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- **Dr Kiran Bedi : Director General (BPR&D)**

HAPPENINGS



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A crucial factor in the success of any project is the motivation level of the team working behind it. And this motivation invariably stems from recognition of the good work by seniors, peers and importantly prestigious forums. The EGovernance projects executed by NIC have always been considered as benchmarks when it comes to world-class techniques and high impact output. Therefore it was not a surprise when the Awardee list in the National E-Governance Conference 2007 had several projects implemented or supported by NIC. It was a proud moment for all NICians when the NIC teams received the awards in diverse categories for landmark projects and software in myriad sectors. Our Special Feature in this issue brings you an overview of the Conference and highlights the major issues it addressed.

Another significant event that took place in the last quarter was Elitex 2007 in which NIC participated with unmatched zeal like previous years. The NIC stall at the exhibition was a Centre of attraction for the visitors who got to know more about some of the key e-governance projects by NIC Centres across the Country. We present some colourful glimpses of the event for you in our Special feature in case you missed being there.

Your feedback and suggestions on what more you would like to see in Informatics are always welcome....keep writing..

Sonal Kalra

Readers are invited to send their comments/suggestions to the Editor through this column. Your letters may be sent through email at, sonal@nic.in

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10th National Conference on E-Governance

The 10th National Conference on E-governance was recently held at Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh under the aegis of the Department of Administration reforms, PG and Department of Information Technology, GOI and Department of Information Technology, Madhya Pradesh.

The objective of the conference was to develop regional and national e-governance strategies by providing a forum for discussion amongst all stakeholders in the e-governance domain. The theme of this conference was **"Enabling Government to Accelerate Transformation."**



Dr B K Gairola, Director General NIC with the NIC delegates at the Conference.

Awards Presented

Category	Award	Awardee
Excellence in government Process engineering	Gold	Online Student Management System: Education Department Government of NCT of Delhi
	Silver	e-Khazana: Science and Technology Department, Finance Department and NIC Bihar, Govt. of Bihar.
	Bronze	Double Entry Accounting Information System: Himachal Pradesh Institute of Public Administration
Exemplary horizontal transfer of ICT based best practice	Gold	Integrated Treasuries Computerization Project (ITCP): Directorate of Treasuries and Accounts, Govt. of MP
	Silver	Sarthi&Vahan: Department of IT & Department of Transport, Govt. of Punjab.
Outstanding performance in citizen centric service delivery	Gold	Citizen facilitation centers: Kalyan, Dombivili Municipal Co-operation, Mumbai.
	Silver	Computer aided learning: education department Government of NCT of Delhi
	Bronze	e-Mitra: Department of IT & Communication, Government Of Rajasthan.
Exemplary Usage of ICT by PSUs	Gold	File Monitoring system (FMS)& Barcode solutions: Delhi State Industrial & Infrastructure Development Co-operation Limited
	Silver	Medical Cards & referral slips software: National Thermal Power Co-operation.
	Bronze	Delivery of Customer Services through single window system Falcom: BSNL, Karnataka.
Best Government Website	Gold	Incredible India: Ministry of Tourism, Government of India.
	Silver	National Portal of India: National Informatics Centre, Headquarters.
	Bronze	Orissa Primary Education Programme Authority.
Special mention innovative Technology Usage in e-governance		Litigation Information Tracking& Evaluation System (LITES) Justice Department and the Department of Information Technology and Communication, Rajasthan

The conference was inaugurated on 2nd February by the Hon'ble Minister of state in the Ministry of Personnel &

Parliamentary Affairs, Public Grievances & Pensions Sh Suresh Pachauri, and was graced by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Sh. Shivraj Singh Chauhan. An exhibition showcasing various e-Governance initiatives was also organized on the venue.

The inaugural session also witnessed the presentation of 15 National Awards for e-governance by the Chief Guest for exemplary initiatives taken in the field of promoting excellence in e-Governance. Many of the awards winning Projects were either executed by NIC or with the technical supports of its centres across India.

While unveiling the e-Readiness Assessment Report 2005 for States and UTs and referring to e-Governance as "the fifth revolution", Sh. Pachauri emphasized the key role that ICTs can play in enhancing the efficiency of Public Services Centres in 6 lakh villages of India. These centres will be Internet and Broadband enabled and will provide a host of government and private sector services.



The team members of the HIPA Double Entry Accounting Information System that won the Bronze Icon Award.



The team members from National Portal of India which won the Silver Icon Award at the Conference.

Emphasizing on the need for a transparent and accountable government, he said that while the Right To Information (RTI) legalizes a citizen's right to information access, the NeGP provides a platform to achieve the same through ICT.

The 5 Plenary sessions of the Conference brought to light issues as diverse and yet as intricately linked as e-Readiness and Roll out, People and process, Resources and Mobilization, Community Participation in e-governance and Integrated Rural Services Delivery. As the panelists and delegates discuss these issues, some elements kept cropping up again and again. On the top was the issue of empowerment and accountability. It was strongly felt that, not only as it important to offer e-services to people but also it is equally important to create awareness amongst them so that they can avail of the services and the service providers can be held accountable.

Sh. R Chandrashekhar, Additional Secretary DIT, stated that though awareness about e-Governance is still at an embryonic stage in India, but the over whelming responses to this conference (over 1300 delegates from across the country attended the conference) proves that the day is not far enough when India would be setting new heights in this sector. He said that the Conference serves as a platform for exchange of information, discussion and resolution of common problems in the field of e-governance. Concurring with Sh. Chandrashekhar, the additional secretary DAR and PG Sh. Rahul Sarin stated that Good Governance is now universally recognized as a necessary pre-requisite and poverty reduction and amongst the many initiatives towards making good governance a reality, freedom of information and enabling access to services to all have captured the centre stage.



► G.S Bansal, NIC Haryana

Haryana – On The Path of NeGP Implementation

Haryana is one of the tiny states of Indian Union with only 1.37% area (44212 Sq Km) and 2% population (225 lakh) of India. The state government intends to make this tiny State as the most prosperous State in the country with IT driven economy, e-Governance and extensive percolation of IT literacy and massive IT related employment opportunities besides promotion of investment. The Government of Haryana has given a special emphasis on implementing Mission Mode Projects (MMPs), identified under the National e-Governance Plan (NeGP). The State ICT department is facilitating the departments and NIC-HRSC & HARTRON are assisting on technical aspects. A well-defined, transparent & efficient system for the systematic approval of the departmental IT action plans has been put-up in place through various High Powered committees. The work has started on most of the mission mode projects of NeGP and a significant progress has already been achieved.

● | State Sector MMPs :

Treasuries: On-Line Treasuries Information System (OTIS) is implemented in all treasuries & Sub treasuries totaling 103 sites.

Property Registration: Haryana Registration Information System (HARIS) is implemented at all 67 Tehsils and 45 Sub-Tehsils.

Land Records: Haryana Land Records Information System (HALRIS) is a complete Integrated Workflow Automation system of Land Record components. HALRIS is implemented in all 20 districts and ROR data of most of Tehsils/sub-tehsils is available on Internet website <http://jamabandi.nic.in>.

Panchayats: The Panchayats level works MIS has been implemented under e-Panchayats initiatives as a Web enabled Village information system. The Software EWA (Engineering works Analyzer) has been developed and implemented for Panchayats development works related to engineering wing.

Commercial Taxes: Value Added Tax Management, Assessment, Collection System (VATMaCS) is being implemented at all 21 DETCs offices.

● | Municipalities:

The House Tax Assessment & Collection Information System (HACIS) has

been implemented for all municipalities, which has record of more than 10 lakh properties resulting in significant increase in tax collection.

● | **Transport Regulatory Functions:** The Issuance of computerized Driving License and Registration Certificate of Vehicles is being implemented at a number of SDM offices. For



Haryana Chief Minister Shri Bhupinder Singh Hooda inaugurating the newly renovated NIC Haryana State Centre.



Haryana Chief Minister Shri Bhupinder Singh Hooda launching the web site of Haryana Vidhan Sabha <http://haryanaassembly.gov.in> in Chandigarh on August 22, 2006. To his right is Dr. Raghuvir Singh Kadian, Hon'ble Speaker, Haryana Vidhan Sabha.



this **SARATHI & VAHAN** have been adopted as a standard across the state and is implemented on a self sustainable Model through DITS/Red Cross Society.

Agriculture. AgMarkNet: All 108 Mandies and 25 Sub Centers of Agriculture Marketing Board have been provided with computing & Internet facilities and training to publish prices of agriculture commodities on daily basis. **AgRIS:** (Agriculture Resource Information System) has been initiated as a pilot at Rohtak.

Police: Police G2G Suite: A suite of 10 software packages has been developed & implemented for facilitating police functioning, including a dynamic Web Portal with citizen interface. **CIPA:** The Common Integrated Police Application has been implemented at 22 police stations.

Employment Exchanges: Employment Exchange Registration Information System (**EEERIS**) Software has been exclusively developed for Registration, Vacancy Booking & Submission and is initiated in five districts.

E-District: It constitutes a comprehensive network (LAN), a modern IT training lab and District level e-DISHA Centers in each district wherein all major functions of District Administration have been planned.

