apart from landowners, departments like Revenue, Agriculture and Irrigation are also beneficiaries of the land records database.Data has been entered for around 14000 villages out of the total 17000 villages spread over 227 Talukas of the 25 revenue districts in the State. 13 Talukas have been made online with issuing copies of ROR (record of right) to

the farmers and landowners. Approximately 1400 Mutations are done using the software so far. Both the public and the administration have benfitted tremendously from the Project. The public can get the accurate land records in minimum time and the reports generated by the software prove useful for the Administration in district planning and policy making.

.Registration of Documents (ReD)

The ReD Software is for the Inspector General of Registration and Superintendent of Stamps, Government of Gujarat. The Software integrates the Registration process and Market Value Evaluation and is an efficient administrative tool for the department. The Software will increase the transparency and revenue earnings for the department. The bilingual system is operational at the Memnagar and Paldi offices at Ahmedabad. The software has distinct modules for Registration and Scanning which comprise various features.

PCIS-Gujarat (Property Card Information System)

Every sq. inch of land in Gujarat is surveyed and land records are prepared scientifically and stored within a well defined system. But over a period of time, Land Records have turned to be highly dynamic. An approach for computerisation of Urban Land Records i.e. Cities / Towns, which includes the Property ownership & other attribute information, spatial scope of the property, maintenance of the spatial & tabular database, is underway.

NIC has developed a complete software solution for Urban Land Records System for the use of 66 City Survey Offices located at 25 districts of Gujarat State. Software is being implemented in pilot offices at Ahmedabad and Sabarkantha districts. The software supports local language and generates the PROPERTY CARD for the landowner. GIS support is expected to be provided in future.

KAMI-JASTI PATRAK (KJP)

KJP software is implemented in many districts for the District Inspector of Land Records (DILR), providing solutions regarding the mutations of the land.

> "*The NIC and the Revenue Department have worked shoulder to shoulder as partners in the introduction of e-governance in various aspects of revenue administration. The ability of NIC to appreciate the needs of the client -Department and to promptly translate these needs into workable, software-based applications has resulted in a dynamic partnership, striving to find IT solutions aimed at making the Revenue administration both friendly and transparent. That the Revenue Department is considered to be the most advanced in the Gujarat Government in the application of IT is due in no small measure to the forging of this partnership*."
> **Shri. C.K.Koshy, I.A.S., Principal Secretary, Revenue Department**

GSTAX2000 (Turnkey project for Gujarat Sales Tax)

This Information System is a total solution for the Sales Tax Department and provides dealer friendly administration and employee facilitation for better governance. All the sales tax offices in the State are set up with a computer centre with dealer windows. The progress made so far is leading to electronic filing of returns under the new VAT regime.

Dealers filing Sales Tax Returns at the computerised counter at Ahmedabad

Online Registration of Dealers, Return & Challan Monitoring System, Forms Control System, New Industries Incentives Monitoring, Assessment System, Check Post Monitoring System, Recovery Module, Enforcement Module, Electronic Verification of Treasury sheet, Dealer Ledger, Professional Tax Module and administrative modules like Payroll, Accounting, Personnel Information, Court Case Monitoring etc. cover every routine of the sales tax administration. 140 offices spread throughout the State is currently using the package. Employees are trained on the modules and the computer culture is cultivated even in the remote offices of the department. The dealer master for the State of Gujarat is built and is being updated online. The database of around 7 lakh Professional Tax payers is being developed now.

> *The re-registration process of the dealers is over and the benefit of the computerisation will be more visible in the coming year. Extensive training by NIC to our staff on the modules developed and the support at State and District level is leading us towards better governance",*
>
> - **Shri. K. George Joseph, I.A.S, Commissioner of Sales Tax**

EEMS (Employment Exchange Management System)

A fool proof system developed by NIC has been implemented in all the 42 employment exchanges including five special Employment Exchanges for Physically Handicapped. Database of more than 11 lakh jobseekers (unemployed) is operational since October 2001. This transparent, effective and unbiased interface provides a convenient service to the unemployed youth.