● | State Sector Additional MMPs :

Health: (a) e-Health. Net: Suite of software packages to monitor the Prevention of Food Adulteration, Software for Medical Certification of Cause of Death (MCCD), Software for Processing Bed Occupancy & Mortality Rate, DOTS (Directly Observed Treatment Short-term for eradication of TB disease), Medicine Inventory Monitoring System (MIMS), Doctors Leave Accounting System and Family Welfare MIS, Malaria Monitoring Software, Software for National School Health and G2G e-Office packages has been implemented at Civil Surgeons offices. **(b) IDSP:** The GOI sponsored IDSP (Integrated Disease Surveillance Project) has been initiated at all districts.

Education: (a) Technical Education: Haryana is pioneer state in successfully implementing the On-Line Off-Campus Counseling project for all Engineering Admissions during 2006. **(b) Haryana School Education Board:** All major functions of School Education Board, Bhiwani have been automated for which administrative reforms were carried out. Details like Results admit cards; provisional certificates etc. are published on web. Results Through Binocular (RTB) – Internet based, on-line analysis of results of more than 10 lakh students of Middle, Matric and Plus two exams. **(c) Secondary & Higher Education:** Web enabled Transfer Request Processing – Haryana is the

first state to issue all the transfer orders of teachers and staff through Internet.

Social Welfare: (a) Pensions: Haryana Pensions Processing & Information System (**HaPPIS**) is helping in timely disbursement of pension to around 12 lakh pensioners every month. It has been linked with Birth & Death, Ration cards & Photo ID cards. System helps in detecting fraudulent cases. The information is also published on dynamic web portal at socialjusticehry.nic.in

Food & Civil Supplies: (a) e-Food.Net: Web Enabled Food Procurement & Storage Monitoring System for monitoring the procurement & storage of food grains. **(b) CONFONET:** Consumer Courts Network & Cases MIS at 19 districts & SHQ initiated.

PWD (B&R, Public Health, Irrigation Branch): (a) PWD (B&R): Integrated Monitoring of PWD Activities (IMPACT) is a Web based Monitoring system implemented across the state for more than 4500 works of PWD (B&R) amounting to more than Rs. 3000 Crores.

● | Integrated Services Projects :

e-DISHA Ekal Sewa Kendra: One District level e-DISHA Center (DleDC) has been established in 18 districts and is providing hassle free citizen services through a single window in a transparent way. A total of 39 services are being offered at DleDCs centers.

State Portal: The state's official web portal <http://haryana.gov.in> provides access to 15 Public services. State portal is now being redesigned to give a new look & feel and being enhanced with Content Management System and other interfaces.

EG Gateway Services: The State web servers, e-mail servers and Internet gateways, based on VSATs, RF links and MLLs and having heterogeneous platforms are operating at NIC-Haryana Civil Secretariat Centre. Independent websites for a number of departments / organizations and 19 districts has been developed, launched and being maintained.

e-Courts: Sub Ordinate Courts: SOJIS: Workflow based Justice Delivery & Judicial Information System have been implemented at Ambala and Panchkula district judicial court complexes. **High Court of Punjab, Haryana & UT Chandigarh:** A Network of more than 900 nodes and NMC set-up. Daily cause list, orders & judgments are published on the High court website.

e-Office: A suite of 7 G2G Packages has been standardized across the state. This includes PIS, Payroll, Dak, Meetings, Court-cases, Government Accounting, Office Inventory, Centralized File Movement & Tracking Information System (CeFMATIS).

e-Procurement: The NIC System at back-end, by hosting at NIC's national IDC and outsourcing of front-end facilities & help desk management planned. The implementation road map is being prepared and finalized.

India Portal: Haryana specific inputs (G2C services & information, schemes, forms, procedures etc.) are uploaded on India portal.

● | Core Infrastructure Projects:

State Wide Area Network: LANs functioning in all major buildings at State and District headquarters and are being connected through BSNL MLLNs, Wireless RF links and VSATs. All PCs on LANs provided dedicated e-mail/Internet access facility. The Video Conferencing facility provided at 8 locations. The SWAN project (**ADHAAR**) is being implemented as per guidelines of DIT GOI. Site preparation works for SNMC, DNMCs and BNMCs have started.

State Data Center: The NIC State Data Centre based on SAN technology has been established at Civil Secretariat with 2 Terra Bytes storage capacities on 24x7 management basis. The interactive contents of major state websites and official e-mail accounts are hosted on this data Centre with requisite security as per security policy of NIC-Hq. The existing state WAN is connected to this data centre. In addition to NIC-Haryana data centre, establishment of a State data centre has also been planned through GOI funding under NeGP.

Common Service Centers: The 1159 rural and 104 urban CSCs under the state brand name e-DISHA Ekal Sewa Kendra will be established across the state. These CSCs will deliver G2C, G2G, B2C, G2E, C2B, G2B services to the citizens at their door step.

GIS Spatial Data Infrastructure: The state's maps with village points/boundaries and important layers have been digitized on a 1: 50,000 scales. Web enabled Access to GIS infrastructure has been installed and initiated at state data centre.

● | Central Government level MMPs :

Passport: NIC-Haryana is jointly managing Network operations and Passport systems at Regional Passport Office Chandigarh. Decentralized Passport Applications Acceptance System (WebPass) is implemented at all districts.

Pensions: An interactive and comprehensive dynamic employees Portal for Office of Accountant General Haryana for GPF information & pensions is operational, which is integrated with OTIS. It has more than 125 Lakh live data records for more than 2.83 Lakh employees.

Customs & Excise: Operations of LAN and Export/ Import system at Customs Office



Ballabh Garh (Faridabad).

E-Posts: CLIP (Computerized Postal Life Insurance), RPLI (Rural Postal Life Insurance), PACT (Postal Accounting System), GPF MIS, PATRAM Software are being implemented at Haryana Postal Circle, Ambala.

National ID/UID: Initial training has been completed. Hardware & Software has been installed at NIC-HRSC SAN data center. The electoral data being finalized for UID project.

Other Components of NeGP:

Core Policies: IT Policy, Web Policy, Email Policy, ROW Policy, guidelines for IT plans prepared. More than 75 IT Plans/Projects approved by IT-PRISM till date; the NIC-HRSC has been involved in preparation of more than 50 projects and technical evaluation of 100% projects.

Capacity Building: The SIT has established 4 IT training lab at State HQ and one IT lab at each district, managed by NIC State training coordinator and DIOs. State has also got e-Governance & Capacity Building Road Maps.

Technical Consultancy: The ICT support services are provided to most of the departments/Boards/Corporations and district administration on technical matters on day-to-day basis.

e-Governance Standards: Workshop on Localization of Applications & language technology standards has been organized. Technical inputs provided on Meta data Standards.

Other Important e-Gov Projects :

Finance Department: e-Finance. Net, a Workflow based State Annual Budget Preparation, Budget Revision, and Release Monitoring & Expenditure Control System over LAN. It also includes Loans Processing, CeFMatIS, Ways & Means Monitoring.

Elections: Total ICT support is provided for General and Bye-elections. During the **Haryana Assembly Elections 2005**, the Duty Assignment and Randomization of Polling booths was implemented for all 90-assembly constituencies in Haryana. Extensive ICT support is being provided to Panchayats and Municipalities elections.

Chief Minister's Office: The Public Demands Tracking, Announcements Implementation, Transfer Requests Processing, Dak Monitoring System, Centralized File Movement & Tracking Information System, Public Grievances Tracking & Monitoring System developed & implemented.

Chief Secretary Office: Web enabled Project monitoring system developed and implemented, IAS/HCS Officers web enabled civil list maintenance.

Raj Bhawan e-Gov Project: E-Office suite, e-

Mail/Internet usage in a LAN implemented.

Secretariat for IT: A consortium of State DIT, Society for IT initiative fund for e-Governance and NIC-HRSC with support from HARTRON, state owned PSU. A Centre for e-Governance is operational at SIT and an exclusive website <http://haryanait.gov.in> is also operational. E-readiness annual survey, technical assistance to evaluate proposals for grant of licenses for setting IT/Cyber parks, state's participation in national/international ICT events and technical evaluation of ICT proposals/Plans received in SIT is the major activity undertaken. Significant contribution has also been made in deploying ICT tools in the offices of **Haryana Lokayukta** (<http://hrylokyukta.gov.in>), **State Chief Information Commissioner** (<http://cicharyana.gov.in>), **Vidhan Sabha, Labour Commissioner, Advocate General, Haryana Bhawan New Delhi, Planning and Legal Remembrance (LR).**

Message from Financial Commission and Principal secretary, Govt of Haryana



Sh.P.K Chaudhery, IAS
Financial Commissioner and Principal Secretary
Govt. of Haryana
Industries and I.T Departments, Chandigarh

It gives immense pleasure to know that Informatics has chosen Haryana as State In Focus for its April 2007 edition. NIC Haryana State Centre has made significant contribution in development and implementation of various Mission Mode Projects of NeGP. We consider NIC HRSC as integral part of Secretariat for IT Haryana for all ICT initiatives. NIC has been a helping hand in propagation of e-Governance in Haryana of Haryana. I convey my best wishes for this April issue of Informatics in particular and NIC team in Haryana in general.

Performance ranking of e-Governance Projects & IT Policy initiatives of the state

1. The E-Readiness Assessment Report – 2005 of India, released by DIT, Govt. of India has ranked **Haryana as aspiring leader.**
2. The State e-Governance projects have already received **11** prestigious national awards.
3. The state has also received **2nd runners up award** at International conference organized by India Tech foundation, at Mumbai on **13/11/**

2003 for the **most progressive states of India** for application of IT in Administration (e-Governance).

4. The e-Governance Initiatives in Haryana has achieved the award **"Winner of Best e-Governed State (Young Category) Government of Haryana"** for the year 2003-04 of CSI-Nihilent e-Governance Excellence awards on **14th June 2004** at Pune.

5. The Software & IT/ITES/BPO services exports from the State have increased from Rs. 400 Crores in the year 1998-99 to **Rs. 10,700 Crores** in the year 2005-06. There has been an increase of about 33% during the year 2005-06 over the year 2004-05.

Achievements –

- OTIS received Microsoft e-Governance excellence award 2006.
- HALRIS received "Silver Icon national Award" & the HARIS, HALRIS dynamic integrated project received "Bronze Icon national Award" at 8th & 9th national e-Governance conferences, respectively.
- VATMaCS received e-Governance National Gold Icon Award at 8th National e-Governance Conference.
- E-Health.Net received National Silver Icon Award along with Health Care Foundation at 8th National e-Governance conference.
- Haryana School Education Board MIS Project received National Gold Icon Award at 8th National e-Governance conference.
- Results Through Binocular received "Bronze Icon National Award" at National e-Governance Conference.
- HaPPIS received National Silver Icon Award at 6th National e-Governance conference.
- E-Food.Net Project received "Merit Citation" National Award at 7th National e-Governance conference
- The IMPACT project published as a case study in 10th National e-Governance Conference and in Indian Road Congress conference.
- The first Ekal Sewa Kendra at Kaithal received CSI-Nihilent "2nd Runners-up award" at Pune.
- State Portal Project received "Merit Citation" National Award at 7th National e-Governance conference.

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NIC at **EliteX2007** | Glimpes

ELITEX-2007, the Electronics and Information Technology Exposition (ELITEX) was organized by the Department of IT during January 10th - 11th, 2007 at India Habitat Center, New Delhi.

The theme of ELITEX-2007 was **"Productivity Enhancement Using ICT"**.

The Hon'ble Minister for Communications & Information Technology, Thiru Dayanidhi Maran inaugurated the exposition on January 10, 2007. Dr. V.Krishnamurthy, Chairman- National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council delivered the keynote address.

The Seminar during ELITEX-2007 provided special focus on the some of the emerging technological areas as below.

- Session on **E-Governance: Standards & Interoperability** was chaired by Sh. M. Moni, Deputy Director General, NIC and co-ordinated by Ms. Suchitra Pyarelal, NIC.

- Session on **Fostering India ICT to Build Global Reach** was chaired by Sh. M. M. Nambiar, Additional Secretary, DIT with speaker Sh.Moni, Deputy Director General, NIC

- Session on **Innovation, Knowledge Management & Productivity** was chaired by Dr. K. Subramanian, Deputy Director General, NIC and co-ordinated by Dr. VSR Krishniah Senior Technical Director NIC.

- Session on **Enhancing Productivity – NIC's Technology & Services** was chaired by Dr. Gautam Bose, Deputy Director-General, NIC and co-ordinated by Sh. Rajiv Prakesh Saxena, Deputy Director General, NIC with the speakers Ms. Neeta Verma, Senior Technical Director, NIC, Dr. B.N. Shetty, Senior Technical Director, NIC and Sh.Kurkrety, TD on January 11th 2007.

The NIC Stall was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Minister for Communications & Information Technology, Thiru. Dayanidhi Maran in the presence of Assistant Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Information Technology (DIT), Dr. B. K. Gairola, Director General, NIC and Sh. Rajiv Prakash Saxena, Deputy Director General, NIC.

The NIC Stall in the ELITEX exhibition was set up to display the products and services implemented for informatics development programs in Government at National, State, District and even at Village level. There was an overwhelming response of visitors from various organisations at the NIC stall.

More than 40 eGovernance product Panels and Brochures were displayed and circulated during the event of Elitex.



The inauguration ceremony of Elitex - 2007 at India Habitat Centre.



Thiru Dayanidhi Maran, Hon'ble Minister of C & I T inaugurating the NIC stall at Elitex - 2007. On his left is Dr B K Gairola DG (NIC).



The NIC stall at the Elitex - 2007 Exhibition.



Secretary (DIT) Sh. Jainder Singh being welcomed by Sh. Rajiv Prakash Saxena, Deputy Director General at NIC stall.



Sh. Jainder Singh, Secretary (DIT) keenly watching the demonstration being provided by NIC.



Dr B K Gairola, DG NIC being welcomed at the NIC Stall.



Sh.N.C Joshi, AS, Rajya Sabha secretariat having a look around in the NIC Stall.



The NIC Team led by Dr B K Gairola, DG (NIC) and Dr Y K Sharma, DDG NIC at Elitex - 2007.



► S. Lakshmeesha, NIC Karnataka

Karnataka- Towards Digital Empowerment

Situated in the southern part of India, the State of Karnataka spreads over the Deccan Plateau. It accounts for a sixteenth area of India & has a population of about 52 million. Its language is Kannada & its people are known as kannadigas. The three distinct regions are a narrow coastal area along Arabian Sea; high hills, the Western Ghats & sprawling plains towards the east.

Bangalore, located on the southern Deccan Plateau, is the capital of the State. The city, home to over 6 million people, is India's fifth largest. As a thriving business center, focusing on information technology (IT), Bangalore is considered the IT capital of India, often called the "Silicon Valley of India".

Following are the various G2G, G2C projects taken up by the NIC, Karnataka State Centre

◎ | **VATsoft** – The VAT processing system, known as VATsoft, has been designed and developed for processing and monitoring the tax collection under VAT. It is a web based, workflow system with a user-friendly interface. This application has been successfully developed and implemented throughout Karnataka in a very short span of time. This has helped the department in improving the tax administration and is also assisting the department in detecting the tax evasion cases. NIC Tamil Nadu and Puducherry have taken this application for customization. - VAT e-filing system (VAT-eFS) has been developed for returns and documents filing by the dealers directly. This is under pilot implementation.

◎ | **Checkdoc** – The Checkdoc is an application for check post computerisation for the Commercial Taxes Department. Presently 9 check posts are using this module. In the second phase, all the remaining check posts will be covered with state-of-art technology which is a combination of web, EDI, online and barcode based system to capture and verify the document details online. Handheld

devices are getting integrated in this phase for verification at the mobile check posts.

◎ | **Vahan and Sarathi**: The Vehicle Registration and Driving Licenses software for the Transport Department have been in wide use in Gulbarga, Mandya, Mysore, Mangalore, Dharwad, Tumkur, Chitradurga and Belgaum districts of the state. Plans are underway for replicating them in the entire State covering around 54 Transport Offices. Introduction of Smart card/Smart Optic cards for Driving Licenses and Registration Certificates is also under consideration. In essence, the department desires to achieve enhanced quality of service delivery and build reliable MIS for Motor Vehicles in the State.

◎ | **Nemmadi - Rural Digital Services** – RDS is a single window system for delivery of services to the villagers. The request for a service and the printing of the certificate / order after processing happens at the village itself. In the first phase 32 services including issuance of certificates such as death/birth,

such as old age pension, widow pension, freedom fighter pension etc. are provided. One can also obtain information about various schemes and procedures, status of one's application etc.

RDS application is an n-tier application built using web-services. It supports Bio-metric authentication, dual language interface and data capturing, acceptance of requests even in the absence of connectivity, workflow process, zero-touch deployment of patches at remote clients, digital signing of documents and issuance of certificates over the counter if the previously issued certificate is within the validity period. Provision to scan the application along with supporting documents and reports of the field verification is made to move to less paper movement when sufficient bandwidth is available.

800 telecentres are being established at the hobli level through Public Private Partnership. Back offices are established at the 177-taluk offices for backend processing of the application.

◎ | **Bhoomi** – Computerised Land Records has been operational in Karnataka since 1995 in all the taluks of Karnataka. It is an on-line system to carry out mutations on live data. The requests for mutations go through a



Launch of 'NEMMADI'- Rural Digital Services by the CM of Karnataka.

caste, income, residence etc; issuance of orders in respect of Social Security Schemes

workflow process moving the requests from one official to another. Features include bio-



metric authentication, provision to scan mutation order & notice served copy, local language user interface & data entry support, processing of requests in First In First Order (FIFO) and digitally signing the RTC & mutation extracts.

Bhoomi is integrated with various other agencies such as banks and sub registrar's office. Details of the registration of land that is done in the sub registrar's office is sent electronically at the end of the day through the State Data Centre to the respective taluk office and pushed as transactions into the Bhoomi system. Similarly, declarations from banks stating loan sanctioned or pledge released details are electronically sent via SDC to the taluk Bhoomi system. Village telecentres are now issuing digitally signed Bhoomi records.