Unemployed youth registering at the employment exchange at Navsari

The employers can submit their job requirements and select the candidates for the job from the registered youth. Since the functions of the employment directorate in other States are similar in nature, a few other State Governments are in the process of customization.

"The Software System and Database Management System by NIC are so advanced, it took us less than six months further to integrate the same with Web Based Online Employment portal of our Directorate ",

- Shri. Raj Kumar, I.A.S., Director, Employment and Training

TRAMS (TRAinees Management System for ITI)

Gujarat is a highly industrialised State and it has requirement of hundreds of trained skilled workers. For meeting these requirements, Government of Gujarat is running more than 200 Industrial Training Institutes, which offer more than 100 courses (known as trades) related to Civil, Mechanical, Electrical, Chemical, Electronics and IT. TRAMS is a comprehensive system covering Admission, Attendance, Internal and Final exams. These activities are from admission of the trainees to mark sheet / certificate printing. Module-I i.e. Admission has already been implemented in June 2002. Module-II i.e. Attendance was implemented in October 2002. Module-III i.e. Internal and Final Examination

is near completion.

CM Online – An innovative application of NIC for Public Grievance Redressal

Gujarat Government has commissioned “Chief Minister’s Call Center” or “CM Online” (“Tele Fariad”) for addressing public grievances through Gujarat State Wide Area Network (GSWAN). People can register their grievances by dialing 1505 (at a local call charge) from any where in the district and the same reaches CM’s office immediately.
Complaint deposited in original voice format is compressed and forwarded to the designated mailboxes at CM’s office, Gandhinagar. Voice messages are transcripted by the operators on a web based application developed by NIC and forwarded to related departmental head and others for necessary action under intimation to CM’s office.

Major Network Projects

Setting up of an elaborate network brings about a seamless transition between the various computing devices currently in use in the public domain or those, which may be put to use in future. To ensure the proliferation of IT, the State Government has decided to create an “Information Corridor” with the support of NIC State Centre. The core of this corridor would be connecting the State capital right up to Taluka headquarters by first connecting the capital to the district headquarters. On peripheries of this “Information corridor” would be supporting databases of various Government departments as well as computerised public counters, kiosks/information centers that will help providing electronic interface for the citizens with the Government.
The entire project of creating “Information Corridor” has been divided in three parts.
• Connecting all Government Departments at capital city Gandhinagar through Fiber backbone for Voice, Video and Data communication.

• Connecting all district offices through 2 MBPS lines to Gandhinagar at Sachivalaya, and all Taluka to Districts through 64KBPS links (Which is referred as GSWAN).

• LAN facility to be provided at District Panchayat and Collectorates in all 25 districts.
NIC/NICSI has undertaken the task to design, install and integrate Networks at the following locations :

• Sachivalaya Data LAN – 2200 node network connecting various departments and directorate located at New Sachivalaya and Old Sachivalaya complexes. Network is in operation since May 2001. Various useful Intranet applications are being run by NIC on the secretariat LAN.

• District LAN - 50-node network at each District Collectorates and District Panchayat office. These LAN are integrated with GSWAN.

• Gujarat High Court Network- 700-node network where Fiber backbone is used to connect all blocks of High Court.

Jail Information System

This system is successfully tested and implemented in the Jails (Central, District and Sub Jail) of Gujarat and every jail has a set up of computer system with web camera and multimedia. Besides maintaining important information about the prison inmates, this system has the facility of multilingual support with GIST SDK , photo feature with web camera and the provision to merge data of different jails to the IG (Prisons) Office.

Geo-Mine

Minerals play vital role in the development of any country, as they are the backbone of the industry. The statistical data pertaining to area of mining, production and dispatch details, royalty, payment etc. form important information in determining the growth of the mining industry. GEO-MINE software has been developed by NIC to handle the mineral statistics right at the district level and compiled at the head office to support decision making.