● | **Petition monitoring system at Chief Minister's office:** Petitions received by the Chief minister's office from general public, people representatives and other agencies are captured in this system. Suitable instructions for the officers who would act on such petitions are also captured and sent to them. A web-enabled system to capture the action taken on such letters is in place to monitor the implementation of CM's directives. A complete system for sanctioning Relief fund from Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) is also in place. Underprivileged people approach the CMRF office for medical treatment expenses either directly or through people representatives. The details of such applicants are captured and submitted to the CM for approval. Daily balance statement and beneficiaries list is also generated from the system

● | **WSSB Ganakekrutha Grahakara Seve (BGS)** - is the complete online system of the Revenue Billing and Collection System of BWSSB (Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board). This system has been running since April 2003 and has won the Bronze award of Government of India for 2003. The three major modules are meant for Cash Counter, Sub-Divisions and the Chairman's office. Each Subdivision data is maintained at the subdivision server and they are connected through leased lines to the central server at the Head office. The main features of the system are

- Biometrics Security for the application
- Error free Bar coded Bills for revenue collection
- Anytime, Anywhere Payment System through SEVAK (KIOSK)
- Online system with no manual intervention
- Better services to consumers through ECS
- Automated online data synchronization between subdivision and Head Office servers
- Consumer satisfaction
- BESCO payments at SEVAK (KIOSK)

Cash counter module is deployed at 5 counters (others replaced by KIOSKS), Subdivision module is installed in 17 subdivisions and the Head Office module in Head office server at BWSSB

The enhancements planned are Meter Make Module, Lorry Load Module, New Connection Module, Data Centre & Internet Payment.

Directorate of Municipal Administration - A web based application has been developed to

- Collect various parameters from ULBs on General Profile (area, population, park etc.), services (road, water, electricity, etc), financial details & employee's details.
- Finding the people and employee ration in each ULB for executing various schemes
- To monitor the schemes being implemented in each ULB
- Personnel Information System
- SJSRY (Swarna Jayanthi Shahari Rozgar Yojana)
- Transfer Module

● | **MAAS – Mineral Activities Administration System with INTRAMINE –**

INTRAMINE, the Intranet based system for Department of Mines and Geology deals with the administration of activities related to the management of Mining Leases, Quarry Leases, Reconnaissance Permits, Prospecting Licenses, Permits for transportation of minerals, inspections and enforcement and other related activities and functions of the department.

Digital signatures, bar coded permits, control stationery and holograms are some of the features of the permits to regulate the illegal transportation of minerals and introduce better systems for enforcement activities.

The software is on trial run at Tumkur district

and will be hosted from the state data centre after security audit. Smart Card based Digital Signatures along with VPN accounts are being taken for employees who use the software from remote offices. Six more district offices have been identified for pilot implementation out of 23 district offices and 20 check posts.

● | **VAHANA-VIMA (Motor Vehicles Insurance System for Karnataka State Insurance Department)**

VAHANA-VIMA software has been developed to manage the insurance policies of Government vehicles and vehicles owned by Government employees purchased with advances from Government. The software supports new policies, renewal of policies, counter functions and has a rich set of reports.

● | **PATRAM – Postal Accounts TRANsaction Maintenance**

The PATRAM is a package developed by NIC Chennai for reporting and accounting the activities of the Cash Certificates section of the Postal Accounts Office. Databases on issues, invoices, and discharges have been taken up starting from April 1999. The Karnataka Postal Circle has achieved the maximum number of invoice entries touching more than three crores as of 07-03-2007 and is current upto 31.01.2007

● | **Integrated Budget Information System for Finance Department**

NIC, Karnataka has been providing ICT support for the preparation of Annual Budgets for the last 14 years. The **Integrated Budget Information System** is developed to computerize Budget Preparation, data Transfer to Treasury, data porting from AG Office for receipt/expenditure accounts, data porting from Planning department for District Plan data and updation of all the statements that will be hosted on the website of FD after the budget presentation. All the Bi-Lingual (Kannada, English) budget documents are generated through this software.

The system prepares the Summary Statement of the Financial position for the budget year, detailed estimates of Receipts, detailed Estimates of Expenditure, Statement of

Demands for Grants, Zilla Panchayat estimates for plan/non-plan components, Salary Estimates, supplementary estimates statements etc.

Computerization of High Court of Karnataka

The Litigant Management System running in the High Court includes computerization of various counters and sections like the cash



Homepage of Karnataka High Court website.

counter, filing counter, scrutiny, pending section, certified copy counters, court halls etc. The entire process-taking place at the various sections is computerized bringing in accuracy, transparency and timeliness in the system. Effective management of posting cases has reduced the pendency in the system.

Display boards have been introduced outside each court hall indicating the case number and stage of the case taken up in that court hall. Also LCD displays indicate the cases currently going on in the various court halls.

The website <http://karnatakajudiciary.kar.nic.in> has information about the sitting code, daily causelists, case status, certified copy status, notifications, selected judgements, and causelists of the subordinate courts. Dissemination of case status information through IVRS in English and Kannada is also being carried out.

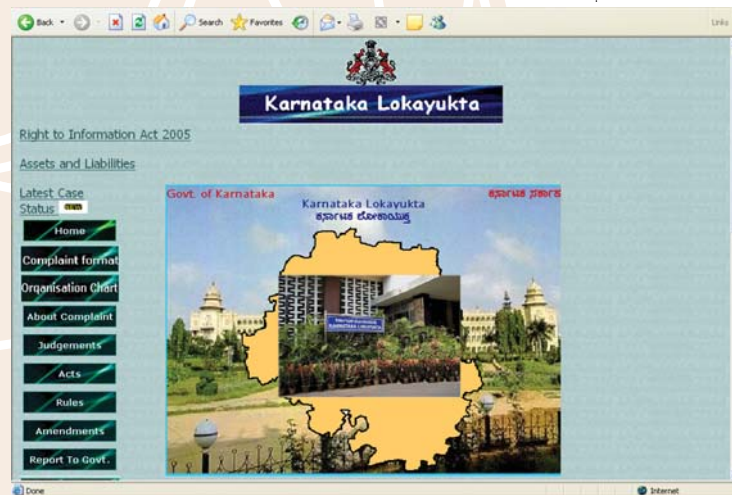
Computerization of Karnataka Lokayukta

Computerisation of Karnataka Lokayukta was taken up by NIC in 2002 and most of the regular activities of Lokayukta like Complaint registration, acknowledgement to complainant, notice generation and stage updation till the final report submitted to Govt. are automated. When Lokayukta visits district offices, he takes a word file with pre-defined format and calls for comments from respondents, which are imported into SQLServer database. The website <http://kar.nic.in/lokyukta> contains information about acts, rules and reports of lokayukta and also the current stage of any case registered. Numerous statistical reports are also generated which

are useful to the lokayukta during assembly sessions and press statements. A package to track the submission of assets and liabilities of MLAs/MLCs to Lokayukta is also implemented.

AASTHI – Property Tax Software

AASTHI - Property Tax software is designed



Homepage of Karnataka Lokayukta website.

and developed for the 5652 Gram Panchayats in the state. Among other activities, these GPs are mainly involved in collecting the Property Tax and other taxes like vehicle tax, Advertisement tax, Entertainment tax etc from tax payers living in the villages coming under their purview. Property tax is levied on the owners based on certain criteria like dimension of the site/built area, type of building (RCC/thatched/Sheet) etc. The Aasthi software shall include features such as entry and modification of village & habitation details, the zones in the villages of the Gram Panchayat, the annual rental value (ARV), tax rates, water rates and cess. Provision to enter the arrears for the properties before the computerization activity will also be provided. The details of the owner of the property, the area and the type of the building, the type of water facility for the house are also captured through the system. The tax is calculated automatically based on the ARV, tax rate, the area of the property and zone (Location in the village). The notices and the registers such as property list, daily collection registers can be generated. Payment details can be entered in the computer. The citizen can view the details of the tax; the payments made and tax due on the computer.

KREGS – Karnataka Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme

Karnataka Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme software is a web-based application customized using National Level NREGA Software. This software is available in local Language and is implemented at Gram Panchayats of 5 NREGA districts of Karnataka.

It captures information about the families and their members who are in need of employment and issues job-cards. This software also has the features to collect the information about the works undertaken under this scheme, allocate work to the job-card holders and generate various reports as per the requirement of State and Central Government for monitoring purpose.

For more information, contact
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► JJR Anand, Goa Correspondent

ICT in South Goa Administration - A Successful Endeavour



South Goa is one of the two districts of Goa with its administrative headquarters at Margao also known as Madgoan. It is spread over an area of approximately 1966 Sq. Kms. and has a population of 5,86,591 as per the 2001 Census. It has been divided into five talukas for the purpose of revenue administration.

NIC South Goa District Centre was established in the year 1990. The primary objective of introducing Informatics culture in the government offices was achieved by organizing computer-training programmes for the government staff and by motivating them to use computers in their day-to-day activities.

Some of the important projects implemented are:

● | Land Acquisition Information System

This system implemented at the Collectorate and in the Sub-divisional offices is designed to capture complete details right from receipt of request to declaration of award. It has provision to enter details in respect of publication, land acquired, interested parties and compensation rates etc.

Compensations are calculated automatically by the system for any type of project. It facilitates printing of monthly progress reports, notifications, compensation statements, payment notices, payment vouchers, cheques drawn statements, treasury statements etc.

● | Land Conversion Cases Monitoring System

This system, designed to monitor land conversion cases and keep track of applications forwarded to various departments for necessary reports, captures details of applicant, land to be converted, conversion charges etc. It helps to generate various correspondence letters, lists and analytical reports. The details of the land converted during the last ten years are available in the database.

● | Loan Recovery Cases Information System

This system, implemented to monitor loan recovery cases filed by the financial institutions in the court of District Recovery Officer facilitates in assigning hearing dates, printing hearing notices, daily hearing list, filed cases list, pendency lists and disposed lists. Data pertaining to the cases disposed and pending since 1990 are available.

● | MPLAD Works Information System

This system assists the Collectorate in monitoring the works being executed under MPLAD scheme. It captures details of civil/electrical works, estimates, sanctions issued, amounts released and expenditure incurred.

● | Arms Licenses Monitoring System

This system has been developed and implemented to build database of arms licence holders and monitor the renewal of licences issued. The details of around 3000 arms licence holders are available in the database. All the applications for new licence and renewal are processed through this system.

● | Election Information System

Election Information System, designed to support the district administration during elections has separate modules for nominations, booths, polling staff allotment, counting staff allotment and counting reports. This system was used effectively during Lok Sabha, Assembly, Zilla Panchayat and Village Panchayat elections. During the last Lok Sabha and Assembly elections round wise

votes polled were entered and transmitted to State Election Commission through the GoaNet (a state-wide leased line network) from the counting halls.

● | Public Grievance Monitoring System

Grievances received in the vigilance section of the Collectorate are entered through this system. This system keeps track of forwarded complaints, issuing of reminders and disposal of complaints.

● | District Website

The NIC District Centre has hosted the web site <http://southgoa.nic.in> for the district administration.

● | Other Services

The District Centre is also providing support to various central projects like District Courts, DRDA, **AGMARKNET**, and District Consumer Forum etc. Training and consultancy on hardware purchase is also provided to government departments.

● | Future Plan

Since GoaNet nodes are already connecting the district headquarters, Sub-divisional offices, taluka level offices and Mahithi Ghars, the NIC District Centre is all set to take up web-based citizen centric applications to help the state to realize its e-Governance plan.



A day at work in South Goa District Centre

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► Ajay Singh Chahal, Himachal Pradesh Correspondent

Kinnaur: E-Governance in Extreme Conditions



The NIC District Unit Kinnaur, established in 1989 at Reckong Peo-the district headquarters, was thoroughly revamped in 2001. Being a tribal district with **100% rural area, difficult geographical terrain, extreme weather conditions and natural calamities**; the working environment of the district has been a major challenge. The NIC District Unit has met the challenge over the years by successfully introducing Information Technology in a number of departments, improving citizen services, bringing transparency and efficiency in governance process.



Hon'ble Chief Minister, HP declaring all Tehsils Online on 2-Nov-2005.

Major Projects

• **Land Records Computerisation:** Kinnaur was the **first district** in Himachal Pradesh in implementing the **Himbhoomi Software** in all the Tehsils and making these online on November 2, 2005. The general public is

getting ROR, jamabandi copies from the Tehsil centres and the mutation work has been automated.

• **Pehal-eGovernance Centre:** The eGovernance Centre of Kalpa Sub-division was operationalized in April, 2005 for providing common citizen interface by implementing the following SW:

- **SARATHI:** SARATHI software is a workflow based application for issuance of driving licenses. All types of the licenses related to learner, conductor and driver license are generated through the software.
- **VAHAN:** For computerisation of all types of vehicle registration.
- **Inner-line Permit:** For generating the Inner-line Permits for the tourists and labour permits for the Nepalese to enter the restricted areas of the District.

• **Local Area Network:** All the branches of the DC Office are interlinked through a high speed LAN for running the software, file sharing, internet, Email and other works. The LAN has been extended to the offices of SP, DPRO, DFSC, Election and DRDA to enable them to use web-enabled applications. The internet access is provided to other offices through RAS.

• **Video Conferencing Centre at Reckong Peo and Pooh:** The VC facility has been established at the

district headquarter Reckong Peo and Pooh sub-division which is used by the officers for interacting with the other district officers, HODs/Secretaries, Ministers and the CM.

• **District Website:** The official website of District Kinnaur (<http://hpkinnaur.nic.in>),

designed and developed as a one point source of information, provides information about history, culture, temples, accessibility, administration and citizen services. Tourism section is of special interest to the outside world due to the different life style of the people of the district, their culture, heritage, customs and traditions.

• **E-Praman:** All types of certificates, like SC/ST, income, character, caste, are issued by the Revenue Officers (Tehsildars) and Sub-Divisional Magistrates to the public through this software. The software has been *implemented in all the Tehsils and E-Governance Centre, Kalpa.*

• **Welfare Pension MIS:** The Welfare Department disburses pension to people under different categories of old age, widows, lepers and handicapped. The pension of all pensioners is generated every quarter and sent by money orders generated through the SW.

• **Online-Treasury Information System:** The software has been implemented in the District Treasury office since April 2006. All the transactions are done in online mode in a work-flow manner, right from capturing the bill at token stage to its online passing. The accounts are sent to the AG office in printed and softcopy formats.

Other Projects

- E-Pehchan (used for the issuing the disability and senior citizen certificates)
- Pension Disbursement System for HP Government Pensioners
- Payroll Processing software (All Departments)
- Schemes Monitoring System
- Co-operative Statistics MIS
- e-HimApurti for the Food, Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department

Road Ahead

- 2 Mbps leased line connectivity
- Implementation of HIMRIS SW in all the Tehsils
- Setting up of the e-Governance centre at remaining two blocks
- Computerisation of Employment Exchanges
- Implementation of Online Treasury Information System in sub-treasuries
- Web-enabled e-Salary SW for all Government departments

For further information, please contact:
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RSS Feeds- A Conceptual Approach

Background

Netscape is the originator of the RSS concept where the objective was to have an XML format that would get news stories and information from other sites and have them automatically added to their site. Many newspapers groups also realize the potential of RSS feeds as an easy way to share headlines and increase their audience.

What is RSS Feed ?

RSS is an XML format that provides a technique where users access some parts of a web site without directly visiting the site. RSS formats provide web content or summaries of web content together with links to the full versions of the content, and other meta-data. This information is delivered as an XML file called RSS feed. **Feed** is simply a set of items known as "entries", each with an extensible set of attached metadata. Publishing data by RSS feeds is known as **Syndication**. Items published through an RSS feed are said to be **Syndicated**.

Since RSS is an XML format and therefore needs to be processed before it can be viewed/read. Typically the XML document is made available on a web server and can be pulled down by an RSS reader (also called an aggregator). The reader then automatically rechecks the RSS files in the user's list - according to a schedule defined by the user - to see whether new content has been added.

RSS is generally created by server side software (usually written in a language like PHP, Java, C# or Python) on the web server.

Feeders/Aggregators

RSS reader is an application that provides the way to read the RSS file by checking RSS-enabled web pages on behalf of a user and display any updated articles that it finds. These aggregators can be **Web based or Stand alone programs**.

• **Web based Feeders/Aggregators** require no software installation and make the user's "feeds" available on any computer with Web

access.

• **Stand alone Feeders/Aggregators** are programs which can be downloaded and used on the desktop as standalone programs

Current Browsers like Microsoft's Internet Explorer version 7.0, Mozilla's Firefox, Opera etc include a built-in RSS reader as a standard feature.

RSS Versions

There are currently multiple versions of RSS in use including RSS 1.0, RSS 2.0 and many deprecated versions. Both RSS 1.0 and RSS 2.0 are being separately and independently developed i.e. RSS 2.0 is **not next version** RSS 1.0

As there are a number of **different versions** of RSS therefore RSS can stand for '**Rich Site Summary**', '**RDF Site Summary**' or '**Really Simple Syndication**' depending on which version is being mentioned. They are brief explained below

RSS 0.91

In this Version RSS stands for '**Rich Site Summary**'. This is the original version of RSS created by Netscape.

RSS 1.0

In this version RSS stands for '**RDF Site Summary**'. RSS 1.0 utilizes the Resource Description Framework (RDF) which is the W3C recommendation for metadata. This is more modular, with many of the terms coming from standard metadata vocabularies such as Dublin Core.

RSS 2.0

In this version RSS stands for '**Really Simple Syndication**' and it follows on from the various RSS 0.9x specifications (RSS 0.90, RSS 0.91, RSS 0.92, RSS 0.93)

Atom

This is yet another feed format. Atom is an XML-based document format that describes lists of related. an XML-based Web content and metadata syndication format. The primary use case that Atom addresses is the

syndication of Web content such as weblogs and news headlines to Web sites as well as directly to user agents.

The various Feed specifications are not fully compatible with each other, though many feeder softwares have been able to support multiple versions.

How does RSS works ?

The RSS format for syndication works in following manner

1. Sets of web pages to be displayed by websites are identified. This set of pages will be the RSS feed.
2. An XML file that defines the RSS feed will be created. This file holds URL, title and summary of each page to display.
3. Anybody wishing to use the RSS feed gets an RSS reader and adds (subscribes) the feed by putting the URL of the RSS feed in the aggregator. A website can also display the RSS feed by loading the RSS file from the provider. When someone visits the website of the receiver, the script is launched; it recalls the RSS file from the provider's website and displays a list of news from extracted data.
4. By a click on a line of the list, visitors display a page from the provider.
5. Filename extensions with RSS can be filename with an **.xml, .rss, .rdf** or any other extension. The important thing is that web server must be configured to serve RSS files using a mime type of text/xml.