NIC at High Court of Gujarat

NIC is lending its services to the High Court of Gujarat since 1993. With active help and constant support from the High Court of Gujarat, public centric applications like availability of case status at the query counter and on the internet, advocate wise cause list, simple copy of the order/judgment instantly, certified copies of the judgment / orders etc. are operational. A Database of around 5. 5 lakh court cases has been developed.The cause list and Case status has been made available on Internet at www.gujarathighcourt.nic.in and the judgements of the High Court are also expected to be put up on the net soon.
Besides, NIC has also developed the District Court Information System (DCIS) which is running at 17 district courts, metropolitan court and city civil court wherein a whole range of services have been computerised.

Girnar Mountain Climb up-down Competition

Akhil Gujarat Girnar Arohan Avrohan Competition is held by the Junagadh District Administration every year. Recording of arrival and departure time of more than 1000 participants and preparation of the result immediately was made easy by using NIC developed software. Computer installed on road at the starting point of the competition was an attraction for the public.

Collector Smt. Sunaina Tomar, IAS, with NIC Officers at Girnar Competition venue at Junagadh

Model District

Gujarat Government made a program to make Vadodara a model district in every aspect of governance by introducing citizen charter in all departments. The goals set were quality, transparency and timeliness. An information gallery is set up to implement the Citizen's Charter in its true spirit. NIC has developed the software for various socio-economic applications in the district which can be replicated for all the 25 districts in the State.

> *"It is a unique project where all the aspects of E-governance have been addressed. E-governance is not only using Information Technology but a change process where I. T. becomes a means to the overall objective of transparent, cost effective, efficient and qualitatively superior administration",*
>
> **Shri. Anil Mukim, I.A.S, Addl. Pri. Secretary to Chief Minister**

Besides the above, various important Central Government projects such as computerisation of Customs and Central Excise at Ahmedabad,Vadodara, Rajkot and Surat, Regional Passport Office at Ahmedabad, Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), Registrar of Companies (ROC) and Postal Life Insurance (PLI) have been undertaken by NIC Gujarat State Unit.

Websites Developed

Important websites for various State Government entities have been developed and/or hosted. The prominent ones include Gujarat Vidhan Sabha (**http://www.gujaratassembly.gov.in**), Gujarat Sales Tax (**http://www.gujaratsalestax.gov.in**), Water Resources Development Corporation (**http://www.gwrdc.nic.in**), Customs Gujarat (**http://customsgujarat.nic.in**), High Court of Gujarat (**http://gujarathighcourt.nic.in**) and Gujarat State Highway Project – (**http://gshp.gujarat.gov.in**).

Hon'ble Governor of Gujarat Sh S.S Bhandari inaugurating the Vidhan Sabha website. Also seen in the picture are Hon'ble Chief Minister Sh Narendra Modi

NIC Infrastructure in the State

State Centre at Sachivalaya Complex, Gandhinagar, 25 District Informatic Offices
NIC High Court Cell, NIC Sales Tax Unit and NIC Cell at Chief Secretary's Office

- Email Server, Web Server and Database Server at State Centre
- Video Conferencing (room based) at State Centre
- SCPC & IPA VSAT at State Centre
- IPA VSAT with DPC at NIC District Centres with dialup facility for internet and email
- Database Server at each NIC District Centre

For further information, please contact
State Informatics Officer,
NIC, Gujarat State Unit ,
Block – 13, II Floor, New Sachivalaya,
Gandhinagar – 382 010
Tel – (079) 3223035, 3223890
Email : sio@guj.nic.in

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Chhattisgarh – The Rice Bowl of India

From M. K. Mishra & Y. V. Shreenivas Rao, NIC - Chhattisgarh

The state of Chhattisgarh, popularly known as the 'Rice Bowl' of India, came into being on the 1st November 2000. The states which form its boundaries are Uttar Pradesh to the North, Jharkhand to the North East, Orissa to the east, Andhra Pradesh to the south-east and south, Maharashtra to the south-west, Madhya Pradesh to the west and north-west. Amongst the larger states in India, Chhattisgarh has the highest percentage of population of Tribes. The state has sixteen districts in all. The State has made significant advancement in the field of IT ever since its formation.

NIC Chhattisgarh - A significant maiden year

To meet the e-governance needs of the pro-IT Chhattisgarh state, the NIC's State Unit (NIC CGSU) was established in the premises of Mantralaya, on 01.11.2001. Keeping pace with the ever growing demands of the State Government and accomplishing numerous time-bound as well as near- impossible assignments in a period of just one year, the NIC Chhattisgarh state unit has proved that time is no constraint, may what the number and complexity of the targets be. Starting from personnel training to Videoconferencing it has provided all sorts of solutions for the benefit of the

administration and public. Soon after its establishment, all the NIC District centres of the state were ensured to be functioning. All these centers have been equipped with at least one server and two clients and IP Advantage VSATs to cater to the e-governance needs of the district administration.

NIC Chhattisgarh at a glance :

· Total NIC manpower in the state – 34
· 16 District centres
· NIC Central Excise cell
· NIC Highcourt cell at Bilaspur

NIC Chhattisgarh State Unit:

· Located in the Mantralaya.
· SCPC DAMA V-SAT for VC and dedicated SCPC V-SAT for Internet/E-mail.
· DIALUP connectivity.
· 3 Servers, 25 clients.

NIC District Centres :

· 16 District centres functioning.
· SCPC DAMA VSATS one each at Bastar and Bilaspur centres.
· Rest of the centres connected to NICNET through IPA VSATs.

Mantralaya LAN

As part of Local Area Network, the NIC State Unit has three high power Servers and twenty five clients with necessary peripherals for its internal use. The three servers are configured to serve as WEB server, MAIL server, FTP server and DATABASE server supporting the entire 300-node LAN of the Mantralaya. A high-speed SCPC PAMA VSAT has been setup to provide internet/E-mail services to various Government departments.

Highcourt -Bilaspur

The Highcourt of Chhattisgarh was established on the 1st November, 2000. To meet the office automation and electronic communication needs, the NIC Highcourt Cell was set up on 10th, August 2001. The State High Court has been equipped with 1 server and 21 clients connected in LAN. The terminals have been provided to the Hon. Chief Justice and judges and at various sections. The Internet and e-mail facility have also been extended to all the nodes of the LAN. The RF-Link facility is also expected to be provided shortly. The LOBIS software is being implemented through which, the proposed cases to be listed on a particular date for each court can be generated for all sections. The staus of each case (including judgment) is regularly updated and stored in the server. The information is provided to the litigant or advocate directly at the Enquiry Counter over the phone whenever requested for. Other activities being carried out in various sections of the High court include, Pay bill generation, processing of personnel information, Budget preparation, processing of daily Order and Final Order / Judgment etc.

Video Conferencing - Public Grievances redressal

As a part of the Video-Conferencing services being provided by NIC to the State, SCPC DAMA VSATs have been set up at Raipur, Bilaspur and Bastar, ISDN based VC setup has been installed at a remote rural location – Pendra and an ISDN based VC setup has been installed at CM office, Raipur

The General Administration Department (GAD) of the state Govt. conducts Videoconferencing with Bilaspur, Bastar and Pendra on daily basis. The general public can freely approach these centers and lodge their complaints and explain their difficulties to the administration. The CM office also monitors the progress of the case on the time limit date of the case. This arrangement is gaining popularity day by day as people are now able to contact the senior most officers of the state with their grievances face to face on VC.

Congress president Mrs Sonia Gandhi inaugurating ISDN based VC of Marwahi costituency on the 1st Nov 2001

Hon'ble Chief Minister Sh. Ajit Jogi at the inauguration of VC facility between Raipur, Bilaspur and Bastar

Web Services

Since its establishment, NIC Chhattisgarh State Unit has developed a number of important websites for the State Government. Some of the prominent ones include :
* Official web site of the Chhattisgarh govt. - **http://www.chhattisgarh.nic.in**. The website is rich in content

about the State Government and is frequently updated with the latest information. All the policies of the state government and general information to be provided to the public is available on the web site. The site has been highly appreciated and has received rave reviews from research scholars from U.S & U.K. Among other things, the site has links to e-mail directory, tenders, gazette, history, statistics, schemes and tribes in the state.