Example

As an example of Viewing RSS feeds we can visit the site <http://egovstandards.gov.in/> and click on the RSS, it takes to feeds page where this portal offers many RSS feeds.

For this example, click on feed for 'White Papers'. The browser would show the URL as http://egovstandards.gov.in/white_papers/RSS and the XML document in fig.1 would show up. (This is nothing but the RSS feed) To understand what is being shown by this feed, we need to subscribe this URL in our feeder/aggregator. (Refer to Help on using RSS feeds on this site). Now whenever the "White Papers" are updated the aggregator will inform subscriber of this feed accordingly.

FEED Validation Service

This is the W3C Feed Validation Service, a free service that checks the syntax of Atom or RSS feeds. One can visit <http://validator.w3.org/feed/> for accessing this service.

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► Mayank Nagar, Sucheeta Kak, Santosh Shukla
NIC Madhya Pradesh

Video Conferencing in Madhya Pradesh : Breaking Records

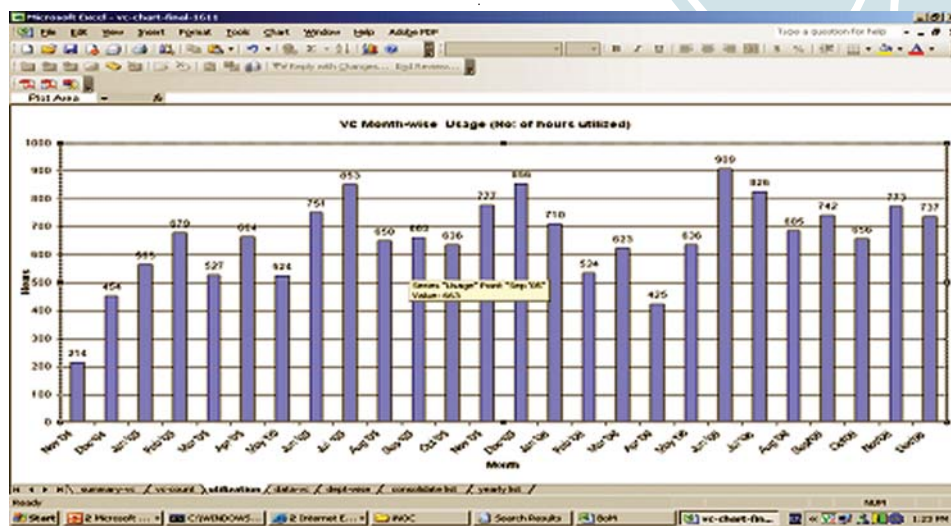
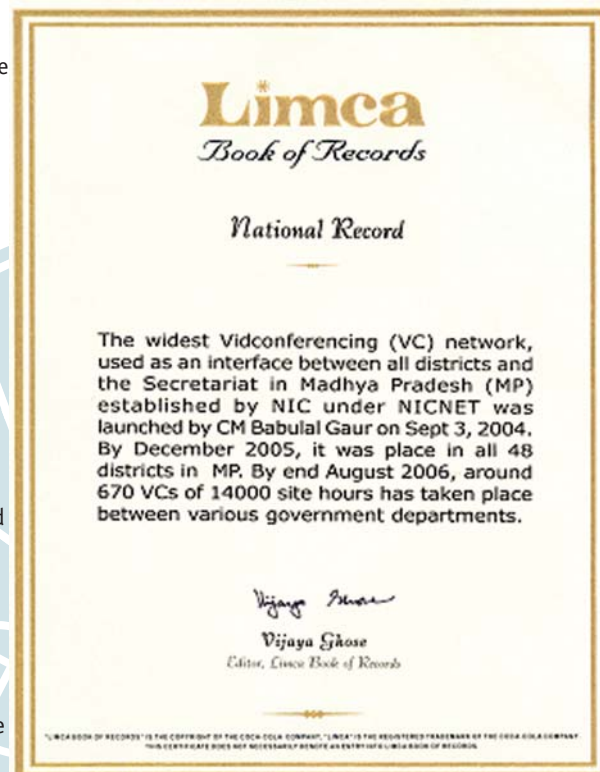
NIC is currently providing videoconferencing services from 490 locations in India over its high speed satellite based network called "NICNET". This is the largest videoconferencing network in India, spread across length and width of the country.

The dedicated & sincere efforts of Video Conferencing team at NIC Madhya Pradesh were recognized by the Limca Book of National Records for conducting maximum No. of VC sessions towards effective implementation of e-governance across the state.

Launched in the year 2004 by Hon'ble Chief Minister Sh. Babulal Gaur the state-of-art VC network connects all the 48 districts of the state with each other and the Secretariat or Mantralaya. By the end of March 2007, around 850 VC sessions (accounting for 17000 hours of satellite

The VC Services are being extensively used by many state government departments for conducting remote meetings between two or more officials present in geographically dispersed locations, monitoring and management of different projects, delivering cost-efficient training to individuals and much more. Apart from being an excellent alternative to conventional meeting, this electronic tool has also helped in speeding up decision-making by enabling the top management to quickly and effectively communicate with employees sitting at multiple sites, has reduced expenditure towards travel and improved

projects such as Samadhan Online (facilitates interactions between the CM, District Collector and Citizen for grievance redressal) the video conferencing network has gradually evolved into an essential communication system that has given a



usage) have been successfully conducted by the state centre.

executive time usage.

With the success of citizen-centric VC based

high impetus to the growth/progress of various departments in MP. It has also enabled the departments to take necessary follow-up actions on different matters in a time and cost effective manner. Various senior functionaries of the state government and other dignitaries have appreciated the speedy interaction with different stakeholders and have expressed the hope of making planning and implementation of government policies result oriented through its effective usage. Be it a one one-hour session or a full-day conference, the technology provides high quality audio/video signals which enable qualitative group discussion with people sitting at different locations across the state & the country. It is also setting a wonderful



example of technology deployment with a view to benefit the government and the common man. Some of the major departments using the VC services regularly (on weekly, fortnightly or monthly basis) include:

In addition, many Ministries of Government of India also interact frequently with Government of Madhya Pradesh for monitoring Centrally Sponsored Schemes

More details about the Video Conferencing Division at NICMPSC (alias Network and Communication Division) are available at the website <http://mpstate.nic.in/ncd.htm>

For further information, mail at sio@mp.nic.in

Offices actively utilizing Video Conferencing

Office of Chief Minister	Chief Secretary
Agriculture	Food & Civil Supplies
Fisheries	Animal Husbandry
Public Works Department	Forest
Schedule Caste Development	Tribal Welfare
Women & Child Development	Education
Rajya Shiksha Kendra	Mining
Health Services	Planning
Rural Development	Technical Education etc.

Accolades from Users

Usage of modern Technology/IT Tools is the key to development process. Instant access to information through VC is one of the major services intended to the benefit of mankind.

Chief Minister, Madhya Pradesh

Direct weekly interaction with district officials has greatly helped to improve services through regular monitoring of supply and distribution under various schemes

Principal Secretary, Food, Govt. of MP

VC services could be used more often as it is an excellent communication tool for monitoring statewide progress.

Chief Electoral Officer, Madhya Pradesh

We had a full day conference with all the Chief Engineers and Executive Engineers and found it extremely supportive to monitor the departmental activities and to take feedback & suggestions from the field

Principal Secretary, PWD, Govt. of MP



► Sonal Kalra, NIC HQ

Bureau of Police R & D - Going Tech Savvy !!

Dr Kiran Bedi, Director General, BPRD talks about how computerization and ICT has brought about a paradigm change in the working of the only Police R&D organization in India...



◉ | **Informatics: How do you perceive the need for utilization of ICT in the area of Policing in the Country?**

Kiran Bedi : It is not a day late !! It is there but some of us do not realize the amazing value or inherent potential technology has. So a delay of even one day in embracing it actually amounts to many days lost because the overall quality of service provided is less. For instance, all over India, the police is catching criminals and offenders. Just imagine that if all the data about them, including their fingerprints and identification details are stored at a centralized national database and every police personnel had access to that database using palm pods, it would be so easy to figure out whether the offender caught is a first timer or a past criminal. The offender would also know that he/she cannot fool the police as there is

strong evidence to prove the track record. This would lead to a huge saving of time which is essential in providing a better service to the citizens of this Country. And also, the victim's satisfaction and trust level in the police would go up in the process.