Other important websites include
* Land records computerization
* Public grievances
* High court
* Finance department
* Chhattisgarh Jail
* Tourism department
* Health department
* General administrative department
* Public Works Department

Beside the above, websites of many districts in the State have been developed and hosted by NIC. These include : **Bastar, Bilaspur , Durg, Dantewada , Koriya , Kanker , Raigarh, Rajnandgaon , Raipur and Surguja**

E-mail Service

The facility of Email and Internet Connectivity have been provided to all the Ministries, senior officers, district centres and departments in the State. Besides, the Mantralaya staff has been adequately trained by NIC in computer usage.

Web Enabled Solutions

The web enabled software developed for various departments include

Public grievances monitoring system : The software has been developed for monitoring of the public grievances received through video conferencing held daily from district headquarters of Bilaspur & Bastar. Grievances entry by general public through web, from any part of the state is also possible with the help of site.

Letter monitoring system : The system has been developed for the CM secretariat for monitoring the letters received by the Chief minister from MPs/MLAs. The individual letters are marked to the concerned department. The assembly constituency / parliamentary constituency wise monitoring can be done.

Departmental expenditure monitoring system – Developed to enable budget controlling officer [BCO] wise budget and expenditure monitoring of all departments. All the BCOs can update as and when required. Any type of query can be made by the finance department on the available data.

Agmark monitoring system - Developed for monitoring the progress of Agricultural marketing network. The DIOs login and feed the status of site preparation, hardware received and installed, status of software installation and usage and hardware software problems being faced.

Some other useful Information Systems developed and implemented by the NIC State Unit include :
* Rural industries inventory monitoring system

* Rain fall monitoring system
* Epidemic monitoring system
* Hardware monitoring system
* Pay details monitoring system
* Stock monitoring system

Software Developed/Customised

Land Records Computerisation – "BHUIYA"
The State Government has decided to implement the Land Records Computerisation (Named as 'Bhuiya') in all the Tehsils of the State. Under the Bhuiya project it is envisaged that apart from maintaining the Land Records data at Tehsil headquarters, the ROR would be readily made available to any aspiring citizens on remittance of nominal charge. It is further decided that LR details stored on Tehsil Server would be made available (for display) through Dialup facility at all the Indira Suchna Shakti centres (ISS) located in that tehsil. The project was formally inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh on the 1st Nov' 2002.

• Inventory monitoring system of Rural Industries (Hastshilp , Handloom & Textiles)

This Web enabled system has been designed for maintaining the stock of the products for the departments of Hastshilp & Handloom & Textiles. The data can be fed into the database using ASP technology from any of the four locations as and when the products are procured and purchased and the instant stock position can be maintained and viewed by the users. Further, it is planned to use the Ruralbazaar software of NIC HQ to present the web interface to the products for better marketing.

• Markfed - Draw of Lots

The Marketing Federation, Chhattisgarh has distributed coupons to about 1.5 lakh farmers who are the members of about 1500 marketing societies in the state. The draw of lots is to be conducted using the software for error free process for the coupons of farmers as well as of the societies to distribute fixed number of prizes in both the cases. The software has been designed to enter the data duly observing the validation checks and to select winners on random basis.

• E- Governance Cell

The e-Governance cell was initiated in June 2002 with an objective of show casing various e-Governance products

developed at various units of NIC including Chhattisgarh for the user departments so that the identified products can be customized and implemented for the departments with minimum efforts saving considerable time. This cell coordinates collecting e-Governance products developed so far from various state units and installing important products. The brochures related to the e-Governance packages are made available in this cell for necessary reference by users. About 25 e-Governance packages have been collected so far. The packages viz. Treasury s/w of NIC-Punjab, Property Registration s/w of NIC-Haryana, e-Granthalaya of NIC-Karnataka, STAMINA for Dept. of Commercial Tax of NIC-Bihar, Financial Accounting for DRDA of NIC-AP have been demonstrated to the user departments.

• Training

About 250 employees of Mantralaya, Rajbhavan and Treasury departments have been trained so far on “Office Automation Tools”. The training is provided in two batches in a week. At the end all the participants are required to pass through an online test covering the course designed to evaluate the skills of the individual.

• NICNET connectivity through RF Link

NIC Chhattisgarh State Unit has taken the initiative for connecting various offices established at Raipur and Bilaspur by RF link to get the high speed NICNET and Internet connectivity. NIC State unit, Mantralaya and NIC district center, Bilaspur will be having HUB stations for connectivity. Important sites for providing connectivity include Raj Bhavan, CM House, Vidhan Sabha, Police Headquarters etc.

• Moment of pride

During the inauguration of The ‘BHUIYA’ project, the Hon’ble Chief Minister, Shri Ajit Jogi said that “***this ambitious project could be implemented in record time due to the marvelous efforts of NIC, which worked restlessly in association with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Chhattisgarh Infotech Promotional Society (ChiPS).” He observed that “the unparalleled dedication and expertise of these organizations has made it possible to realize the goal within a short span of two months.”He reiterated that “unlike in the other states, the IT is used in his state to serve the people instead of as an aid to the administration and the BHUIYA project was one of the successful attempts made since the formation of the state***.”

The Revenue Minister , Govt. of Chhattisgarh, Shri Bupesh Baghel presentiing the Land Records data of 16 tehsils of Chhattisgarh to Honourable CM on the occasion of inauguration of 'Bhuiya' project.

For further information, please contact
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<top>

District Informatics

- Dehradun
- Varanasi

Dehradun - Moving Ahead With Technology

From Arvind Kr Dadhichi, Uttaranchal Correspondent

Dehradun is one of the most picturesque valleys in Asia nestling in the arms of the Himalayas. The city also serves as the Provisional Capital of newly created Uttaranchal State. The district which has a population of 1,279,083 (provisional fig. of census 2001), spans a total area of 3088 sq kms. The headquarters of many National Institutes and Organizations like ONGC, Survey Of India, Forest Research Institute, Indian Institute of Petroleum etc and many premier educational and Training Institutions like Indian Military Academy, RIMC (Rashtriya Indian Military College), Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy (IGNFA) etc. are also situated at Dehradun.

NIC Dehradun

NIC Dehradun District Unit was setup in 1989 with the objective of promoting computer culture among the government sector and general public. Ever since its inception, the NIC District Centre at Dehradun has carried out software development and implemented various projects for the district administration.

Key Activities

Land Records Computerisation :
Land Record Management Information System has been implemented in the district whereby Land records of all the villages of the district are now fully

Recovery Certificates Monitoring System :
Revenue Recovery Certificate Computerization has been done for general administration in the district . Reports of

different recoveries and pending positions are generated through this system in an efficient manner. Output can be generated according to the requirements of the district administration i.e bank wise, amount wise etc.

NIC Dehradun District Unit

Integrated Pay and Accounts Office (IPAO) :
A Computerized Integrated Pay and Account office has been established in Dehradun Treasury. This office is responsible for executing all pay related matters of all the government departments and their employees. Computerization helps in disbursement of the salary to the employees and generating all the pay related reports and other required information for Accountant General in time. The software is integrated with Treasury Information System of NIC (TISNIC)

Public Distribution Management System (PDMS) :
A software developed for district supply office which monitors allocation and distribution of PDS commodities at fair price shop level, district level and state level.

Gram Panchayat Information System (GPIS) :
This software generates various reports / analysis which focus at panchayat, block, district and state level to choose the priority sector for various developmental purposes.

Basic Shiksha Parishad Payroll Computerisation :
Entire payroll system of Primary Education Department has also been computerized. The System helps in generating all kind of pay related reports of the teachers of the entire district.

Other Activities

Other achievements of NIC Dehradun include

Ç Computerisation work in deployment of polling personnel at the time of Lok Sabha, Assembly and Municipal Elections.
Ç Providing E-Mail facility to various Government Departments.
Ç Conducting various training programmes for a number of user departments.
Ç A comprehensive Web Site containing various useful information about the district has been designed and launched