◉ | **Informatics: Tell us about the recently revamped BPRD website. How did the idea originate and was the new structure derived after Knowledge Sharing and study of best practices from other Countries?**

KB : I have my own website for the past seven years and I use it extensively to reach out to people all over the world. I have always believed in Knowledge Sharing, be it concerning my books, articles, my prison work and now police reforms. I am also involved with two NGOs, which have active websites sharing knowledge

and information with the world. I have always had firm belief in the three Ps of People, Police and Public-Partnership and I feel its vital for Police to communicate and take people along. The technology has proved to be a real boon in this situation. By just sitting in a small room, you are able to open up to the rest of the world. So when I took over BPRD, here was this organization, the only one of its kind in India in the area of Research with no parallel bodies in the States and a charter that was truly national in nature. There was a lot of responsibility on the organisation with just a handful of people. So the question before me was, "Do I give up ...or find a way out". Well, technology was that way out for us. We believed that with an active website, BPRD can effectively reach out to the world with the good work it does. Although there was a website already in place, which was relatively unknown and not updated frequently due to the absence of a webmaster. There was also reluctance and mind blocks on the part of the BPRD personnel to use or update the website. We approached a number of organizations trying to seek support for development and management of a new website for BPRD. As luck would have it, around that time only I got to know about the recent taking over of Dr B.K Gairola as Director General NIC. I have known Dr Gairola for a long time ever since NIC's association with Delhi Police way back in 1982 Asian Games. I was confident about the vision and dynamism of a leader like Dr Gairola and was sure that the answer to our problems lay with him. I met him on the very first of day of him having taken over as DG NIC and requested him to help us out with the revamping of the BPRD website. Needless to say, he gave us an extremely positive assurance and introduced us to the web services team of NIC led by Ms Neeta Verma. With their active support and the relentless efforts of the BPRD web team headed by my colleague Sh Sanjay Beniwal, we were able to develop a whole new website in a record time frame and Dr Gairola launched the same at the recently held BPRD Colloquium.

◉ | **Informatics: What, according to you is the best feature in the BPRD website?**

KB : The website is a virtual storehouse of useful information but it is already being quoted because of the availability of Research Study Reports from 1970 to 2007. The way to access these research studies in the website is



extremely user friendly. There is a one-page analysis for every report which provides the gist of it and one can straightaway read the recommendations. We have also released these reports in the form of a book during the Colloquium. The main point is that all this information was available for years, but was lying buried somewhere. This website has given all those who are interested a unique opportunity to access these rare reports at a common point in such an easy manner.

doors shut" Second, we take elaborate care in ensuring that the information on the website is always current and up-to-date. We have full time webmasters to take care of these round the clock.

has set targets for uploading information on the site. For the first time, we have Police Commission Reports dating back decades published on the website. We have a system of conducting daily meetings to review the work progress of different divisions and these days, the first thing on the agenda is to discuss what's new on the website. It has become a treasure of information and even the media is finding it extremely useful. On the first of every month, we take out an advertisement in the newspapers highlighting the important additions and features of the website during that month. I would like to re-iterate that all this has been made possible by the cooperation provided to us by Dr Gairola and his team at NIC. Thank God we have such individuals and such institutions today.



Dr B.K Gairola DG NIC along with Dr Kiran Bedi, DG BPRD releasing the hard copy of the compilation of research reports

⦿ | **Informatics: What is the kind of feedback you have received for these initiatives?**

KB : Plenty of it...and lots of great feedback from outside of India too. People have considered this to be one of the best and efficient Police websites ever. There are two main reasons for such an encouraging feedback. First, we make sure that we respond personally to all mails and queries the same day. Our guiding principle has always been, "If you invite people, you can't have your

⦿ | **Informatics : Was there any resistance towards ICT initiatives and website from the staff at BPRD since this would have meant increased workload during the transition period ?**

KB: There was an initial hesitation but once the website got going, everyone thereafter loved it. Now there is a healthy synergy in various divisions in BPRD to make sure that they are the ones to upload most relevant and fastest information on the Web. Everyone

⦿ | **Informatics: What does the future have in store for BPRD with respect to ICT initiatives?**

KB: We have dedicated the entire next month to brining about total 'e-governance' in BPRD. We are planning to computerize all historically important records of previous years which have so far been in paper form and take adequate back-ups so that they can be easily retrieved whenever desired. E-filing is prime on our agenda for the near future. We are also going to make our systems and processes automated so that all information about any forthcoming training programme could be sent electronically to police personnel across the Country. The detailed information and schedules of the police training programmes is also being made available through the website. We are also now planning to put a lot of educational films of road safety, prisons and other related subjects on the web for everyone to access...so sky is the limit !!

You can visit the BPRD website at <http://bprd.gov.in>



Online Applications for Academic Admissions



● | The **Online Application for Academic Admissions 2007** for Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT) (<http://www.cusat.nic.in>) has been designed and developed by **NIC (NITPU) Cochin**.

The Vice-Chancellor Dr. Prof. P.K. Abdul Azis inaugurated "The Online Registration for the Common Admission Test (CAT)" conducted by the University for its B.Tech and Postgraduate Programmes.

CUSAT conducts CAT every year for which around 33,000 candidates apply. This year onwards CUSAT

plans to receive **Applications Online** through the Web Application. Once the Application is submitted a **Confirmation Page** is generated which has to be sent by the candidate to the University by Post.

The **Status of the Application** submitted by the students (Approved / Rejected) can also

be viewed from the website. The Roll Numbers are allotted by CUSAT and approval of the application is also done online. A student whose Application is approved can download the **Admit Card** after the stipulated date. The **Marks / Rank obtained** by each student in the test is uploaded on the Web Site which can be viewed by the student on the specified date.

For the first time the feature of uploading the Photograph and Signature has been provided to the Candidate.

● | The Major Modules of the Web Site are

- Online Registration
- Printing duplicate copy of confirmation page
- Viewing the status of application
- Admit Card printing
- Results
- Calculation of Application Fee

For Further information mail to **julie.rz@nic.in**

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Figure 1.

April 2007

● | Conclusion

Governments, Publishers and content providers can create RSS feeds for information that is of interest to the public and allowing an individual to pick or personalize the list of feeds. This way the content can be accessed by a much broader audience. For portal administrator, new content can be easily integrated into web sites or portals, and for end users easy access to new content is greatly facilitated.

For further information, mail to **egov@nic.in**

Identifying the RSS feeds on Portal

Portals tell their users/visitors about RSS feeds by various Icons. Some of the popular ones are as below..



There is however no standard Icon for RSS feeds.



HAPPENINGS

This section features news about NIC's activities/ events across the Country and the various new software being developed by NIC in its mission towards facilitating e-governance.....

Chief Justice of India avails NIC's VC facilities

The Hon'ble Chief Justice of India Sh. K.G. Balakrishnan who was on a visit to Kochi recently availed NIC's Video Conferencing facility at Lakshadweep Administration office, Willingdon Island, Kochi for interacting with the Hon. Judges at National Judicial Academy, Bhopal. During his 20-minute interaction, he thanked NIC and Lakshadweep office for providing the VC facilities in the island. Earlier he was received by Sri. A.K. Wasnik, IAS, Secretary (Information Technology), Lakshadweep, Sh. B.Amanulla, Hon. District Judge, Lakshadweep. Sh. Ajith Brahmanandan, SIO, Lakshadweep and Sh. A.Balakrishnan, Secretary to the Hon. Administrator, Lakshadweep.

talked about the services being provided by National Portal include Sh. Arvind Joshi, Principal Secretary (IT), Sh M.Vinayak Rao, SIO and Smt. Alka Mishra from National Portal team at NIC HQ. The presentation was appreciated by the Chief Secretary who insisted that Madhya Pradesh should be pioneer State in utilization of National Portal, by expanding web presence & promoting scope of



The National Portal workshop in progress at Bhopal.



Secretary IT, Sh.P.J.Thomas IAS, Principal Secretary, SIO Kerala, Smt. Alka Mishra at National Portal workshop in Kerala



Hon. Chief Justice of India during Videoconference with NJA, Bhopal at NIC, Lakshadweep Administration office, Kochi.

Ajith Brahmanandan, Lakshadweep correspondent

Workshops on National Portal of India

On 8th of March, NIC Madhya Pradesh organized a state level workshop on National Portal of India in close coordination with Department of IT, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh under the chairmanship of Chief Sectary of the State, Sh. R.C Sahni. Other delegates who

citizen centric information He also emphasized the importance of timely availability of quality information/services on the Portal with regular data updation.

Another workshop on the National Portal of India was organized by NIC

Kerala in January at Trivandrum under the chairmanship of Additional Chief Secretary and Principal Secretary to Government of Kerala (Higher Education) Sh. P.J Thomas IAS. Other delegates, who participated in the workshop, included Special Secretary IT Sh. Jyotilal IAS, NIC Kerala SIO Sh. V. S. Raghunathan and Dr. Vishwas Mehta IAS (Principal Secretary, Health) who all emphasized the importance of the quality of the data rather than the volume of data in a government portal. Smt. Asha Varma, NIC

Kerala and Ms Alka Mishra, NIC HQ demonstrated the Content Management Interface of the India Portal.

Asha Varma NIC Kerala & DP Misra NIC HQ

IT Seminar on Agricultural Production and Marketing at Idukki

As part of the State Karshika Mela 2007, Gandhiji Study Centre at Thodupuzha in Idukki District of Kerala conducted a seminar on Information Technology in Agricultural Production and Marketing under the chairmanship of Hon'ble M.P Sh. K. Francis George. MLA Sh. P.J. Joseph inaugurated the seminar in presence of Chief Guest for the programme Sh. M.Moni, Deputy Director General, NIC. Smt.M.Kasthoori, NIC Kerala also participated in the programme in addition to DIO & DIA Idukki.

In his presidential address Sh.K.Francis George M.P. emphasized the need of bringing Information Technology for the benefits of the



farmers. He also appreciated NICs services in the District. In his address, Sh.M.Moni, DDG (NIC) briefed the participants about the various ICT schemes being run and envisaged for the development of Rural India. He also demonstrated popular Portals developed by NIC such as AGMARKNET, AGRISNET and SeedNet.

Asha Verma, Kerala Correspondent

International Women's Day celebrated at NIC

To mark the International Women's Day on 8th March, the women of NIC under the forum of 'Sanghmitra' had a colourful celebration. The main event, held at NIC Headquarters was attended by a large number of female NIC personnel posted at HQ as well as other NIC Centres in Delhi and adjoining areas. The NIC women personnel from various State Centres also participated in the celebrations through video conferencing. The event, organized by the Office bearers of Sanghmitra led by Ms J.R



The celebrations of International Women's Day at NIC

Kailay was inaugurated by DG NIC through a ceremonious lighting of the lamp. Dr Y.K Sharma, DDG NIC was also present at the occasion. This was followed by an enthralling cultural programme compared by Ms Rachna Srivastava, NIC HQ in which NIC women personnel displayed their wonderful talent.

Sonal Kalra, NIC HQ

VC facility inaugurated at Hazaribagh, Jharkhand

Hon'ble Justice of Jharkhand High Court Sh. Amreshwar Sahay inaugurated the newly installed Video Conferencing Facility between

District Civil Court and Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narayan Central Jail, Hazaribagh on 24th February. He talked with Sh S.P. Kushwaha, I.A.S, I.G. Prisons, who was present in the Jail video conferencing site. This facility does away with the need to produce the prisoners physically in the court for day-to-day deliberations. The efforts of NIC were appreciated on this occasion.

SK Deo, DIO Hazaribagh, Jharkhand

Awareness Programmes on Biomedical Information Retrieval

As part of Indian MEDLARS Center's (IMC) activities, two User Awareness Programmes were conducted during the month of February 2007, in Andhra Pradesh.

First Programme was conducted at Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences

(NIMS), Hyderabad that was attended by over 50 doctors from the Institute. The

programme highlighted NIC's role in the area of biomedical information retrieval and also covered the demonstration of IMC's databases viz: IndMED, medIND, OpenMED and Union Catalogue

The second awareness program was hoisted at Rangaraya Medical College, Kakinada (East Godavari District), which was attended by over 90 doctors and medical students

The Programmes were instrumental in generating awareness amongst the participants regarding the services being provided by NIC in this area.

Dr.V.Usha Rani, NIC Hyderabad

Award for 'Best Paper' to an NICian

A Technical Paper on 'e-Land Record Information System in North Sikkim written by Sh L.P Sharma, NIC Sikkim State



Hon'ble Mr. Justice Amreshwar Sahay talking to Sh. S.P. Kushwaha I.G. Prisons. Smt. Himani Panday, I.A.S. Deputy Commissioner, Hazaribagh (Left), Amitabh Kumar, District and Sessions Judge (Right) and Sh. S K Deo, DIO, Hazaribagh at VC session.

Centre was awarded 'Best paper' in the 4th International Conference on EGovernance held at IIT Delhi, under the theme technology in government. The paper addresses the challenges faced by the State in the implementation of computerized land record system and describes in detail how the skepticism among the officers was dealt with, and how the system development hurdles were faced, to commence the process, that left no room for any quarter to look back from the system.

L.P Sharma, NIC Sikkim

Online Teleconsultancy Session for Farmers at Dhula

The CIC operators of undivided Darrang district in Assam demonstrated the Service of Online Teleconsultancy by conducting a Session between Farmers and Agricultural Scientist in the Exhibition held at Dhula, Darrang Dist, Assam, on 5th and 6th January 2007. In this session, over 20 farmers interacted through Internet and availed the infrastructure of the CIC Centre at District.

The Hon'ble Agricultural Minister of Assam,



Smt PramilaRani Brahma at Online Teleconsultancy Session

Smt PramilaRani Brahma who was present at the event encouraged the farmers to take the opportunity of ICT in future as well. The farmers were delighted to experience the benefits of Internet in such a novel way.

Nitu Nath, CIC Darrang

④ | Training workshops on CONFONET

A one-day Training-cum-Workshop on CONFONET Project was organized at NIC Haryana State Centre, Chandigarh on 8th March. The training was attended by 50

Bhopal also conducted a two-day training programme on CONFONET Software for the Presidents of District Consumer Forum of M.P. in the month of January. The training programme was inaugurated by the Hon'ble President MP State Consumer Forum Justice Sh.

and Data Uploading at CONFONET Website. The workshop was inaugurated by Hon'ble Member State Consumer Commission, Haryana Sh Banarsi Das, who spoke about the efficiency, which shall be ushered in the functioning of Consumer Courts after implementation of the Project. The convenience to citizens by using the website of the department for case query was also highlighted by him.

NIC MP State Centre,

(Common Integrated Police Application) was organized jointly by the State Police & NIC, Orissa at the premises of NIC, Bhubaneswar. Inaugurating the Workshop on 28th of Feb 2007, the Principal Secretary, Home, Sh. Tarun Kanti Mishra, IAS, highly appreciated the initiative of NIC for the design & development of CIPA and assured all assistance for the successful roll out in the State. Sh. Amarananda Pattanaik, IPS, DG Police, during his speech, instructed all the Police Officers to involve themselves during the CIPA implementation exercise to make it more successful.

Dr. Ambreesh Kumar STD, NIC gave a detailed presentation on CIPA highlighting features and deliverables and Sh. S. K. Panda, STD & SIO, Orissa, spoke on implementation issues and offered the Vote of Thanks.

Other dignitaries present in the workshop include Sh. B.K.Sharma, IPS, IG (CID), Smt.



The CONFONET training in progress at Bhopal

N.K. Jain, along with the Registrar, State Commission. In his inaugural speech, Justice Jain appreciated the sincere efforts of NIC, and expected the training to help in implementation of software and to enable speedy redressal of consumer cases in the District Forum.

B.Radhika, IPS, Director, SCRB as well as other senior officers of State Police and District Informatics Officers of identified five districts. Officers of 45 Police Stations from 5 identified districts at the first instance have attended the training programme.

In order to familiarize and sensitize the senior officers regarding CIPA, Sh S K Bhol, PSA and Sh P N Pattanaik, PSA coordinated the training programme.

Previously in the month of January, NIC (WBSC) and State Crime Records Bureau (SCRB), West Bengal jointly organized a one-day workshop on "CIPA & its implementation in WB" at SCRB, Kolkata. Senior Police Officials of the West Bengal Police and Kolkata Police attended the workshop. Sh. O.P. Gupta, IPS, DIG, SCRB in his welcome address gave a brief account of CIPA in terms of its scope and coverage. Sh. N.K Das Sr. Technical Director



CONFONET workshop in progress at Haryana

officials from the field offices of the Department and NIC officers from Districts. Sh. Ramandeep from NIC HQ & Sh. Neeraj Singhal from NIC Haryana gave comprehensive training on the System & Application Software, including generation of Cause List

Hari Chand, Haryana Correspondent & Santosh Shukla, MP Correspondent

④ | State level workshops on CIPA.

Recently a 3-day State Level Workshop on CIPA



Guest during inaugural function of CIPA at Orissa

spoke on e-Governance and the NeGP programme of the State Government with a special reference to the Police administration in the State. Sh. Saibal Sarkar, Technical Director gave an overview of the CIPA project.

now apply directly to their jobs through the Job Portal on time. The process of compulsory notification under the Employment Exchange (CNV) Act has thus been made web enabled.



Members of NIC (WBSC) and SCRB at CIPA workshop

AK Hota, Orissa Correspondent & M. Rahman, West Bengal Correspondent

Inauguration of Job Portal at Himachal Pradesh.

Hon'ble Chief Minister HP Sh. Virbhadr Singh dedicated the Job Portal of the Labour and Employment Department to the employers and job seekers in the State. The credit for developing the software for the Job Portal goes to NIC Himachal Pradesh State Centre. This unique technique opened the doors for vibrant opportunities for the educated unemployed youths of the state as they can

Department, who have been involved in the mammoth task of system study, process re-engineering, software development, hardware procurement & installation, training, data entry and implementation.

Ajay Singh Chahal, Himachal Pradesh

State Level workshop on NREGA soft in Orissa

The State level workshop on NREGAsoft has



Hon'ble CM of HP launching the job portal

been inaugurated by Additional Secretary - cum - Director (Special Projects) Panchayati Raj Department, Government of Orissa Sh Saswat Mishra, IAS, at State Institute of Rural Development (SIRD), Bhubaneswar during 19th to 30th December 2006.

Appreciating the effort of NIC, Orissa, he informed that Orissa has been recognized at National level for its constant integrated effort to make the project a success. The workshop continued in different batches to cover more than 300 IT professionals working in the districts and blocks and involved in the project.



NREGA workshop at Orissa

Sh B. P. Mishra, Principal Systems Analyst, NIC Orissa State Unit and Sh Selveswaran M, Senior Systems Analyst, NIC (HQ) coordinated the workshop and discussed the implementation issues with the participants.

A.K Hota Orissa Correspondent

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